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SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

Federal Aid Project No. W-112-R-4

Study XV: Wildlife Harvests

Job No. 2: Illinois Furbearer Trapping Survey, 1993-94



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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND HUNTER OPINION SURVEYS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-112-R-4

STUDY 1: Surveys of Hunters/Trappers Via Mail-Letter
Questionnaire

JOB NO. 2: Illinois Furbearer Trapping Survey, 1993-94

ABSTRACT: A systematic sample of 850 persons who purchased a 1993 Illinois resident trapping license was surveyed after the furbearer trapping season. The licensees were contacted by first class mail in three mailings. Questionnaires were delivered to 834 (98.1%) recipients, from which 675 useable replies were received (80.9% return). Of these, 577 (85.5%) were active trappers--i.e., set ≥ 1 traps during the season. Only 12 (2.1%) of the active trappers were ineffective--i.e., caught nothing.

The 1993-94 survey covered 10 furbearer species. Findings are presented: (1) on a statewide basis, (2) for each of the 10 wildlife management units in the state, and (3) for the two furbearer management zones currently in use. Data include estimated number and density of effective trappers, estimated number and density of trapper harvest, and average season catch. Statewide estimates for the number of effective trappers and their catch were: muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) 1,824 (97,259), mink (Mustela vison) 1,100 (4,481), raccoon 2,071 (60,961), opossum 1,280 (13,827), red fox 527 (1,925), gray fox 176 (351), beaver (Castor canadensis) 891 (7,004), striped skunk 439 (1,619), weasel (Mustela frenata, M. nivalis) 38 (38), coyote 607 (3,556), and all species combined 2,364 (191,021). There were an estimated 2,414 active trappers in 1993-94. An estimated 93.1% of the trapper harvest was sold.

Active trappers had traps set for an average of 30.4 days (or nights) and used an average of 30.9 traps during the 1993-94 season. Almost one-half (45.6%) of the effective muskrat trappers caught ≤ 20 muskrats. An estimated 51.1% of the effective raccoon trappers caught 1-15 raccoons and 68.7% caught ≤ 25 . Furbearers, primarily raccoons, were hunted by 28.3% of the licensed trappers. The harvest of furbearers by hunting trappers was equivalent to 7.19% of the trapped catch. Twenty-five trappers in 19 counties reported accidentally catching ≥ 1 badgers, 40 trappers in 23 counties reported seeing river otter or sign, and 54 trappers in 35 counties reported seeing bobcat or sign, during the past 3 years. A majority (53.3%) of the active trappers thought the raccoon population had increased from 1992-93 to 1993-94.

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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-112-R-4

STUDY 101: Wildlife Harvest and Hunter Opinion Surveys

JOB NO. 101.2: Illinois Furbearer Trapping Survey, 1993-94

OBJECTIVE: To survey furbearer (10 species of mammals) trappers to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions in Illinois.

PROCEDURES: A stratified random sample of individuals who purchased 1993 trapping licenses was surveyed via mail-letter questionnaire. Name/address cards of license purchasers were filled out by vendors for the first license sold in each book of five resident trapping licenses in the 1993 series (total sales estimated at 2,824 - 1 October 1994) (Fig. 1). At the same time, the person purchasing the license was provided with an information card which requested him to keep a record of his trapping activities (Fig. 2). The name/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. The sample was drawn from these cards. For some strata, it was necessary to supplement the mailing list with names/addresses from the stubs of trapping licenses sold during the year.

The stratified random sample was based on the distribution of the 1986-1990 trapping license sales. The size of the sample was set at 850 because this quantity would result in 600 to 700 useable replies (21-25% of all licensed trappers) and insure statistically adequate results at the statewide level.

The questionnaire (Fig. 3), a letter of explanation (Fig. 4), and a return envelope (pre-addressed and postage-paid) were mailed to the individuals on the mailing list. Non-respondents were sent 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 5 and 6) at approximately monthly intervals. First class postage was used for all mailings.

Data from returned questionnaires were transferred to a computer file (Ashton-Tate dBASE III+) and analyzed using a computer program designed for the survey. Respondents were placed into one of two categories: inactive - those who did not set traps for furbearers, or active - those who did set one or more traps for furbearers. Active trappers were further classified as: effective - those who caught one or more furbearers of the species in question, or ineffective - those who did not catch any furbearers. Mr. David M. Witzany, a consultant at the Illinois Natural History Survey, prepared the data entry and analysis programs.

Data for each species surveyed were compiled for the 10 wildlife management units in Illinois (Fig. 7). In addition, confidence limits at the 95% level were calculated by species for the number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total trapper harvest on a statewide basis. The formulas used were described by Cochran (1953) and Snedecor and Cochran (1967). These are as follows:

- a. Number of effective trappers for species:

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

where N = total license sales

n = number of licensees in sample

p = portion of licensees in sample who effectively trapped species in question

q = 1-p

- b. Average season catch per effective trapper for species in question:

$$\pm 1.96 \frac{s}{\sqrt{n_1}}$$

where s = standard deviation of average catch per effective trapper

n₁ = number of licensees in sample who effectively trapped species in question

c. Total trapper harvest:

$$\pm 2N \times \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

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

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

1993-94 Trapping Seasons

The 1993-94 fur-bearing mammal trapping seasons varied from 60 to 147 days in length (Table 1). The seasons for all species except beaver lasted 60 days in both the northern and southern management zones (Fig. 7). In the northern zone, opening dates were 5 November for muskrat, mink, raccoon, opossum, beaver, striped skunk, and weasel, and 15 November for red fox, gray fox, and coyote. In the southern zone, opening dates were 15 November for all 10 species. Beaver trapping season was 137 or 147 days in length, depending on zone. Special regulations reduced the length of the beaver season to 60 days along the Mississippi River from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess County line as a protective measure for river otter (Lutra canadensis). No bag limits were in effect for any furbearer.

1993-94 Trapper Mail Survey

The initial mailing of 850 questionnaires was made on 21 March 1994. The two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made on 21 April and 24 May, respectively, and the mailings were closed out on 31 August 1994.

A total of 834 (98.12%) licensees in the 1993-94 survey sample was reached by the Postal Service. The 16 remaining questionnaires were returned as undeliverable. There were 675 useable replies received from the licensees contacted, representing an 80.94% response for the number delivered. Of these respondents, 577 (85.48%) reported that they set ≥ 1 traps for furbearers during the season and were classified as active. A total of 565 (97.92%) active trappers were effective--i.e. caught ≥ 1 furbearers, and the remaining 12 (2.08%) were ineffective, i.e. caught nothing. Based on these data, there were an estimated 2,414 active trappers and 2,364 effective trappers in Illinois in 1993-94.

A. Number of Days of Trapping

Active trappers had traps set for an average of 30.4 days

(or nights) during the 1993-94 season (Fig. 8). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 147. However, only 19.5% of the respondents stated they had traps set for over 45 days, and 38.1% trapped over 30 days. The vast majority of trapping activity is concentrated during the initial 15 to 30 days of the muskrat, mink, and raccoon seasons. In comparison, Illinois trappers had traps set an average of 23.0 days in 1985-86 (108-day season), 26.6 days in 1986-87 (106-day season), 25.2 days in 1987-88 (106-day season), 22.0 days in 1988-89 (106-day season), 20.0 days in 1989-90 (120-day season), and 21.9 days in 1990-91 (139-day season) (Hubert 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989; Anderson et al. 1990 and 1991).

B. Number of Traps Set

The average active trapper used 30.9 traps during the 1993-94 season (Fig. 9). In spite of the fact that there were no restrictions on the number of traps that could be set, 87.3% of all active trappers employed ≤ 50 traps. Only 2.8% used >100 traps. In comparison, the average Illinois trapper used 31.2 traps in 1987-88, 31.6 traps in 1990-91, 31.9 traps in 1991-92, and 30.9 traps in 1992-93 (Hubert 1988; Anderson and Campbell 1992, 1993, 1994). The average Missouri trapper used 32.9 traps in 1972-73 (Sampson 1973).

C. Fur Harvest Summary

A statewide summary for the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1993-94 is presented in Table 2. The data for each species include the estimated number of effective trappers and their representation (percentage) among all licensed trappers, average season catch per effective trapper, estimated total trapper harvest, and estimated percent and total sold. Similar information for each of the 10 species, plus estimated density of effective trappers and furbearer harvest in each of the 10 wildlife management units, is provided in Tables 3 through 12. The original sample sizes from which these data were derived are presented in Table 13, which also provides the percent of effective trappers for each species.

Confidence intervals at the 95% level for number of effective trappers, average season catch per effective trapper, and total harvest for each furbearer statewide are given in Table 14. In most instances, those species with the greater number of effective trappers in the sample have smaller limits of variability which result in greater confidence in the projections. For example, effective raccoon trappers were the most numerous in 1993-94 and their projected number varied by only $\pm 4.64\%$. The 95% confidence interval projections for less numerous red fox trappers varied by $\pm 16.13\%$ and for uncommon weasel trappers by $\pm 65.79\%$.

D. Distribution of Harvest Among Effective Trappers

The muskrat and raccoon were the two most important furbearers trapped during the 1993-94 season in terms of number of effective trappers, average season catch, and total harvest (Table 2). The reported number of muskrats harvested by 436 effective muskrat trappers ranged from 1 to 1,137 and averaged 53.32 (Fig. 10). During the season, 45.6% of these trappers harvested ≤ 20 muskrats and 86.5% caught ≤ 100 . The average number of muskrats taken by effective trappers was 58-135% higher in 1993-94 than during the 1980s (Anderson et al. 1990). Of the effective trappers who responded, 107 (24.5%) stated that their catch averaged ≥ 1 muskrats per day for the entire season.

The distribution of harvest among effective raccoon trappers was similar to that for muskrat. The number of raccoons caught by the 495 effective raccoon trappers for whom data were available averaged 29.44 and ranged from 1 to 832 (Fig. 11). Less than the average season catch was taken by 70.9% of these trappers. For the entire season, 51.1% harvested ≤ 15 raccoons and 68.7% trapped ≤ 25 . Only 55 (11.1%) of the effective raccoon trappers reported making an average daily catch of ≥ 1 raccoons throughout the season.

The harvest of the other eight open-season furbearers was distributed among effective trappers much like the muskrat and raccoon harvests (Table 15). For three of these species (red fox, gray fox, and weasel), $\leq 15\%$ of the effective trappers made season catches of > 5 pelts. For the other species, the following percentages of effective trappers took > 5 pelts: mink - 20.5%, opossum - 55.3%, beaver - 40.8%, striped skunk - 17.2%, and coyote - 27.7%.

The above data emphasize the inapplicability of bag limits (both daily and seasonal) to furbearer trapping in Illinois. Few trappers are successful in making large seasonal catches. The ones who do are active throughout the season over extensive areas. Reductions in season length offer the most potential for reducing the furbearer harvest by highly successful trappers. Bag limits could potentially increase harvest because of their goal-setting implications.

E. Management Zone Data Summary

Management zone and statewide data summaries for each of the 10 species of furbearers surveyed in 1993-94 are presented in Tables 16 through 25. The data for each species include estimated number and density of effective trappers, average season catch, estimated total trapper harvest, and trapper harvest per unit area. The northern and southern zones listed are nearly identical to the zones employed for regulatory

management from 1979-80 through 1992-93 (Fig. 7).

F. Pelt Sales

Trappers sold an estimated 93.15% of their catch during 1993-94. The proportion of each species sold ranged from a low of 21.45% for striped skunk to a high of 97.48% for mink (Table 2). The fraction of pelts sold in Illinois and out-of-state also varied among species (Table 26). Overall, 86.16% of the marketed portion of the trapped catch was sold in Illinois and 13.84% out-of-state. In comparison, 95.33% of the trapped catch was sold (93.86% in Illinois and 6.14% out-of-state) in 1983-84 (Hubert 1984).

G. Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 191 trappers (28.30% of licensees) reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 1993-94 (Table 27). Their total hunting harvest was 13,728 pelts or an average of 17.18 per hunting trapper. This is equivalent to 7.19% of the total trapped catch in the sample. The raccoon was hunted by more trappers than any other species. Next in popularity was the coyote. From 1986-87 through 1990-91, 25.91% to 29.47% of the trappers in Illinois also hunted furbearers (Hubert 1987, 1988, 1989; Anderson et al. 1990, 1991). Sampson (1973) reported 33.6% of the trappers in Missouri were fur hunters. Obviously, there is much overlap between the user groups designated as fur trappers and fur hunters.

H. Observations of Badgers, River Otters, and Bobcats

Trappers participating in the survey were asked whether they accidentally trapped any badgers, saw a river otter or sign, and/or saw a bobcat or sign, during the past 3 years. Twenty-five trappers in 19 counties reported catching ≥ 1 badgers. The reports came from counties in the central and northwestern portions of Illinois (Fig. 12).

Forty trappers in 23 counties reported seeing river otter or sign. With the exception of the east-central region, the reports came from counties throughout the state (Fig. 13). Almost all of these counties were associated with riverine habitat.

Fifty-four trappers in 35 counties reported seeing a bobcat or sign. The reports came from throughout the state (Fig. 14).

I. Changes in Furbearer Populations

When asked to express their opinions of changes in furbearer

populations from 1992-93 to 1993-94, a majority (53.3%) of the active trappers thought that raccoon numbers had increased (Table 28). For the other four species considered, majorities or pluralities of the trappers who expressed opinions felt that the muskrat, beaver, and coyote populations were up, and the red fox population was down.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The present Illinois Furbearer Trapping Survey probably realizes its best use and reliability for furbearer management as an indicator of trends in trapping pressure, success, harvest, and recreation. Until 1990, this survey (formerly called "Trapper Harvest Survey") provided the only regional harvest data available for the trapped portion of the annual furbearer catch. Beginning with the 1990-91 season, a new survey, entitled "Illinois Fur Hunter/Trapper Survey", was created. Because the mailing list for this new survey was derived from purchasers of the Illinois Furbearer Stamp, it provided data for both fur hunter and fur trapper activities.

Both the Fur Hunter/Trapper Survey and the Furbearer Trapping Survey were conducted during the 1990-91 season in order to have a year of overlap in the two data sets for trapping activities. Because there was a high level of agreement between the two surveys (Anderson and Campbell 1992), the Furbearer Trapping Survey was discontinued. The Fur Hunter/Trapper Survey was continued through the 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons.

The creation of the Illinois Habitat Stamp in 1993 was accompanied by a decision to discontinue the Illinois Furbearer Stamp after the 1992 season. The Habitat Stamp is required for most people who take or attempt to take any game species in Illinois except waterfowl. Because of these changes, the Fur Hunter/Trapper Survey was replaced with two separate surveys: (1) the present Furbearer Trapping survey, which will be conducted annually and will sample purchasers of the resident trapping license, and (2) a Furbearer Hunter Survey, which will be conducted every 3-5 years and will sample purchasers of the Habitat Stamp who indicate on the stamp stub that they hunted furbearers during the previous year.

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DATA AND REPORTS:

Original data and reports in this investigation are on file in the Investigations and Surveys Program offices, Natural Resources Studies Annex, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

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DATE: 25 January 1995

APPROVED BY: 

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DATE: _____

8 February 1995

Table 1. Furbearer trapping seasons in Illinois, 1993-94.

Species	Trapping Seasons	
	Northern Zone	Southern Zone
Muskrat, mink, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, weasel	5 Nov - 3 Jan (60) ^a	15 Nov - 13 Jan (60)
Beaver	5 Nov - 31 Mar (147) ^b	15 Nov - 31 Mar (137)
Red fox, gray fox, coyote	15 Nov - 13 Jan (60)	15 Nov - 13 Jan (60)

^aNumbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

^bThose portions of Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 from Interstate 80 north to the JoDaviess county line were open to beaver trapping from 5 Nov. - 3 Jan. 1994 only.

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=675).

Species	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Percent of Licensed Trappers	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Percent Sold	Estimated Total Sold
Muskrat	1824	64.59	53.32	97259	96.04	93410
Mink	1100	38.96	4.07	4481	97.48	4368
Raccoon	2071	73.33	29.44	60961	95.61	58287
Opossum	1280	45.33	10.80	13827	79.58	11003
Red fox	527	18.67	3.65	1925	89.35	1720
Gray fox	176	6.22	2.00	351	95.24	335
Beaver	891	31.56	7.86	7004	76.58	5364
Skunk	439	15.56	3.69	1619	21.45	347
Weasel	38	1.33	1.00	38	77.78	29
Coyote	607	21.48	5.86	3556	86.35	3071

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=436).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	293 (16.1)	3.12	61.84	18111	192.69
Northeast Moraine	117 (6.4)	1.42	83.71	9807	118.55
Mississippi Border-North	100 (5.5)	1.28	37.25	3740	47.66
Mississippi Border-South	184 (10.1)	1.35	32.91	6058	44.30
Western Prairie/Forest	113 (6.2)	0.78	41.22	4656	32.29
Central Sand Prairie	46 (2.5)	1.11	89.55	4121	99.37
Grand Prairie	615 (33.7)	1.17	65.59	40339	76.65
Southern Plain	264 (14.4)	1.11	33.94	8945	37.70
Wabash Border	67 (3.7)	0.99	16.63	1113	16.51
Shawnee Hills	25 (1.4)	0.48	14.67	368	7.06
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	1824 (100.0)	1.25	53.32	97259	66.58

Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	163 (14.8)	1.74	2.87	469	4.99
Northeast Moraine	79 (7.2)	0.96	2.95	234	2.83
Mississippi Border-North	75 (6.8)	0.96	2.11	159	2.03
Mississippi Border-South	130 (11.8)	0.95	3.94	510	3.73
Western Prairie/Forest	54 (4.9)	0.38	6.85	372	2.58
Central Sand Prairie	33 (3.0)	0.81	3.75	126	3.03
Grand Prairie	372 (33.8)	0.71	4.51	1678	3.19
Southern Plain	146 (13.3)	0.62	5.46	799	3.37
Wabash Border	33 (3.0)	0.50	2.00	67	0.99
Shawnee Hills	13 (1.1)	0.24	5.33	67	1.28
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	1100 (100.0)	0.75	4.07	4481	3.07

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=495).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	310 (14.9)	3.29	30.61	9476	100.82
Northeast Moraine	130 (6.3)	1.57	21.42	2778	33.58
Mississippi Border-North	159 (7.7)	2.03	45.11	7171	91.37
Mississippi Border-South	234 (11.3)	1.71	21.86	5121	37.45
Western Prairie/Forest	138 (6.7)	0.96	50.30	6945	48.16
Central Sand Prairie	59 (2.8)	1.41	27.43	1607	38.74
Grand Prairie	623 (30.1)	1.18	27.31	17023	32.35
Southern Plain	297 (14.3)	1.25	29.51	8765	36.94
Wabash Border	84 (4.0)	1.24	19.20	1607	23.83
Shawnee Hills	38 (1.8)	0.72	12.44	469	8.98
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	2071 (100.0)	1.42	29.44	60961	41.73

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=306).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	192 (15.0)	2.05	10.02	1929	20.52
Northeast Moraine	84 (6.5)	1.01	8.55	715	8.65
Mississippi Border-North	75 (5.9)	0.96	10.50	791	10.08
Mississippi Border-South	146 (11.4)	1.07	9.71	1422	10.40
Western Prairie/Forest	79 (6.2)	0.55	13.21	1050	7.28
Central Sand Prairie	29 (2.3)	0.71	8.29	243	5.85
Grand Prairie	402 (31.4)	0.76	8.29	3330	6.33
Southern Plain	192 (15.0)	0.81	18.33	3527	14.86
Wabash Border	54 (4.2)	0.81	9.92	540	8.01
Shawnee Hills	25 (2.0)	0.48	11.17	280	5.37
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	1280 (100.0)	0.88	10.80	13827	9.47

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=126).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	54 (10.3)		0.58	1.85	100	1.07
Northeast Moraine	33 (6.3)		0.40	2.50	84	1.01
Mississippi Border-North	29 (5.6)		0.37	3.57	105	1.33
Mississippi Border-South	71 (13.5)		0.52	5.24	372	2.72
Western Prairie/Forest	29 (5.6)		0.20	3.14	92	0.64
Central Sand Prairie	17 (3.2)		0.40	1.00	17	0.40
Grand Prairie	142 (27.0)		0.27	4.44	632	1.20
Southern Plain	126 (23.8)		0.53	3.77	473	1.99
Wabash Border	8 (1.6)		0.12	2.00	17	0.25
Shawnee Hills	17 (3.2)		0.32	2.00	33	0.64
Unknown	0 (0.0)		..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	527 (100.0)		0.36	3.65	1925	1.32

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=42).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	0 (0.0)	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Northeast Moraine	13 (7.1)	0.15	1.33	17	0.20
Mississippi Border-North	0 (0.0)	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	33 (19.0)	0.24	3.38	113	0.83
Western Prairie/Forest	17 (9.5)	0.12	1.00	17	0.12
Central Sand Prairie	0 (0.0)	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Grand Prairie	33 (19.0)	0.06	1.25	42	0.08
Southern Plain	54 (31.0)	0.23	1.62	88	0.37
Wabash Border	8 (4.8)	0.12	1.00	8	0.12
Shawnee Hills	17 (9.5)	0.32	4.00	67	1.28
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	176 (100.0)	0.12	2.00	351	0.24

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=213).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	121 (13.6)		1.29	5.90	715	7.61
Northeast Moraine	100 (11.3)		1.21	8.21	824	9.96
Mississippi Border-North	59 (6.6)		0.75	4.57	268	3.41
Mississippi Border-South	54 (6.1)		0.40	4.38	238	1.74
Western Prairie/Forest	50 (5.6)		0.35	8.00	402	2.79
Central Sand Prairie	21 (2.3)		0.50	18.80	393	9.48
Grand Prairie	318 (35.7)		0.60	8.59	2732	5.19
Southern Plain	126 (14.1)		0.53	10.27	1289	5.43
Wabash Border	21 (2.3)		0.31	2.20	46	0.68
Shawnee Hills	21 (2.3)		0.40	4.60	96	1.84
Unknown	0 (0.0)		..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	891 (100.0)		0.61	7.86	7004	4.79

Table 10. Summary of skunk trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=105).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	63 (14.3)		0.67	4.13	259	2.76
Northeast Moraine	38 (8.6)		0.46	3.11	117	1.42
Mississippi Border-North	33 (7.6)		0.43	3.63	121	1.55
Mississippi Border-South	42 (9.5)		0.31	2.30	96	0.70
Western Prairie/Forest	29 (6.7)		0.20	5.00	146	1.02
Central Sand Prairie	13 (2.9)		0.30	4.67	59	1.41
Grand Prairie	167 (38.1)		0.32	3.95	661	1.26
Southern Plain	42 (9.5)		0.18	2.50	105	0.44
Wabash Border	4 (1.0)		0.06	1.00	4	0.06
Shawnee Hills	8 (1.9)		0.16	6.00	50	0.96
Unknown	0 (0.0)		..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	439 (100.0)		0.30	3.69	1619	1.11

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=9).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	8 (22.2)		0.09	1.00	8	0.09
Northeast Moraine	4 (11.1)		0.05	1.00	4	0.05
Mississippi Border-North	0 (0.0)		0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	0 (0.0)		0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Western Prairie/Forest	4 (11.1)		0.03	1.00	4	0.03
Central Sand Prairie	0 (0.0)		0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Grand Prairie	13 (33.3)		0.02	1.00	13	0.02
Southern Plain	4 (11.1)		0.02	1.00	4	0.02
Wabash Border	0 (0.0)		0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Shawnee Hills	4 (11.1)		0.08	1.00	4	0.08
Unknown	0 (0.0)		..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	38 (100.0)		0.03	1.00	38	0.03

Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=145).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	33 (5.5)	0.36	3.50	117	1.25
Northeast Moraine	29 (4.8)	0.35	3.86	113	1.37
Mississippi Border-North	42 (6.9)	0.53	9.50	397	5.06
Mississippi Border-South	92 (15.2)	0.67	4.09	377	2.75
Western Prairie/Forest	50 (8.3)	0.35	17.50	879	6.09
Central Sand Prairie	13 (2.1)	0.30	2.00	25	0.61
Grand Prairie	201 (33.1)	0.38	5.04	1012	1.92
Southern Plain	121 (20.0)	0.51	4.24	515	2.17
Wabash Border	13 (2.1)	0.19	3.67	46	0.68
Shawnee Hills	13 (2.1)	0.24	6.00	75	1.44
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	607 (100.0)	0.42	5.86	3556	2.43

Table 13. Statewide sample sizes for post-season mail survey of resident fur trappers in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=676).

Species	Number of Effective Trappers In Sample	Percent Effective Trappers	Season Harvest by Effective Trappers in Sample
Muskrat	436	64.50	23247
Mink	263	38.91	1071
Raccoon	495	73.22	14571
Opossum	306	45.27	3305
Red fox	126	18.64	460
Gray fox	42	6.21	84
Beaver	213	31.51	1674
Skunk	105	15.53	387
Weasel	9	1.33	9
Coyote	145	21.45	850

Table 14. Confidence intervals (95%) for estimated number of effective trappers, average season harvest, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=676).

Species	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Harvest
Muskrat	1824 +/- 104	53.32 +/- 8.65	97259 +/- 16782
Mink	1100 +/- 106	4.07 +/- 0.64	4481 +/- 883
Raccoon	2071 +/- 96	29.44 +/- 4.53	60961 +/- 9830
Opossum	1280 +/- 108	10.80 +/- 1.78	13827 +/- 2606
Red fox	527 +/- 85	3.65 +/- 0.91	1925 +/- 622
Gray fox	176 +/- 52	2.00 +/- 0.63	351 +/- 192
Beaver	891 +/- 101	7.86 +/- 1.33	7004 +/- 1481
Skunk	439 +/- 79	3.69 +/- 0.81	1619 +/- 512
Weasel	38 +/- 25	1.00 +/- 0.00	38 +/- 50
Coyote	607 +/- 89	5.86 +/- 1.48	3556 +/- 1091

Table 15. Distribution of furbearer harvest among effective trappers in Illinois, 1993-94 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Total Season Catch	Percentage of Effective Trappers									
	Muskrat (436)	Mink (263)	Raccoon (495)	Opossum (306)	Red fox (126)	Gray fox (42)	Beaver (213)	Striped skunk (105)	Weasel (9)	Coyote (145)
1	6.4	36.9	5.1	11.1	40.5	64.3	15.5	33.3	100.0	24.1
2	3.4	18.3	4.6	9.8	15.9	14.3	17.4	21.9	0.0	25.5
3	3.2	11.8	2.6	7.8	13.5	9.5	9.4	12.4	0.0	10.3
4	3.2	7.2	4.8	7.5	11.9	2.4	9.4	13.3	0.0	6.2
5	3.2	5.3	5.1	8.5	4.0	2.4	7.5	1.9	0.0	6.2
6	3.0	4.6	3.2	7.8	2.4	4.8	7.0	6.7	0.0	3.4
7	2.5	2.3	3.0	3.3	2.4	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.4
8	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.9	0.8	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	2.1
9	0.5	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.0	1.4	1.0	0.0	2.1
10	3.4	1.1	5.5	9.5	1.6	0.0	4.2	2.9	0.0	2.1
11	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.4
12	3.0	1.1	4.8	4.6	0.0	2.4	1.4	1.0	0.0	0.7
13	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
14	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	1.1	0.4	4.6	2.9	0.8	0.0	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.7
16-20	7.1	1.5	10.1	8.2	0.0	0.0	4.7	2.9	0.0	4.8
21-25	6.2	0.8	7.5	3.3	0.0	0.0	4.7	1.0	0.0	0.7
>25	48.2	1.5	31.3	8.2	2.4	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	3.4

Table 16. Summary of Muskrat trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=436).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	1205 (66.1)	1.47	64.99 +/- 12.45	78311 (80.5)	95.69
South Zone	619 (33.9)	0.96	30.60 +/- 6.51	18948 (19.5)	29.50
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	1824 (100.0)	1.25	53.32 +/- 8.91	97259	66.58

Table 17. Summary of Mink trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=263).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	728 (66.2)	0.89	3.90 +/- 0.76	2841 (63.4)	3.47
South Zone	372 (33.8)	0.58	4.40 +/- 1.19	1640 (36.6)	2.55
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	1100 (100.0)	0.75	4.07 +/- 0.64	4481	3.07

Table 18. Summary of Raccoon trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=495).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	1318 (63.6)	1.61	32.07 +/- 6.68	42260 (69.3)	51.64
South Zone	753 (36.4)	1.17	24.83 +/- 4.26	18701 (30.7)	29.11
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	2071 (100.0)	1.42	29.44 +/- 4.55	60961	41.73

Table 19. Summary of Opossum trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 (n=306).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	791 (61.8)	0.97	9.26 +/- 1.94	7321 (53.0)	8.95
South Zone	489 (38.2)	0.76	13.29 +/- 3.39	6506 (47.0)	10.13
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	1280 (100.0)	0.88	10.80 +/- 1.80	13827	9.47

Table 20. Summary of Red fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=126).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	272 (51.6)	0.33	3.12 +/- 1.10	849 (44.1)	1.04
South Zone	255 (48.4)	0.40	4.21 +/- 1.46	1075 (55.9)	1.67
Unknown	0 (0.0)	::	::	0	::
Statewide	527 (100.0)	0.36	3.65 +/- 0.91	1925	1.32

Table 21. Summary of Gray fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=42).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	46 (26.2)	0.06	1.09 +/- 0.18	50 (14.3)	0.06
South Zone	130 (73.8)	0.20	2.32 +/- 0.82	301 (85.7)	0.47
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	176 (100.0)	0.12	2.00 +/- 0.63	351	0.24

Table 22. Summary of Beaver trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=213).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	644 (72.3)	0.79	7.91 +/- 1.59	5096 (72.8)	6.23
South Zone	247 (27.7)	0.38	7.73 +/- 2.39	1908 (27.2)	2.97
Unknown	0 (0.0)	::	::	0	::
Statewide	891 (100.0)	0.61	7.86 +/- 1.33	7004	4.79

Table 23. Summary of Skunk trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=105).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	310 (70.5)	0.38	3.97 +/- 1.04	1230 (76.0)	1.50
South Zone	130 (29.5)	0.20	3.00 +/- 1.14	389 (24.0)	0.61
Unknown	0 (0.0)	::	::	0	::
Statewide	439 (100.0)	0.30	3.69 +/- 0.82	1619	1.11

Table 24. Summary of Weasel trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=9).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	25 (66.7)	0.03	1.00 +/- 0.00	25 (66.7)	0.03
South Zone	13 (33.3)	0.02	1.00 +/- 0.00	13 (33.3)	0.02
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	38 (100.0)	0.03	1.00 +/- 0.00	38	0.03

Table 25. Summary of Coyote trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n=145).

Area	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers	Estimated Number of Effective Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	326 (53.8)	0.40	6.41 +/- 2.40	2092 (58.8)	2.56
South Zone	280 (46.2)	0.44	5.22 +/- 1.56	1464 (41.2)	2.28
Unknown	0 (0.0)	..	..	0	..
Statewide	607 (100.0)	0.42	5.86 +/- 1.48	3556	2.43

Table 26. The number of pelts sold by trappers for 10 species of furbearers in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 565).

Species	Total Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	93,410	86,628	92.74	6,782	7.26
Mink	4,368	3,247	74.34	1,121	25.66
Raccoon	58,287	45,539	78.13	12,748	21.87
Opossum	11,003	9,526	86.58	1,477	13.42
Red fox	1,720	1,327	77.15	393	22.85
Gray fox	335	289	86.27	46	13.73
Beaver	5,364	3,812	71.07	1,552	28.93
Striped skunk	347	330	95.10	17	4.90
Weasel	29	29	100	0	0.00
Coyote	3,071	2,573	83.78	498	16.22
Total	177,934	153,300	86.16	24,634	13.84

Table 27. Summary of fur hunting activities by trappers' in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 675).

Species	Number of trappers in sample hunting species	Number of furbearers harvested by hunting	Average number harvested by hunting	Estimated percent of all trappers effectively hunting species	Estimated total harvest by all trappers effectively hunting species
Raccoon	120	2,394	19.95	17.78	10,016
Opossum	46	214	4.65	6.81	895
Red fox	18	63	3.50	2.67	264
Gray fox	5	14	2.80	0.74	59
Striped skunk	5	8	1.60	0.74	34
Coyote	79	588	7.44	11.70	2,460
All species	191 ^b	3,281	17.18	28.30	13,728

^aActive and inactive trappers.


^bTotal for all species is less than the sum of the above values because many trappers hunted >1 species.

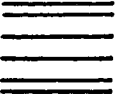
Table 28. Assessments by fur trappers^a as to changes in furbearer populations from 1992-93 to 1993-94. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Species		Percentage of Active Trappers			
		Up	Unchanged	Down	Don't Know
Muskrat	(571)	36.8	20.8	18.4	24.0
Raccoon	(572)	53.3	25.2	5.9	15.6
Red fox	(570)	13.9	17.3	22.1	46.7
Beaver	(570)	32.8	20.2	6.1	40.9
Coyote	(570)	37.9	17.4	6.8	37.9

^aActive trappers.

No Postage
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If Mailed in the
United States



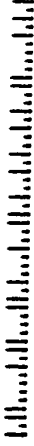


BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section

LOCALITY STREET FULL
 121 SOUTH SECOND STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704-9008



TO ISSUING CLERK:

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL
IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF
FIRST LICENSE IN BOOK**

The Department of Conservation is conducting a survey to estimate the fur harvest in Illinois. To effect this, we need the names and addresses of part of our licensed trappers. Please print at the bottom of this page, in the space provided, name, mailing address including zip code, and county of residence of the person who purchases the first license in this book. Please detach the next page and give to license purchaser.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please note reverse side is Business Reply postal card, perforated at binding for removing.

**MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF LICENSE
TRAPPING (1993 SERIES)
Please Print Plainly**

Name	TRAPPER JOHN
Street Address, R.R. and Box Number	RR 1, BOX 23
City and State	HOMETOWN
Zip Code	61234
County of Residence	SANGAMON

Figure 1. The name/address card that was issued to license vendors for conducting the 1993-94 post-season Fur Trapping Survey.

DETACH THIS PAGE AND GIVE TO
PERSON WHO PURCHASES FIRST
LICENSE IN BOOK

Dear Trapper:

Please keep an accurate record of the number of days you had traps set, the average number and kinds of traps you used during the season, the number of furbearers you caught in traps, what county you trapped in most, and the number and kinds of pelts you sold in Illinois and Out of State.

You may be one of the selected trappers contacted at the close of the trapping season and provided a form to return to the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Thanks for your cooperation.

THE BACK SIDE OF THIS CARD MAY BE USED FOR
RECORD KEEPING.

Number of TRAPS I had set: _____

Number of DAYS I had traps set: _____

FURBEARERS CAUGHT IN TRAPS: _____

Species	Total Number Caught	Number Sold	
		In Illinois	Out-of- State
Muskrat			
Mink			
Raccoon			
Opossum			
Beaver			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Striped Skunk			
Weasel			

Other Animals Caught: _____

Figure 2. Information/activity record card that was issued to trappers for conducting the 1993-94 post-season Fur Trapping Survey.

FURBEARER TRAPPING SURVEY

1993-94 SEASON



PART 1 - TRAPPING ACTIVITY

1. Did you SET ANY TRAPS for furbearers in Illinois during the 1993-94 season? (Circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes . . . 1

No . . . 2

If YES, continue with Question #2. If NO, go to Question #6.

2. In which COUNTY did you do MOST of your trapping? _____ County, Illinois
3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? _____ days (or nights)
4. What was the AVERAGE number of traps you had set on your trapline during the 1993-94 season?
_____ traps

PART 2 - HARVEST (TRAPPING ONLY)

5. Fill in ALL FOUR BLANKS for each kind of furbearer you TRAPPED in Illinois during the 1993-94 season. REPORT ONLY YOUR PERSONAL CATCH. If you trapped in partnership with another person, list only your half of the catch.

Species	Number CAUGHT in traps	Number SOLD in Illinois	Number SOLD or SHIPPED Out of State	Number NOT SOLD
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
Red fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gray fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Over)

Figure 3. The questionnaire used to conduct the 1993-94 post-season Fur Trapping Survey (continued).

PART 3 - FURBEARER POPULATIONS

6. Compared to 1992-93 (last season), were the populations of the following furbearers up, unchanged, or down during 1993-94 (this season)? (*Express your opinion by circling the appropriate number for each species*)

Species	Up	Unchanged	Down	Don't Know
Muskrat	1	2	3	4
Raccoon	1	2	3	4
Red fox	1	2	3	4
Beaver	1	2	3	4
Coyote	1	2	3	4

7. Did you accidentally trap any badgers in Illinois during the past three years (1990-1993)?

Yes . . . 1 No . . . 2 If yes, list county: _____

8. Have you seen a river otter or observed river otter sign in Illinois during the past three years?

Yes . . . 1 No . . . 2 If yes, list county: _____

9. Have you seen a bobcat or observed bobcat sign in Illinois during the past three years?

Yes . . . 1 No . . . 2 If yes, list county: _____

PART 4 - FURBEARER HUNTING

9. Did you also HUNT furbearers with a gun and/or dogs during the 1993-94 season?

Yes . . . 1 No . . . 2

If yes, please give the number of each kind taken:

_____ Raccoon _____ Red Fox _____ Skunk
 _____ Opossum _____ Gray Fox _____ Coyote

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED



Illinois Department of Conservation

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH • CHICAGO 60601

Brent Manning, Director

John W. Comerio, Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay, Assistant Director

March 1994

Dear Illinois Trapper:

The Department of Conservation conducts an annual survey of trappers to collect information about harvests, trapping success, and trapping pressure. We also ask for your opinions about furbearer populations in your area.

Results of the survey allow us to estimate the number of pelts taken by trappers, value of pelts taken by trappers, and distribution of harvest pressure. Estimates of trapping success, your opinions about furbearer populations, and observations of closed-season furbearers are used with other sources of information to track changes in furbearer numbers.

You can make an important contribution to management of Illinois' fur resources by completing the enclosed questionnaire. The questionnaire is short and self-explanatory. Your participation is important because you are part of a small, random sample of people who purchased a 1993-94 trapping license. Please reply even if you did not trap this season or were not successful.

If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate. Also, if you trapped in partnership with another person, list only your half of the catch. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required.

Thank you for participating in Illinois' furbearer management program. If you have comments on topics that are not addressed by this questionnaire, please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Bluett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Bluett
Furbearer Program Manager

BB:bb

Figure 4. The letter that accompanied the first mailing of the questionnaire.



Illinois Department of Conservation

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH • CHICAGO 60601

Brent Manning, Director

John W. Comerio, Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay, Assistant Director

Dear Illinois Trapper:

We recently mailed you a Trapper Harvest Survey questionnaire 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 the time to complete it and return it to us.

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

Please fill out the questionnaire and return it **even if you did not trap or were not successful**. If you trapped in partnership with another person, please list only your half of the catch. No postage is required to return the completed questionnaire. Simply fill it out and drop it in the mail.

Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Bluett".

Bob Bluett
Furbearer Program Manager

BB:bb

Figure 5. The letter that accompanied the second mailing of the questionnaire.



Illinois Department of Conservation

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH • CHICAGO 60601
Brent Manning, Director John W. Comerio, Deputy Director Bruce F. Clay, Assistant Director

May 1994

Dear Illinois Trapper:

This is to remind you that we would still like to receive your completed questionnaire regarding your trapping activities this past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this is very important information which only you can supply.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed. We hope that you will complete and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, simply destroy this one.

We are making a final effort to obtain your responses so that we may compile the information received from all cooperating trappers and prepare a report of our findings. Remember, your response is needed, even if you did not trap or had an unsuccessful season. Results of the survey allow us to estimate the number of pelts taken by trappers, value of pelts taken by trappers, and distribution of harvest pressure. Estimates of trapping success, your opinions about furbearer populations, and observations of closed-season furbearers are used with other sources of information to track changes in furbearer numbers.

No postage is required to return the questionnaire. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending your responses now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Bluett".

Bob Bluett
Furbearer Program Manager

BB:bb

Enc.

tsurvey.3

Figure 6. The letter that accompanied the third mailing of the questionnaire.

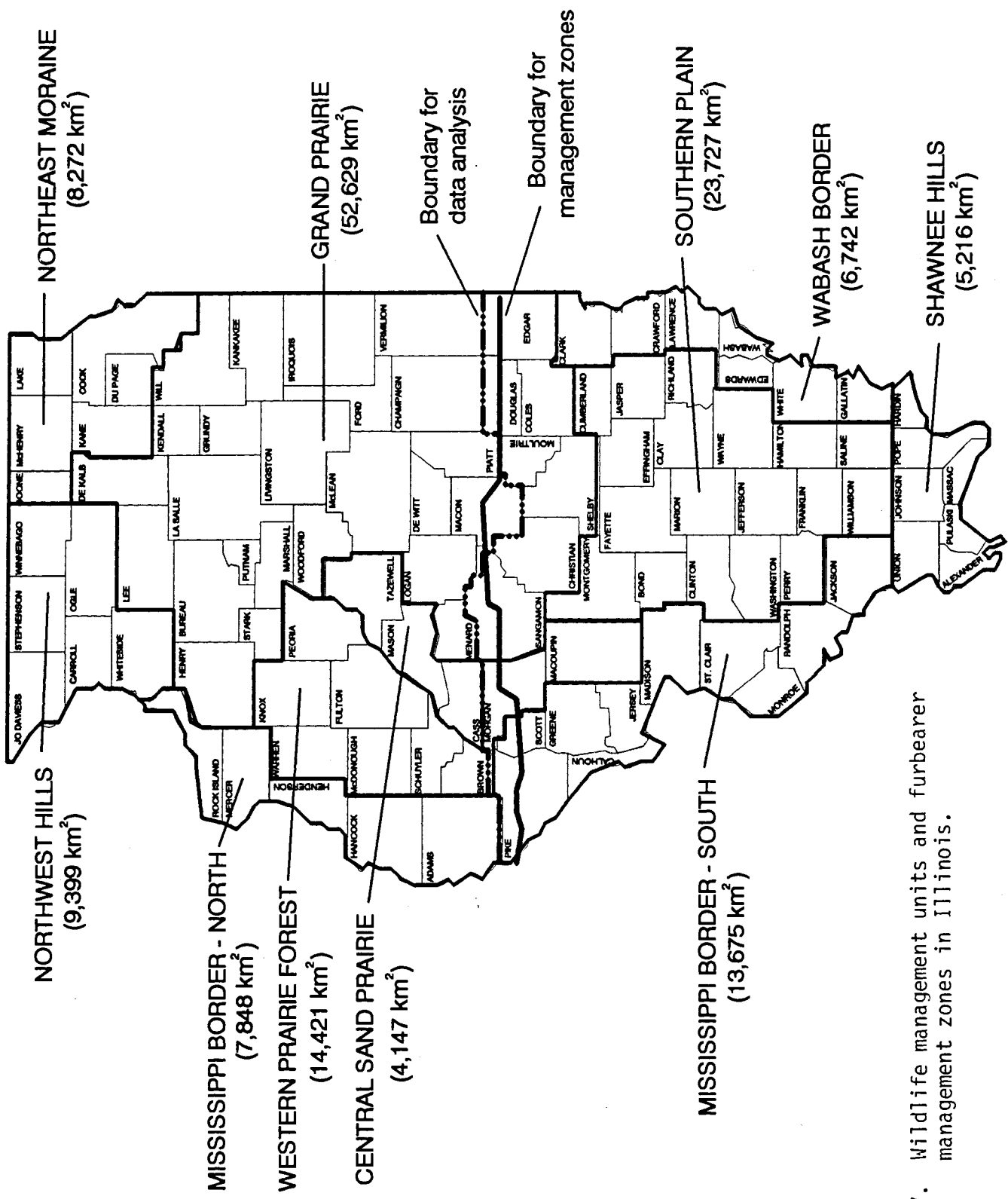


Figure 7. Wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Illinois.

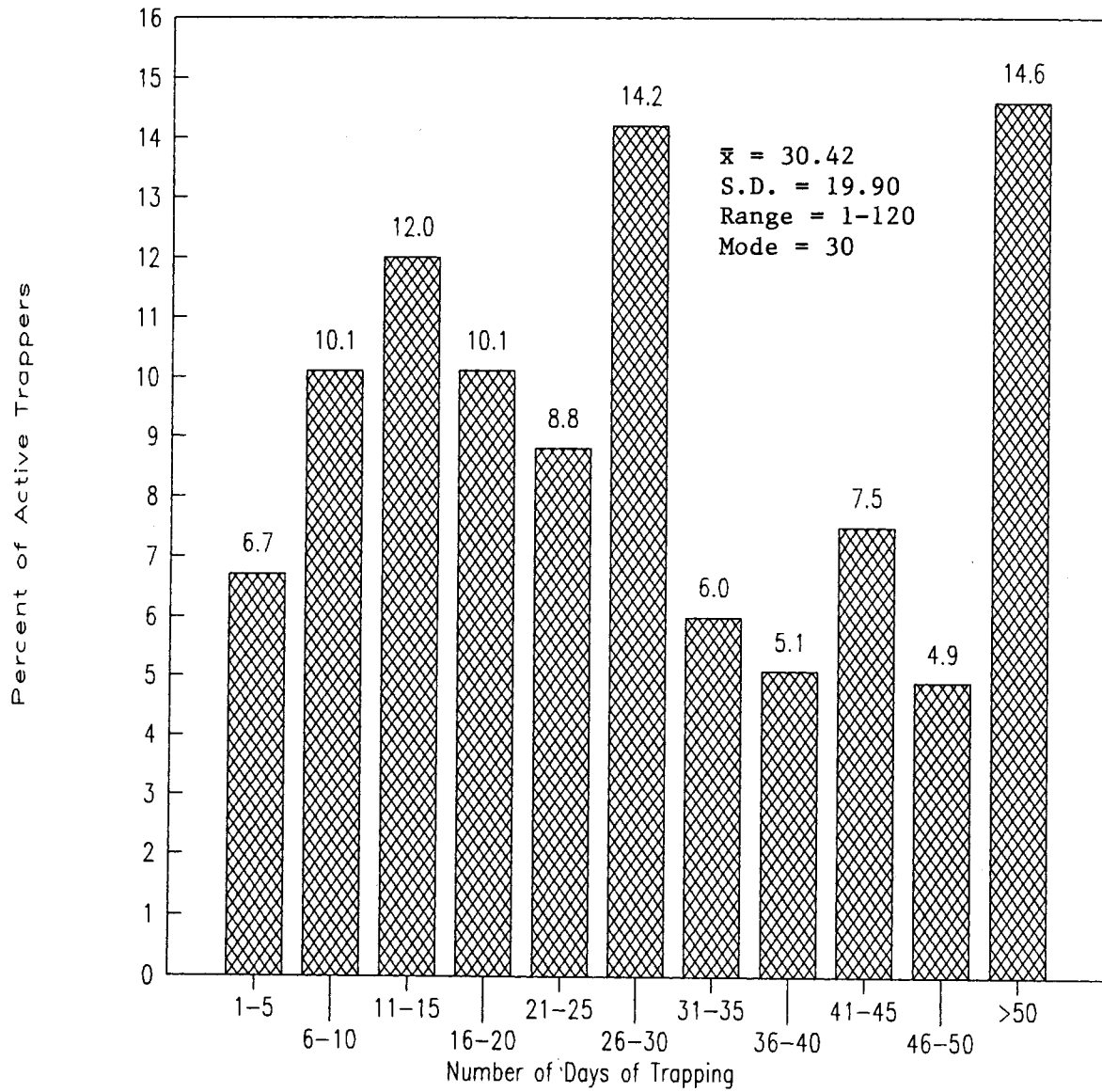


Figure 8. Distribution of days of trapping by active trappers in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 570).

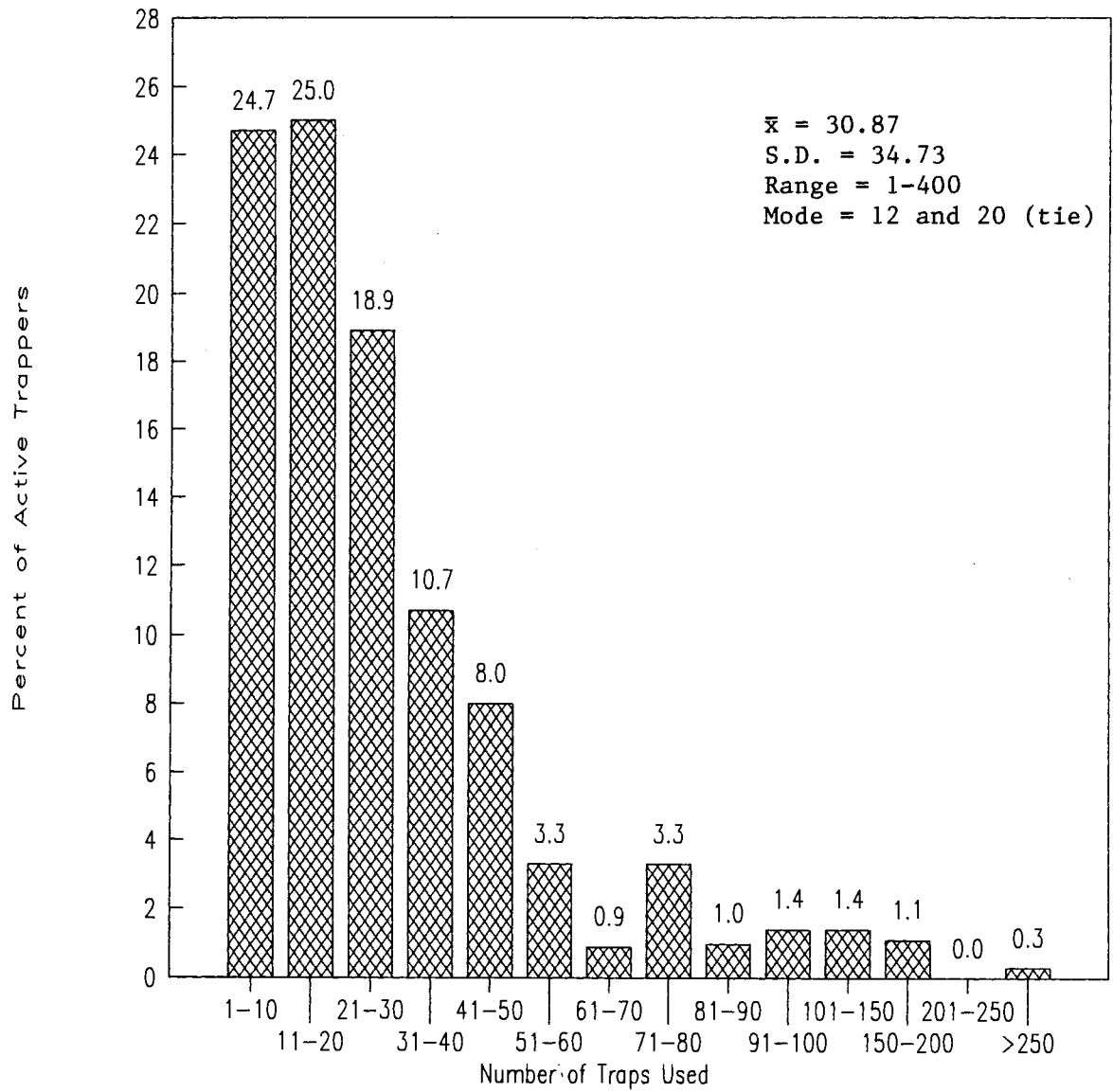


Figure 9. Distribution of the number of traps used by active trappers in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 576).

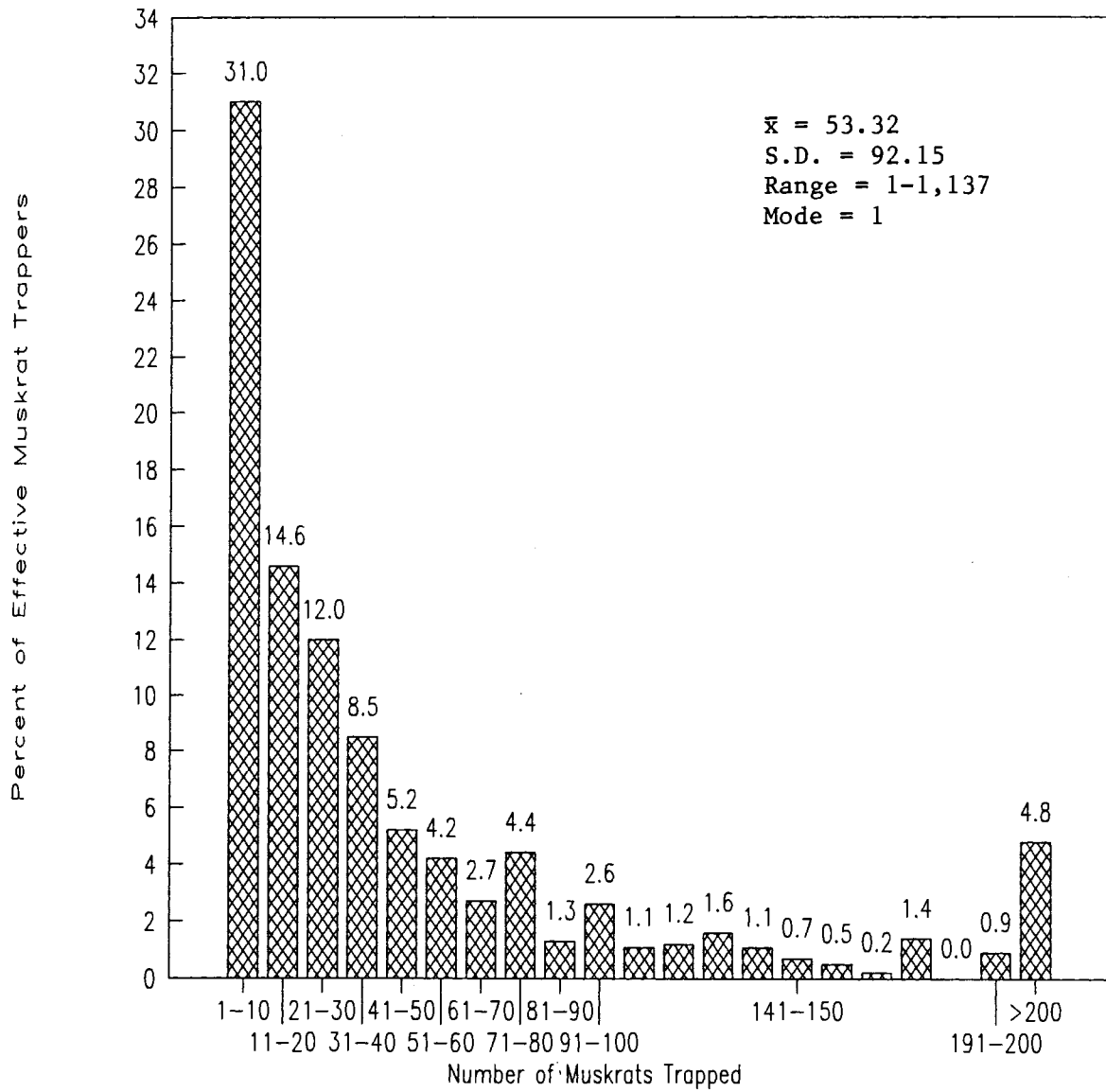


Figure 10. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapped per effective muskrat trapper in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 436).

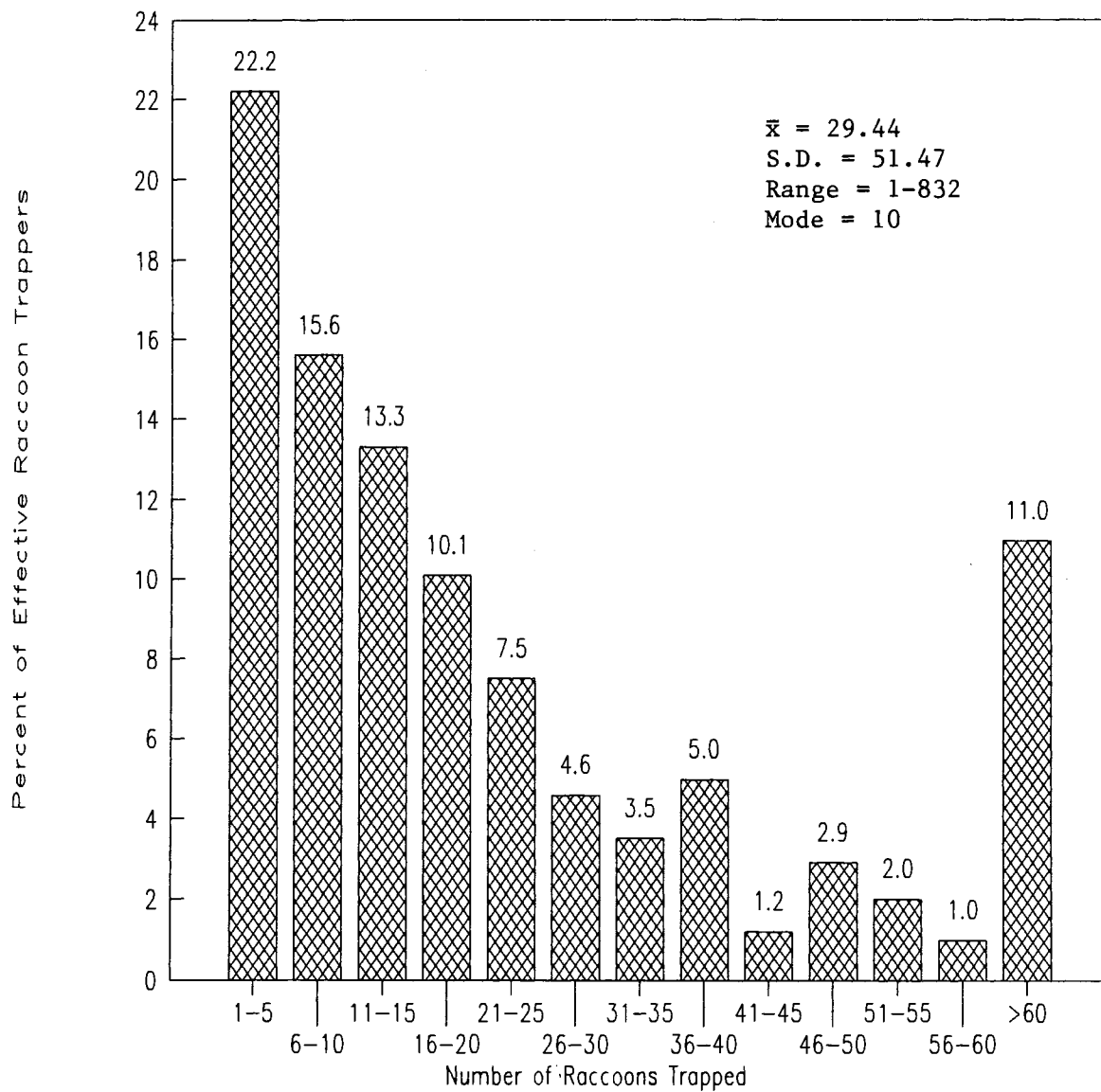


Figure 11. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per effective raccoon trapper in Illinois, 1993-94 season (n = 495).

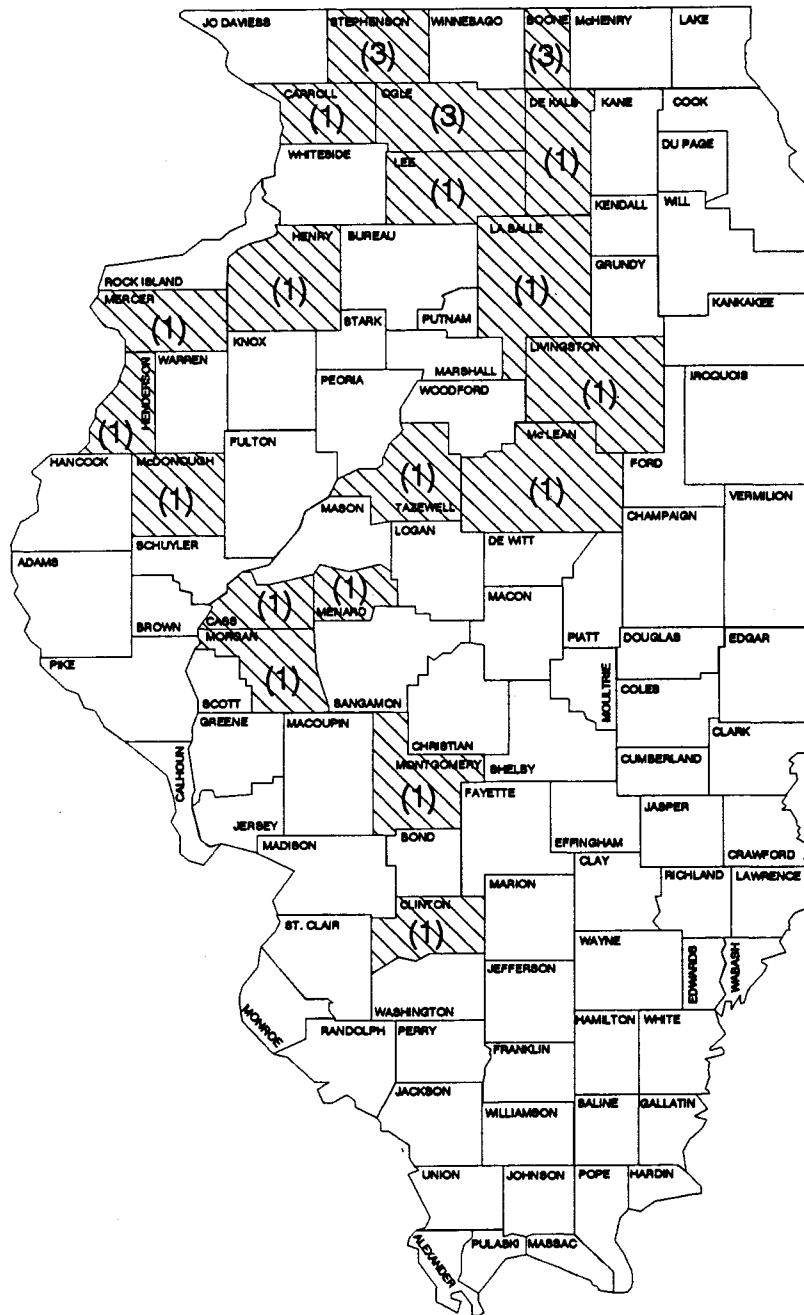


Figure 12. Illinois counties in which trappers reported accidentally catching badgers during the past three years (1990 - 1993). The number of reports for each county is in parentheses.

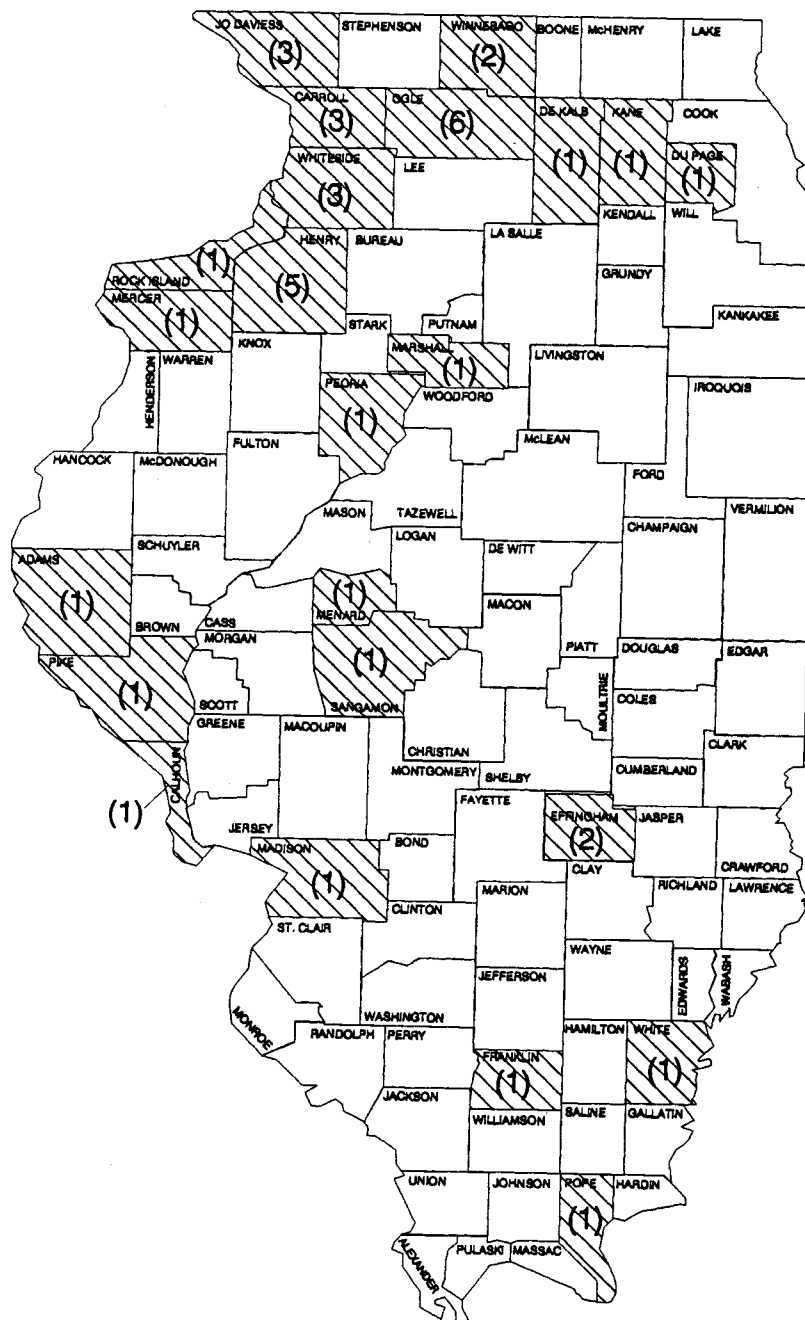


Figure 13. Illinois counties in which trappers reported observing river otters or their sign during the past three years (1990 - 1993). The number of reports for each county is in parentheses.

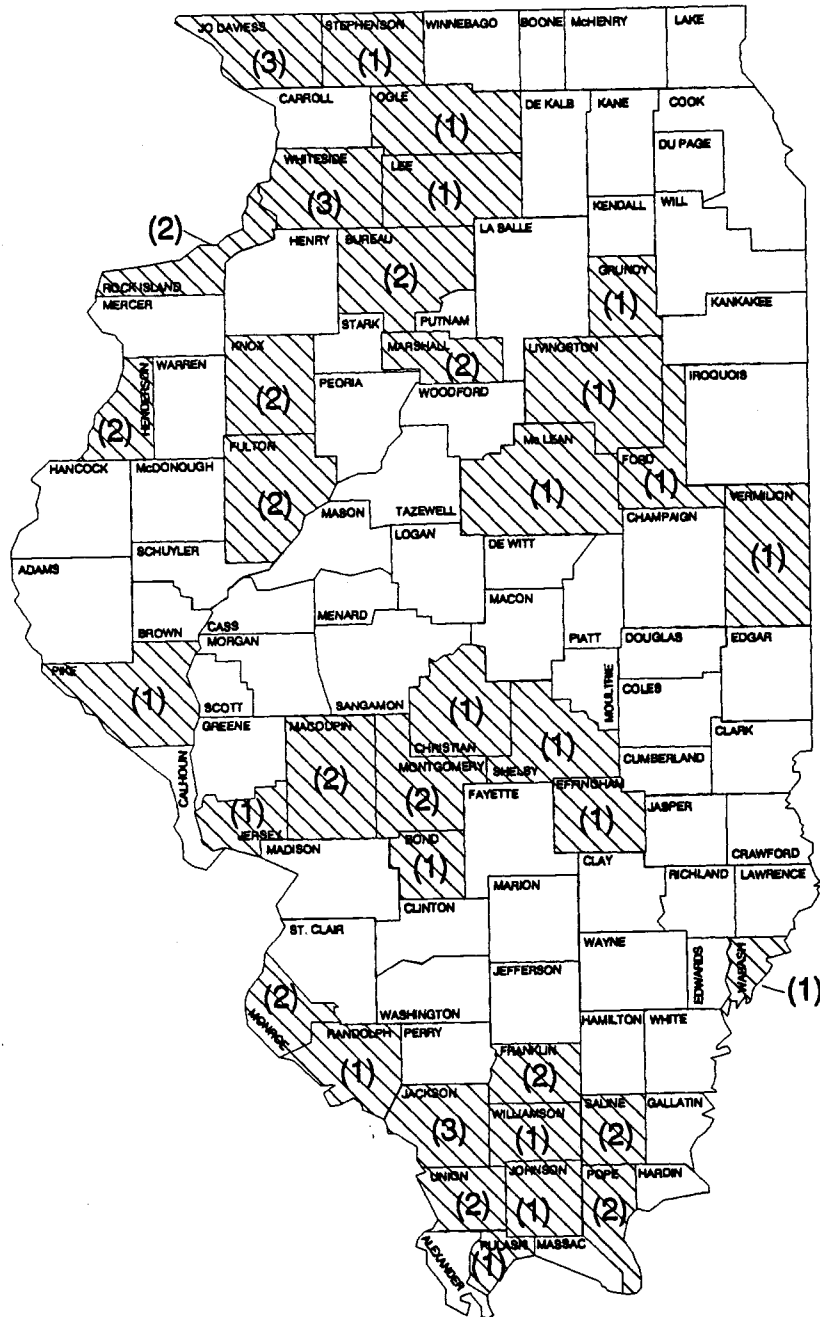


Figure 14. Illinois counties in which trappers reported observing bobcats or their sign during the past three years (1990 - 1993). The number of reports for each county is in parentheses.

