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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

as required by

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act

Illinois

Federal Aid Project No. W-49-R-26)  
Study II: Wildlife Harvests  
Job No. 1: Hunter Harvest Survey, 1978-79

by

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November 1, 1979



JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECT

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R(26) STUDY II JOB NO. I

OBJECTIVE: To determine the annual harvest of small game in Illinois and relate this parameter to population trends and characteristics, habitat conditions, and other factors which may influence hunter harvest, and develop annual statewide hunting regulations.

PROCEDURES: Methods used for the hunter harvest survey for the 1978-79 hunting season were described by G.F.Hubert, Jr. (Job Completion Report, Proj. W-49-R(24), Job No. 1, Hunter Mail Survey, (1976-77, 32 pp., 1977).

The questionnaire card for the 1978-79 hunter harvest survey (Fig. 1) was similar to those used in previous years. The lead questions requested information on age, years of hunting experience and if they hunted deer with a bow and arrow.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

The estimates for the 1978-79 season were based on the sale of 390,000 resident hunting licenses. The 1977-78 season estimates were based on the sale of 425,000 resident hunting licenses.

The 1978-79 hunting seasons and bag limits for the species surveyed (Table 1) were similar to 1977-78 seasons. Water fowl hunters enjoyed a more liberal season in 1978 than in 1977.

From a sample of 6,400 licensed resident hunters, 6,000 were mailed harvest survey cards. The U. S. Postal Service returned 113 (2.88 percent) as undeliverable. A total of 3,887 replies were received (64.78 percent). Of these 3,832 (63.86 percent) were useable. This response rate was higher than in 1977. The responses indicated that 14.69 percent of the sample did not hunt the species listed during the 1978 season. In 1977, 12.96 percent of those sampled did not hunt.

The returns indicated that 13.75 percent hunted deer with bow and arrow during the 1978 archery deer season or 53,635 bow hunters. The Permit Office issued 31,483 archery permits during 1978.

A summary of hunting effort and harvest for 1978-79 for the various game species for which information was solicited is presented in Tables 2 and 3. Similar

information for the previous four seasons are presented in Table 4. Hunting effort and success by species for the various wildlife management units are presented in Tables 5-20. Comparison of harvests by wildlife management unit for the seasons in 1977 and 1978 is presented in Table 23.

Average age of 3,753 respondents was 35.35 years (Table 21). The 21-25 years category comprised the largest segment of the respondents. In terms of hunting experience, 3,768 respondents had hunted an average of 20.28 years (Table 22).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this annual survey of resident hunters be continued to provide annual indices of hunting activities and success. Some method should be developed to obtain similar information from those that are exempt from purchasing a resident hunting license. A more random method of selecting hunters to include in the survey should be developed.

DATA AND REPORTS:

The data from which this report was compiled are on file in the Department of Conservation Office, 129 North Kennedy Boulevard, Vandalia, IL 62471.

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Table 1. Illinois' regulations for migratory and small game, 1977-78.

SPECIES	ZONE	SEASON DURATION	LIMIT	
			DAILY	POSSESSION
Rabbit	Statewide	Nov. 11 - Jan. 15	4	8
Squirrels	Northern	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	5	10
	Southern	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	5	10
Bobwhite	Statewide	Nov. 11 - Jan. 15	8	16
Ring-necked Pheasant	Statewide	Nov. 11 - Jan. 15	2	4
Mourning Dove	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9	12	24
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 15 - Dec. 18	5	10
Gray Partridge	Statewide	Nov. 11 - Jan. 15	2	4
Woodchuck	Statewide	June 1 - Mar. 31	None	None
Ducks	Northern	Oct. 19 - Dec. 7	Point System	
	Southern	Nov. 2 - Dec. 21		
Geese	Statewide	Oct. 19 - Dec. 27	Varied by species	
Raccoon	Northern	Nov. 15 - Jan. 19	None	None
	Southern	Nov. 25 - Jan. 26		
Fox	Statewide	Nov. 30 - Jan. 31	None	None
Coyote	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28	None	None

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE DATA FROM HUNTER HARVEST SURVEY, 1978-79 SEASON. (N = 3,832)

SPECIES	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of total licenses	Average daily bag	Average Season bag	Estimated total harvest	Average days afield	Estimated total days afield
Rabbits	228,891	58.69	0.90	5.53	1,266,483	6.11	1,399,197
Fox Squirrels	160,905	41.26	1.28	9.38	1,508,698	7.30	1,174,780
Gray Squirrels	102,690	26.33	0.95	7.69	789,722	8.11	833,733
Bobwhites	107,474	27.56	1.08	6.24	671,099	5.79	622,454
Pheasants	146,250	37.50	0.44	2.63	384,506	6.03	882,996
Gray Partridges	7,938	2.04	0.15	1.68	9,262	7.95	63,097
Doves	89,154	22.86	3.03	15.55	1,386,575	5.12	456,863
Woodcock	16,691	4.28	0.42	2.06	34,400	4.96	82,844
Woodchuck	26,461	6.78	0.99	8.19	216,780	8.26	218,710
Ducks	73,176	18.76	1.15	11.70	855,821	10.19	745,601
Geese	42,032	10.78	0.33	2.51	105,339	7.64	321,295
Raccoon	52,414	13.44	0.80	8.47	444,040	10.64	557,827
Red Fox (gun)	27,072	6.94	0.16	1.14	30,939	7.19	194,694
Gray Fox (gun)	11,500	2.95	0.08	0.68	7,836	7.94	91,288
Coyote (gun)	25,851	6.63	0.18	1.45	37,452	7.84	202,635
Canid chasers	3,664	0.94				18.94	69,412

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RESIDENT HUNTERS, AVERAGE SEASON BAG,  
AND TOTAL HARVEST BY SPECIES IN ILLINOIS, 1978-79

SPECIES	(N-3832) ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HUNTERS	ESTIMATED AVERAGE SEASON BAG	ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST
Rabbit	228,891 + 6,204 <sup>a</sup>	5.53 + 0.38 <sup>a</sup>	1,266,483 + 94,880
Fox Squirrel	160,905 + 6,203	9.38 + 0.60	1,508,698 + 120,081
Gray Squirrel	102,690 + 5,515	7.69 + 0.70	789,722 + 85,228
Bobwhite	107,474 + 5,631	6.24 + 0.90	671,099 + 104,635
Pheasant	146,250 + 6,100	2.63 + 0.22	384,506 + 94,885
Gray Partridge	7,938 + 1,779	1.68 + 0.44	9,262 + 2,116
Dove	89,154 + 5,290	15.55 + 1.54	1,386,575 + 82,443
Woodcock	16,691 + 2,550	2.06 + 0.31	34,400 + 5,217
Woodchuck	26,461 + 3,169	8.19 + 2.68	216,780 + 12,601
Ducks	73,176 + 4,919	11.70 + 1.25	855,821 + 57,650
Geese	42,032 + 3,907	2.51 + 0.45	105,339 + 9,828
Raccoon	52,414 + 4,298	8.47 + 1.06	444,040 + 36,502
Red Fox (Gun)	27,072 + 3,202	1.14 + 0.25	30,939 + 455
Gray Fox (Gun)	11,500 + 2,132	0.68 + 0.30	7,836 + 1,475
Coyote (Gun)	25,851 + 3,135	1.45 + 0.44	37,452 + 733
Canid Chasers	3,664 + 1,216		

<sup>a</sup> 95 percent confidence interval

Table 4. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters for years 1975-78. (N = 3,832)

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED		AVERAGE		AVERAGE		ESTIMATED		AVERAGE		ESTIMATED	
	TOTAL HUNTERS	DAILY BAG	SEASON BAG	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST
Rabbit												
1975-76	266,385	1.12	6.85	1,824,738	6.13	1,824,738	6.13	1,824,738	6.13	1,824,738	6.13	1,632,940
1976-77	304,884	1.06	7.11	2,167,725	6.73	2,167,725	6.73	2,167,725	6.73	2,167,725	6.73	2,051,869
1977-78	281,254	0.98	6.83	1,920,964	6.99	1,920,964	6.99	1,920,964	6.99	1,920,964	6.99	1,966,402
1978-79	228,891	0.90	5.53	1,266,483	6.11	1,266,483	6.11	1,266,483	6.11	1,266,483	6.11	1,399,197
Fox Squirrel												
1975-76	173,173	1.28	8.13	1,407,896	6.35	1,407,896	6.35	1,407,896	6.35	1,407,896	6.35	1,100,037
1976-77	177,312	1.18	9.22	1,634,817	7.78	1,634,817	7.78	1,634,817	7.78	1,634,817	7.78	1,379,487
1977-78	176,712	1.19	8.77	1,549,764	7.38	1,549,764	7.38	1,549,764	7.38	1,549,764	7.38	1,303,956
1978-79	160,905	1.28	9.38	1,508,698	7.30	1,508,698	7.30	1,508,698	7.30	1,508,698	7.30	1,174,780
Gray Squirrel												
1975-76	137,533	0.77	4.96	682,165	6.46	682,165	6.46	682,165	6.46	682,165	6.46	888,824
1976-77	93,355	0.95	8.00	746,840	8.40	746,840	8.40	746,840	8.40	746,840	8.40	784,182
1977-78	117,164	0.92	6.97	816,637	7.60	816,637	7.60	816,637	7.60	816,637	7.60	890,535
1978-79	102,690	0.95	7.69	789,722	8.11	789,722	8.11	789,722	8.11	789,722	8.11	833,733
Bobwhite												
1975-76	139,018	1.63	10.39	1,444,400	6.36	1,444,400	6.36	1,444,400	6.36	1,444,400	6.36	884,154
1976-77	159,570	1.43	9.28	1,480,810	6.51	1,480,810	6.51	1,480,810	6.51	1,480,810	6.51	1,038,801
1977-78	136,023	1.22	7.98	1,087,115	6.52	1,087,115	6.52	1,087,115	6.52	1,087,115	6.52	887,565
1978-79	107,474	1.08	6.24	671,099	5.79	671,099	5.79	671,099	5.79	671,099	5.79	622,454
Pheasant												
1975-76	212,126	0.58	3.14	666,075	5.39	666,075	5.39	666,075	5.39	666,075	5.39	1,143,359
1976-77	198,664	0.53	3.23	641,685	6.11	641,685	6.11	641,685	6.11	641,685	6.11	1,213,837
1977-78	179,385	0.38	2.54	455,637	6.63	455,637	6.63	455,637	6.63	455,637	6.63	1,189,771
1978-79	146,250	0.44	2.63	384,506	6.03	384,506	6.03	384,506	6.03	384,506	6.03	882,996
Gray Partridge												
1975-76	5,826	0.11	0.76	4,428	6.61	4,428	6.61	4,428	6.61	4,428	6.61	38,510
1976-77	4,963	0.12	1.00	4,963	8.38	4,963	8.38	4,963	8.38	4,963	8.38	41,590
1977-78	6,088	0.09	1.07	6,514	11.83	6,514	11.83	6,514	11.83	6,514	11.83	72,016
1978-79	7,938	0.15	1.68	9,262	7.95	9,262	7.95	9,262	7.95	9,262	7.95	63,097

Table 4. (continued) Statewide data from resident Illinois Hunters for years 1975-78. (N = 3,832).

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED TOTAL HUNTERS	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL DAYS AFIELD
		DAILY BAG	SEASON BAG		DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL DAYS AFIELD	
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	
1977-78	98,750	2.98	16.91	1,669,862	5.68	560,425	
1978-79	89,154	3.03	15.55	1,386,575	5.12	456,863	
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	
1977-78	10,989	0.33	2.20	24,175	6.66	73,210	
1978-79	16,691	0.42	2.06	34,400	4.96	82,844	
Woodchuck							
1978-79	26,461	0.99	8.19	216,780	8.26	218,710	
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	
1977-78	75,734	0.99	9.17	694,480	9.27	702,098	
1978-79	73,176	1.15	11.70	855,821	10.19	745,601	
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	
1977-78	43,658	0.36	2.37	103,470	6.61	288,529	
1978-79	42,032	0.33	2.51	105,339	7.64	321,295	
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	
1977-78	46,182	0.82	7.72	356,530	9.39	433,606	
1978-79	52,414	0.80	8.47	444,040	10.64	194,694	
Red Fox (Gun)							
1976-77	20,909	0.15	0.99	20,700	6.71	140,299	
1977-78	26,284	0.13	1.10	28,912	8.30	218,142	
1978-79	27,072	0.16	1.14	30,939	7.19	194,694	

Table 4. (Continued) Statewide data from resident Illinois Hunters for years 1975-78. (N = 3,832).

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED TOTAL HUNTERS	AVERAGE DAILY BAG	AVERAGE SEASON BAG	ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAYS		ESTIMATED TOTAL DAYS AFIELD
					AFEILD	AFEILD	
Gray Fox (Gun 1976-77	8,870	0.13	0.94	8,338	7.00		62,090
1977-78	10,691	0.07	0.50	5,346	6.55		149,830
1978-79	11,500	0.08	0.68	7,836	7.94		91,288
Coyote							
1976-77	16,791	0.19	1.59	26,698	8.45		141,884
1977-78	22,868	0.16	1.08	24,698	6.55		149,830
1978-79	25,851	0.18	1.45	37,452	7.84		202,635
Canid Chaser							
1976-77	7,181				15.53		111,521
1977-78	4,603				15.13		69,639
1978-79	3,664				18.94		69,412

Table 5. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Cottontails (N = 2,249)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	19,948	8.36	0.61	3.60	71,853	117,041
Northeast Moraine	14,961	6.52	0.57	3.50	52,414	91,292
Mississippi Border-North	16,284	6.86	1.44	8.48	138,108	96,075
Mississippi Border-South	28,192	10.28	1.45	7.39	208,332	143,909
Western Prairie/Forest	19,744	7.78	1.18	6.49	128,236	108,899
Central Sand Prairie	6,819	2.80	0.76	4.37	29,820	39,285
Grand Prairie	68,392	31.08	0.57	3.63	248,534	434,984
Southern Plain	35,214	17.98	1.00	7.15	251,790	251,587
Wabash Border	9,770	4.80	1.22	8.41	82,132	67,273
Shawnee Hills	4,376	2.04	1.32	8.65	37,860	28,599
Unknown	5,190	1.46	0.86	3.35	17,403	20,253

TABLE 6. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Fox Squirrel (N = 1,581)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	11,195	6.95	1.15	6.26	70,122	61,166
Northeast Moraine	5,292	3.28	1.08	5.65	29,922	27,581
Mississippi Border-North	14,757	9.17	1.66	8.61	127,014	76,432
Mississippi Border-South	24,120	14.99	1.36	12.84	309,800	228,381
Western Prairie/Forest	15,470	9.61	1.37	9.95	153,882	111,952
Central Sand Prairie	6,615	4.11	1.64	11.41	75,516	46,104
Grand Prairie	39,387	24.47	1.24	8.00	315,296	253,361
Southern Plain	27,784	17.26	1.17	9.79	272,042	231,740
Wabash Border	8,549	5.31	1.33	10.54	90,070	67,476
Shawnee Hills	4,478	2.78	0.83	9.16	41,015	49,564
Unknown	3,257	2.02	1.16	7.38	24,020	20,762



TABLE 7. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Gray Squirrel (N = 1,009)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total days Afield
Northwest Hills	7,226	7.10	0.63	3.79	27,376	43,152
Northeast Moraine	4,681	4.60	0.88	5.33	24,933	28,395
Mississippi Border-North	4,783	4.70	0.88	5.67	32,871	37,351
Mississippi Border-South	18,726	18.14	1.06	10.86	203,333	191,539
Western Prairie/Forest	5,292	5.20	0.54	3.96	20,964	38,878
Central Sand Prairie	2,137	2.10	0.62	5.38	11,500	18,421
Grand Prairie	17,810	17.51	0.61	3.96	70,627	116,124
Southern Plain	26,461	26.02	1.01	8.81	233,049	230,722
Wabash Border	6,310	6.20	0.98	8.64	54,548	55,670
Shawnee Hills	5,699	5.60	1.66	16.20	92,304	55,670
Unknown	2,544	2.50	1.02	7.16	18,216	17,810

TABLE 8. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Bobwhites (N = 1,056)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	7,328	6.81	0.51	3.46	25,515	49,462
Northeast Moraine	1,425	1.32	0.52	2.21	3,177	6,106
Mississippi Border-North	11,908	11.07	1.52	8.44	101,141	65,950
Mississippi Border-South	14,757	13.73	1.45	7.63	113,335	77,654
Western Prairie/Forest	10,076	9.37	1.08	5.01	50,827	46,918
Central Sand Prairie	4,376	4.07	1.12	6.67	29,410	26,156
Grand Prairie	25,240	23.48	0.52	3.16	80,441	153,680
Southern Plain	21,271	19.79	1.48	9.10	195,007	131,188
Wabash Border	5,699	5.30	1.17	7.11	40,784	34,705
Shawnee Hills	3,562	3.31	1.21	7.83	28,078	23,103
Unknown	1,832	1.70	1.36	5.61	10,350	7,531

Table 9. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Pheasants (N = 1,437)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	20,456	13.56	0.47	3.18	65,034	138,413
Northeast Moraine	23,510	15.58	0.53	3.32	77,960	146,148
Mississippi Border-North	3,155	2.09	0.34	2.26	7,124	20,864
Mississippi Border-South	305	0.20	0.12	0.67	204	1,628
Western Prairie/Forest	4,071	2.69	0.50	1.95	7,938	15,877
Central Sand Prairie	6,615	4.38	0.47	2.74	18,116	38,776
Grand Prairie	78,486	52.69	0.40	2.43	192,965	486,177
Southern Plain	3,358	2.22	0.50	1.82	6,106	12,213
Wabash Border	814	0.53	0.02	0.12	102	3,969
Shawnee Hills	102	0.06	2.50	5.00	509	204
Unknown	8,956	5.93	0.45	0.94	8,447	18,726

Table 10. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Hungarian partridge (N = 78)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	3,053	38.46	0.14	1.33	4,071	29,513
Northeast Moraine	2,137	26.92	0.25	1.52	3,257	13,230
Mississippi Border-North	102	1.28	0.25	3.00	305	1,221
Mississippi Border-South	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- - -
Western Prairie/Forest	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Central Sand Prairie	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Grand Prairie	2,341	29.49	0.06	0.43	1,018	17,199
Southern Plain	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Wabash Border	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Shawnee Hills	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Unknown	305	3.84	0.32	2.00	611	1,934

Table 11. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Mourning dove (N = 876)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	5,400	6.05	2.54	12.19	65,746	25,850
Northeast Moraine	7,132	7.99	2.75	15.14	107,881	39,183
Mississippi Border-North	6,317	7.08	3.26	15.63	98,619	30,277
Mississippi Border-South	12,941	14.50	3.54	19.30	249,449	70,529
Western Prairie/Forest	6,419	7.19	3.02	14.95	95,872	31,753
Central Sand Prairie	4,279	4.79	3.49	15.21	65,034	18,625
Grand Prairie	24,352	27.28	2.25	10.19	247,821	109,916
Southern Plain	14,876	16.67	3.42	18.14	269,600	78,773
Wabash Border	4,177	4.68	3.53	25.17	105,031	29,718
Shawnee Hills	2,038	2.28	3.96	34.70	70,631	17,810
Unknown	1,324	1.48	2.43	8.23	10,890	4,478

TABLE 12. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Woodcock (N = 164)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	305	1.83	0.27	1.33	407	1,527
Northeast Moraine	1,221	7.32	0.50	2.08	2,544	5,089
Mississippi Border-North	509	3.05	0.08	1.60	814	10,483
Mississippi Border-South	1,934	11.59	0.49	2.05	3,969	8,040
Western Prairie/Forest	509	3.05	1.00	5.00	1,018	1,018
Central Sand Prairie	407	2.44	0.63	1.75	712	1,120
Grand Prairie	5,699	34.14	0.38	1.88	10,686	28,293
Southern Plain	3,460	20.73	0.44	2.44	8,447	19,334
Wabash Border	1,628	9.75	0.76	2.25	3,664	4,783
Shawnee Hills	814	4.88	0.61	2.38	1,934	3,155
Unknown	204	1.22	1.00	1.00	204	204

Table 13. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Woodchuck (N = 260)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total days Afield
Northwest Hills	204	0.77	0.40	1.00	204	509
Northeast Moraine	611	2.31	0.58	3.00	1,832	3,155
Mississippi Border-North	1,425	5.38	0.93	2.86	4,071	4,376
Mississippi Border-South	6,513	24.61	1.00	9.81	63,914	64,219
Western Prairie/Forest	916	3.46	1.07	10.22	9,363	8,752
Central Sand Prairie	407	1.54	0.59	4.75	1,934	3,257
Grand Prairie	5,190	19.61	0.56	3.96	20,558	36,740
Southern Plain	6,920	26.15	0.85	6.66	46,104	54,448
Wabash Border	2,544	9.61	1.34	6.89	34,705	25,850
Shawnee Hills	1,425	5.38	2.08	8.42	31,957	15,368
Unknown	305	1.15	1.05	7.00	2,137	2,035

TABLE 14. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Ducks (N = 719)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	6,310	8.62	1.19	11.47	72,362	60,759
Northeast Moraine	6,921	9.46	1.02	6.20	42,949	42,236
Mississippi Border-North	8,651	11.82	0.91	12.80	110,730	121,112
Mississippi Border-South	11,602	15.86	1.40	18.88	219,120	156,020
Western Prairie/Forest	3,969	5.42	0.94	6.95	27,581	29,209
Central Sand Prairie	4,580	6.26	1.57	14.49	66,357	42,236
Grand Prairie	17,912	24.48	1.02	9.86	176,680	173,322
Southern Plain	7,531	10.29	1.20	12.32	92,818	77,247
Wabash Border	916	1.25	0.92	6.89	6,310	6,819
Shawnee Hills	2,442	3.34	1.18	8.42	20,558	17,403
Unknown	2,341	3.20	1.06	8.70	20,355	19,235



TABLE 15. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Geese (N = 413)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	2,341	5.57	0.11	1.52	3,562	32,160
Northeast Moraine	2,035	4.84	0.09	0.60	1,221	13,536
Mississippi Border-North	1,730	4.12	0.03	0.47	814	27,784
Mississippi Border-South	4,173	9.93	0.35	3.00	12,518	35,620
Western Prairie/Forest	814	1.94	0.18	2.00	1,628	9,159
Central Sand Prairie	1,018	2.42	0.26	2.30	2,341	8,854
Grand Prairie	5,394	12.84	0.10	0.74	3,969	41,523
Southern Plain	10,890	25.92	0.43	3.56	38,777	89,967
Wabash Border	611	1.45	0.23	2.00	1,221	5,292
Shawnee Hills	11,398	27.13	0.76	3.20	36,538	47,935
Unknown	1,628	3.88	0.29	1.69	2,745	9,465

TABLE 16. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Raccoon (N = 515)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	6,514	12.43	1.08	8.17	53,228	49,157
Northeast Moraine	1,323	2.52	0.69	3.85	5,089	7,328
Mississippi Border-North	6,106	11.65	1.00	11.30	69,003	68,596
Mississippi Border-South	4,682	8.93	0.87	10.41	48,750	55,772
Western Prairie/Forest	7,531	14.37	0.72	9.03	67,985	93,836
Central Sand Prairie	1,018	1.94	0.54	4.40	4,478	8,244
Grand Prairie	13,740	26.21	0.77	7.23	99,331	128,847
Southern Plain	6,615	12.62	0.60	7.49	49,564	83,150
Wabash Border	3,155	6.02	0.68	8.06	25,443	37,453
Shawnee Hills	1,221	2.33	0.76	14.67	17,912	18,625
Unknown	509	0.97	0.48	6.40	3,257	6,819

TABLE 17. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Red Fox (N = 266)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	3,867	14.28	0.18	1.16	4,478	25,036
Northeast Moraine	1,425	5.26	0.24	1.78	2,544	10,788
Mississippi Border-North	2,341	8.65	0.11	0.78	1,832	17,098
Mississippi Border-South	1,832	6.77	0.08	0.56	1,018	12,824
Western Prairie/Forest	2,850	10.53	0.11	0.86	2,442	21,576
Central Sand Prairie	1,018	3.76	0.34	2.40	2,442	7,226
Grand Prairie	9,872	36.46	0.14	1.18	11,704	82,132
Southern Plain	2,341	8.65	0.21	1.04	2,442	11,399
Wabash Border	814	3.01	0.24	1.38	1,120	4,580
Shawnee Hills	305	1.13	0.27	1.00	305	1,120
Unknown	407	1.50	0.67	1.50	611	916

TABLE 18. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Gray Fox (N = 113)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Days Afield
Northwest Hills	1,323	11.50	0.07	0.31	407	5,597
Northeast Moraine	102	0.89	1.00	1.00	102	102
Mississippi Border-North	407	0.54	0.04	0.25	102	2,748
Mississippi Border-South	1,832	15.93	0.18	1.00	1,832	10,380
Western Prairie/Forest	1,018	8.85	0.03	0.33	305	9,159
Central Sand Prairie	204	1.77	0.33	1.00	204	611
Grand Prairie	4,376	38.05	0.04	0.40	1,730	47,323
Southern Plain	1,221	10.62	0.26	2.00	2,442	9,261
Wabash Border	712	6.19	0.12	0.71	509	4,172
Shawnee Hills	102	0.89	0.17	1.00	102	611
Unknown	204	1.77	0.08	0.50	102	1,323

TABLE 19. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Coyote (N = 254)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Day Afield
Northwest Hills	2,239	8.66	0.10	0.41	916	9,567
Northeast Moraine	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -
Mississippi Border-North	3,664	14.17	0.23	2.11	7,735	33,891
Mississippi Border-South	1,730	6.69	0.17	1.18	2,035	12,111
Western Prairie/Forest	4,580	17.72	0.19	1.47	6,717	34,502
Central Sand Prairie	1,425	5.51	0.38	2.14	3,053	8,040
Grand Prairie	5,699	22.05	0.07	0.66	3,766	51,702
Southern Plain	3,867	14.96	0.18	1.45	5,597	31,347
Wabash Border	1,934	7.48	0.20	1.47	2,850	13,943
Shawnee Hills	305	1.18	0.93	13.33	4,071	4,376
Unknown	407	1.57	0.22	1.75	712	3,155

TABLE 20. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois in 1978-79 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Canid Chasers (N = 36)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunting Pressure	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Total Day Afield
Northwest Hills	204	5.57	--	--	--	1,425
Northeast Moraine	102	2.78	--	--	--	102
Mississippi Border-North	204	5.57	--	--	--	2,341
Mississippi Border-South	712	19.43	--	--	--	16,081
Western Prairie/Forest	204	5.57	--	--	--	6,616
Central Sand Prairie	--	---	--	--	--	---
Grand Prairie	407	11.10	--	--	--	3,155
Southern Plain	1,221	33.32	--	--	--	20,457
Wabash Border	407	11.10	--	--	--	17,811
Shawnee Hills	102	2.78	--	--	--	204
Unknown	102	2.78	--	--	--	1,221

Table 21. Age distribution of resident licensed hunters from hunter harvest survey for 1978-79 season.

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT
7-10	4	0.11
11-15	188	5.01
16-20	426	11.35
21-25	504	13.43
26-30	499	13.30
31-35	473	12.60
36-40	391	10.42
41-45	277	7.38
46-50	294	7.83
51-55	257	6.85
56-60	217	5.78
61-65	<u>223</u>	<u>5.94</u>
TOTALS	3,753	100.00

AVERAGE AGE = 35.35

Table 22. Years of hunting experience of resident licensed hunters from hunter harvest survey for 1978-79 season.

YEARS OF HUNTING EXPERIENCE	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT
1- 5	645	17.12
6-10	589	15.63
11-15	436	11.57
16-20	496	13.16
21-25	359	9.53
26-30	339	9.00
31-35	244	6.48
36-40	241	6.40
41-45	192	5.10
46-50	175	4.64
51-55	49	1.30
56-60	<u>3</u>	<u>0.08</u>
TOTALS	3,768	100.01

MEAN = 20.28 years



Table 23. Percentage changes in harvests among various wildlife management units from 1977-79 to 1978-79 hunting season.

Wildlife Management Unit	Cottontails	Fox Squirrels	Gray Squirrels	Bobwhites	Pheasants	Dove	Raccoons	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northeast Hills	-32	-30	-18	-37	-19	-26	-2	+52	-13	+23
Northeast Moraine	-49	-31	+13	-39	-24	-9	-33	+245	-66	*
Mississippi Border-North	+13	+14	+13	+61	+42	+52	+65	+38	-31	+33
Mississippi Border-South	+26	+17	+44	+19	-99	+209	+9	-74	+106	+5
Western Prairie/Forest	-29	+13	-18	+52	-76	0	+29	-13	+157	+80
Central Sand Prairie	-71	+2	-71	-70	+168	-53	-30	+84	-54	*
Grand Prairie	-52	-22	-26	-52	+1	-37	+23	-7	+46	-32
Southern Plain	-40	-7	-17	-46	-55	-45	+25	+3	+83	+4
Wabash Border	-5	+42	+8	-41	-65	-50	+73	*	+71	+174
Shawnee Hills	-67	-37	-2	-61	-14	-91	+26	-48	+31	+584
State	-34	-3	-3	-38	-16	-17	+24	+8	+46	+52

\*No harvest reported for 1977

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
 SMALL GAME HUNTING SURVEY  
 1978-79 SEASON

No 08741

1. Did you hunt deer in Illinois with BOW AND ARROW during the 1978 season? ..... Yes  No
2. Did you hunt any of the game listed below in Illinois during the 1978-79 season? ..... Yes  No
3. How old are you? ..... \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many years have you hunted? ..... \_\_\_\_\_

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 .....	_____	_____	_____
FOX SQUIRRELS. . .	_____	_____	_____
GRAY SQUIRRELS . .	_____	_____	_____
QUAIL .....	_____	_____	_____
PHEASANT .....	_____	_____	_____
HUN. PARTRIDGE. . .	_____	_____	_____
DOVE .....	_____	_____	_____
WOODCOCK .....	_____	_____	_____
(NOT Groundhog or Woodchuck)			
GROUNDHOG (or woodchuck) .....	_____	_____	_____
DUCKS .....	_____	_____	_____
GEESE .....	_____	_____	_____
RACCOON .....	_____	_____	_____
RED FOX .....	_____	_____	_____
GRAY FOX .....	_____	_____	_____
COYOTE .....	_____	_____	_____
FOX or COYOTE CHASING WITH DOGS FOR SPORT ONLY AND NOT TO KILL:	_____	_____	_____

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill in the form on the left side of this card for the 1978-79 Illinois hunting season. If you did not hunt any of the game listed in Illinois, check the first four questions and return the card.

REPORT ONLY YOUR KILL. DO NOT report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted.

Do NOT report game killed or days hunted on shooting areas or preserves where a fee is charged for game taken.

Fill in the number of days on which you hunted each kind of game listed including your unsuccessful days.

If you hunted for more than one kind of game on a particular day, count it a day for EACH kind of game you hunted.

If you can't remember the exact figures, give your best estimate.

Fill in only the blanks that apply to you. Leave all other blanks unmarked.

Your comments are welcomed, but please send them in a separate letter to receive proper attention.



TEAR OFF AND MAIL ANSWERS - NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!  
 NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

Figure 1. Questionnaire form for hunter harvest survey of licensed resident hunters, 1978-79 season.