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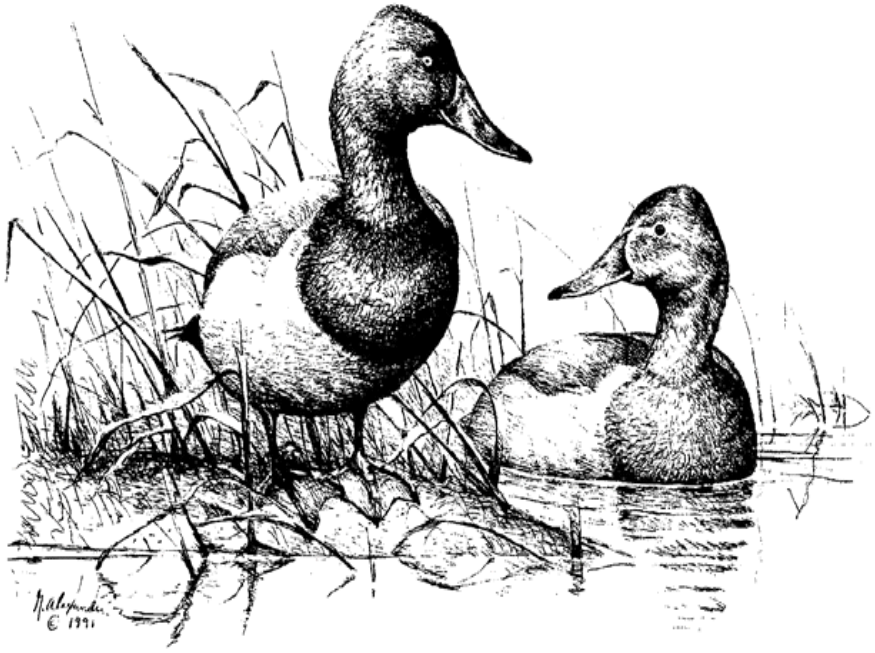
2015-2016 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences



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2015-2016 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-25
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
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Linda K. Campbell, and Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 17, 2016

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-25

Illinois Department of Natural 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 2,012 (44% response rate) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2015-16 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. An estimated 40,104 waterfowl hunters spent 795,289 days afield, a decrease of 19% from the 982,193 days devoted during the 2014-2015 license year. Waterfowl harvest decreased 11.4%, from 550,946 during 2014-15 to 488,321 during 2015-16. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 166,506 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 43,655 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 119,619 other ducks. A total of 28,031 teal (*Anas spp.*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 75,198 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 14.2% decrease from the 87,672 Canada geese harvested during the 2014-15 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 15,693 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, a 17.8% decrease from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 4,718 adults took 6,291 youths waterfowl hunting, a 26.3% decrease in adult participation and a 26.6% decrease in youth participation from the 2014-15 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 2015-2016 license year. No pre-season diary for recording hunting activity and waterfowl harvest was sent during the fall of 2015. On 31 May 2016, 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 4,886 questionnaires due to 114 being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder

postcard (Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 16 June 2016. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 30 June 2016, followed by a second postcard mailing on 21 July 2016. A third and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 08 August 2016. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 24.0 (SPSS Inc. 2015). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

Statewide Estimates

Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 58,247 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2015-16 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 2015-2016 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 2015-16,

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 2015-16 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 2014-15 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 season/6-bird daily bag limit) in 2015; 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. Regular Canada goose season remained unchanged (90 day/2-bird Canada goose season) in the North and Central zones. Regular Canada goose season length in the

South Central and South Zone was 84 days and 66 days, respectively. 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 2,290 questionnaires from waterfowl hunters, of which 2,012 (88%) were considered usable, for an overall response rate of 44%. Of the 2,012 usable questionnaires, 1,914 (95%) respondents indicated they purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2015-16 season (Figure 1) and 1,268 (66%) of license purchasers reported hunting 1 day or more for waterfowl (Figure 2). The number of waterfowl hunters decreased from 50,698 during the 2014-15 season to 40,104 during the 2015-16 season, a 21% decrease in the number of hunters (Figure 3 and Table 1). Hunters reported spending 795,289 days afield, a decrease of 19.0% from the 982,193 days devoted during the 2014-2015 license year. Total waterfowl harvest decreased 11.4%, from 550,946 during 2014-15 to 488,321 during the 2015-16 season (Table 1). Twenty-eight percent of hunters hunted ducks only, 8.6% hunted geese only, and 63.0% hunted both ducks and geese (Figure 4 and Table 2). Of the 1,268 waterfowl hunters who spent at least 1 day afield, 82.7% reported having at least one day where they had no shooting opportunities and had an average 5.61± 5.81days without shooting opportunities.

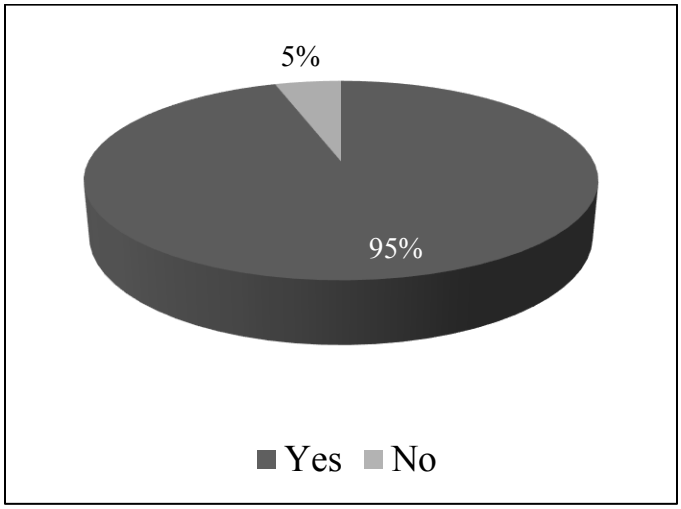

Figure 1. Percentage of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2015-2016 seasons (*n*=2,012).

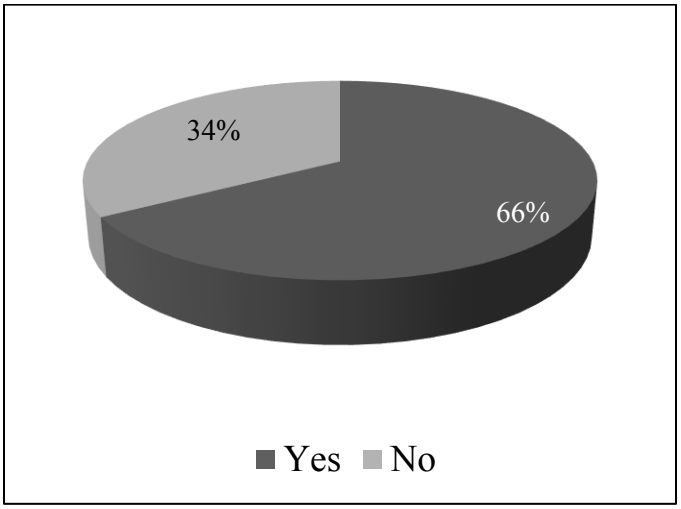

Figure 2. Percentage of license purchasers who hunted waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2015-2016 waterfowl hunting season (*n*=1,914).

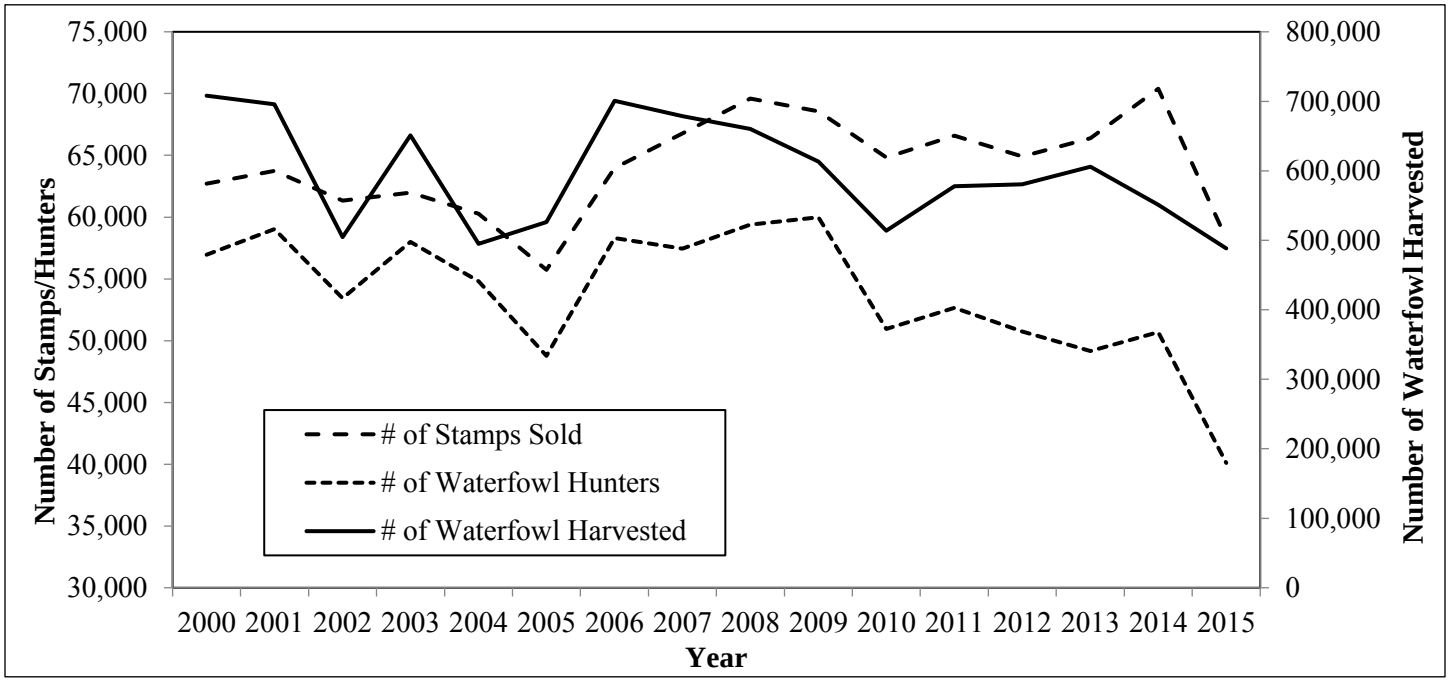

Figure 3. Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2015.

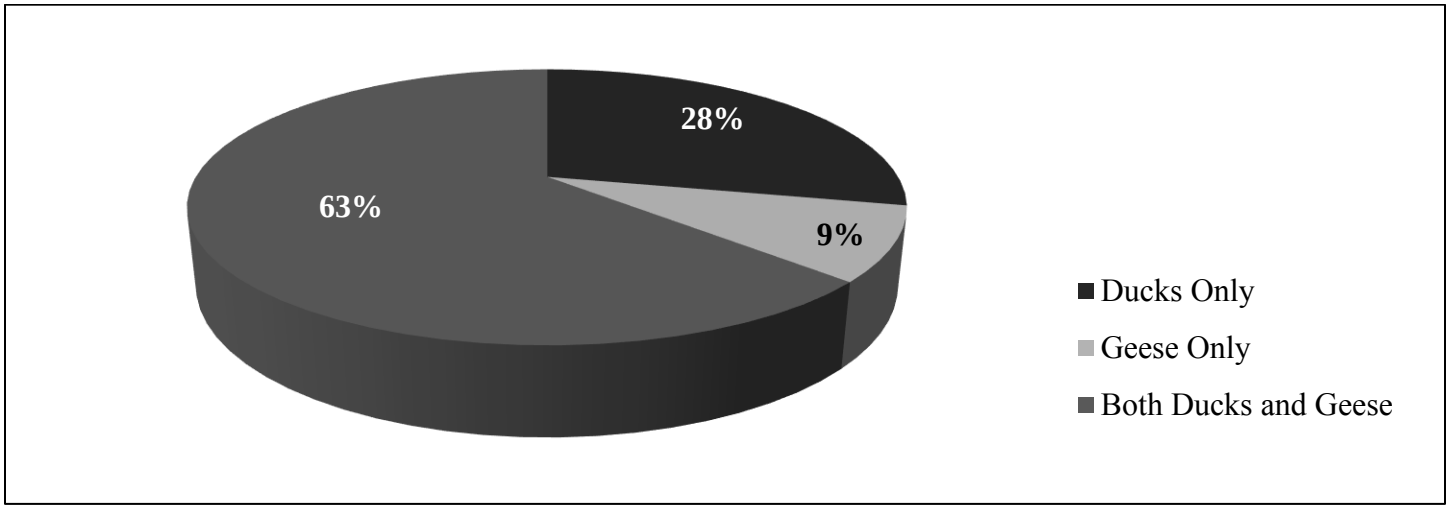

Figure 4. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2015-16 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal season hunters decreased 14.8% from 11,282 during 2014 to 9,615 during 2015 (Figure 5 and Table 3). Days afield decreased 11.9% from 42,635 during 2014 to 37,574 during 2015. Fewer numbers of teal hunters and days afield coincided with a decreased teal harvest of 28,031 ± 9,911 during the 2015 September teal season, a 3.5% decrease from the 2014 harvest (29,058). The Central Zone accounted for over one-half of teal hunters (52.6%), the majority of the teal harvested (53.6), and half of

teal hunter days afield (50.7%). The South Central Zone recorded the second-most hunters, days afield, and harvest (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.91 days afield, and harvested an average of 0.75 teal per hunter per day and 2.92 teal per hunter for the season (Figure 6 and Table 5).

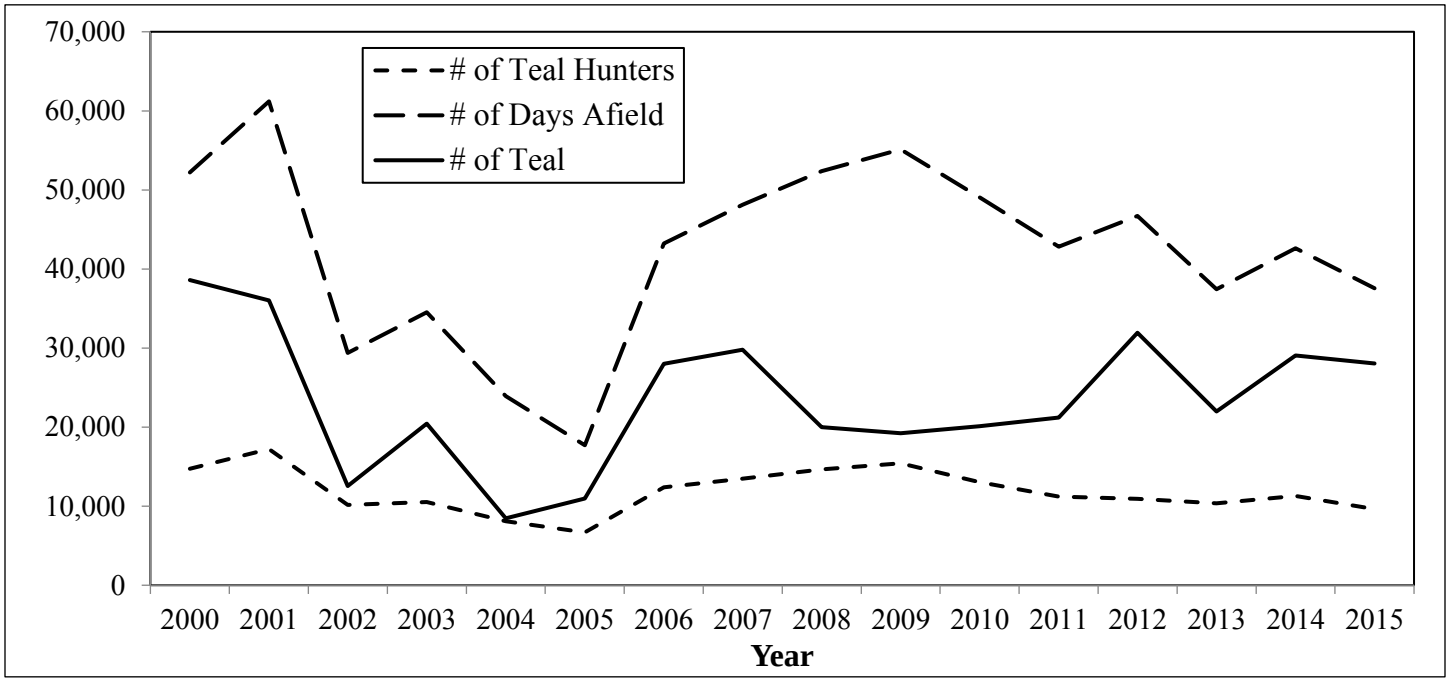

Figure 5. Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 2000-2015.

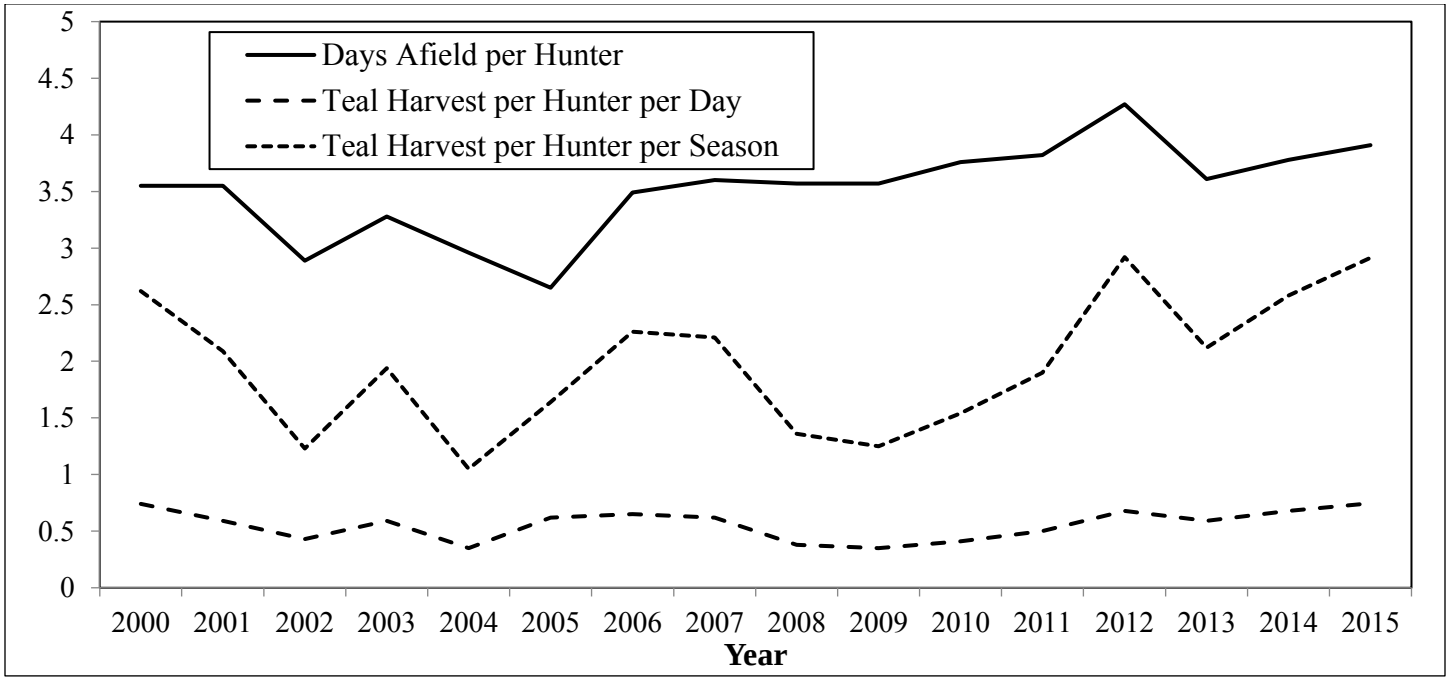

Figure 6. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season from 2000-2015.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting

The Youth Waterfowl Season framework remained unchanged from 2014 to 2015; 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. Eleven 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 2015 youth hunt decreased 26.3% from 6,405 to 4,718 participants, and number of youth participants decreased 26.6% from 8,572 during 2014 to 6,291 youths during 2015 (Table 6). Almost half (44%) of the hunting groups that participated in the 2015 youth waterfowl season had at least one youth who had never hunted ducks or geese before (Figure 8), and 18.8% 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 22.1%, from 10,125 during 2014 to 8,859 during 2015.

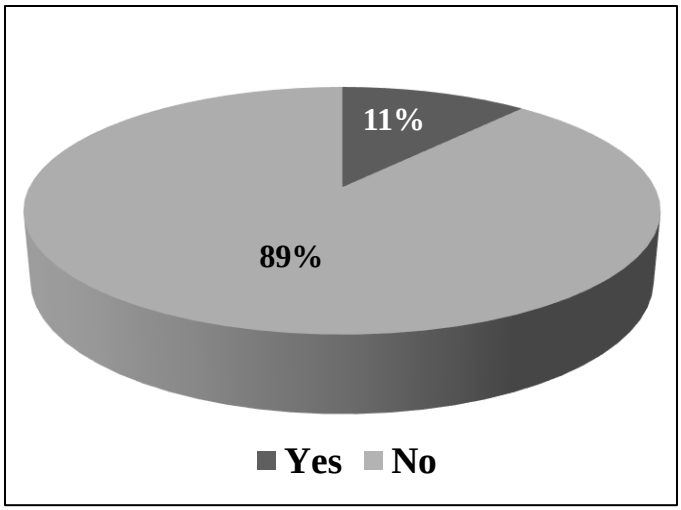

Figure 7. Percentage of hunters who took a youth (less than 16 years old) hunting during the 2015 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (*n*=1593).

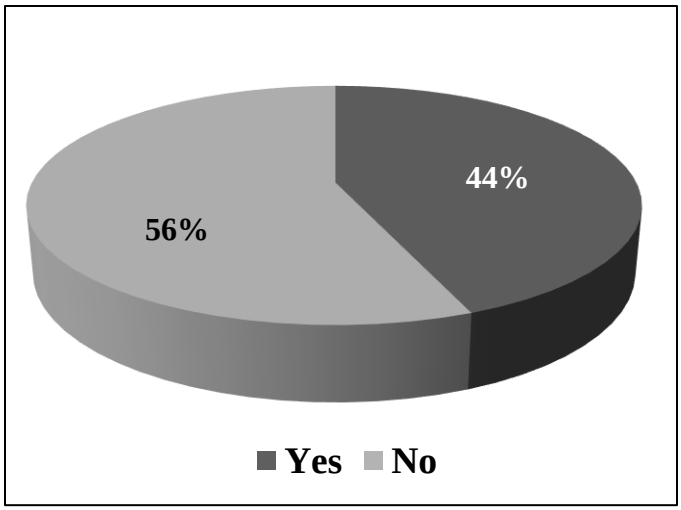

Figure 8. Percentage of hunters* who took at least one youth (less than 16 years old) hunting for the first time (*n*=182).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2015 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

Seventeen percent of respondents took a youth hunting during the regular duck or goose season; an additional two 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.

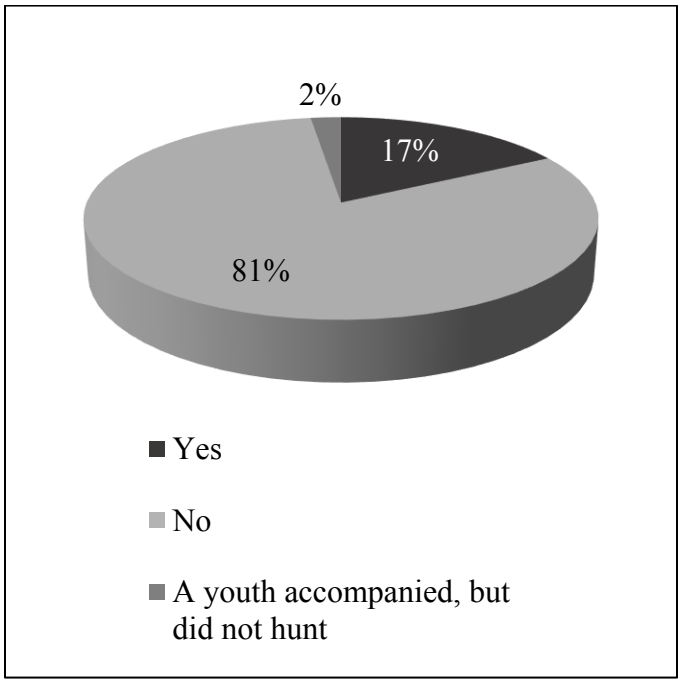

Figure 9. Proportion of hunters who took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during the 2015-2016 regular duck or goose season in Illinois (*n*=1499).

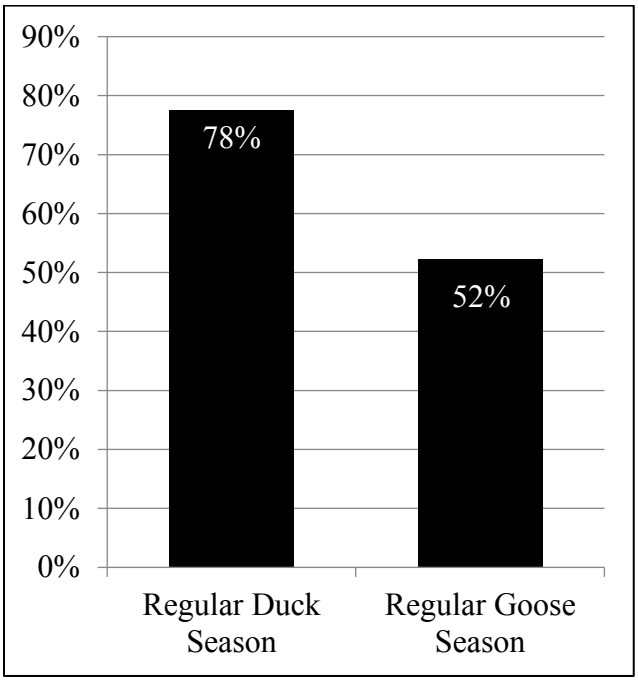

Figure 10. Seasons hunters* took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during 2015-2016 (*n*=255).
*Cases selected for those who took youth hunting or had youth accompany them while hunting.

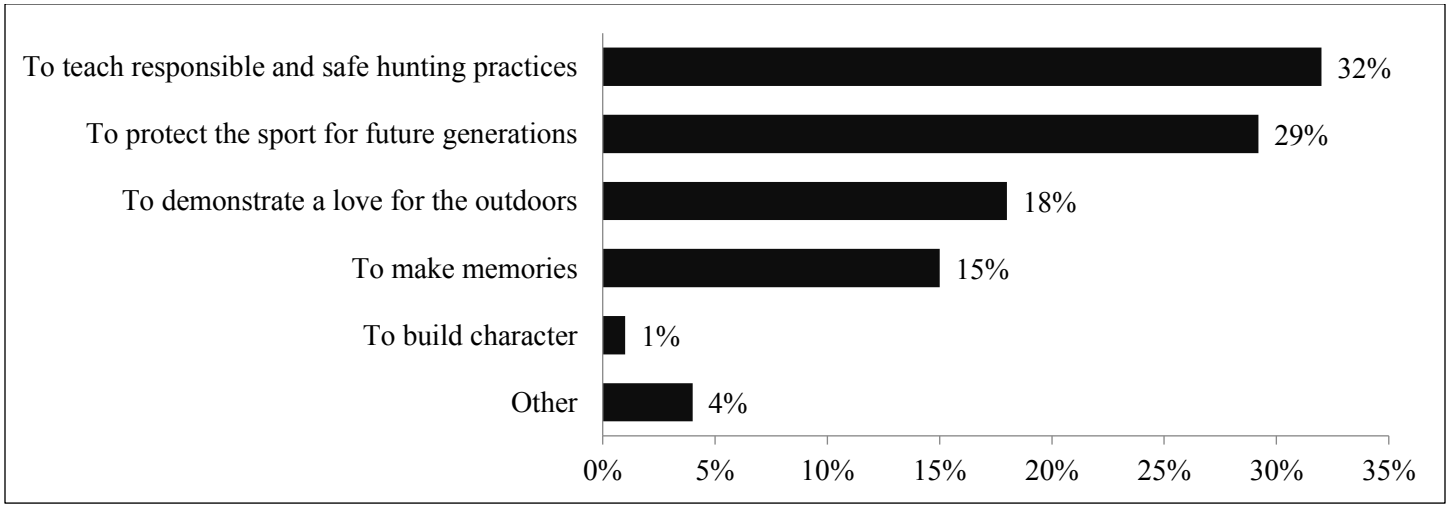

Figure 11. Reasons why hunters* take youth hunting (*n*=871).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted 1 day or more during any 2015-16 waterfowl season.

Regular Duck Season

Number of duck hunters decreased by 7,520 (17.1%) from 44,019 during the 2014-15 season to 36,499 during the 2015-16 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 496,656 days afield (*M*= 13.61) during the 2015-16 season, a decrease of 5.4% from the 525,114 days reported during the 2014-15 season. Approximately half (52.3) 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 9.6% of respondents hunted opening day in multiple zones.

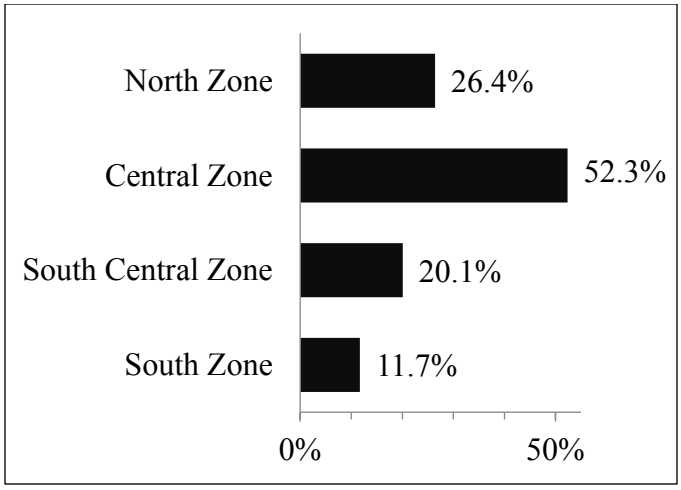

Figure 12. Zones hunters* hunted in most often during the 2015-16 duck season (*n*=1154).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 duck seasons.

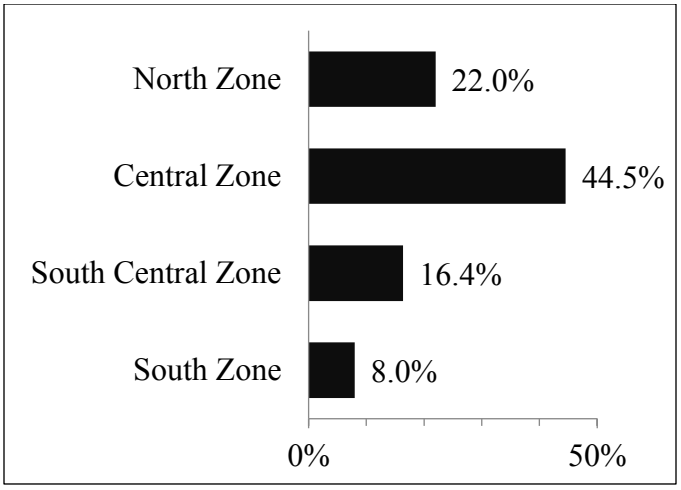

Figure 13. Zones hunters* hunted on opening day of duck season (*n*=1154).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 duck seasons.

Total duck harvest during 2015-16 was 329,780, down 14.3% from the 384,828 reported for 2014-15 (Table 7). Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 50.5% of the total regular season duck harvest, whereas wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 13.2% and 36.3%, respectively (Figure 14). Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois decreased by 31,491 birds (16.0%) from 197,997 during the 2014-15 season to 166,506 during the 2015-16 season (Figure 15 and Table 7). Wood duck harvest decreased 4,561 (9.5%) from 48,216 during 2014-15 to 43,655 during 2015-16. The harvest of other ducks decreased 18,996 (13.7%) from 138,615 during 2014-15 to 119,619 during 2015-16, and statewide coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest decreased

from 4,681 during 2014-15 to 3,185 coots during 2015-16. Twenty-one species of duck were reported harvested in Illinois from September, 2015 through January, 2016 (Table 8). The most popular species reported as harvested during the 2015-16 regular duck season were mallards (83.7% of hunters reported they harvested at least one), followed by wood duck (51.6%), green-winged teal (46.6%), and gadwall (45.1%). These numbers do not necessarily reflect the total proportion of harvest for each species, but instead indicate the number of hunters who harvested at least one of the indicated species.

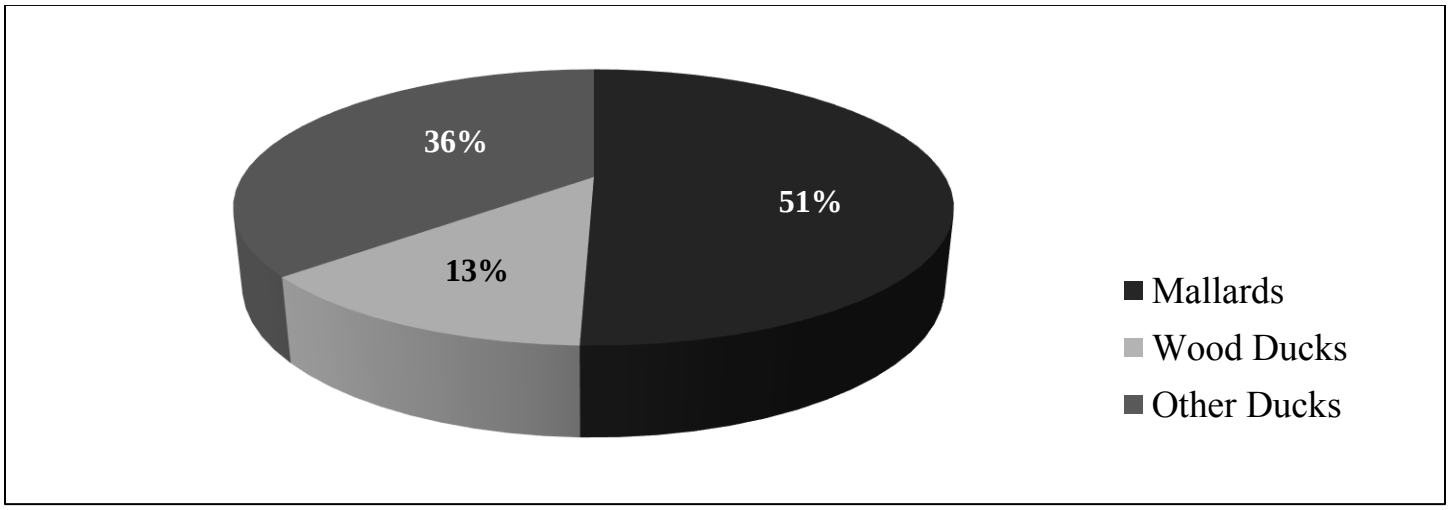

Figure 14. Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2015-16 regular duck season.[a]

[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.

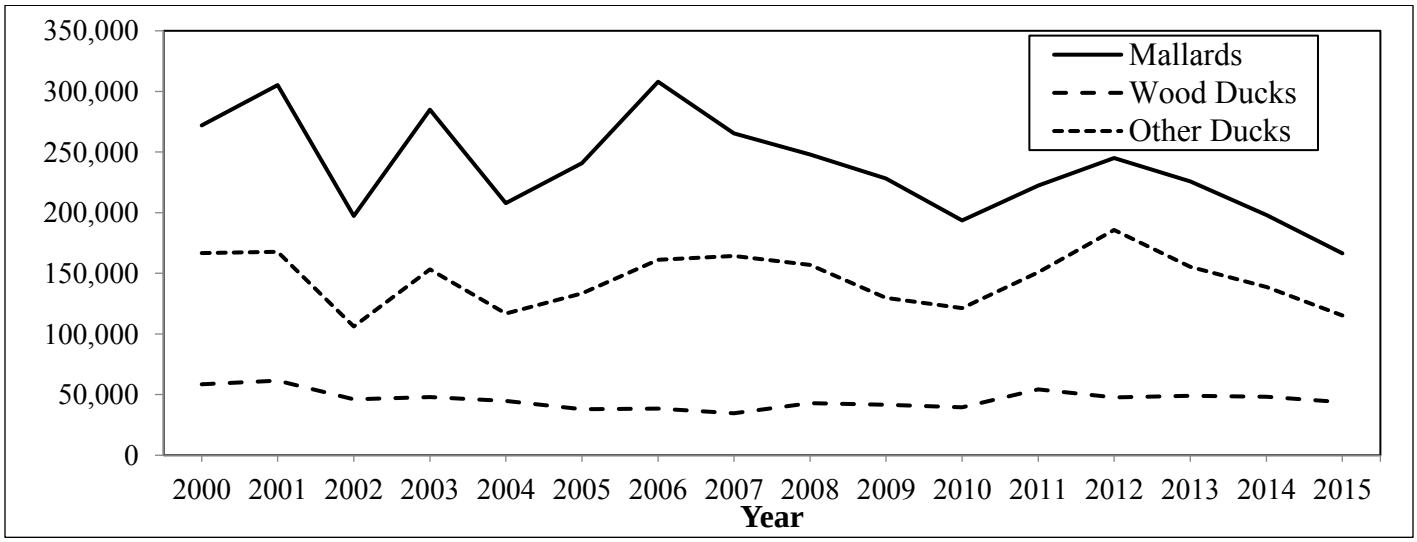

Figure 15. Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000 – 2015.

The 2015-16 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 0.72 ducks per day, whereas the South Central Zone had the highest season success rate (harvest/hunter/season) at 9.15 ducks per season. Statewide, duck hunter daily success dropped to 0.66 ducks/day and hunter season success increased from 8.74 in 2014-15 to 9.01 during 2015-16 (Table 10). Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day (*n*=1,154), 36.4% hunted 5 days or less (Figure 16 and Table 11); 13.6% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks, whereas 17.8% harvested more than 30 ducks.

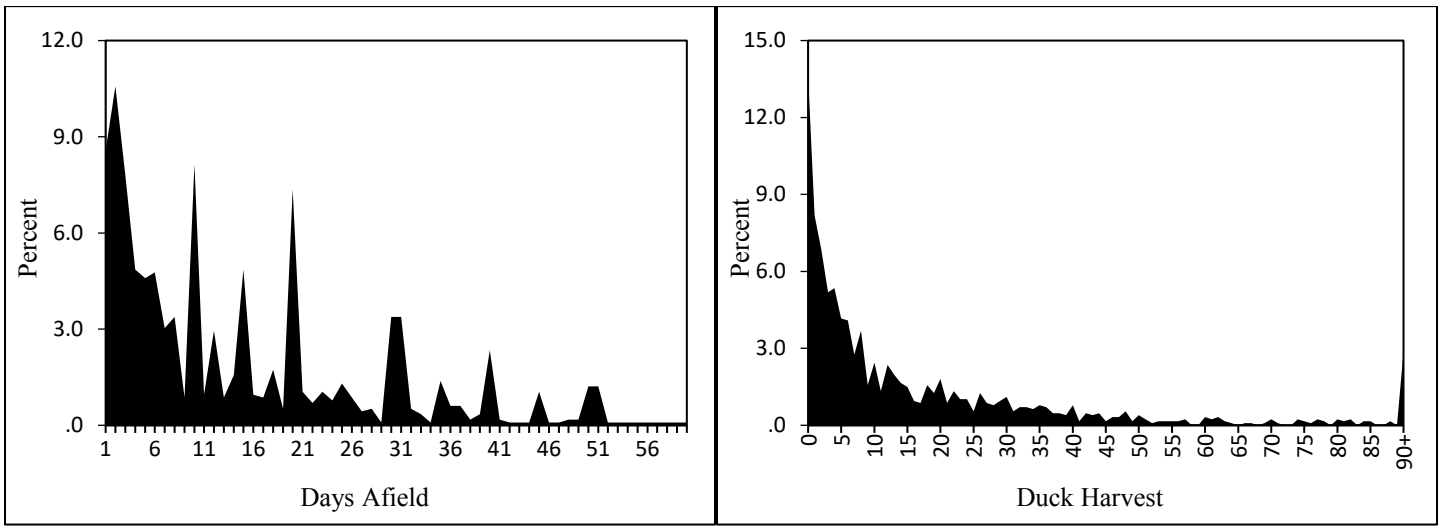

Figure 16. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' during the 2015-16 regular duck season.

Over one third (34.2%) of waterfowl hunters kept records of their hunts (Figure 17). Over two-thirds (73.4%) of hunters reported using spinning wing decoys to hunt ducks during the 2015-16 regular duck season (Figure 18), and 12.8% of hunters harvested a greater variety of species this year than in the last 5 years (Figure 19).

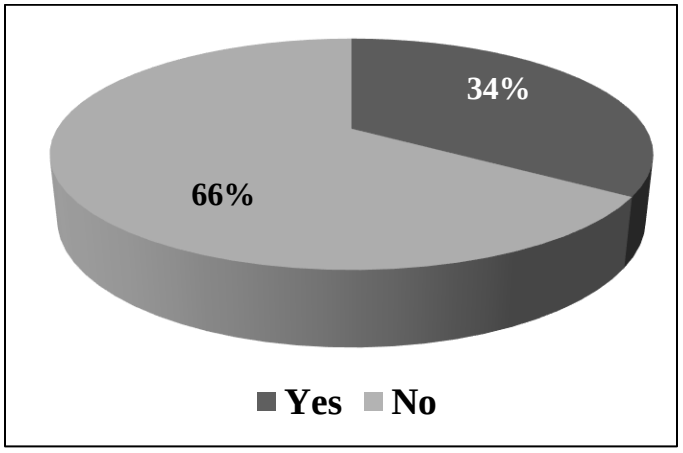

Figure 17. Percentage of waterfowl hunters* who kept records of their waterfowl hunting trips in 2015-2016 (*n*=1154).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 waterfowl seasons.

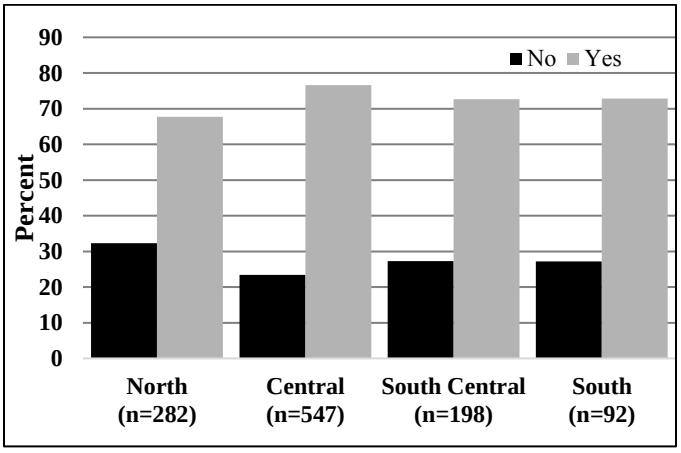

Figure 18. Percentage of hunters who used spinning wing decoys to hunt ducks in Illinois by zone.

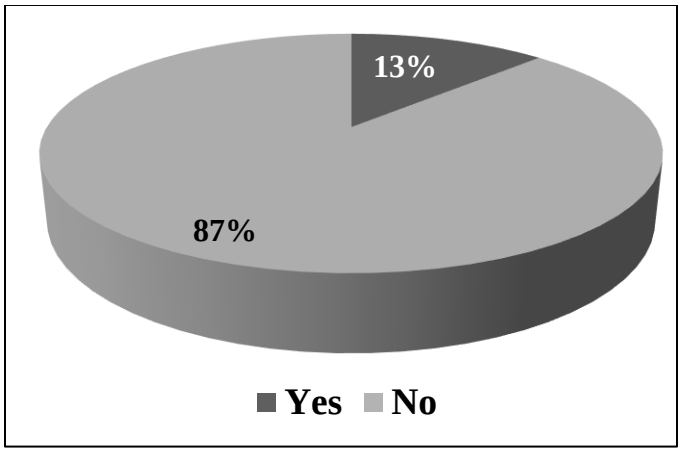

Figure 19. Percentage of hunters* who harvested a a greater variety of ducks in Illinois during the 2015-16 season (*n*=1154).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 duck seasons.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 10,659 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2015 season, a decrease of 12.3% from the 12,147 who participated during 2014 (Figure 20 and Table 12). Statewide, early goose season hunters spent 38,744 days afield in 2015, 13.7% fewer than in 2014 (44,919), and harvested approximately 15,693 Canada geese, a decrease from the 2014 (19,089) harvest by 17.8%. The Central Zone accounted for the most hunters, days afield, and geese harvested, 57.3%, 54.7%, and 54.7%, respectively (Figure 21, Table 12).

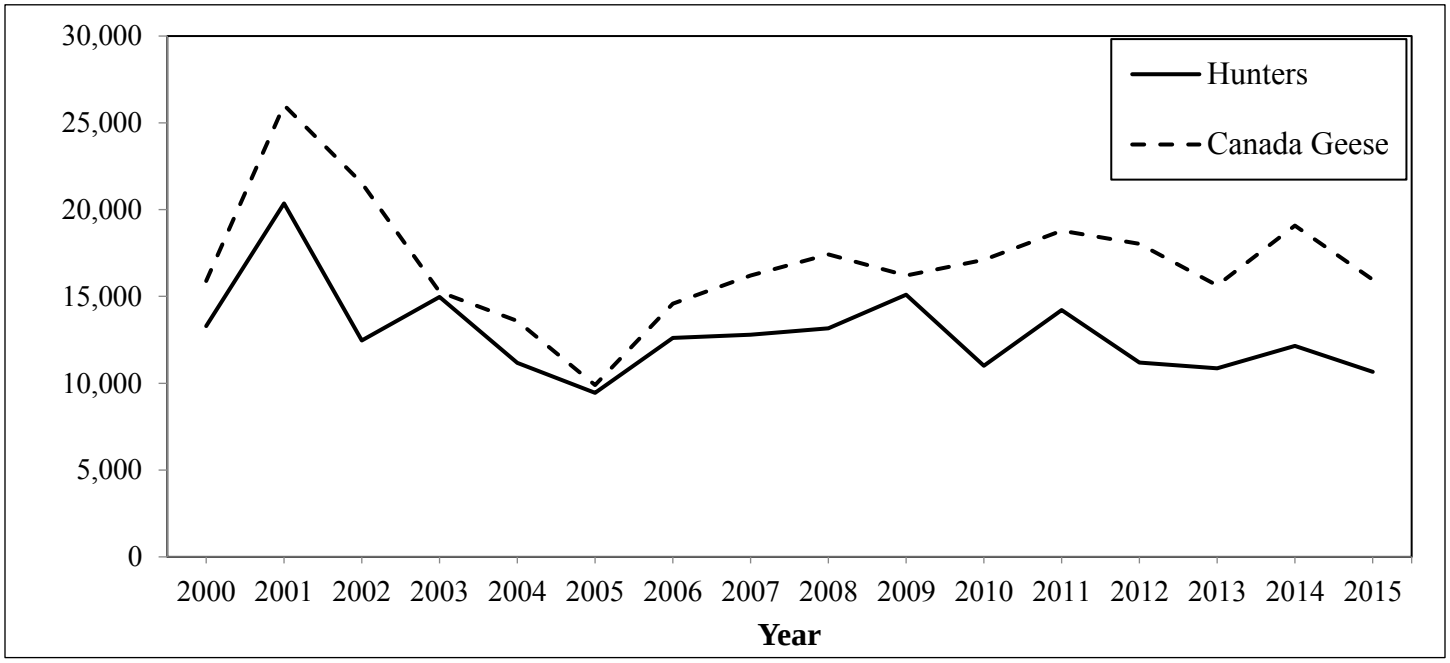

Figure 20. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2015.

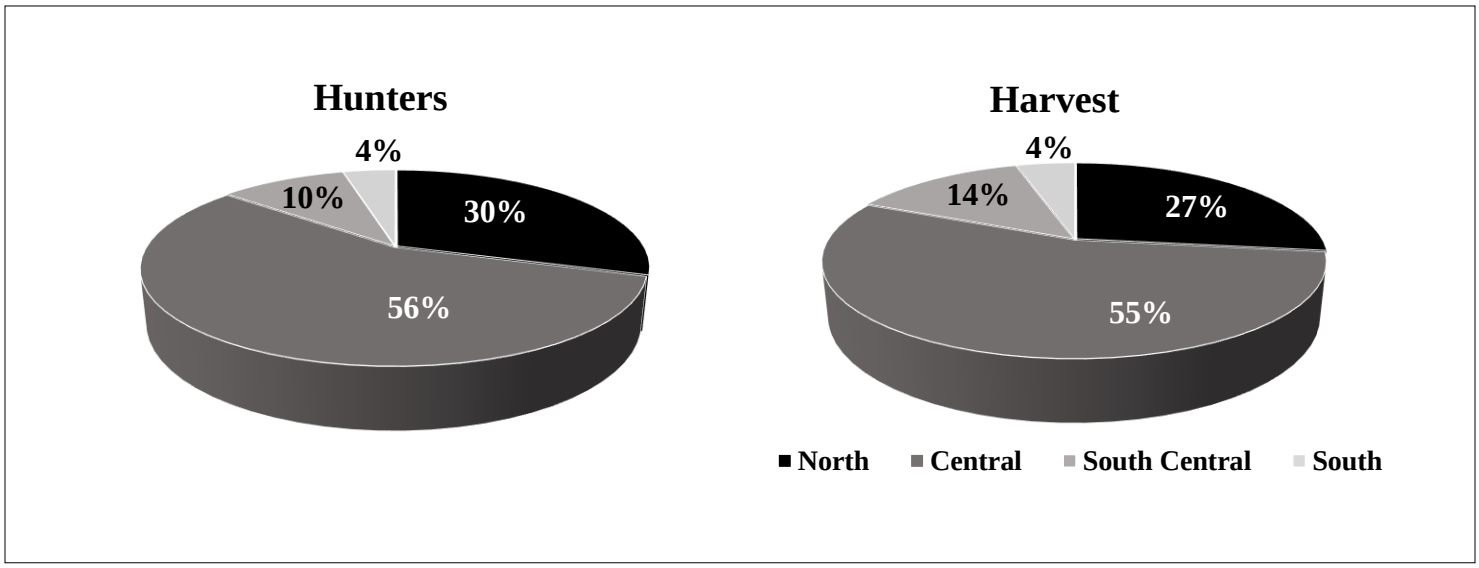

Figure 21. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2015.

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2015-16 regular goose season decreased 14.2% from 2014-15 (Table 13, Figure 22). An estimated 31,280 hunters spent 330,482 days afield and harvested 75,198 Canada geese during 2015-16. Number of goose hunters in Illinois decreased 8.6% during 2015-16 compared to 2014-15, and number of days afield decreased 10.5%. Hunters also harvested 27,576 other geese, of which 18,036 were light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese) (*Chen caerulescens*) and 9,540 were white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), for a total combined harvest of 102,774 geese (Table 13, Figure 23). Among those who hunted at least one day during regular goose season and hunted opening day, Central zone was most popular (54%), followed by North zone (28%), South Central zone (15%), and South (6%).

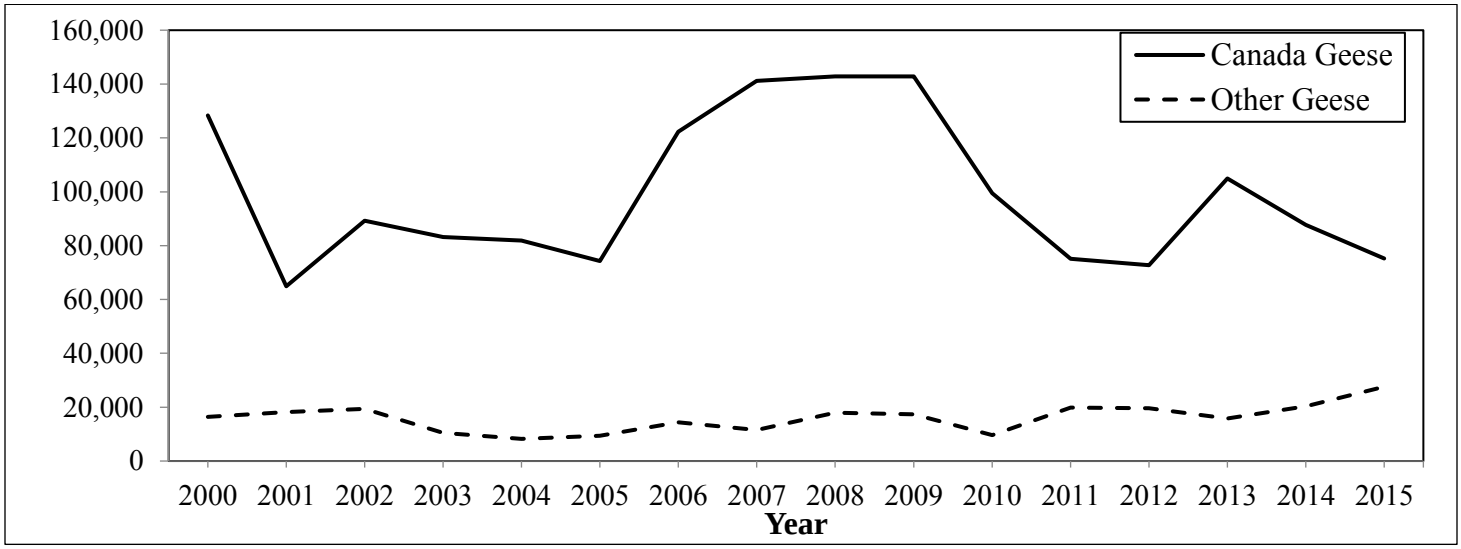

Figure 22. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2015.

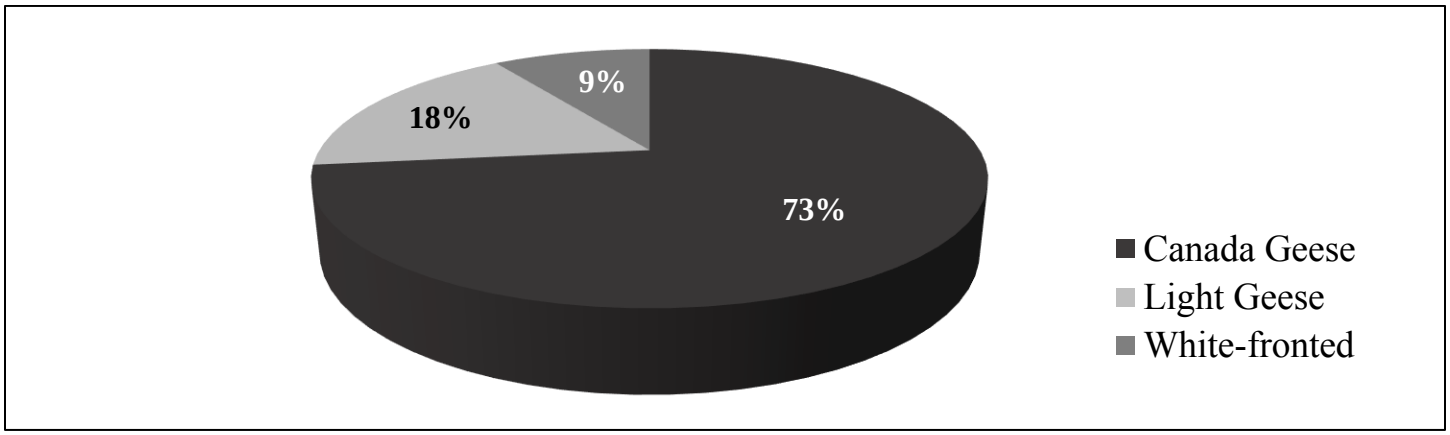

Figure 23. 2015-16 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest.

Goose hunters reported a mean of 10.57 days afield and mean harvest of 2.40 Canada geese and 0.88 other geese per hunter per season; 33.9% 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 (49.2%), days afield (51.6%), and Canada geese harvested (54.7%); the most white-fronted (45.8%) and light geese (49.4%) were also harvested in the Central Zone (Table 15). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2013-14 through 2015-16) in Table 16.

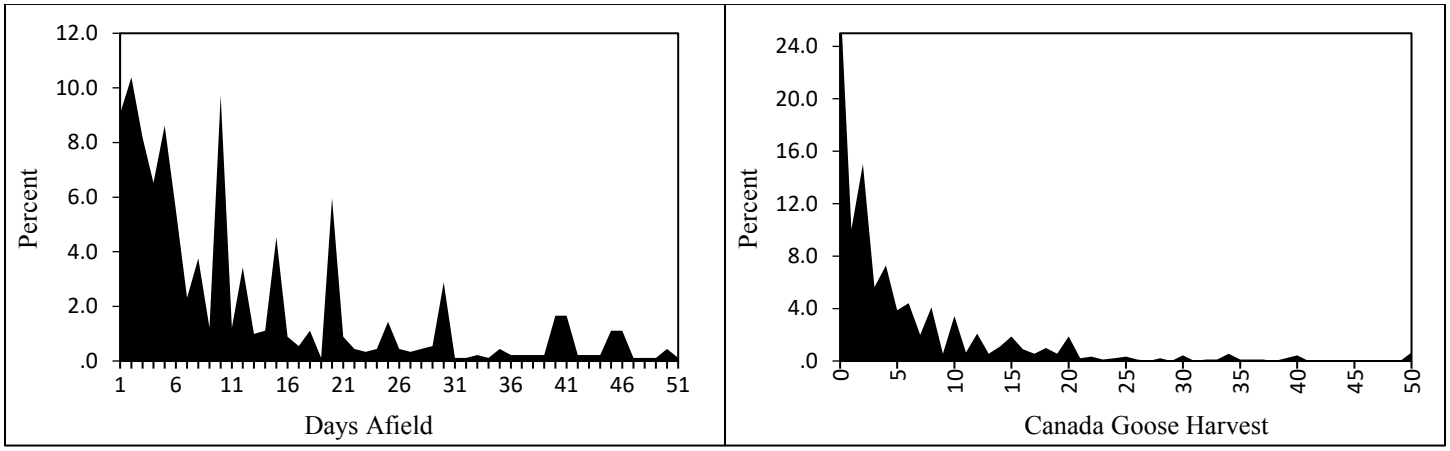

Figure 24. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2015-16 regular goose season.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) during the 2015-16 regular season were estimated at 47,442 ducks and 7,622 geese (Table 17) These estimates, considered to be indices because they contain information about the relative number and are not actual number or abundance estimates, equate to 14.4ducks and 7.4 geese lost per 100 harvested.

White-fronted/Specklebelly Harvest

Fifteen percent of those who hunted one day or more for geese during 2015-16 harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese (Figure 25). Thirty-five percent of regular goose hunters saw more or much more white fronted geese as compared to five years ago (Figure 26). Over 60% of hunters (61.2 %) who harvested

specklebelly geese indicated they saw more during the 2015-16 season than in the previous 5 years, while 29.6% saw the same amount and 8.6% saw fewer. Over 60% of hunters who targeted specklebelly geese saw more during the 2015-16 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 (60.8%) did not target or shoot specklebelly geese specifically; 21.7% harvested them when they had an opportunity, 13.9% used specklebelly calls, and 12.7% used specklebelly decoys (Figure 29).

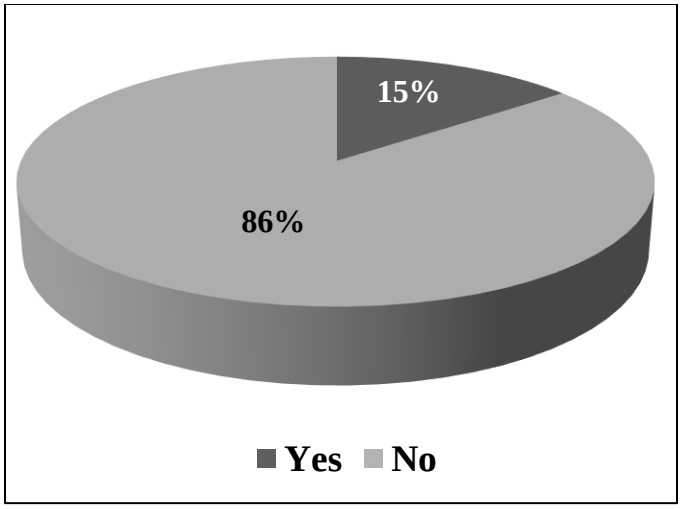

Figure 25. Proportion of hunters* who harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2015-16 waterfowl hunting seasons (*n*=905).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 goose seasons.

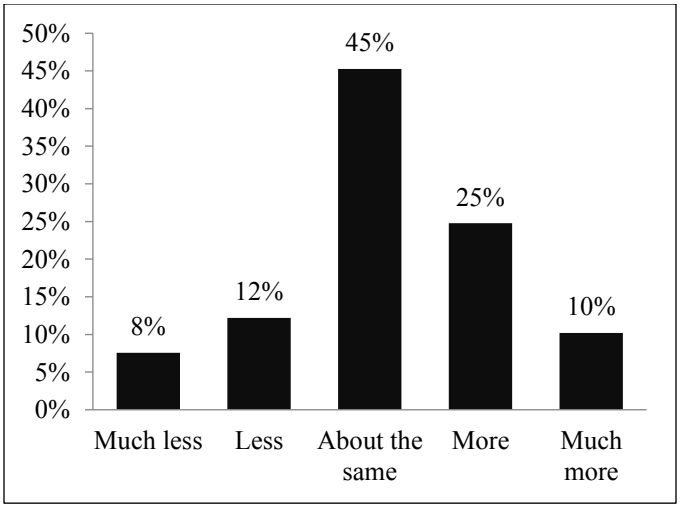

Figure 26. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese hunters* seen in 2015-16 compared to the last 5 years (*n*=795).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during the 2015-16 regular goose season.

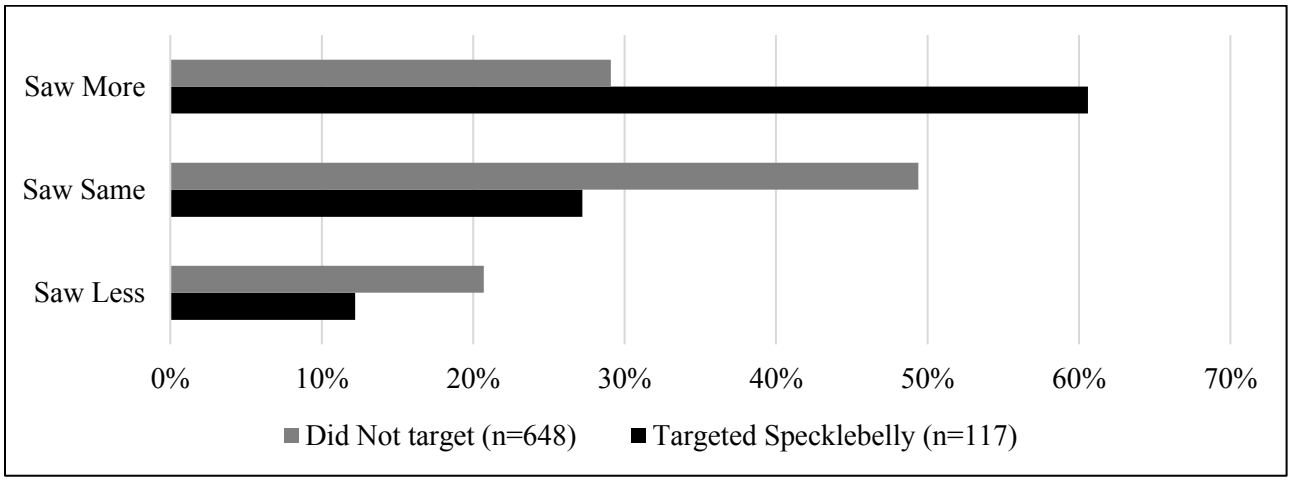

Figure 27. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese (specklebelly) seen during the 2015-16 season compared to the last 5 years by hunters who targeted and did not target the species.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

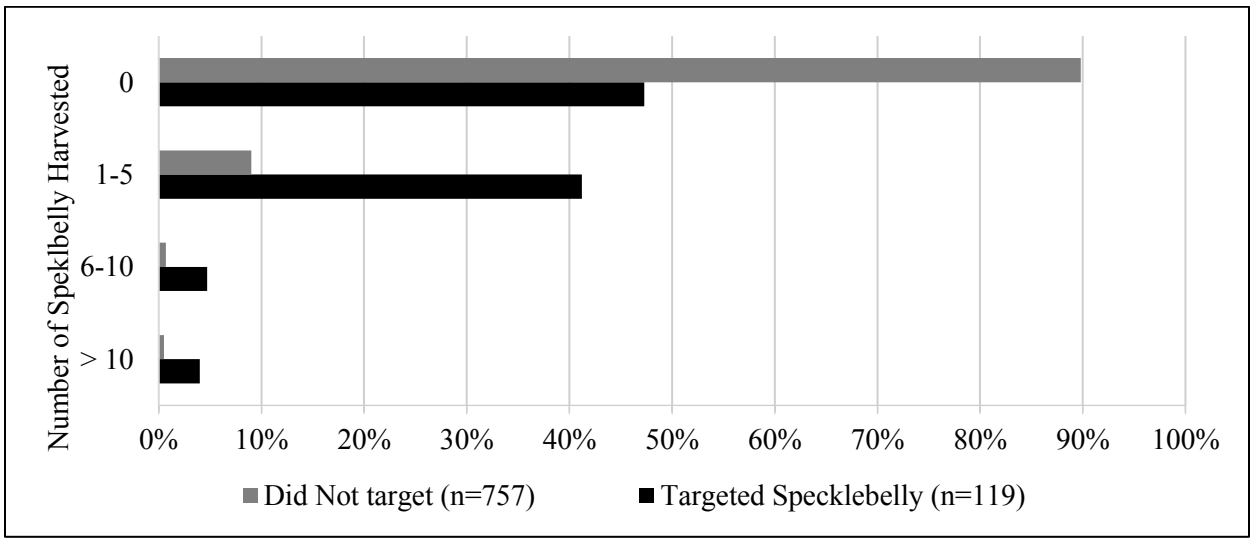

Figure 28. Percentage of goose hunter* harvest of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2015-16 Regular Goose Season by those who targeted and did not target the species.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

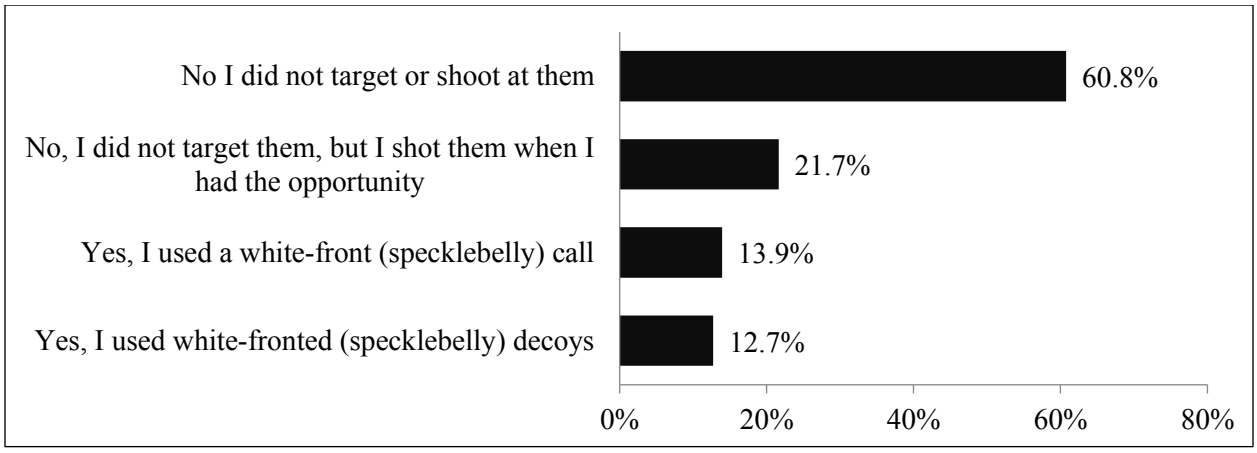

Figure 29. Proportion of hunters* who targeted white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season (*n*=905).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

Satisfaction with 2015-16 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 = 9.15), an average of 2.80 & 0.24 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the

North and Central zones (respectively), and 2.08 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the South zone. North Zone duck hunters had the highest level of satisfaction for every aspect of the season. South Central Zone hunters (despite harvesting the greatest number of ducks per hunter per season) were least satisfied with "the number of ducks you saw" and "number of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted". South zone hunters were the least satisfied with the number of ducks harvested (Table 18). South Central and South Zone goose hunters harvested the fewest geese per hunter per season (M = 1.66 and M = 1.48, respectively). North Zone goose hunters had the highest level of satisfaction with every measured aspect of the 2015-16 season, while South Central Zone hunters had the lowest level of satisfaction with "the number of geese harvested" and "number of geese migrating through the area" (Table 19).

Season Timing

When asked about season timing, a majority of North Zone duck hunters (52.9%) reported that the 2015-16 duck season was timed "about right" (Figure 30 and Table 20). Almost equal numbers of hunters (42%) in the Central Zone reported that the duck season timing was "too early" or "about right". Over half (53.1%) of hunters in the South Central Zone and 46% of South Zone hunters indicated that duck season was "too early." A majority of goose hunters, across the North, Central and South Central zones reported timing for the 2015-16 goose season was "about right."

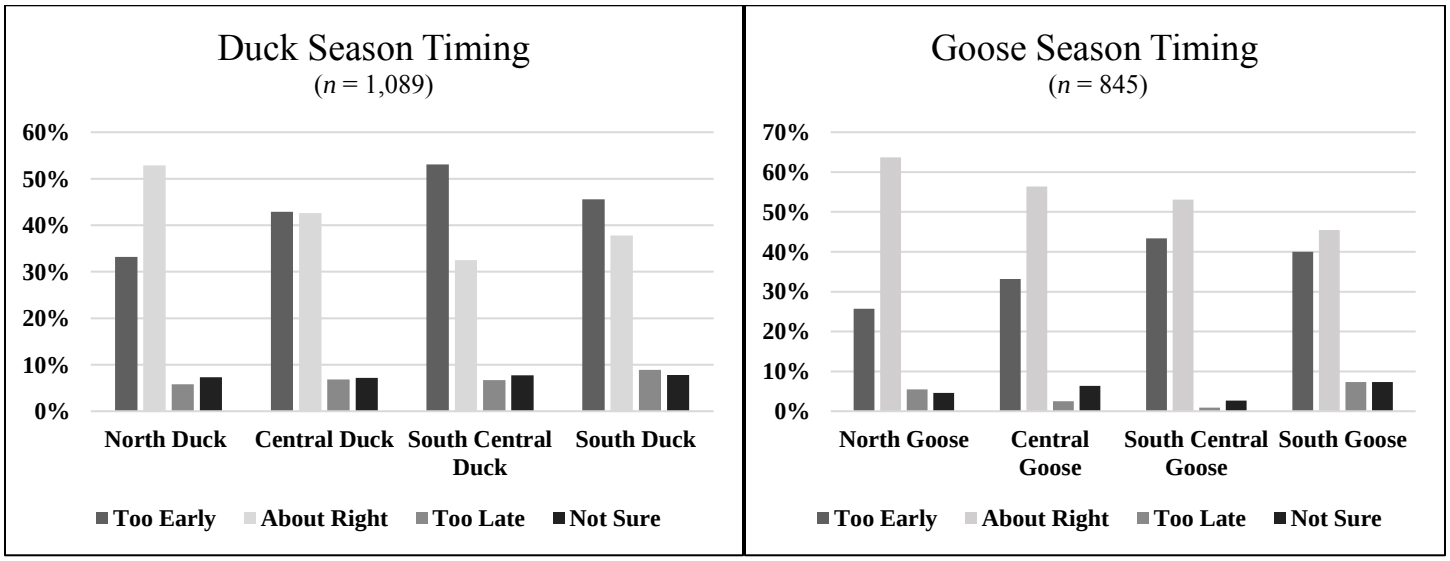

Figure 30. Duck and goose hunter* opinions about the timing of the 2015-16 waterfowl seasons.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day in the corresponding season and zone.

Waterfowl Digest Preferences

When asked about use of the waterfowl digest, North zone hunters were the most likely to use the IDNR website, and Central zone hunters were the most likely to use paper copies (Table 21). Chain retailers are the most common location visited to acquire a copy of waterfowl hunting digest (Figure 31). Check-in stations were the most popular write-in location for acquiring a digest. Less than fifty percent (45.8%) of waterfowl hunters take 1 copy of the Digest of waterfowl hunting regulations per year, 38.7% take 2 copies and 15.5% take 3 or more. The majority (59%) of waterfowl hunters think IDNR should combine the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations with the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Figure 32). A majority (86%) of waterfowl hunters reported they use the legal shooting times reference card found in the Illinois Digest of hunting and trapping regulations (Figure 33).

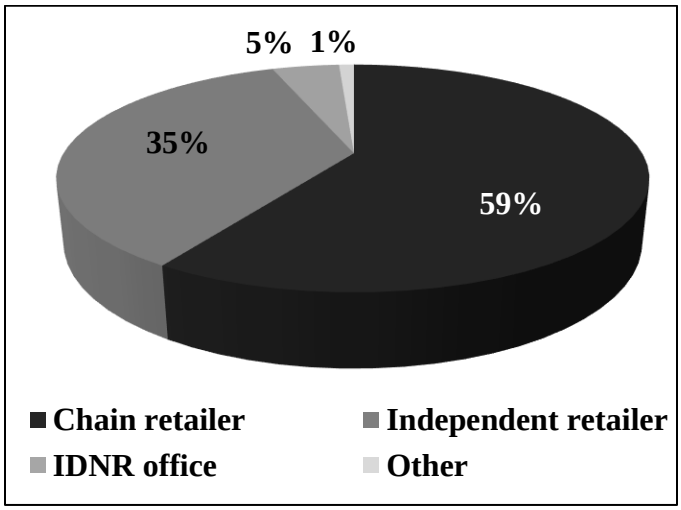

Figure 31. Where waterfowl hunters acquire paper copies of waterfowl regulations (*n*=937).

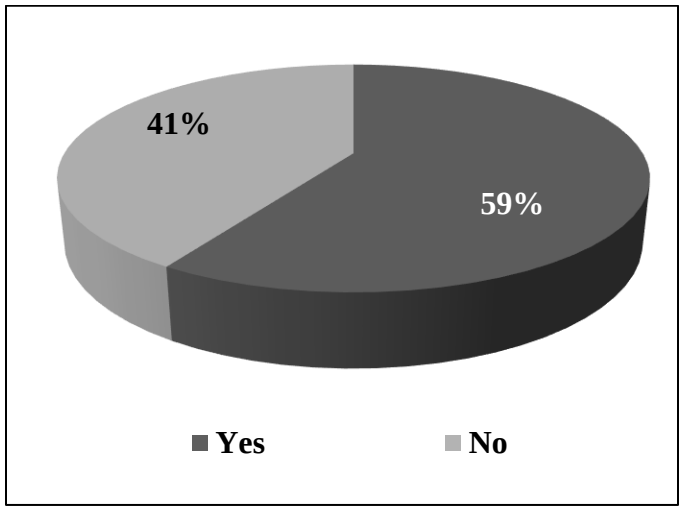

Figure 32. Should IDNR combine the waterfowl digest with the hunting and trapping digest (*n*=1081)?

Blind Drawing Preferences

Over 50% of respondents participated in a blind drawing at some point in their waterfowl hunting career, and 38.8% continued to do so in 2015 (Figure 34). Among those who participated in blind drawings 87% had never been selected (Figure 35). When asked if not being selected had deterred them from participating again, the majority (79%) of hunters who continued to participate reported it had not (Figure 36).

Of those who participated in blind drawings, the majority (63.7%) felt blind drawing winners should be allowed to reserve blinds on public lands for 1 year (Figure 37). The majority of those who participated in blind drawing agreed that participants should be present to win (Table 22). Additionally, almost half (49%) are strongly against having blind drawing online in Springfield.

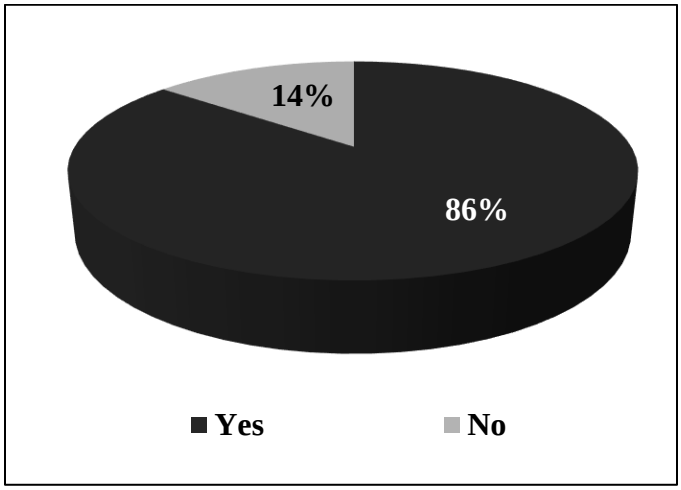

Figure 33. Do you use the legal shooting times reference card inside the IL waterfowl digest (*n*=1097)?

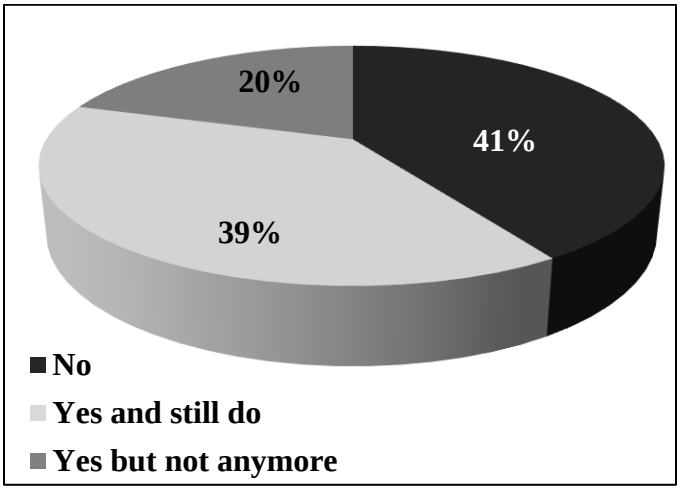

Figure 34. Percentage of respondents who have participated in a blind drawing (*n*=1779).

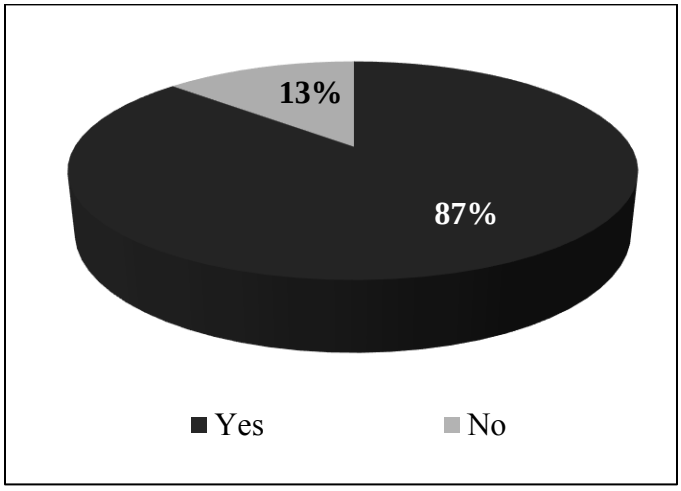

Figure 35. Have you ever participated in a blind drawing and not been selected (*n*=1039)?

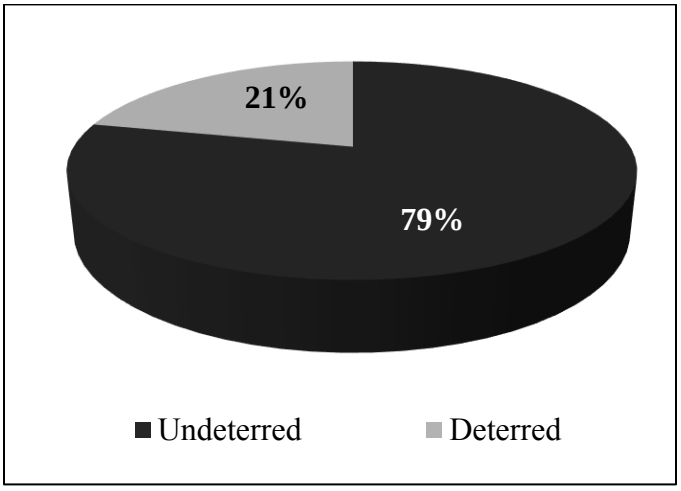

Figure 36. Percentage of those who were not selected for a blind that were deterred from participating in a blind drawing again (*n*=891).

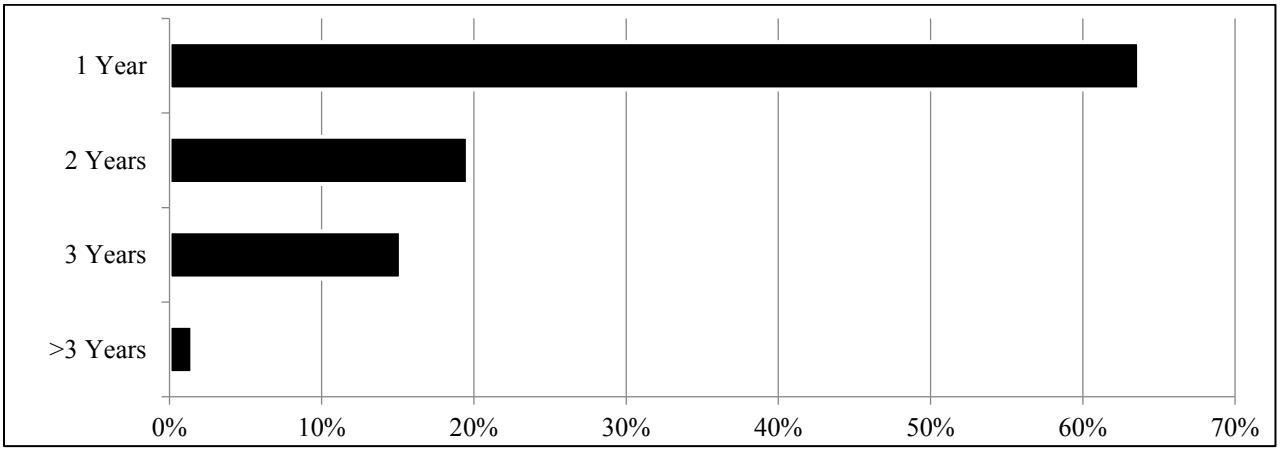

Figure 37. How long should blind drawing winners be allowed to reserve blinds on public lands for waterfowl hunting (*n*=1018)?

Illinois Waterfowl Stamp and HIP Registration

The majority of respondents purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp every year (Figure 38), and 3.1% have "accidentally" purchased a State Waterfowl Stamp without their intent (Figure 39). Eighty-nine percent of participants have registered with HIP in Illinois. Of the 1,596 participants who registered with HIP in Illinois, 70% hunted for non-migratory birds during a year when they were HIP registered in Illinois, 18.3% reported non-migratory birds harvested to HIP, and 23% did not know that HIP is only required for migratory birds. Forty-four percent of respondents were unsure or didn't know where the majority of funds from Federal Waterfowl Stamps are used (Table 23).

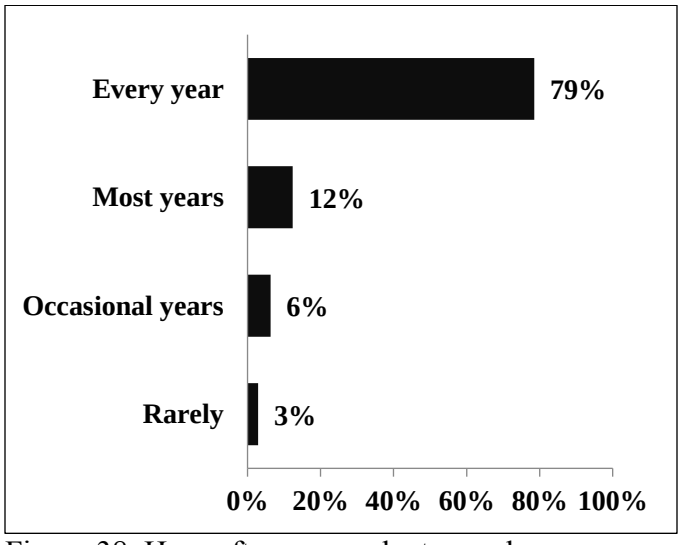

Figure 38. How often respondents purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp (*n*=1838).

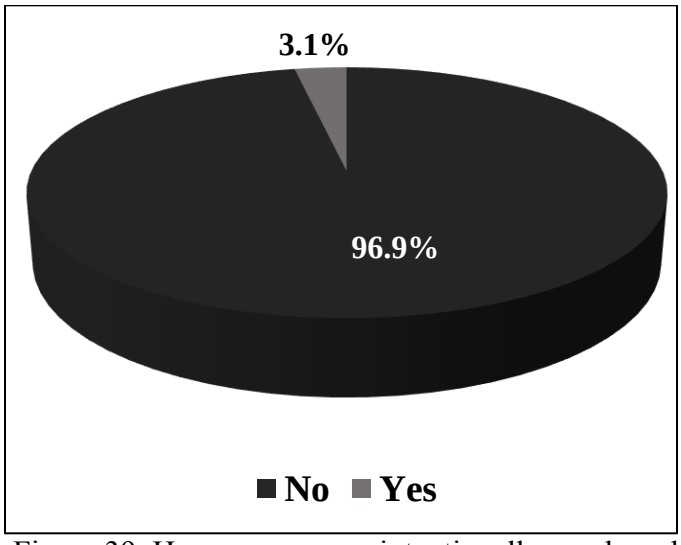

Figure 39. Have you ever unintentionally purchased a state Waterfowl Stamp (*n*=1793)?

Hunter Characteristics

About half (48.1%) of Illinois duck hunters reported that they intend to hunt in the Central Zone for ducks during the 2016-17 duck season, followed by 25.4% that intend to hunt ducks in the North Zone, 18.8% in the South Central, and 7.7% in the South Zone. Almost half (47.0%) of Illinois duck hunters indicated that other hunting seasons did not affect their season preferences for duck hunting, but 39.7% reported that firearm deer season did affect their duck season preferences (Table 24), and waterfowl hunters in Illinois hunted deer slightly less than ducks or geese during the 2015-16 seasons (Figure 40).

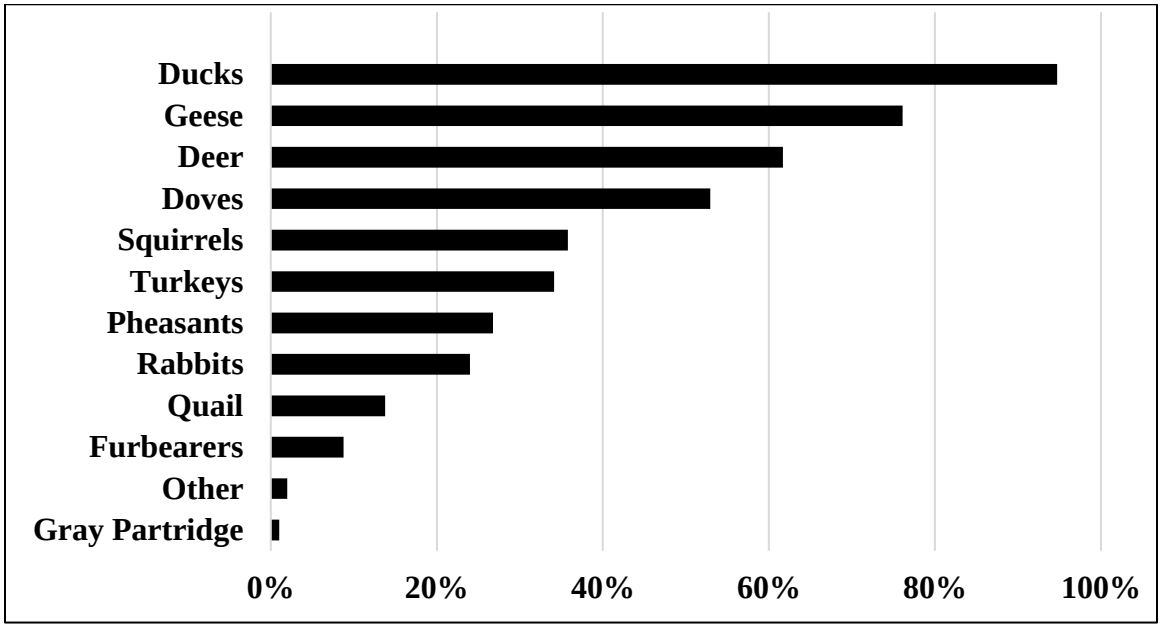

Figure 40. Species waterfowl hunters hunted in Illinois during the 2015-16 seasons.

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2015-16 waterfowl season hunted waterfowl for a mean of 23.9 years and a mean of 23.2 years in Illinois. These hunters averaged 47 years of age. Forty-five percent of waterfowl hunters hunted on public lands during 2015. One-third used drop boxes to report waterfowl harvest, 32% used a check-in/check-out, 28% used check in stations, 13% windshield cards, and 6% online. Fifty-eight percent of hunters were satisfied with the method they used to report harvest. When asked about following precautions for handling harvested waterfowl, 13.7% of waterfowl hunters did not follow the precautions outlined in the IL Digest of Waterfowl hunting regulations, and 13.3% did not handle any waterfowl.

The counties with most respondents were Will (4.9%), Madison (4.5%), Cook (4.2%), Tazewell (3.5%), and Peoria (3.4%). Females comprised 3.3% of survey respondents and 2.5% of those who hunted during the 2015-16 waterfowl hunting seasons (Figure 41). The majority of respondents (95%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois before this season (Figure 42). Over half (53.5%) of respondents reported they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois, whereas 5.5% reported that they never hunted waterfowl in Illinois (Figure 43). The most popular location for purchasing a license was chain retailer (51.3%), followed by independent retailer (23.9%), and online (22.0%). Purchasing directly at an IDNR office was the least popular method (1.2%).

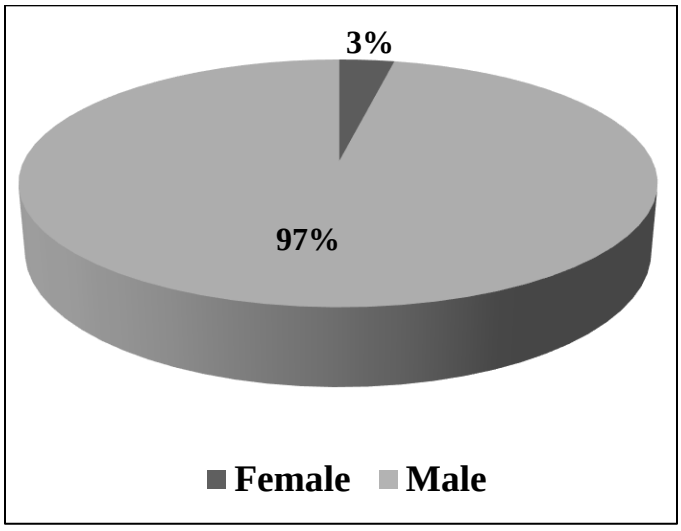

Figure 41. Gender distribution of respondents who hunted* waterfowl during one of the 2015-16 waterfowl seasons (*n*=1283).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day or more during the 2015-2016 waterfowl seasons.

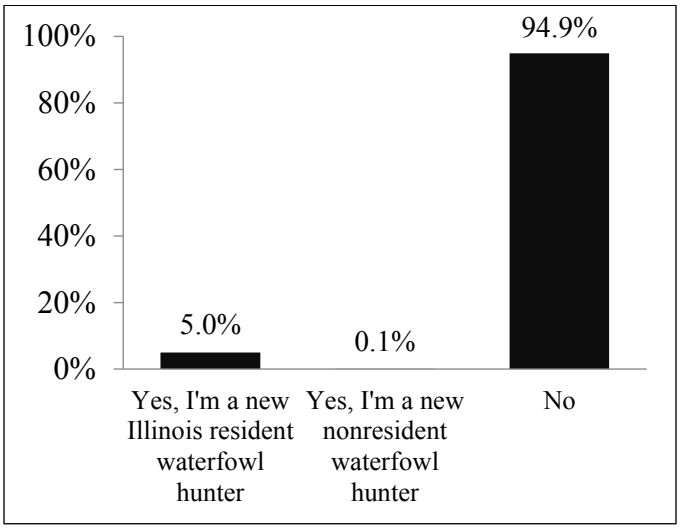

Figure 42. Number of hunters* whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was during one of the 2015-16 waterfowl seasons (*n*=1,279).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least one day during the 2015-2016 waterfowl seasons.

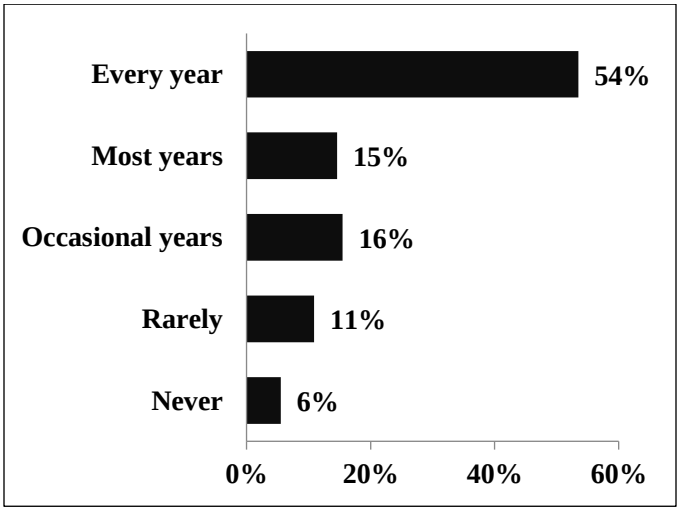

Figure 43. How often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois (*n*=1999).

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 2005 through 2015 hunting seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest[b]
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
2015	58,247	40,104	795,289	488,321

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

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 2004 through 2015 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%
2015	28.3%	8.6%	63.0%	91.3%	71.6%

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.
[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, 2004-2015).

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
2015	9,615	37,574	28,031± 9,911

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season (Illinois, 2015).

	n	Estimated Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	63	1,993	7,654	3,882
Central Zone	160	5,060	19,040	15,022
S. Central Zone	72	2,277	9,425	7,875
South Zone	12	380	1,455	1,252
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, 2004-2015).

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
2015	16/4	3.91	0.75	2.92

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2004-2015.

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
2015	4,718	6,291	9,873	1.33	8,171	1.65	117	0.02	571	0.12

[a] 1996-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

[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 2004-2015).

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
2015	36,499	496,656	166,506	43,655	119,619 [b]	329,780 ± 34,835	3,185 ± 1,960

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

[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 2015 and January 2016 (*n*=1154).

Species	Scientific name	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	966	83.7%
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*	595	51.6%
Green-Winged Teal	*Anas crecca*	538	46.6%
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	520	45.1%
Blue-winged teal	*Anas discors*	337	29.2%
Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	319	27.6%
Pintail	*Anas acuta*	294	25.5%
Wigeon	*Anas americana*	242	21.0%
Scaup	*Aythya marila*	156	13.5%
Redhead	*Aythya americana*	125	10.8%
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*	112	9.7%
Coot	*Fulica americana*	52	4.5%
Ringneck*	*Aythya collaris*	33	2.9%
Black Duck*	*Anas ribripes*	16	1.4%
Hooded Merganser*	*Lophodytes cucullatus*	15	1.3%
Bufflehead*	*Buchephala albeola*	14	1.2%
Golden Eye*	*Bucephala clangula*	14	1.2%
Common Merganser*	*Mergus merganser*	6	0.5%
Ruddy*	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	5	0.4%
Scoter*	*Menitta fusca*	1	0.1%
Cinnamon Teal*	*Anas cyanoptera*	1	0.1%

*Write-in responses provided by hunters.
** Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 duck hunting seasons.

Table 9. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season (Illinois 2015-2016).

Zone	*n*	Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted/ Hunter	Ducks/ Hunter/ Day	Ducks/ Hunter/ Season
North	305	9,647	107,472	61,228	11.14	0.57	6.35
Central	604	19,103	247,711	170,262	12.97	0.69	8.91
South Central	232	7,338	99,629	67,122	13.58	0.67	9.15
South	135	4,270	41,844	30,186	9.80	0.72	7.07
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide	1154	36,499	496,656	328,798	13.61	0.66	9.01

[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 2004-2015).

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
2015	60/6(4,2)	13.61	0.66	9.01

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.
[b] Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

Table 11. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2015-16.

	Days Hunting Ducks (%)	Number of Ducks Harvested (%)
0	-----	13.6%
1-5	36.4%	29.0%
6-10	20.2%	13.4%
11-15	11.2%	9.4%
16-20	11.4%	7.3%
21-25	4.9%	4.8%
26-30	5.3%	4.7%
>30	10.7%	17.8%

*Number of ducks harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson 1985).

Table 12. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 2004-2015).

			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
	2015	10,659	3,226	6,104	1,075	443	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
	2015	38,744	13,505	21,191	2,404	1,645	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
	2015	15,693	4,233	8,587	2,147	726	0

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

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

Table 13. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 2004 through 2015).

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
2015	31,280	330,482	75,198	27,576	102,774 (0) ± 17,608

Numbers in parentheses represent the number of geese harvested while duck hunting.
[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 14. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested.
Number of geese harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson et al. 1996).

	Days Hunting Geese (%)	Number of Geese Harvested[a] (%)
0	-----	23.6%
1-5	40.5%	38.9%
6-10	21.9%	16.6%
11-15	11.7%	6.9%
16-20	9.4%	4.5%
21-25	3.9%	2.3%
26-30	5.3%	1.6%
>30	40.5%	5.5%

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

Table 15. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2015-16).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Estimated Goose Harvest: Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese[b]	Total Geese	Total Days Hunted/ Hunter	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Day	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Season
North	8,761	99,913	24,144	121	15	24,280	11.40	0.24	2.76
Central	15,403	170,507	41,106	4,369	8,920	54,395	11.07	0.24	2.67
South Central	4,143	42,160	6,864	3,825	7,030	17,719	10.18	0.16	1.66
South	2,087	17,902	3,084	1,225	2,071	6,380	8.58	0.17	1.48
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide	31,280	330,482	75,198	9,540	18,036	102,774	10.57	0.23	2.40

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

[b] Harvest estimates include Ross' geese.

Table 16. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 2013-14 through 2015-2016).

Zone	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	32,472	29,130	24,144	28,582	4,191
Central	52,862	46,549	41,106	46,839	5,883
South Central	9,968	6,038	6,864	7,623	2,072
South	9,585	5,955	3,084	6,208	3,258
Unknown	0	0	-	-	-
Statewide	104,887	87,671	75,198	89,252	14,907

Table 17. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2004 - 2015 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
2015	47,442	14.4	7,622	7.4

[a] 1981-2015 information can be located in Appendix F.
*Amended from 2012-13 report.

Table 18. Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2015-2016 duck seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of ducks you saw	North n = 282	17.7	29.4	23.8	23.8	5.3	2.70(1.17)
	Central n = 546	17.9	32.4	26.4	20.7	2.6	2.58(1.08)
	South Central n = 200	28.5	36.0	23.5	11.5	0.5	2.20(1.00)
	South n = 90	20.0	38.9	21.1	18.9	1.1	2.42(1.05)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North n = 276	17.8	33.0	34.8	13.0	1.4	2.47(0.98)
	Central n = 531	21.8	33.9	29.6	13.4	1.3	2.38(1.01)
	South Central n = 198	30.3	36.9	23.7	7.1	2.0	2.14(1.00)
	South n = 88	20.5	42.0	33.0	4.5	-	2.22(0.82)
Amount of shooting you got in	North n = 279	18.6	30.5	29.0	19.7	2.2	2.56(1.07)
	Central n = 543	22.3	33.7	23.2	18.6	2.2	2.45(1.10)
	South Central n = 200	28.0	34.0	22.0	13.0	3.0	2.29(1.10)
	South n = 89	24.7	40.4	24.7	10.1	-	2.20(0.93)
Number of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted	North n = 280	17.5	34.3	25.0	20.0	3.2	2.57(1.09)
	Central n = 542	18.1	39.1	24.2	16.2	2.4	2.46(1.04)
	South Central n = 200	26.5	40.0	21.5	11.0	1.0	2.20(0.99)
	South n = 89	19.1	44.9	25.8	7.9	2.2	2.29(0.94)
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North n = 279	10.0	24.4	30.1	31.9	3.6	2.95(1.05)
	Central n = 543	11.4	21.7	31.3	31.7	3.9	2.95(1.07)
	South Central n = 200	12.5	20.5	33.5	29.5	4.0	2.92(1.08)
	South n = 88	11.4	35.2	31.8	17.0	4.5	2.68(1.03)
Number of ducks you harvested	North n = 277	18.8	29.6	27.4	21.7	2.5	2.60(1.10)
	Central n = 545	22.2	31.0	25.7	19.3	1.8	2.48(1.09)
	South Central n = 199	29.6	32.2	21.6	13.1	3.5	2.29(1.13)
	South n = 88	21.6	46.6	20.5	11.4	-	2.22(0.92)
Weather during duck season	North n = 280	8.2	21.4	33.9	32.1	4.3	3.03(1.02)
	Central n = 541	14.8	22.6	37.5	22.9	2.2	2.75(1.04)
	South Central n = 198	17.7	22.7	40.4	16.7	2.5	2.64(1.04)
	South n = 89	24.7	21.3	31.5	21.3	1.1	2.53(1.12)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2015-16 regular duck season.

Table 19. Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2015-2016 goose seasons.

		Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of geese you saw	North n = 255	8.6	14.5	21.6	40.0	15.3	3.39(1.16)
	Central n = 455	14.1	26.4	26.4	29.0	4.2	2.83(1.12)
	South Central n = 114	34.2	34.2	21.9	7.9	1.8	2.09(1.02)
	South n = 57	31.6	35.1	19.3	12.3	1.8	2.18(1.07)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North n = 249	8.8	19.3	36.9	25.3	9.6	3.08(1.09)
	Central n = 450	14.4	31.1	36.4	15.8	2.2	2.6(0.99)
	South Central n = 114	34.2	35.1	21.9	8.8	-	2.05(0.96)
	South n = 56	30.4	42.9	21.4	3.6	1.8	2.04(0.91)
Amount of shooting you got in	North n = 252	13.1	25.8	27.4	26.2	7.5	2.89(1.16)
	Central n = 456	20.2	32.5	29.8	15.4	2.2	2.47(1.05)
	South Central n = 114	41.2	32.5	12.3	13.2	0.9	2.00(1.07)
	South n = 56	37.5	41.1	14.3	3.6	3.6	1.95(1.00)
Number of geese that migrated through areas you hunted	North n = 248	10.9	19.0	26.6	35.9	7.7	3.1(1.13)
	Central n = 454	17.4	30.8	27.3	21.4	3.1	2.62(1.09)
	South Central n = 113	38.1	37.2	17.7	7.1	-	1.94(0.92)
	South n = 55	41.8	29.1	21.8	7.3	-	1.95(0.97)
Amount of time you spent goose hunting	North n = 251	9.2	22.3	32.3	29.5	6.8	3.02(1.08)
	Central n = 456	8.8	25.7	34.2	27.2	4.2	2.92(1.02)
	South Central n = 112	17.0	19.6	37.5	21.4	4.5	2.77(1.11)
	South n = 56	17.9	23.2	37.5	21.4	-	2.63(1.02)
Number of geese you harvested	North n = 253	20.2	24.1	27.3	22.9	5.5	2.70(1.19)
	Central n = 456	23.5	32.5	26.3	14.9	2.9	2.41(1.09)
	South Central n = 113	38.9	35.4	14.2	10.6	0.9	1.99(1.02)
	South n = 56	37.5	35.7	14.3	10.7	1.8	2.04(1.06)
Weather during goose season	North n = 253	8.7	13.8	40.7	32.0	4.7	3.10(0.99)
	Central n = 457	16.6	21.7	39.8	19.7	2.2	2.69(1.04)
	South Central n = 113	22.1	23.0	40.7	13.3	0.9	2.48(1.01)
	South n = 56	23.2	17.9	39.3	19.6	-	2.55(1.06)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for geese during the 2015-16 regular goose season.

Table 20. Hunter* opinions of the timing of 2015-16 waterfowl seasons**.

Season	*n*	Too Early (-)	About Right (%)	Too Late (%)	Not Sure (%)
Teal	286	17.8	71.7	4.5	4.2
North duck	274	33.2	52.9	5.8	7.3
Central duck	531	42.9	42.6	6.8	7.2
South Central duck	194	53.1	32.5	6.7	7.7
South duck	90	45.6	37.8	8.9	7.8
North goose	237	25.7	63.7	5.5	4.6
Central goose	440	33.2	56.4	2.5	6.4
South Central goose	113	43.4	53.1	0.9	2.7
South goose	55	40.0	45.5	7.3	7.3

*Cases selected for those that indicated they hunted at least 1 day during the corresponding zone/season in 2015-16.
**Zone determined by zone hunted in most often for species in 2015-16 season.

Table 21. How Illinois waterfowl hunters obtain information about waterfowl hunting regulations.

	North Zone		Central Zone		South Central		South Zone	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
IL DNR website.	132	46.0%	224	38.5%	81	36.0%	41	31.8%
Saved a pdf copy of Il digest of WF hunting regs.	31	10.8%	42	7.2%	21	9.3%	13	10.1%
Paper copy of IL Digest of WF Hunting Regs.	110	38.3%	282	48.5%	107	47.6%	63	48.8%
Paper copy of IL Digest of Hunting Trapping Regs.	14	4.9%	34	5.8%	16	7.1%	12	9.3%
Total	287	100%	582	100%	225	100%	129	100%

*Cases selected for those that indicated they hunted 1 day or more for DUCKS in the corresponding zone.

Table 22. Illinois waterfowl hunters' commitment to waterfowl hunting.

	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Unsure (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Blind drawings should be held online in Springfield IL (n=1013).	49.0	20.8	12.9	11.3	6.0	2.05 (1.27)
Blind drawings increase waterfowl hunter recruitment and retention (n=1010).	6.5	11.8	34.0	39.0	8.7	3.32 (1.01)
Blind drawings have been performed unfairly in the past (n=1009).	11.7	23.7	38.3	17.2	9.1	2.88 (1.11)
Blind drawings do not need additional regulation (n=1001).	7.9	15.9	34.4	32.4	9.5	3.2 (1.07)
If blind drawing participants have equal chances of being drawn, I will participate (n=942).	1.8	2.2	24.0	44.2	27.8	3.94 (0.88)
Participants of blind drawings should be present to win (n=1013).	3.0	6.2	10.8	27.2	52.8	4.21 (1.05)

1= Strongly Disagree, 5= Strongly Agree

Table 23. Opinions regarding where the majority of funds from the sales of Federal Waterfowl Stamps are used (*n*=1907).

	Number of hunters	Percentage of hunters (%)
Don't know/not sure	835	44%
Purchase wetlands and other duck habitat	558	29%
Administration of federal WF program (salaries, vehicles, etc.)	297	16%
Create food plots in wintering grounds	86	5%
Other	50	3%
Payments to landowners to promote duck breeding	41	2%
Predator control in breeding grounds	40	2%

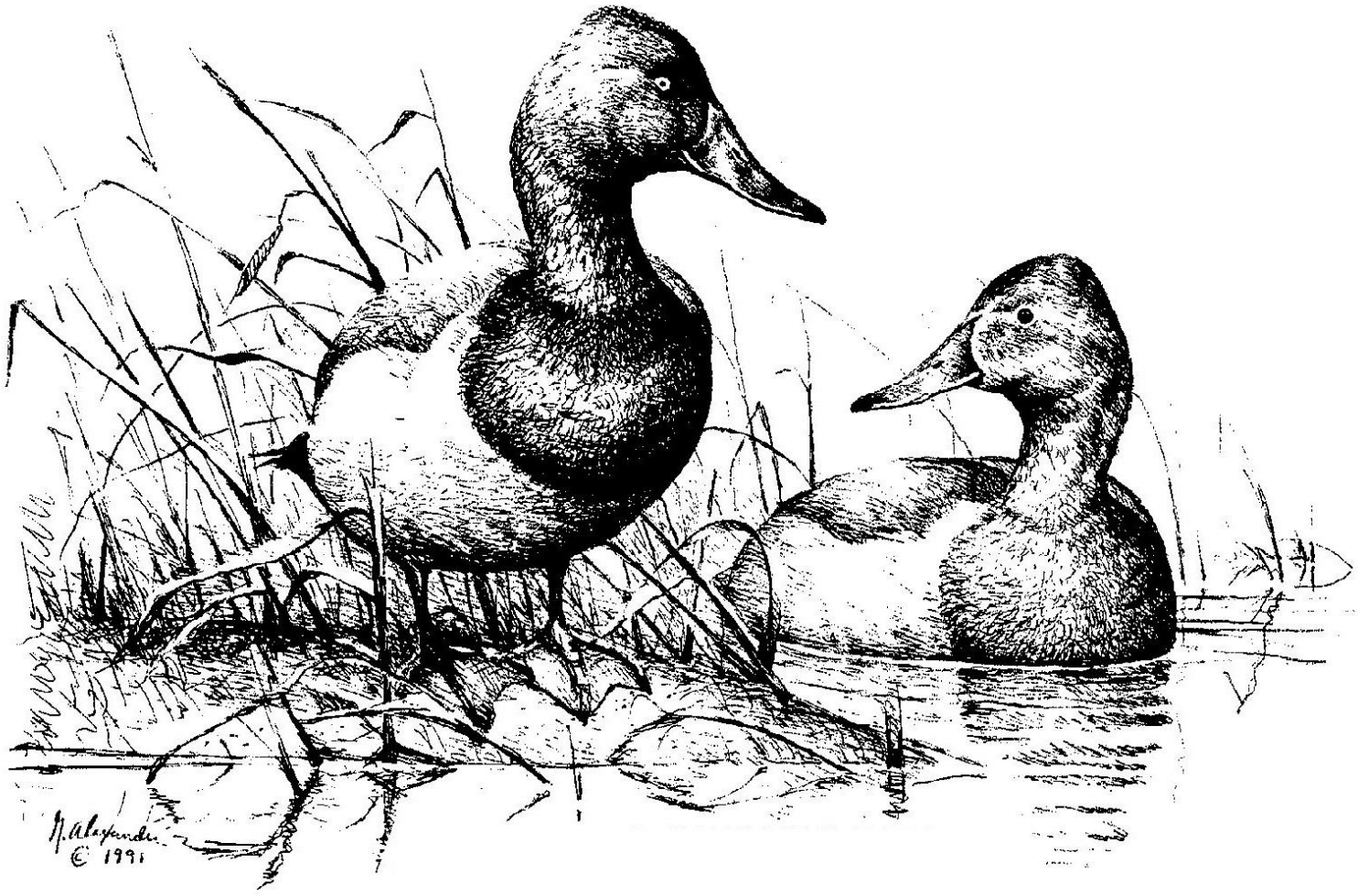
Table 24. Other hunting seasons that affect Illinois hunters' preferred duck season dates.

	Number of hunters	Percentage of hunters (%)
Firearm deer season	458	39.7
Upland game season	106	9.2
Waterfowl opening day in another state	66	5.7
Preferences are not based on hunting seasons	542	47.0
Archery deer season	27	2.4
Other seasons	19	1.4

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2015-2016 duck hunting seasons.

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2015-2016 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 in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) waterfowl biologists may better understand hunters in Illinos.

1. Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2015-2016 seasons?

_____Yes _____No

2. Which of the following best describes where you bought your most recent hunting license? (Please select 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 7 on inside of back cover.

4. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2015-2016 waterfowl hunting seasons?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," please go to Section 3)

4a. Was the 2015-2016 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

4b. In which of the following zones did you hunt **opening day of DUCK season**? (Please select all that apply)

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone _____N/A

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

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone _____N/A

4d. In which of the following zones did you hunt **WATERFOWL most often**? (Please select **one**)

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone

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 2015 and January 2016. (Select 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 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 2015-16 seasons, please go to Section 3.**

1. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2015 and January 2016 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. Did you hunt waterfowl on public land in Illinois during the 2015-16 waterfowl seasons?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," please go to question 3)

2a. If "Yes," what were the requirements for reporting your waterfowl harvest? (Please select all that apply)

_____Windshield Card _____Online reporting _____Check in/out

_____Drop box _____Check station

2b. How satisfied were you with the procedure for reporting your waterfowl harvest?

Extremely Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

3. 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

4. Did you use a spinning-wing decoy to **hunt ducks** in Illinois during the 2015-2016 season?

_____Yes _____No

5. 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

6. 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

7. Did you follow precautions for handling harvested waterfowl as outlined in the IL Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations?

_____Yes _____No _____I did not handle any waterfowl

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 **2015 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," Please go 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 **2015 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**. (North Zone: **Oct. 10-11**, Central Zone: **Oct. 17-18**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 7-8**, South Zone: **Nov. 14-15**) Enter **0** if the youth did not harvest any ducks, geese, or coots.

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

2. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2015-2016 **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 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. Satisfaction and zone timing. The following questions will tell us about yourself as a hunter and your satisfaction with the **most recent duck and/or goose season(s).**

1. Did you feel that the dates of the 2015-16 waterfowl hunting seasons were too early, about right, or too late in the zone where you hunted most often? (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
Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent duck season(s) you hunted in Illinois** by circling the number that best matches your response. **If you did not hunt ducks during 2015-16, please go to question 2.**

REGULAR DUCK SEASON	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

3. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent goose season(s) you hunted in Illinois** by circling the number that best matches your response. **If you did not hunt geese during 2015-16, please go to question 3.**

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON	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
Weather during goose season	1	2	3	4	5

4. In which zone do you **intend** to hunt **DUCKS** most often during the 2016-17 duck hunting season?

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone

Section 5. Hunting/waterfowl digest and blind drawing preferences. Please answer the following questions concerning your season date and zone preferences.

1. Which of the following **best describes** how you obtain information about waterfowl hunting regulations in Illinois? (Please select one)

_____Illinois DNR website (If selected, please go to question 2)

_____Saved a pdf copy of IL Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations (If selected, please go to question 2)

_____Paper copy of IL Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations (If selected, please continue to 1a-1d)

_____Paper copy of IL Digest of Hunting Trapping Regulations (If selected, please continue to 1a-1d)

1a. Where do you normally visit to a get paper copy/copies?

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

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

_____IDNR Office _____Other (Please identify):_____

1b. How many paper copies do you get per year? _____Copies

1c. Should IDNR combine the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations with the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations? (Please select one)

_____Yes, combine _____No, continue to separate

1d. Do you use the legal shooting times reference card attached to the inside of the IL Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations?

_____Yes _____No

2. Have you ever participated in **blind drawings** for waterfowl hunting sites on public lands in Illinois?

_____Yes, and still do _____Yes, but not anymore _____No (If "No," please go to Section 6)

3. Have you ever participated in blind drawings and **not been selected**?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," Please go to question 4)

3a. If "Yes," did this deter you from participating again? _____Yes _____No

4. How long do you feel blind drawing winners should be allowed to reserve blinds on public land for waterfowl hunting in Illinois? (Please select one)

_____1 year _____2 years _____3 years _____> 3 years

5. Please provide your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements by circling the response that best matches your opinion.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Blind drawings should be held online in Springfield IL.	1	2	3	4	5
Blind drawings increase waterfowl hunter recruitment and retention.	1	2	3	4	5
Blind drawings have been performed unfairly in the past.	1	2	3	4	5
Blind drawings do not need additional regulation.	1	2	3	4	5
If blind drawing participants have equal chances of being drawn, I will participate.	1	2	3	4	5
Participants of blind drawings should be present to win.	1	2	3	4	5

Section 6. Illinois Waterfowl Stamp and HIP registration. Please answer the following questions to help us understand more about Illinois waterfowl hunters' waterfowl stamp purchases and HIP registration.

1. How often do you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp?

_____Every year _____Most years _____Occassional years _____Rarely

2. Have you ever unintentionally purchased a State Waterfowl Stamp in the past? _____Yes _____No

3. Have you ever registered for HIP in Illinois? _____Yes _____No (If "No," please go to Section 7)

4. Have you ever hunted **Non-migratory birds** (pheasant, quail, partridge, etc.) during years you were HIP registered in Illinois?

_____Yes _____No

5. Have you ever reported **Non-migratory bird harvest(s) to HIP**? _____Yes _____No

6. Were you aware that HIP registration is **ONLY required for Migratory bird hunting** in Illinois?

_____Yes _____No

Section 7. 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 other hunting seasons affect your preferences for duck season dates? (Please check **all that apply**)

_____Firearm deer season

_____Upland game season opening day

_____Waterfowl opening day in another state

_____My preferences are not based on the hunting seasons above.

_____Other (Please identify):_____

2. Which of the following species did you hunt in Illinois during the 2015-16 seasons? (Please check all that apply)

_____Deer _____Furbearers _____Pheasants _____Gray Partridge

_____Quail _____Squirrels _____Rabbits _____Turkeys

_____Ducks _____Geese _____Doves _____Other (Please identify):_____

3. In your opinion, which of the following describes where the **majority of funds** from the sales of **Federal Waterfowl Stamps** are used? (Please select only **ONE** response)

_____Purchase wetlands and other duck habitat _____Create food plots in wintering grounds

_____Predator control in breeding grounds _____Payments to landowners to promote duck breeding

_____Administration of federal waterfowl program (salaries, vehicles, etc.)

_____Don't know/not sure

_____Other (Please identify): _____

4. How many years total have you hunted waterfowl? _____Years

5. How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? _____Years

6. What is your county of residence? _____County (If nonresident, please include state)

7. Please give your age. _____Years

8. 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

April, 2016

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from a list of 2015 Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We are asking you to provide information about your activities during the 2015-2016 waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2015-2016 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.

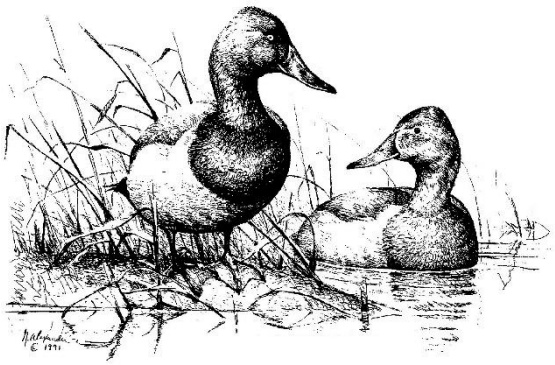
If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove you from our mailing list.

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.

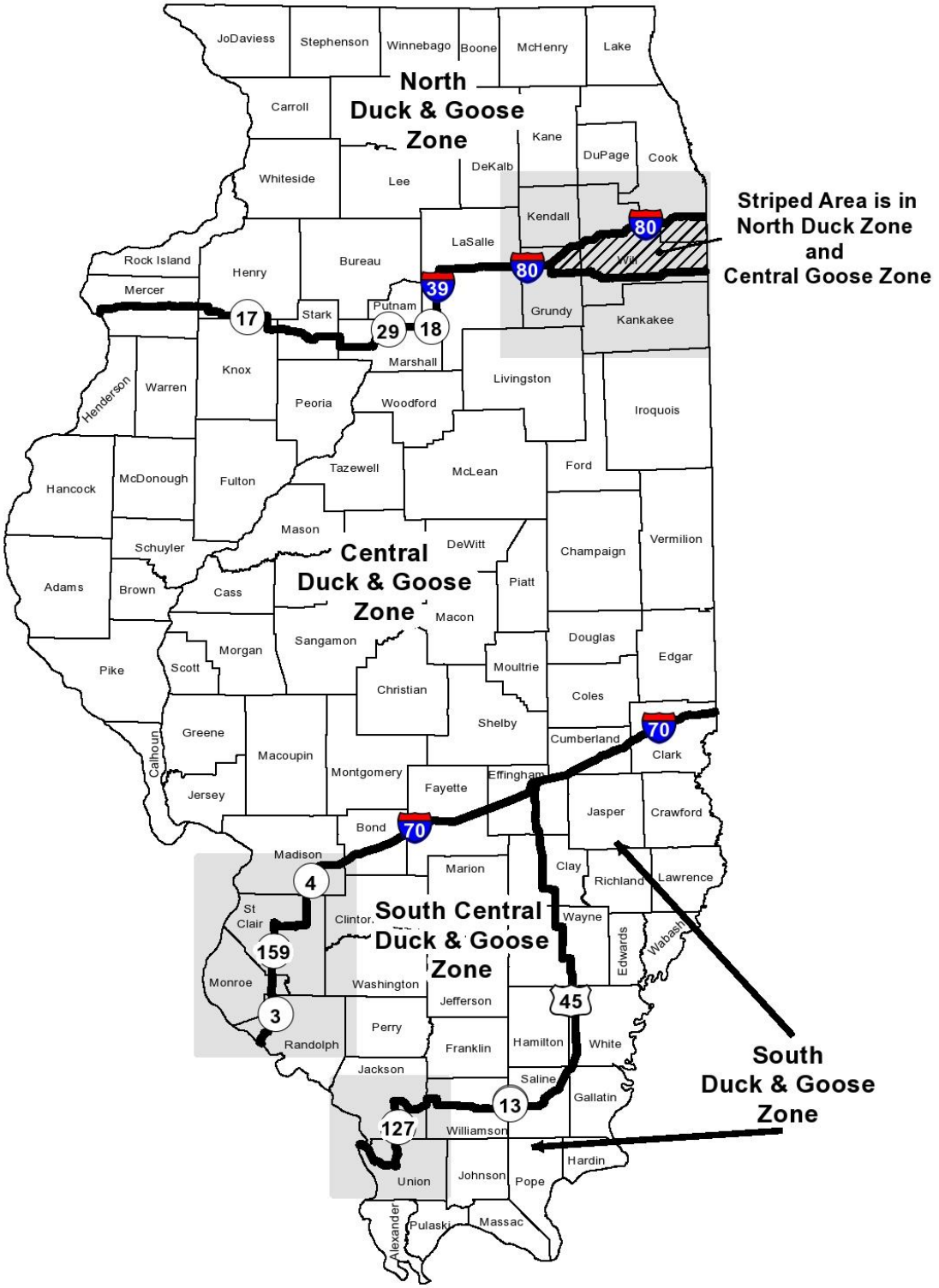
Sincerely,

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 questions about Illinois waterfowl zones.



Appendix C

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

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

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

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

June 2016

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2015 Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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.

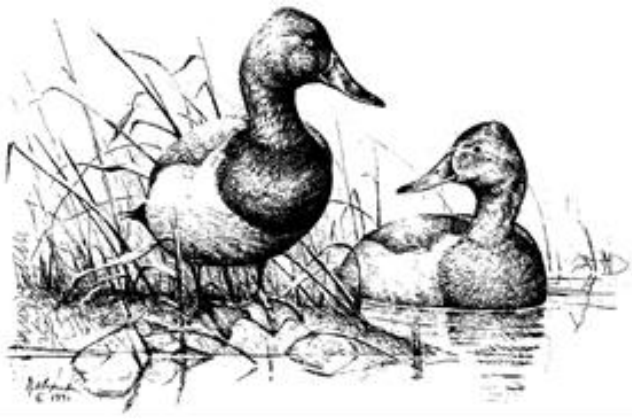
You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

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

Thank you for helping with this important study.

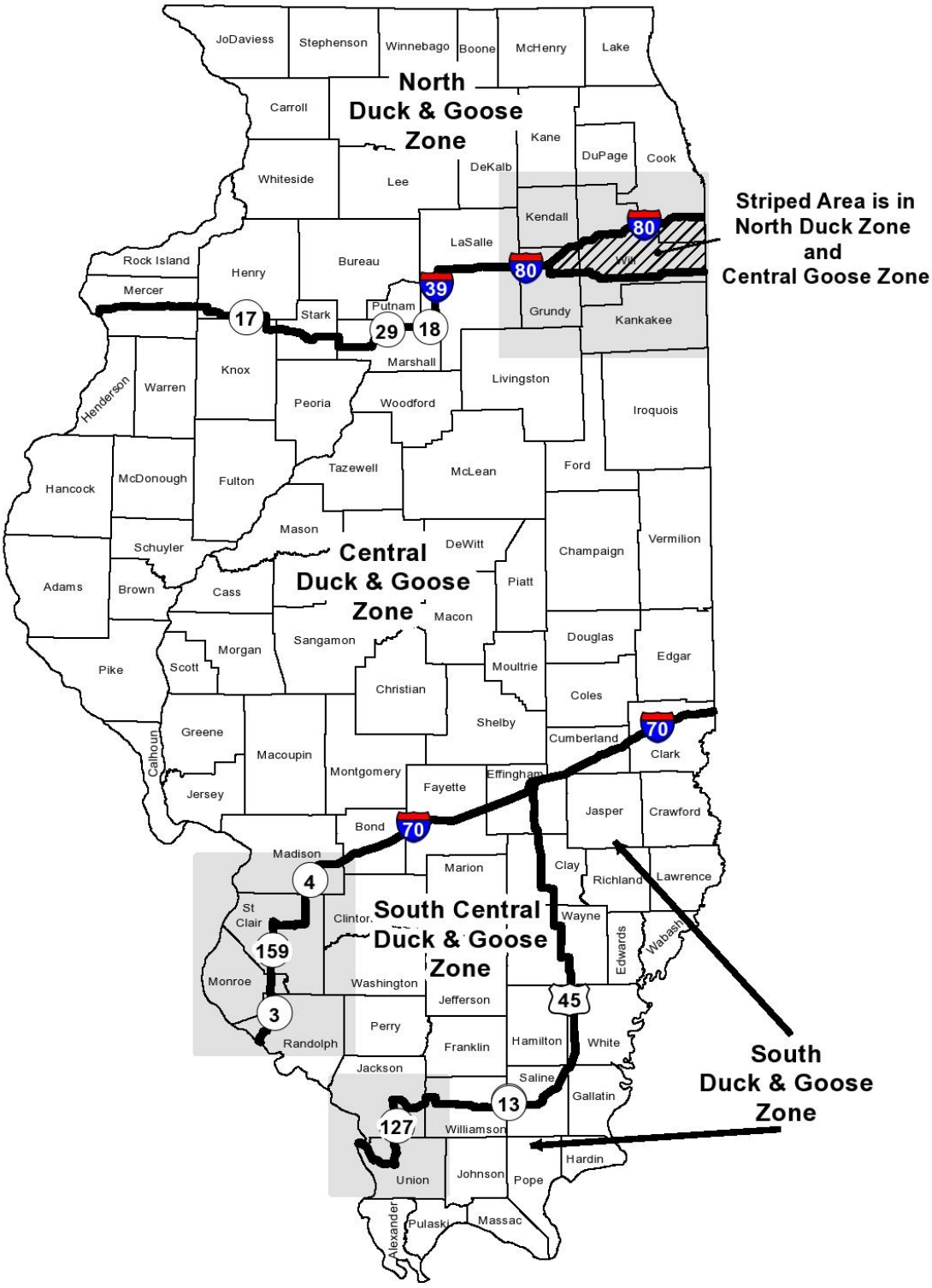
Sincerely,

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 questions about Illinois waterfowl zones.



Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2016

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2015 Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2015-2016 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. A postage paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

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/.

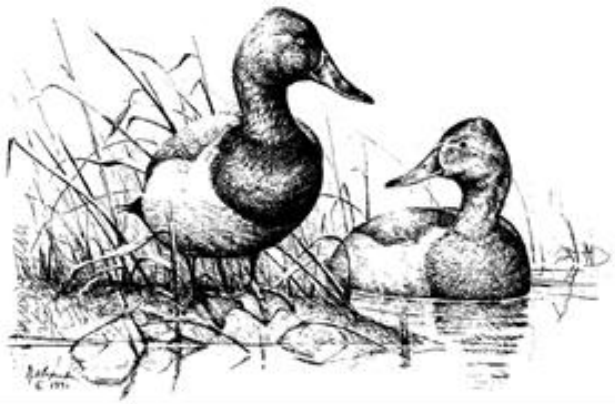
If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

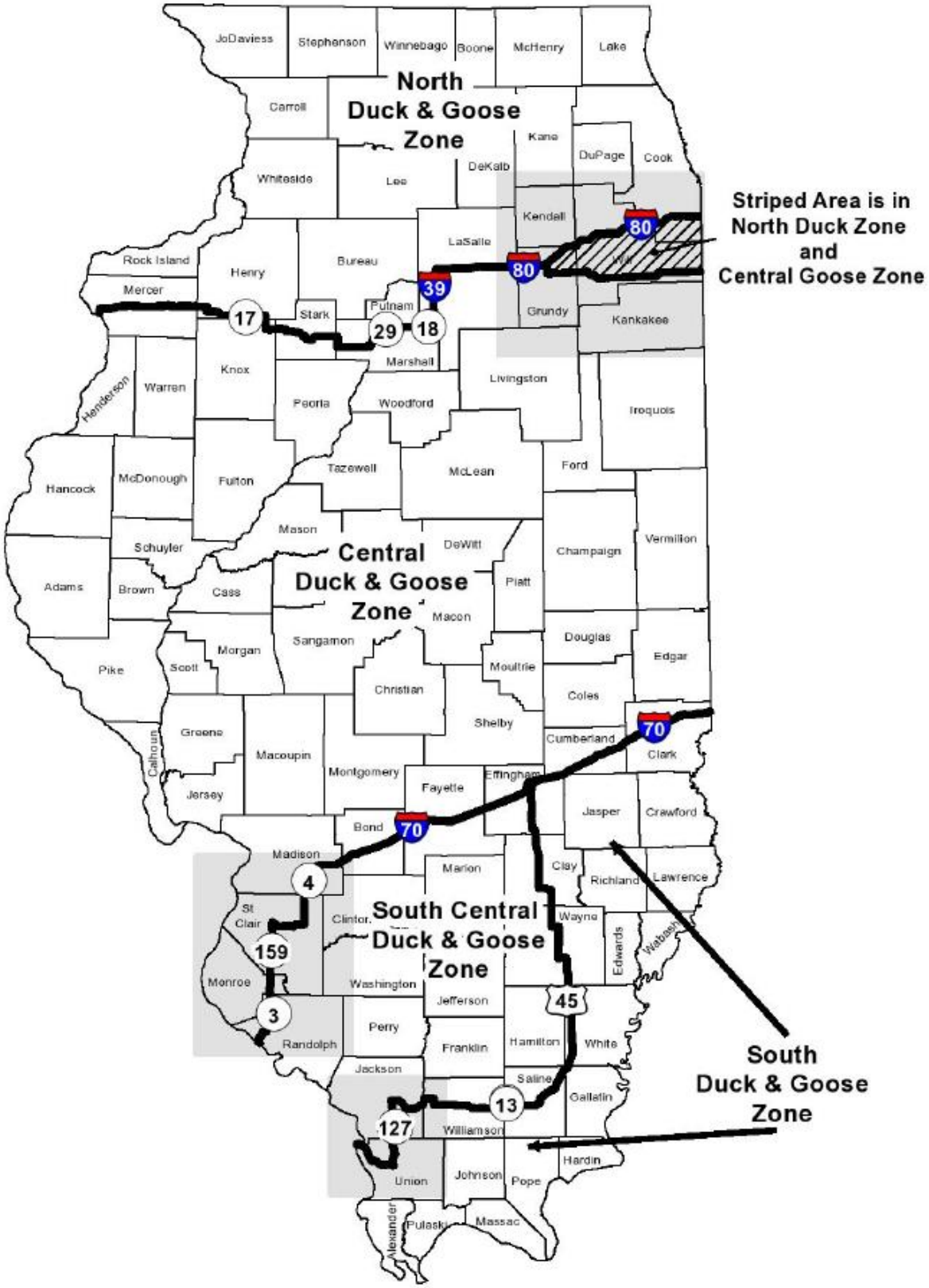
Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer questions about Illinois waterfowl zones.



Appendix F

Table F-1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2015 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
2015	58,247	40,104	795,289	488,321

[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 2015 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%
2015	28.3%	8.6%	63.0%	91.3%	71.6%

[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, 1981-2015).

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
2015	9,615	37,574	28,031 ± 9,911

[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, 1981-2015).

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
2015	16/4	3.91	0.75	2.92

[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, 1996-2015.

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
2015	4,718	6,291	9,873	1.33	8,171	1.65	117	0.02	571	0.12

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 1981-2015).

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
2015	36,499	496,656	166,506	43,655	119,619	329,780 ± 34,835	3,185 ± 1,960

[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 1981-2015).

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
2015	60/6(4,2)	13.61	0.66	9.01

[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 1997-2015).

			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
	2015	10,659	3,226	6,104	1,075	443	0

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

Table F-9. Number of Canada geese harvested during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2015).

	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
	2015	15,693	4,233	8,587	2,147	726	0

Table F-10. Number of Days Afield during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2015).

	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
	2015	38,744	13,505	21,191	2,404	1,645	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)	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)
2015	31,280	330,482	75,198	27,576	102,774 (0) ± 17,608

[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).

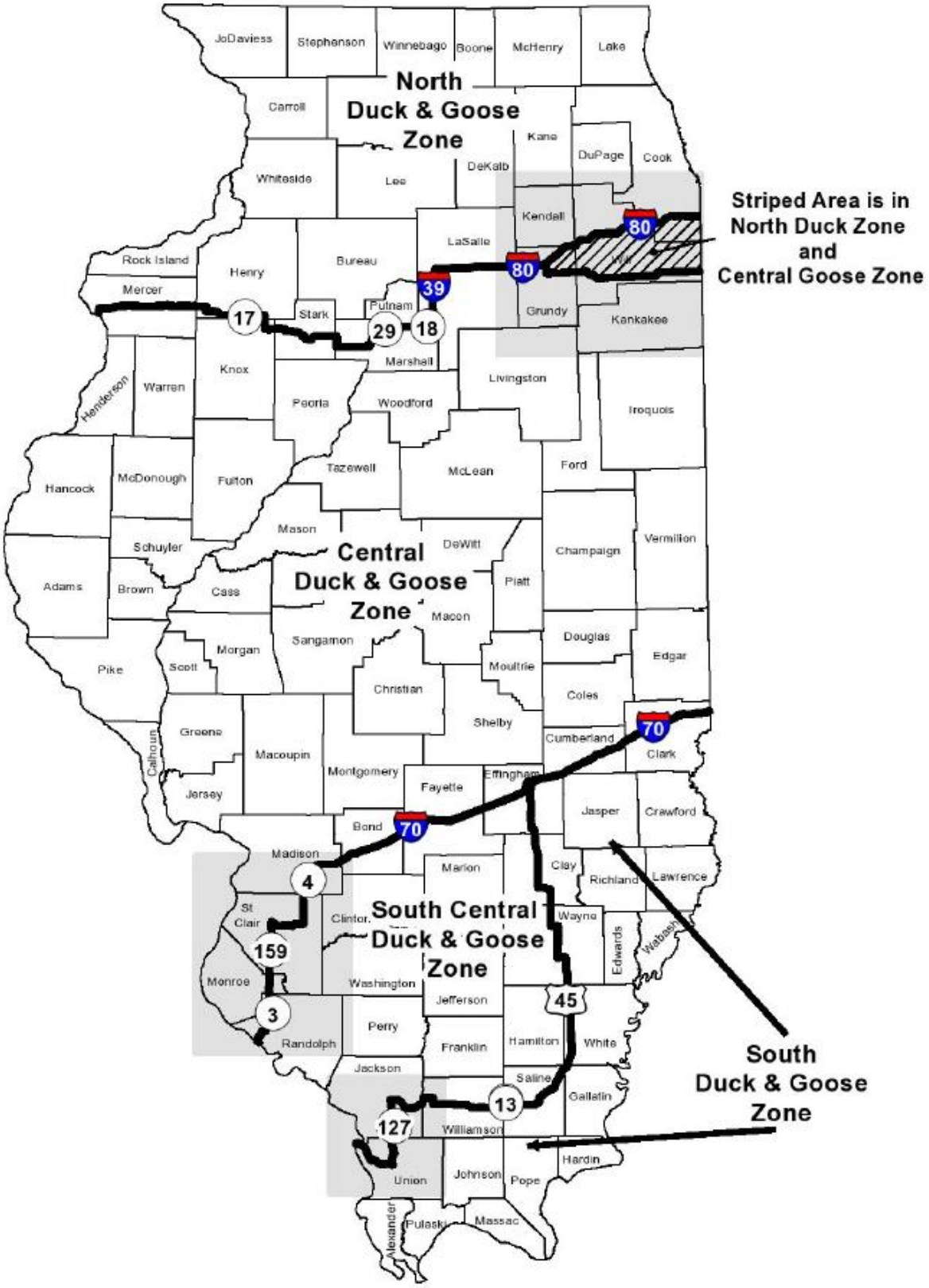
[c] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

Table F-12. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1981-2015 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
2015	47,442	14.4	7,622	7.4

[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.

Appendix G


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