

JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

As Required By  
FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

ILLINOIS

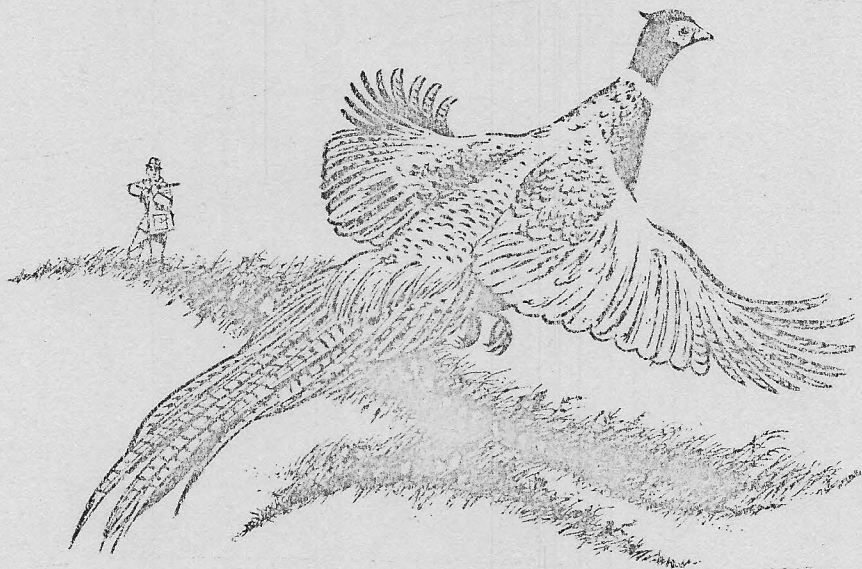
Federal Aid Project No. W-49-R(24)

Study II: Estimating the Game and Fur Harvest

Job No. 1: Hunter mail survey, 1976-77

By

G. F. Hubert, Jr.



David Kenney, Director

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

M. J. Sweet  
P-R Coordinator

J. A. Ellis, Supervisor  
Div. of Wildl. Resources

11 July 1977



JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R(24)

STUDY II

JOB NO. 1

STUDY II: Estimating the Game and Fur Harvest

JOB NO. 1: Hunter mail survey, 1976-77

ABSTRACT: A randomized sample of 5,978 persons who purchased 1976 series resident hunting licenses in Illinois were surveyed following the small game season. The licensees were contacted by first class mail in two mailings. Questionnaires were deliverable to 5,757 (96.3 percent) recipients from which 4,299 useable replies were received (74.7 percent return).

The 1976-77 survey covered 16 species or kinds of small game hunting. Findings are presented on a statewide basis and for each of the 10 wildlife management units in the state. These include percent of total licensees hunting each species, average daily and season bags, average days afield, and projected total estimated hunters, harvest, and days afield for each type of hunting sport.

Statewide projections for numbers of hunters and total harvests (in parentheses) are: cottontail rabbit 304,884 (2,167,725), fox squirrel 177,312 (1,634,817), gray squirrel 93,355 (746,840), bobwhite 159,570 (1,480,810), ring-necked pheasant 198,664 (641,685), gray partridge 4,963 (4,963), mourning dove 108,668 (2,194,007), woodcock 10,983 (30,313), crow 18,058 (87,040), ducks 72,340 (775,485), geese 35,483 (89,417), raccoon 48,473 (403,780), red fox 20,909 (20,700), gray fox 8,870 (8,338), coyote 16,791 (26,698). Licensees who chased canids (foxes and coyotes) with dogs, but not necessarily killing them, numbered 7,181 hunters. Total number of days spent afield ranged from 41,590 for gray partridge hunters to 2,054,918 for cottontail rabbit hunters.

Statewide trend data for all species surveyed during the past two years are given in this report. Between 1975-76 and 1976-77, the estimated number of hunters declined for 6 of the 11 species sampled in both years, while harvest estimates increased for 9. The estimated total days spent afield also increased over the previous year for 9 species.



SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO. : W-48-111(A)

STUDY II

JOB NO. :

STUDY II - Estimating the Game and Fur Harvest

JOB NO. I - Hunter Mail Survey, 1976-77

ABSTRACT: A randomized sample of 2,078 persons who purchased 1976 series resident hunting licenses in Illinois were surveyed following the 1976-77 game season. The licenses were contacted by first class mail in two mailings. Questionnaires were delivered to 2,077 (99.9 percent) recipients from which 1,199 usable replies were received (57.7 percent return).

The 1976-77 survey covered 16 species or kinds of small game hunting. Results are presented on a statewide basis and for each of the 10 State's management units in the state. These include percent of total licensees hunting each species, average daily and season long average days afield, and projected total estimated hunters, harvest, and days afield for each type of hunting report.

Statewide projections for numbers of hunters and total harvest (in parentheses) are: cottontail rabbit 304,884 (1,167,723), fox squirrel 177,312 (1,634,817), gray squirrel 93,322 (748,442), eastern chipmunk 139,270 (1,480,810), ring-necked pheasant 198,884 (1,111,481), starling 4,783 (4,288), mourning dove 108,888 (2,184,017), woodcock 10,983 (30,113), crow 12,028 (87,048), duck 11,540 (112,822), goose 32,422 (89,417), raven 42,473 (403,780), red fox 10,402 (10,402), gray fox 2,318 (2,318), coyote 12,781 (12,888). Licensees who hunted coonids (beaver and coonote) with dogs, but not necessarily killing them, reported 7,181 hunters. Total number of days spent afield ranged from 41,590 for gray partridge hunters to 2,024,918 for cottontail rabbit hunters.

Statewide trends were for all species surveyed during the past two years are given in this report. Between 1975-76 and 1976-77, the estimated number of hunters declined for 6 of the 16 species sampled in both years, while harvest estimates increased for 9. The estimated total days spent afield also increased over the previous year for 7 species.



JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R(24)

STUDY II

JOB NO. 1

STUDY II: Estimating the Game and Fur Harvest

JOB NO. 1: Hunter mail survey, 1976-77

OBJECTIVE: To collect data from which the game kill can be estimated and correlate game harvest with population levels, hunting pressure, and other factors that may influence upland game harvest.

PROCEDURES: Mail survey address cards were filled out by license vendors for the first license sold in each book of 25 resident hunting licenses in the 1976 series (total sales estimate 454,000). At the same time, the person purchasing the license was provided with an information card which requested him to keep a record of his activities since he might be contacted after the close of the season. The survey address cards were returned to the Division of Wildlife Resources via business reply mail and were filed according to the licensee's county of residence.

Prior to the close of the upland game hunting season, a random sub-sample based on the distribution of the previous year's license sales was drawn. The size of the sub-sample was set at approximately 6,000 since this amount would result in 4,000 to 4,500 useable replies for adequate reliability at the statewide level. Address cards in the drawn sample were manually marked with serial numbers to provide for removal of respondents and undeliverables from the initial mailing.

An initial and one follow-up mailing to non-respondents were made with a different letter of transmittal for each mailing (Figs. 1, 2). Questionnaire cards were numbered to correspond with appropriate address cards and included with each transmittal letter (Fig. 3). First class postage (13.0¢) was used for both mailings.

Questionnaires were returned via business reply permit printed on the back of the form. Those received were checked for useableness and the counties hunted in for each species were coded. Reply data were transferred directly to computer tape at the University of Illinois Computer Center using remote terminals and stored for subsequent analyses. Paul Smedinghoff, a student assistant at the U. of I. Computer Center, prepared the program and obtained results.

Reply data for each species surveyed were compiled for the 10 wildlife management units in Illinois (Fig. 4). In addition, confidence limits at the 95% level were calculated for the number of hunters, average season bag, and total harvest on a statewide basis. The formulas used were described by Cochran (Sampling techniques, 2nd ed., Wiley and Sons, New York. 413pp. 1953) or Snedecor and Cochran (Statistical methods, 6th ed., Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames. 593pp. 1967). These are as follows:

a. Number of hunters for species: where N = total license sales

n = number of licenses in sample

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$$

p = portion of licenses in sample who hunted species in question

q = 1-p

b. Average season bag per active hunter for species in question:

where n<sub>1</sub> = number of licenses in sample who hunted species in question

$$\pm \frac{1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n_1 - 1}}}{\sqrt{n_1}}$$

x<sub>i</sub> = reported season bag for species in question

c. Total harvest:

where x = reported season bag for all licenses responding to survey

$$\pm 2N \left( \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}}}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

All calculations assumed there was no difference between the activities of the licensees who returned the questionnaire and those who did not.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

1976-77 Hunting Seasons

The 1976-77 Illinois hunting seasons and bag limits were similar to the previous year (Table 1). Seasons ranged in length from 45 days for foxes in the northern zone to 175 days for coyotes. A split season was in effect for crows, and season dates varied by zone for squirrels, raccoons, and foxes. Some form of bag limit existed for all species except crows and furbearers.

1976-77 Hunter Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 5,978 questionnaires was made on 10 January 1977. The follow-up mailing to non-respondents was made on 23 February (3,022) and closed out on 30 April. Approximately three days preparation was required for each mailing.

A total of 5,757 (96.30 percent) licensees in the 1976-77 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service via first class mail. The remaining 221 questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 4,299 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing a 74.67 percent response on the number delivered. Of these respondents, 3,823 (88.83 percent) reported that they hunted one or more of the species listed on the questionnaire. This was considerably higher than the previous season when 81.90 percent of licensees reported hunting small game.

Based on the response to the first two questions on the survey card, an estimated 103,304 licensees hunted deer with shotgun during the 1976 season, and 29,056 (28.13 percent) successfully bagged a deer. Since only 73,305 shotgun deer permits were issued in 1976 and the reported harvest at mandatory check stations was 15,307, both estimates appear high. Either licensees who hunt and/or bag a deer are more likely to respond to the survey or many shotgun deer hunters fail to obtain a permit and/or check their kill.

Approximately 5.64 percent of the survey respondents indicated that they hunted furbearers with a varmint call during the 1976-77 season. This percentage projects to 25,606 varmint callers statewide. The estimate is believed high since numerous respondents who stated they used a varmint call did not list any hunts for raccoons, foxes, or coyotes. Possibly the question was not properly interpreted and the respondents failed to confine their answers to the current season.

A statewide summary for the 16 species or kinds of small game hunting surveyed in 1976-77 is presented in Table 2. The data for each species include the estimated number of hunters and their percent of all licensees, average daily and season bags, average days afield, and estimated total harvest and total days of hunting recreation. Similar information for each of the 16 species or kinds of hunting is given in Tables 3 to 18 for each of the 10 wildlife management units. The original sample sizes from which these data were derived are presented in Table 19 which also provides the number and percent of successful hunters (bag of one or more).

Data concerning the distribution of hunting effort and harvest among hunters were compiled for seven species of small game (Tables 20, 21). In general, most hunters spend only a few days afield during the season and bag little game. In fact, it appears that 25-35 percent of all licensees who hunt pursue their sport



only on the first day or two of the season. On the other hand, only a small percentage of licensees hunt throughout the season with good results.

Statewide confidence intervals at the 95% level for number of hunters, average season bag, and total harvest for each species or kind of hunting are presented in Table 22. In general, those species with the greater number of hunters in the sample have narrower upper and lower limits of variability resulting in greater confidence in the projections. These figures undoubtedly contain many biases caused by hunters who fail to report their true personal seasonal bag. Such biases are believed to be much greater for some species such as raccoon, red fox, gray fox, and coyote than for most others. Nevertheless, the estimates are still considered adequate for determining trends in harvest and effort on a statewide basis.

The results of the 1976-77 resident hunter mail survey are compared to the previous year in Table 23. This information provides indicators to trends in number of hunters, harvests, and hunting success between years. The estimated number of hunters declined for 6 of the 11 species sampled in both years, while harvest estimates increased for 9. The estimated total days afield also increased for 9 species in 1976-77 over 1975-76.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

A mail survey of this type probably realizes its best use and reliability for small game management as an indicator of trends in hunting pressure, hunting success, harvests, and hunting recreation. It is recommended that the survey be continued in essentially the same form except that a larger portion of the mailings be automated and a sample of non-resident hunters be included. In addition, a second follow-up mailing should be considered to better determine the activities of licensees who fail to respond to two mailings.

#### DATA AND REPORTS:

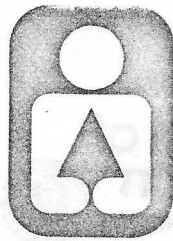
Original data and related reports in this investigation are on file in the Division of Wildlife Resources Office, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, IL 62706.

PREPARED BY: G. F. Hubert, Jr.  
Furbearer Biologist  
Div. of Wildlife Resources

APPROVED BY: J. A. Ellis  
Supervisor  
Div. of Wildlife Resources

DATE: 11 July 1977

JOHN McGUIRE  
DIRECTOR



Illinois  
Department of  
Conservation  
life and land together



WILLIAM A. WATTS  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706  
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of Illinoisans asked to furnish information on your hunting activities during the past 1976-77 hunting season.

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is vital to the management of our game resources; (1) to safeguard game populations, (2) to grant maximum hunting opportunity to license holders and (3) to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

The information you provide is used to better understand the welfare of the various game populations. These statistics include distribution of total harvests, number of hunters and hunting success.

Your reply is very important, even if you did not hunt or were not successful. Only a limited number of hunters can be contacted, therefore, your response is urgently needed.

Please take just a minute and fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimates. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required.

Yours for better small game hunting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack A. Ellis".

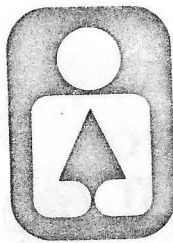
Jack A. Ellis, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

1

Figure 1. Letter of transmittal sent with initial mailing in 1976-77 post-season hunter mail survey.

JOHN McGUIRE  
DIRECTOR



Illinois  
Department of  
Conservation  
life and land together



WILLIAM A. WATTS  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

605 STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706  
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100 , 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Hunting Questionnaire Card and requested that you fill out and return the completed form. We have not received your form at this time -- perhaps because you have misplaced the questionnaire or haven't found time to complete it and return it to us.

We are enclosing another questionnaire which we hope you will complete and return as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. The information supplied by you and other hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Conservation Department in better directing the management of Illinois' game resources.

Please fill out the form completely and return it even if you did not hunt, or were not successful.

No postage is required in returning the completed questionnaire. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack A. Ellis, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

2

Figure 2. Letter of transmittal sent with follow-up mailing in 1976-77 post-season hunter mail survey.



No  
Postage Stamp  
Necessary  
If Mailed in the  
United States

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
First Class Permit No. 2032, Spfld., Ill.

**Division of Wildlife Resources**  
Department of Conservation  
First and Washington  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Postage  
Will Be Paid  
by  
Addressee

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
SMALL GAME HUNTING SURVEY  
1976-77 SEASON**

- 1. Did you hunt deer in Illinois with SHOTGUN during the 1976 season? Yes  No
- 2. Did you kill a deer with SHOTGUN in Illinois during the 1976 season? Yes  No
- 3. Did you hunt any FUR-BEARERS in Illinois during the 1976-77 season with a VARMINT call? Yes  No
- 4. Did you hunt any of the game listed below in Illinois during the 1976-77 season? Yes  No

PLEASE FILL IN ALL THREE BLANKS FOR EACH KIND OF GAME YOU HUNTED:

	Number killed during season	County where you hunted most for each kind of game	Number of days hunted
RABBITS .....	_____	_____	_____
SQUIRRELS....	_____	_____	_____
FOX	_____	_____	_____
GRAY	_____	_____	_____
QUAIL .....	_____	_____	_____
PHEASANT .....	_____	_____	_____
HUN. PARTRIDGE	_____	_____	_____
DOVE .....	_____	_____	_____
WOODCOCK....	_____	_____	_____
(not Groundhog or Woodchuck)	_____	_____	_____
CROW .....	_____	_____	_____
DUCKS .....	_____	_____	_____
GEESE .....	_____	_____	_____
RACCOON .....	_____	_____	_____
RED FOX .....	_____	_____	_____
GRAY FOX .....	_____	_____	_____
COYOTE .....	_____	_____	_____
FOX or COYOTE CHASING WITH DOGS (not killed)	_____	_____	_____

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!  
NO POSTAGE REQUIRED**

Figure 3. Questionnaire form for post-season mail survey of Illinois resident hunters, 1976-77 season.

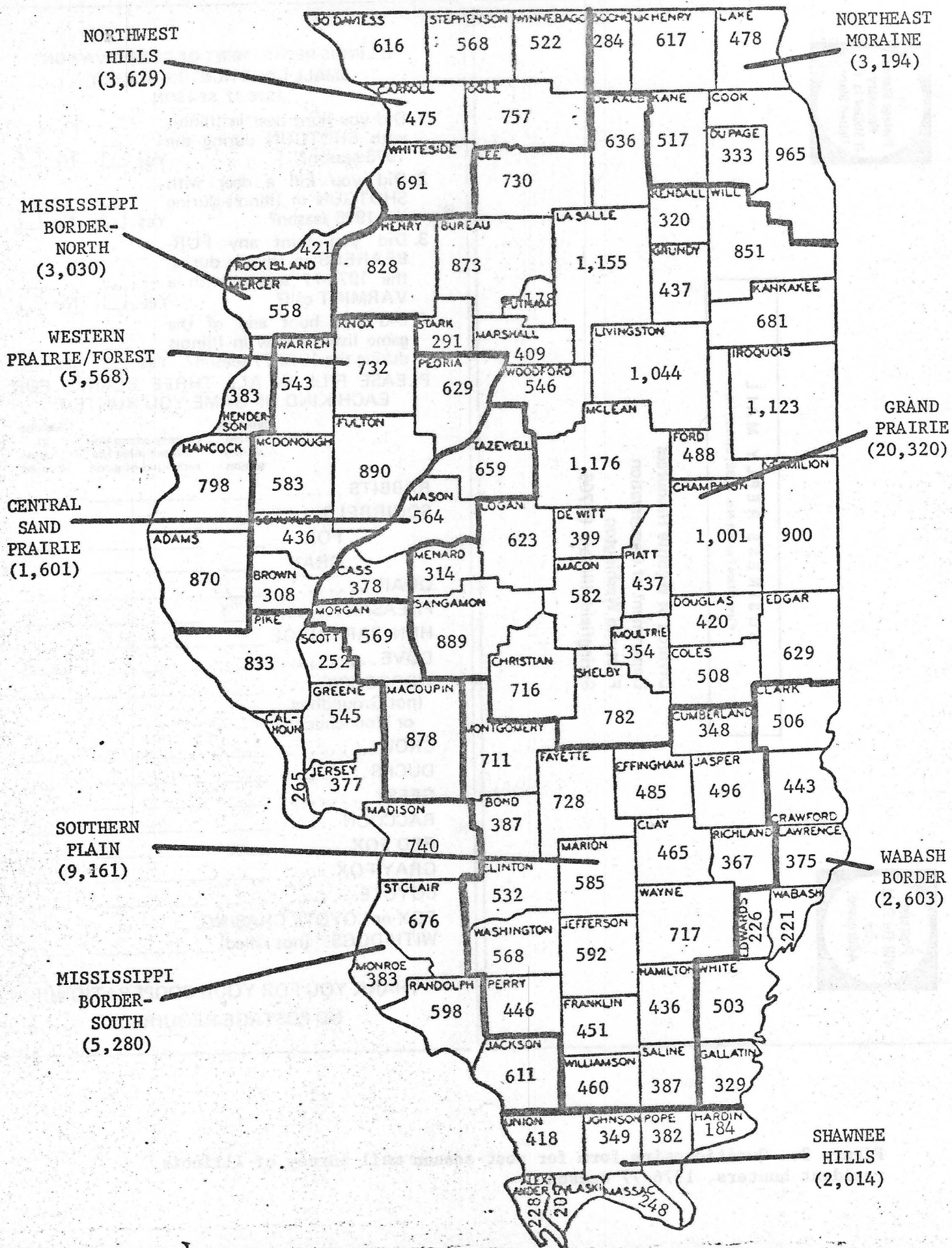


Figure 4. Area (square miles) of counties and wildlife management units in Illinois.

Table 1. Hunting regulations for small game and migratory waterfowl in Illinois, 1976-77.

Species	Zone	Season duration	Limit	
			Daily	Possession
Cottontail rabbit	Statewide	Nov.13-Jan.15	4	8
Squirrels	Northern	Sep. 1-Nov.15	5	10
	Southern	Aug. 1-Nov.15		
Bobwhite	Statewide	Nov.13-Jan.15	8	16
Ring-necked pheasant	Statewide	Nov.13-Jan.15	2	4
Gray partridge	Statewide	Nov.13-Jan.15	2	4
Mourning dove	Statewide	Sep. 1-Nov. 9	12	24
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct.15-Dec.15	5	10
Crow	Statewide	Jul. 1-Aug.15 Dec. 1-Feb.15	None	None
Ducks	Statewide	Oct.23-Dec.11	Point system in effect	
Geese	Statewide	Oct.23-Dec.31	Varied by species	
Raccoon	Northern	Nov.13-Jan.11 <sup>a</sup>	None	None
	Southern	Nov.13-Jan.21 <sup>a</sup>		
Red and gray fox	Northern	Dec.20-Feb. 2 <sup>a</sup>	None	None
	Southern	Nov.17-Jan.13 <sup>a</sup>		
Coyote	Statewide	Sep. 1-Feb.28 <sup>a</sup>	None	None

<sup>a</sup> Hunting closed during deer season on Nov. 19, 20, 21 and Dec. 10, 11, 12.



Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident hunters, 1976-77 season. (N=4,299)

Species	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of total licensees	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Rabbit	304,884	67.16	1.06	7.11	2,167,725	6.74	2,054,918
Fox squirrel	177,312	39.06	1.18	9.22	1,634,817	7.78	1,379,487
Gray squirrel	93,355	20.56	0.95	8.00	746,840	8.40	784,182
Bobwhite	159,570	35.15	1.42	9.28	1,480,810	6.51	1,038,801
Pheasant	198,664	43.75	0.53	3.23	641,685	6.11	1,213,837
Gray partridge	4,963	1.09	0.12	1.00	4,963	8.38	41,590
Dove	108,668	23.94	3.09	20.19	2,194,007	6.55	711,775
Woodcock	10,983	2.42	0.51	2.76	30,313	5.42	59,528
Crow	18,058	3.98	1.16	4.82	87,040	4.16	75,121
Ducks	72,340	15.93	1.20	10.72	775,485	8.93	645,996
Geese	35,483	7.82	0.39	2.52	89,417	6.42	227,801
Raccoon	48,473	10.68	0.80	8.33	403,780	10.48	507,997
Red fox (Gun)	20,909	4.61	0.15	0.99	20,700	6.71	140,299
Gray fox (Gun)	8,870	1.95	0.13	0.94	8,338	7.00	62,090
Coyote (Gun)	16,791	3.70	0.19	1.59	26,698	8.45	141,884
All canid chasers (Dog)	7,181	1.58	-	-	-	15.53	111,521

Table 3. Summary of cottontail rabbit hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=2,887)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	21,342	7.00	0.68	4.60	98,198 (4.53) <sup>a</sup>	6.77	144,666 (7.04)
Northeast Moraine	20,275	6.65	0.93	4.68	94,729 (4.37)	6.49	131,926 (6.42)
Mississippi Border-North	18,811	6.17	1.62	9.42	177,103 (8.17)	5.81	109,527 (5.33)
Mississippi Border-South	37,897	12.43	1.44	9.70	367,863 (16.97)	6.75	256,454 (12.48)
Western Prairie/Forest	28,507	9.35	1.18	8.06	229,779 (10.60)	6.81	194,395 (9.46)
Central Sand Prairie	10,031	3.29	1.03	7.49	75,220 (3.47)	7.25	72,950 (3.55)
Grand Prairie	95,032	31.17	0.74	4.92	467,361 (21.56)	6.66	633,737 (30.84)
Southern Plain	48,690	15.97	1.36	9.97	485,137 (22.38)	7.35	358,583 (17.45)
Wabash Border	6,860	2.25	1.46	11.12	76,304 (3.52)	7.60	52,195 (2.54)
Shawnee Hills	7,195	2.36	1.11	7.49	53,760 (2.48)	6.72	48,290 (2.35)
Unknown	10,244	3.36	0.81	4.12	42,271 (1.95)	5.09	52,195 (2.54)
Statewide	304,884	100.00	1.06	7.11	2,167,725 (100.00)	6.74	2,054,918 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 4. Summary of fox squirrel hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=1,679)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	10,249	5.78	1.01	7.15	73,240 (4.48) <sup>a</sup>	7.09	72,699 (5.27)
Northeast Moraine	4,114	2.32	0.93	7.72	31,879 (1.95)	8.26	34,073 (2.47)
Mississippi Border-North	14,256	8.04	1.65	12.09	172,473 (10.55)	7.35	104,703 (7.59)
Mississippi Border-South	26,402	14.89	1.17	11.06	292,142 (17.87)	9.47	249,963 (18.12)
Western Prairie/Forest	19,752	11.14	1.25	10.64	210,074 (12.85)	8.53	168,435 (12.21)
Central Sand Prairie	7,394	4.17	1.59	9.14	67,681 (4.14)	5.76	42,488 (3.08)
Grand Prairie	46,456	26.20	1.26	7.38	342,985 (20.98)	5.86	272,035 (19.72)
Southern Plain	33,476	18.88	1.04	9.53	319,280 (19.53)	9.19	307,488 (22.29)
Wabash Border	4,965	2.80	1.07	12.02	59,671 (3.65)	11.23	55,731 (4.04)
Shawnee Hills	5,709	3.22	0.82	6.63	37,764 (2.31)	8.13	46,351 (3.36)
Unknown	4,539	2.56	1.08	6.09	27,628 (1.69)	5.63	25,521 (1.85)
Statewide	177,312	100.00	1.18	9.22	1,634,817 (100.00)	7.78	1,379,487 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 5. Summary of gray squirrel hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=884)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	5,489	5.88	0.63	4.23	23,227 (3.11) <sup>a</sup>	6.71	36,857 (4.70)
Northeast Moraine	3,912	4.19	0.94	7.30	28,529 (3.82)	7.73	30,191 (3.85)
Mississippi Border-North	4,752	5.09	0.70	5.42	25,766 (3.45)	7.71	36,621 (4.67)
Mississippi Border-South	16,048	17.19	0.96	10.20	163,782 (21.93)	10.61	170,324 (21.72)
Western Prairie/Forest	6,656	7.13	0.93	7.10	47,200 (6.32)	7.60	50,580 (6.45)
Central Sand Prairie	2,427	2.60	0.82	4.30	10,456 (1.40)	5.26	12,782 (1.63)
Grand Prairie	13,938	14.93	0.81	4.83	67,439 (9.03)	5.95	82,966 (10.58)
Southern Plain	28,725	30.77	1.04	9.64	277,003 (37.09)	9.26	266,073 (33.93)
Wabash Border	3,594	3.85	0.89	10.47	37,641 (5.04)	11.82	42,503 (5.42)
Shawnee Hills	5,909	6.33	1.26	9.55	56,536 (7.57)	7.55	44,698 (5.70)
Unknown	1,905	2.04	0.88	4.89	9,261 (1.24)	5.56	10,587 (1.35)
Statewide	93,355	100.00	0.95	8.00	746,840 (100.00)	8.40	784,182 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 6. Summary of bobwhite hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=1,511)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	8,553	5.36	0.71	4.69	40,130 (2.71) <sup>a</sup>	6.60	56,511 (5.44)
Northeast Moraine	2,745	1.72	0.42	2.15	5,923 (0.40)	5.08	13,920 (1.34)
Mississippi Border-North	11,824	7.41	1.84	11.31	133,865 (9.04)	6.15	72,716 (7.00)
Mississippi Border-South	20,074	12.58	2.10	14.22	285,352 (19.27)	6.77	135,771 (13.07)
Western Prairie/Forest	19,228	12.05	1.74	12.15	233,524 (15.77)	7.00	134,525 (12.95)
Central Sand Prairie	6,542	4.10	0.79	5.26	34,355 (2.32)	6.68	43,733 (4.21)
Grand Prairie	41,919	26.27	0.74	4.98	209,090 (14.12)	6.78	284,216 (27.36)
Southern Plain	34,531	21.64	1.86	11.59	400,411 (27.04)	6.22	214,616 (20.66)
Wabash Border	5,282	3.31	1.70	11.32	59,825 (4.04)	6.64	35,008 (3.37)
Shawnee Hills	4,436	2.78	2.43	13.93	61,750 (4.17)	5.74	25,451 (2.45)
Unknown	4,436	2.78	0.74	3.74	16,585 (1.12)	5.05	22,334 (2.15)
Statewide	159,570	100.00	1.42	9.28	1,480,810 (100.00)	6.51	1,038,801 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 7. Summary of ring-necked pheasant hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=1,881)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	20,482	10.31	0.43	2.78	57,110 (8.90) <sup>a</sup>	6.51	133,279 (10.98)
Northeast Moraine	26,939	13.56	0.53	3.40	91,568 (14.27)	6.45	173,822 (14.32)
Mississippi Border-North	2,642	1.33	0.32	2.52	6,674 (1.04)	7.88	20,757 (1.71)
Mississippi Border-South	1,391	0.70	0.71	3.92	5,390 (0.84)	5.54	7,647 (0.63)
Western Prairie/Forest	3,914	1.97	0.50	2.22	8,663 (1.35)	4.43	17,358 (1.43)
Central Sand Prairie	9,496	4.78	0.54	3.53	33,624 (5.24)	6.56	62,270 (5.13)
Grand Prairie	112,801	56.78	0.53	3.48	392,390 (61.15)	6.51	733,886 (60.46)
Southern Plain	10,033	5.05	0.94	2.05	20,598 (3.21)	2.18	21,849 (1.80)
Wabash Border	735	0.37	0.59	1.86	1,348 (0.21)	3.14	2,306 (0.19)
Shawnee Hills	99	0.05	1.00	1.00	128 (0.02)	1.00	121 (0.01)
Unknown	10,132	5.10	0.60	2.39	24,192 (3.77)	4.00	40,542 (3.34)
Statewide	198,664	100.00	0.53	3.23	641,685 (100.00)	6.11	1,213,837 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 8. Summary of gray partridge hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=47)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,056	21.28	0.07	0.90	950 (19.14) <sup>a</sup>	12.10	12,772 (30.71)
Northeast Moraine	1,478	29.79	0.16	0.93	1,373 (27.66)	5.64	8,339 (20.05)
Mississippi Border-North	106	2.13	0.67	2.00	211 (4.26)	3.00	316 (0.76)
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	211	4.25	0.18	1.00	211 (4.26)	5.50	1,160 (2.79)
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	1,901	38.30	0.12	1.17	2,218 (44.68)	9.89	18,791 (45.18)
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	211	4.25	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	1.00	212 (0.51)
Statewide	4,963	100.00	0.12	1.00	4,963 (100.00)	8.38	41,590 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 9. Summary of mourning dove hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=1,029)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	3,912	3.60	1.72	8.95	34,885 (1.59) <sup>a</sup>	5.22	20,428 (2.87)
Northeast Moraine	6,760	6.22	2.52	16.48	111,456 (5.08)	6.55	44,272 (6.22)
Mississippi Border-North	6,335	5.83	2.65	16.33	103,557 (4.72)	6.17	39,076 (5.49)
Mississippi Border-South	13,203	12.15	3.68	25.46	335,902 (15.31)	6.91	91,321 (12.83)
Western Prairie/Forest	10,660	9.81	3.12	16.36	174,424 (7.95)	5.25	56,017 (7.87)
Central Sand Prairie	6,760	6.22	4.49	22.19	149,851 (6.83)	4.94	33,382 (4.69)
Grand Prairie	30,731	28.28	2.33	17.14	526,781 (24.01)	7.37	226,558 (31.83)
Southern Plain	21,538	19.82	3.84	25.66	552,670 (25.19)	6.68	144,063 (20.24)
Wabash Border	2,847	2.62	4.21	24.04	68,453 (3.12)	5.70	16,300 (2.29)
Shawnee Hills	3,912	3.60	3.67	24.73	96,536 (4.40)	6.73	26,336 (3.70)
Unknown	2,010	1.85	2.81	19.68	39,492 (1.80)	7.00	14,022 (1.97)
Statewide	108,668	100.00	3.09	20.19	2,194,007 (100.00)	6.55	711,775 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 10. Summary of woodcock hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=104)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	106	0.96	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00) <sup>a</sup>	4.00	423 (0.71)
Northeast Moraine	1,162	10.58	0.56	2.00	2,322 (7.66)	3.55	4,113 (6.91)
Mississippi Border-North	739	6.73	0.97	5.00	3,695 (12.19)	5.14	3,798 (6.38)
Mississippi Border-South	1,057	9.62	0.27	1.50	1,585 (5.23)	5.50	5,804 (9.75)
Western Prairie/Forest	528	4.81	0.73	1.60	846 (2.79)	2.20	1,161 (1.95)
Central Sand Prairie	316	2.88	0.86	2.00	634 (2.09)	2.33	738 (1.24)
Grand Prairie	4,329	39.42	0.46	3.61	15,632 (51.57)	7.90	34,199 (57.45)
Southern Plain	1,901	17.31	0.56	2.44	4,647 (15.33)	4.33	8,232 (13.83)
Wabash Border	316	2.88	0.75	1.00	318 (1.05)	1.33	423 (0.71)
Shawnee Hills	423	3.85	1.00	1.25	528 (1.74)	1.25	530 (0.89)
Unknown	106	0.96	1.00	1.00	106 (0.35)	1.00	107 (0.18)
Statewide	10,983	100.00	0.51	2.76	30,313 (100.00)	5.42	59,528 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 11. Summary of crow hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=171)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,161	6.43	1.04	2.64	3,064 (3.52) <sup>a</sup>	2.55	2,960 (3.94)
Northeast Moraine	2,747	15.21	0.53	3.12	8,556 (9.83)	5.85	16,061 (21.38)
Mississippi Border-North	1,161	6.43	1.22	5.09	5,919 (6.80)	4.18	4,860 (6.47)
Mississippi Border-South	1,372	7.60	0.77	2.77	3,804 (4.37)	3.62	4,966 (6.61)
Western Prairie/Forest	1,372	7.60	0.86	2.46	3,377 (3.88)	2.85	3,906 (5.20)
Central Sand Prairie	950	5.26	6.50	21.67	20,602 (23.67)	3.33	3,170 (4.22)
Grand Prairie	5,598	31.00	1.04	4.64	25,981 (29.85)	4.47	25,038 (33.33)
Southern Plain	1,690	9.36	0.92	5.50	9,296 (10.68)	6.00	10,141 (13.50)
Wabash Border	634	3.51	1.38	1.83	1,158 (1.33)	1.33	849 (1.13)
Shawnee Hills	634	3.51	1.20	2.00	1,271 (1.46)	1.67	1,059 (1.41)
Unknown	739	4.09	1.90	5.43	4,012 (4.61)	2.86	2,111 (2.81)
Statewide	18,058	100.00	1.16	4.82	87,040 (100.00)	4.16	75,121 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 12. Summary of duck hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=685)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	4,644	6.42	0.96	8.57	39,782 (5.13) <sup>a</sup>	8.89	41,279 (6.39)
Northeast Moraine	6,865	9.49	1.19	9.35	64,210 (8.28)	7.88	54,070 (8.37)
Mississippi Border-North	7,501	10.37	0.96	10.92	81,891 (10.56)	11.39	85,465 (13.23)
Mississippi Border-South	11,936	16.50	1.34	13.00	155,175 (20.01)	9.67	115,439 (17.87)
Western Prairie/Forest	4,861	6.72	0.96	9.26	44,978 (5.80)	9.61	46,706 (7.23)
Central Sand Prairie	5,491	7.59	1.33	13.31	73,128 (9.43)	9.98	54,845 (8.49)
Grand Prairie	17,528	24.23	1.12	7.99	140,053 (18.06)	7.14	125,259 (19.39)
Southern Plain	7,813	10.80	1.73	15.24	119,115 (15.36)	8.80	68,734 (10.64)
Wabash Border	420	0.58	0.67	6.50	2,714 (0.35)	9.75	4,134 (0.64)
Shawnee Hills	2,431	3.36	1.24	14.13	34,354 (4.43)	11.39	27,649 (4.28)
Unknown	2,850	3.94	0.90	7.04	20,085 (2.59)	7.85	22,416 (3.47)
Statewide	72,340	100.00	1.20	10.72	775,485 (100.00)	8.93	645,996 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 13. Summary of goose hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=336)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,689	4.76	0.09	0.56	948 (1.06) <sup>a</sup>	6.50	10,980 (4.82)
Northeast Moraine	2,111	5.95	0.07	0.50	1,055 (1.18)	7.60	16,060 (7.05)
Mississippi Border-North	2,005	5.65	0.12	1.53	3,067 (3.43)	12.21	24,511 (10.76)
Mississippi Border-South	2,533	7.14	0.13	1.13	2,852 (3.19)	8.75	22,188 (9.74)
Western Prairie/Forest	951	2.68	0.07	0.78	742 (0.83)	11.22	10,661 (4.68)
Central Sand Prairie	951	2.68	0.32	3.44	3,273 (3.66)	10.67	10,137 (4.45)
Grand Prairie	4,226	11.91	0.14	1.00	4,229 (4.73)	7.30	30,844 (13.54)
Southern Plain	8,342	23.51	0.73	4.76	39,746 (44.45)	6.49	54,171 (23.78)
Wabash Border	213	0.60	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	11.00	2,324 (1.02)
Shawnee Hills	10,982	30.95	0.86	2.50	27,478 (30.73)	2.89	31,778 (13.95)
Unknown	1,480	4.17	0.43	4.07	6,027 (6.74)	9.57	14,147 (6.21)
Statewide	35,483	100.00	0.39	2.52	89,417 (100.00)	6.42	227,801 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 14. Summary of raccoon hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=459)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	5,700	11.76	0.63	6.31	36,017 (8.92) <sup>a</sup>	10.00	57,048 (11.23)
Northeast Moraine	1,265	2.61	1.11	5.25	6,663 (1.65)	4.75	6,045 (1.19)
Mississippi Border-North	4,014	8.28	0.75	8.71	34,927 (8.65)	11.66	46,787 (9.21)
Mississippi Border-South	6,549	13.51	1.00	10.18	66,624 (16.50)	10.18	66,649 (13.12)
Western Prairie/Forest	5,599	11.55	0.76	10.02	56,045 (13.88)	13.17	73,711 (14.51)
Central Sand Prairie	1,900	3.92	0.93	7.00	13,284 (3.29)	7.56	14,376 (2.83)
Grand Prairie	11,091	22.88	0.83	7.74	85,803 (21.25)	9.33	103,479 (20.37)
Southern Plain	7,605	15.69	0.74	8.44	64,201 (15.90)	11.40	86,715 (17.07)
Wabash Border	1,478	3.05	0.67	9.21	13,607 (3.37)	13.71	20,218 (3.98)
Shawnee Hills	1,900	3.92	0.87	10.39	19,745 (4.89)	11.72	22,301 (4.39)
Unknown	1,372	2.83	0.64	5.00	6,864 (1.70)	7.77	10,668 (2.10)
Statewide	48,473	100.00	0.80	8.33	403,780 (100.00)	10.48	507,997 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 15. Summary of red fox hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=198)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	2,428	11.61	0.15	1.09	2,641 (12.76) <sup>a</sup>	7.17	17,411 (12.41)
Northeast Moraine	1,794	8.58	0.20	1.29	2,325 (11.23)	6.47	11,617 (8.28)
Mississippi Border-North	949	4.54	0.03	0.33	317 (1.53)	11.11	10,550 (7.52)
Mississippi Border-South	1,478	7.07	0.18	1.07	1,583 (7.65)	6.07	8,965 (6.39)
Western Prairie/Forest	2,007	9.60	0.10	0.79	1,583 (7.65)	7.84	15,728 (11.21)
Central Sand Prairie	633	3.03	0.36	1.33	845 (4.08)	3.67	2,329 (1.66)
Grand Prairie	8,343	39.90	0.16	0.81	6,758 (32.65)	5.20	43,394 (30.93)
Southern Plain	2,112	10.10	0.18	1.90	4,014 (19.39)	10.35	21,859 (15.58)
Wabash Border	318	1.52	0.12	1.67	528 (2.55)	14.00	4,433 (3.16)
Shawnee Hills	318	1.52	0	0	0 (0.00)	4.33	1,375 (0.98)
Unknown	529	2.53	0.04	0.20	106 (0.51)	5.00	2,638 (1.88)
Statewide	20,909	100.00	0.15	0.99	20,700 (100.00)	6.71	140,299 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 16. Summary of gray fox hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=84)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	950	10.71	0.02	0.11	106 (1.27) <sup>a</sup>	5.78	5,489 (8.84)
Northeast Moraine	528	5.95	0.10	0.80	422 (5.06)	8.00	4,222 (6.80)
Mississippi Border-North	633	7.14	0.02	0.17	106 (1.27)	9.50	6,017 (9.69)
Mississippi Border-South	1,374	15.49	0.32	1.77	2,427 (29.11)	5.62	7,711 (12.42)
Western Prairie/Forest	739	8.33	0.41	1.00	738 (8.86)	2.43	1,794 (2.89)
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	1,690	19.05	0.08	0.38	633 (7.59)	4.75	8,028 (12.93)
Southern Plain	1,690	19.05	0.15	1.88	3,166 (37.97)	12.44	21,017 (33.85)
Wabash Border	105	1.19	0.03	1.00	106 (1.27)	30.00	3,167 (5.10)
Shawnee Hills	739	8.33	0.22	0.71	528 (6.33)	3.29	2,428 (3.91)
Unknown	422	4.76	0.05	0.25	106 (1.27)	5.25	2,217 (3.57)
Statewide	8,870	100.00	0.13	0.94	8,338 (100.00)	7.00	62,090 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.



Table 17. Summary of coyote hunter and harvest data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=159)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	845	5.03	0.02	0.13	104 (0.39) <sup>a</sup>	5.00	4,228 (2.98)
Northeast Moraine	106	0.63	0.00	0.00	0 (0.00)	20.00	2,114 (1.49)
Mississippi Border-North	2,218	13.21	0.21	1.81	4,010 (15.02)	8.76	19,438 (13.70)
Mississippi Border-South	2,006	11.95	0.31	3.26	6,544 (24.51)	10.47	21,027 (14.82)
Western Prairie/Forest	2,957	17.61	0.27	2.11	6,226 (23.32)	7.71	22,815 (16.08)
Central Sand Prairie	212	1.26	0.14	0.50	104 (0.39)	3.50	738 (0.52)
Grand Prairie	3,801	22.64	0.10	0.67	2,533 (9.49)	6.39	24,291 (17.12)
Southern Plain	3,168	18.87	0.15	1.83	5,804 (21.74)	12.23	38,777 (27.33)
Wabash Border	739	4.40	0.13	1.14	844 (3.16)	8.86	6,555 (4.62)
Shawnee Hills	739	4.40	0.28	0.71	529 (1.98)	2.57	1,901 (1.34)
Statewide	16,791	100.00	0.19	1.59	26,698 (100.00)	8.45	141,884 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 18. Summary of canid (fox and coyote) chaser data for wildlife management units in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey. (N=68)

Wildlife management unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	211	2.94	-	-	-	26.50	5,598 (5.02) <sup>a</sup>
Northeast Moraine	106	1.47	-	-	-	10.00	1,060 (0.95)
Mississippi Border-North	528	7.35	-	-	-	6.00	3,167 (2.84)
Mississippi Border-South	1,795	25.00	-	-	-	13.76	24,713 (22.16)
Western Prairie/Forest	1,268	17.65	-	-	-	15.50	19,639 (17.61)
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	739	10.30	-	-	-	8.57	6,334 (5.68)
Southern Plain	1,795	25.00	-	-	-	20.24	36,334 (32.58)
Wabash Border	211	2.94	-	-	-	34.00	7,182 (6.44)
Shawnee Hills	422	5.88	-	-	-	9.00	3,803 (3.41)
Unknown	106	1.47	-	-	-	35.00	3,691 (3.31)
Statewide	7,181	100.00	-	-	-	15.53	111,521 (100.00)

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses are percentages of statewide total.

Table 19. Statewide sample sizes for 1976-77 post-season mail survey of Illinois resident hunters. (N=4,299)

Species	Total hunters	Successful hunters	Percent successful hunters	Total season bag	Total days afield
Rabbit	2,887	2,435	84.34	20,529	19,426
Fox Squirrel	1,679	1,546	92.08	15,475	13,066
Gray Squirrel	884	790	89.37	7,069	7,422
Quail	1,511	1,249	82.66	14,020	9,841
Pheasant	1,881	1,392	74.00	6,070	11,494
Hungarian Partridge	47	18	38.30	47	394
Dove	1,029	955	92.81	20,780	6,735
Woodcock	104	97	93.27	287	564
Crow	171	143	83.63	824	711
Ducks	685	584	85.26	7,342	6,116
Geese	336	200	59.52	846	2,157
Raccoon	459	404	88.02	3,825	4,810
Red Fox (Gun)	198	95	47.98	196	1,329
Gray Fox (Gun)	84	37	44.05	79	588
Coyote (Gun)	159	86	54.09	253	1,343
All Canid Chasers (Dog)	68	-	-	-	1,056

Table 20. Distribution of effort among hunters for seven species of small game in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey.

Number of hunts	Percentage of hunters pursuing species						
	Cottontail rabbit	Fox squirrel	Gray squirrel	Bobwhite	Ring-necked pheasant	Mourning dove	Raccoon
1	14.58	12.86	14.82	18.20	19.83	15.94	18.08
2	15.59	14.95	11.99	16.94	16.90	14.97	10.24
3	12.26	11.44	10.07	12.71	11.91	11.66	6.75
4	9.63	8.99	9.39	8.21	9.41	10.40	5.23
5	8.62	9.77	8.26	8.07	7.50	9.04	8.71
6	6.23	5.90	5.20	5.30	6.17	5.44	4.58
7	3.57	4.23	3.39	2.58	2.50	3.69	2.62
8	3.64	4.17	4.86	2.91	3.24	3.79	3.05
9	1.04	1.13	0.91	0.60	0.64	0.97	0.87
10	7.97	6.97	9.50	7.21	6.86	9.04	7.84
11	0.80	0.36	0.34	0.79	1.01	0.58	0.65
12	2.49	2.20	1.81	2.58	1.97	2.14	2.62
13	0.28	0.36	0.68	0.13	0.16	0.49	0.44
14	0.94	0.83	1.47	0.66	1.17	1.17	0.65
15-19	4.71	5.06	4.52	4.70	3.35	3.98	5.45
20-24	3.74	4.65	5.09	3.84	3.88	2.82	8.93
≥25	3.91	6.13	7.70	4.57	3.50	3.88	13.29



Table 21. Distribution of harvest among hunters for seven species of small game in Illinois, 1976-77, from post-season resident hunter mail survey.

Total season bag	Percentage of hunters pursuing species						
	Cottontail rabbit	Fox squirrel	Gray squirrel	Bobwhite	Ring-necked pheasant	Mourning dove	Raccoon
0	15.66	7.92	10.63	17.34	26.00	7.19	11.98
1	11.22	8.99	13.35	11.38	20.04	4.76	15.25
2	12.23	12.33	13.35	12.64	16.85	6.71	14.16
3	7.62	8.70	9.05	8.14	7.44	5.25	8.28
4	6.89	7.68	6.22	7.08	7.71	4.76	4.14
5	6.89	7.27	8.26	5.63	3.88	5.35	4.14
6	5.82	5.84	5.66	5.29	5.00	4.57	7.19
7	2.15	3.04	2.60	1.79	1.70	2.14	3.05
8	3.64	4.35	2.60	3.24	1.91	2.72	2.40
9	0.80	1.97	1.13	0.86	0.64	0.97	1.09
10	7.38	6.97	7.13	4.77	2.07	7.39	3.70
11	0.93	0.77	0.79	0.46	0.48	0.49	1.74
12	3.36	2.80	2.26	3.31	1.38	4.76	2.83
13	0.35	0.54	0.57	0.07	0.48	0.49	0.87
14	0.59	0.71	0.90	0.86	0.74	0.87	0.44
15-19	3.67	5.24	3.73	2.98	1.59	6.61	4.13
20-24	4.19	5.90	4.30	3.97	1.33	7.58	4.58
≥25	6.61	8.98	7.47	10.19	0.76	27.39	10.03

Table 22. Estimated number of resident hunters, average season bag, and total harvest by species in Illinois for 1976-77 season based on post-season mail survey. (N=4,299)

Species	Estimated number of hunters	Estimated average season bag	Estimated total harvest
Rabbit	304,884 ± 6,504 <sup>a</sup>	7.11 ± 0.35 <sup>a</sup>	2,167,725 ± 115,724 <sup>a</sup>
Fox Squirrel	177,312 ± 6,756	9.22 ± 0.63	1,634,817 ± 127,760
Gray Squirrel	93,355 ± 5,597	8.00 ± 0.84	746,840 ± 90,561
Quail	159,570 ± 6,611	9.28 ± 0.96	1,480,810 ± 165,000
Pheasant	198,664 ± 6,870	3.23 ± 0.21	641,685 ± 47,644
Hungarian Partridge	4,963 ± 1,440	1.00 ± 0.51	4,963 ± 12,326
Dove	108,668 ± 5,909	20.19 ± 1.82	2,194,007 ± 230,870
Woodcock	10,983 ± 2,124	2.76 ± 0.72	30,313 ± 9,776
Crow	18,058 ± 2,706	4.82 ± 1.94	87,040 ± 37,281
Ducks	72,340 ± 5,068	10.72 ± 1.47	775,485 ± 106,508
Geese	35,483 ± 3,717	2.52 ± 0.58	89,417 ± 22,564
Raccoon	48,473 ± 4,276	8.33 ± 1.10	403,780 ± 63,958
Red Fox (Gun)	20,909 ± 2,901	0.99 ± 0.24	20,700 ± 5,808
Gray Fox (Gun)	8,870 ± 1,917	0.94 ± 0.39	8,338 ± 3,886
Coyote (Gun)	16,791 ± 2,613	1.59 ± 0.68	26,698 ± 12,094
All Canid Chasers (Dog)	7,181 ± 1,742	-	-

<sup>a</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Comparison of statewide data from post-season mail survey of Illinois resident hunters, 1975-76 vs. 1976-77.

Species and season	Estimated total hunters	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Cottontail rabbit						
1975-76	266,385	1.12	6.85	1,824,738	6.13	1,632,940
1976-77	304,884	1.06	7.11	2,167,725	6.73	2,051,869
Fox squirrel						
1975-76	173,173	1.28	8.13	1,407,896	6.35	1,100,037
1976-77	177,312	1.18	9.22	1,634,817	7.78	1,379,487
Gray squirrel						
1975-76	137,533	0.77	4.96	682,165	6.46	888,824
1976-77	93,355	0.95	8.00	746,840	8.40	784,182
Bobwhite						
1975-76	139,018	1.63	10.39	1,444,400	6.36	884,154
1976-77	159,570	1.43	9.28	1,480,810	6.51	1,038,801
Ring-necked pheasant						
1975-76	212,126	0.58	3.14	666,075	5.39	1,143,359
1976-77	198,664	0.53	3.23	641,685	6.11	1,213,837
Gray partridge						
1975-76	5,826	0.11	0.76	4,428	6.61	38,510
1976-77	4,963	0.12	1.00	4,963	8.38	41,590
Mourning dove						
1975-76	111,032	3.23	17.20	1,909,748	5.32	591,143
1976-77	108,668	3.08	20.19	2,194,007	6.55	711,775
Woodcock						
1975-76	13,822	0.62	2.96	40,913	4.79	66,207
1976-77	10,983	0.51	2.76	30,313	5.42	59,528

Table 23. Continued.

Species and season	Estimated total hunters	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Crow 1976-77	18,058	1.16	4.82	87,040	4.16	75,121
Ducks 1975-76	67,624	1.15	10.36	700,585	9.03	610,645
1976-77	72,340	1.20	10.72	775,485	8.93	645,996
Geese 1975-76	31,984	0.38	2.30	73,563	6.06	193,823
1976-77	35,483	0.39	2.52	89,417	6.42	227,801
Raccoon 1975-76	35,868	1.06	9.78	350,789	9.20	329,986
1976-77	48,473	0.80	8.33	403,780	10.48	507,997
Red Fox (Gun) 1976-77	20,909	0.15	0.99	20,700	6.71	140,299
Gray Fox (Gun) 1976-77	8,870	0.13	0.94	8,338	7.00	62,090
Coyote (Gun) 1976-77	16,791	0.19	1.59	26,698	8.45	141,884
Fox chaser (Dog) 1975-76	3,314	-	-	-	21.59	71,549
Canid chaser (Dog) 1976-77	7,181	-	-	-	15.53	111,521

1973-76 44 795-11  
 1976 53 (continued on separate page this last season only unless otherwise indicated)