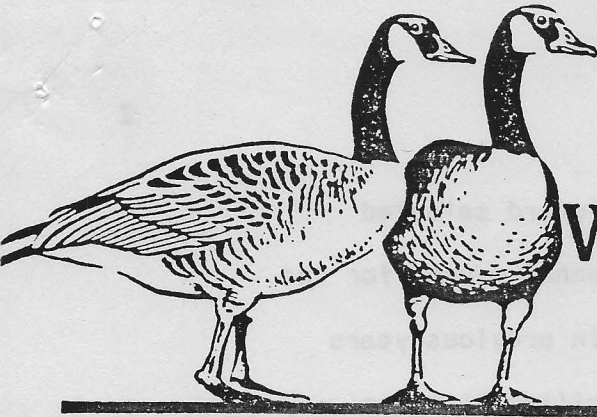


1986

PERIODIC REPORT NO. 60

15 June 1988 43pp



# WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HARVEST, HUNTER ACTIVITY, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD DUCK SEASON DATES, SHOOTING WOOD DUCKS, AND SEPTEMBER GIANT CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN 1986

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**Abstract:** Purchasers of the (1985) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp were sampled via mail-letter questionnaire to obtain information on waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward selected issues, during the 1986 season (59,734 stamps were sold in 1986). Of 2,550 respondents (70% response), 525 (21%) did not purchase a stamp again in 1986. Thus, the usable sample size was reduced to 2,025 respondents, 90% of which hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1986. An estimated 61,876 hunters (9% greater than in 1985) expended an estimated 887,446 days afield (27% greater than in 1985) and harvested an estimated 468,841 waterfowl (20% greater than in 1985). During the September teal season, 15,449 hunters spent 40,241 days afield and harvested 30,375 teal (4% greater than in 1985). During the regular duck season, 53,588 hunters expended 638,090 days afield and harvested 379,580 ducks (20% greater than in 1985) and 7,372 coots. "Casual" hunters ( $\leq 8$  days and  $\leq 4$  ducks) accounted for 45-50% of the total duck hunters, 16% of the total days afield, and 11% of the total duck harvest. "Intense" hunters ( $\geq 21$  days and  $\geq 17$  ducks) accounted for 11-15% of the duck hunters, 37% of the days afield, and 38% of the duck harvest. During an experimental September giant Canada goose season in 9 northeastern counties (Region 2), 3,106 hunters spent 8,824 days afield and harvested 1,677 Canada geese. During the regular goose season, 30,372 hunters devoted 200,291 days afield to harvest 45,535 Canada geese (20% greater than in 1985) and 48,160 total geese. The Canada goose harvest included 25,858 taken in the Southern Quota Zone, 5,657 taken in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 4,647 taken in the Tri-county Zone, and 4,125 taken in Region 2. Harvest in the latter averaged 458 Canada geese per county, which was within 1% of the statewide average for all 102 counties in the state. Majorities ( $\geq 50\%$ ) of the hunters favored having a September teal season, were satisfied with the dates for the September teal season, exhibited reluctance to shoot wood ducks, and in northern Illinois, were satisfied with the dates for the regular duck season. However, most hunters in southern portions of the state feel the dates for the regular duck season are too early. A plurality (37%) of the hunters in Region 2 prefer having the experimental September giant Canada goose season as late as possible, and a plurality (43%) believe this experimental season should not occur during the September teal season.

The purpose of this study was to collect information via mail questionnaire from a random sample of waterfowl hunters in Illinois following the 1986 hunting season. Data were obtained for waterfowl

harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes of hunters toward selected hunting regulations and other subjects. The questionnaire used for the 1986 season (Fig. 1) was similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987). The mailing list was developed from purchasers of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

Acknowledgement is made to D.D. Thornburg and R.A. Williamson for critically reading a preliminary draft of this report, and to E.A. Anderson for word processing. This study was funded in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-43-R, the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC), Illinois Natural History Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), cooperating. The FWS has no responsibility for the form and content of the data in this report or for the conclusions reached.

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods used to mail the 1986 Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Questionnaire and to process data from returned questionnaires were similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983). The questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Figs. 1 and 2) were mailed to 3,661 purchasers (3,264 residents and 397 non-residents) of the (1985) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp on 30 December 1986. Non-respondents were mailed 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 11 February and 19 March, respectively. As of 4 May 1987, 2,550 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 70%.

The mailing list for the 1986 questionnaire was developed by randomly selecting stubs from the sales of 30,000 of the (1985) Illinois Migratory

Waterfowl Stamps. Beginning in 1985, the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps were printed with matching (i.e., same I.D. numbers) stubs attached. The vendors were instructed to write each stamp purchaser's name and mailing address on the stub, and to return the stubs to the DOC Permit Office in Springfield. Persons on the mailing list were notified on 10 October 1986 that they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the hunting season. The notice included a form for keeping records of hunting activity and waterfowl harvested (Fig. 5).

Procedures used to estimate numbers of hunters, days afield, waterfowl harvested, cripples lost, and confidence intervals were described in the final report for the 1984 questionnaire (Anderson 1986). The 1986 estimates were based on a sales of 59,734 of the 1986 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps.

#### SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The duck hunting regulations employed in 1986 were the same as those used during the 1985 season, when restrictive regulations were adopted nationwide. The 1986 regulations permitted a 40-day season and a maximum of 5 ducks per day under the Point System (Fig. 6). For mallards, our most harvested species, the regulations allowed a maximum 3 per day. As directed by the FWS, the intent of the restrictive regulations in 1985 and 1986 was to reduce the nationwide duck harvest to no greater than 75% of what it would have been had the liberal regulations continued past 1984. For coots, the 1986 season was concurrent with the duck hunting season, and the daily bag limit was 15 birds. The early teal season was held on 13-21 September with a daily bag limit of 4 birds. For Canada geese, the season length was 40 days (20 days in 1985) for most of the

state, and the bag limit was 1 Canada goose per day. In the Tri-County Zone, Canada geese (mostly giants) were hunted for 25 days and the daily bag limit was 1 goose. In the Southern and Rend Lake Quota Zones, the season was 50 days or when 24,000 and 7,200 Canada geese, respectively, were harvested; the daily bag limit was 2 and 1 Canada geese. The FWS approved an experimental early Canada goose season for northeastern Illinois; it was held on 26-30 September and the bag limit was 2 geese per day. This early season was directed at local giant Canada geese, which are excessive in urban areas.

## FINDINGS

### Characteristics of Respondents

Of the 2,550 respondents to the questionnaire, 525 (21%) did not purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp again in 1986. Of the people who did not purchase a stamp, 90% chose not to do so because they did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois in 1986. They gave a variety of reasons for not hunting waterfowl (Table 1). Of the 2,025 respondents who purchased a 1986 stamp, 90% hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 1986 season.

### Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

An estimated 59,734 waterfowl hunters were active in Illinois during the 1986 season (Table 2). They spent an estimated 887,446 days afield and harvested an estimated 468,841 waterfowl. These estimates are 5, 27, and 20% greater, respectively, than those calculated for the 1985 season.

September Teal Season. An estimated 15,449 hunters attempted to take teal during the September teal season in Illinois in 1986 (Table 3). These hunters spent an estimated 40,241 days afield and harvested an estimated 30,375 teal. The success rate averaged 0.75 teal per day afield and 1.97 teal per hunter. There were more teal hunters (4,471), more days afield (11,846), and more teal harvested (10,950) in Region 3A than in any other region. Region 1B was 2nd in all 3 categories.

Compared to the 1985 season, the teal harvest increased 4%, teal per day afield decreased 6%, and teal per hunter decreased 7% in 1986 (Table 4). The FWS estimated that 18,100 teal (89.5% blue-winged and 10.5% green-winged) were harvested in Illinois during the 9-day season in September 1986, which is 6% less than the FWS estimate for September 1985 (Carney et al. 1987).

Regular Duck Season. An estimated 53,588 individuals hunted ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 (Table 5). In 638,090 days afield, these hunters harvested an estimated 379,580 ducks. There were more duck hunters (13,981), more days afield (189,095), and more ducks harvested (119,695) in Region 3A than in any other region. Region 1B was 2nd in all 3 categories. For the entire state in 1986, hunting success was 0.59 duck per day afield and 7.08 ducks per hunter. The duck harvest was 20% greater, ducks per day afield 4% greater, and ducks per hunter 15% greater in 1986 than in 1985 (Table 6).

Nearly one half (45%) of the duck hunters spent  $\leq 8$  days afield and accounted for 16% of all duck hunting activity in Illinois in 1986 (Table 7). Conversely, 15% of the hunters devoted  $\geq 21$  days to pursuing ducks

and accounted for 37% of the hunting activity. Similarly, 50% of the hunters harvested  $\leq 4$  ducks during the 1986 season and accounted for 11% of the total duck harvest in Illinois (Table 8). At the other extreme, 11% of the hunters harvested  $\geq 17$  ducks and accounted for 38% of the duck harvest.

The 379,580 ducks harvested in Illinois in 1986 included an estimated 201,676 mallards, 65,414 wood ducks, and 112,490 other ducks. In comparison, the FWS estimated that 140,740 mallards, 35,353 wood ducks, 103,374 other ducks, and 279,467 total ducks were harvested during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 (Carney et al. 1987). The FWS estimates indicate the duck harvest increased 9% in Illinois, did not change in the Mississippi Flyway, and decreased 2% in the United States, from 1985 to 1986 (Carney 1987).

Coot Harvest. The coot harvest, most of which is coincidental to duck hunting, was estimated at 7,372 birds in Illinois in 1986, 28% greater than the estimated harvest for 1985 (Tables 5 and 6). The FWS estimated the Illinois coot harvest at 5,018 birds for the 1986 season, down 16% from the FWS estimate for 1985 (Carney et al. 1987).

#### September Giant Canada Goose Season.

This experimental season, designed to exert hunting pressure on giant Canada geese that reside in northeastern Illinois (Region 2), resulted in an estimated harvest of 1,677 Canada geese (Table 9). An estimated 3,106 hunters spent 8,824 days afield during this early, 6 day season. Three counties (Kane, Lake and Will) accounted for  $\geq 50\%$  of the hunting activity and 66% of the harvest. Based on discriminant analysis

of physical measurements (n = 21 geese), the 1,677 geese harvested were 71% giant (resident) Canada geese and 29% interior (migrant) Canada geese (R.A. Williamson, pers. commun.).

Regular Goose Season. A total of 30,327 goose hunters was estimated to have been active during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1986, and they spent an estimated 200,291 days afield (Table 10). The Southern Quota Zone, located in Region 5, accounted for 62% of the goose hunters and 48% of the days afield. The Rend Lake Quota Zone, also in Region 5, accommodated 14% of the hunters and 13% of the days afield. The Tri-county Zone (in Fulton, Knox, and Henry counties) was responsible for 15% of the hunters and 12% of the days afield. The values for Region 2 were 9% and 9%, respectively.

There was an estimated 48,160 geese harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1986, which included 45,535 Canada geese and 2,625 other geese (Table 10). For Canada geese, the harvest increased 20% from 1985 to 1986 (Table 11). The FWS estimated that 48,874 Canada geese, 434 other geese, and 49,308 total geese were taken in the state in 1986 (Carney et al. 1987). This is 23% greater than the FWS estimate of total goose harvest in 1985 (Carney et al. 1987).

The Canada goose harvest in the Southern Quota Zone was tabulated at 25,858 birds during the 1986 season (Thornburg 1987b). This represents 57% of the statewide harvest of white-cheeked geese. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, an estimated 5,657 Canada geese (12% of the state's total harvest) were taken. This estimate is similar to the projected harvest (i.e., projected from the reported harvest on public hunting areas) of 5,834 Canada geese for the entire Rend Lake Quota Zone (Thornburg 1987a).

The Tri-county Zone was credited with a harvest of 4,647 Canada geese or 10% of the state's total. The other 9,373 Canada geese (21% of total) were harvested in the remainder of the state. These birds included an estimated 2,448 Canada geese taken in Region 2, 2,369 taken in Region 3A, and 2,052, taken in Region 1B. Almost one-half (42%) of the Canada geese harvested outside designated goose zones were taken coincidentally to duck hunting (Table 10).

Hunters had an overall success rate of 0.18 goose per day afield and 1.19 geese per hunter in 1986 (Table 10). This compares to a success of 0.32 goose per day afield and 1.55 geese per hunter in 1985. In the Southern Quota Zone, success was 0.20 and 1.05 geese, respectively, in 1986. Similarly, hunting success was 0.22 and 0.98 goose at Rend Lake, and 0.18 and 0.98 goose in the Tri-county Zone, and 0.12 and 0.78 goose in the remainder of the state.

During the 1982-1986 seasons, 13 counties (excluding designated zones) had a mean annual harvest of Canada geese that exceeded 200 birds per county (Table 12). These counties were Carroll (256) and Winnebago (210) in Region 1A; Mercer (347) in Region 1B; Cook (255), Kane (282), Lake (501), McHenry (292), and Will (347) in Region 2; Pike (437) in Region 3A; Madison (213), Randolph (379), and St. Clair (371) in Region 4; and Perry (288) in Region 5. Region 3B averaged only 17 Canada geese per county per year during the 5-year period.

#### Crippling Losses

Crippling losses were estimated at 145,283 ducks, 20,699 geese, and 2,770 coots in Illinois during the 1986 hunting season (Table 13). These estimates equate to 38.3 ducks, 41.5 geese, and 37.6 coots lost per 100



harvested. The crippling rates for ducks and geese were higher in 1986 than in previous years (Table 14). According to FWS harvest surveys, nationwide crippling rates have been lower in the 1980's than they were during the early 1970's (Table 15).

#### Attitudes and Opinions of Hunters

September Teal Season. Responses to Question #8 indicate that most (53%) hunters favor having a September teal season in Illinois (Table 16). Another 21% disfavor the season and 26% had no opinion regarding the subject. The over-all attitude toward the September teal season has not changed appreciably since 1982, when 48% of the hunters were in favor, 24% were not in favor, and 28% had no opinion.

Responses to Question #7 reveal that most (>50%) of the September teal hunters think that the dates for the season in Illinois in 1986 were about right (Table 16). This statement holds for all 3 waterfowl hunting zones and for all administrative regions except Region 5, where a plurality (44%) believe the dates were about right. Statewide, 20% of the teal hunters think the dates were too early, 11% believe the dates were too late, and 5% expressed no opinion.

Regular Duck Season. Responses to Question #21 suggest that 47% of the duck hunters occasionally shot wood ducks, and that 38% shoot woodies just as readily as other species of ducks (Table 17). Only 9% of the hunters stated that they never shoot wood ducks. For Comparison, 56% of the duck hunters reported harvesting  $\geq 1$  wood ducks in Illinois during the 1986 season.

Responses to Question #12 show that, statewide, duck hunters were about equally divided between those who think the dates for the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 were about right and those who think the dates were too early. However, when the data are examined relative to duck hunting zone and administrative region, a somewhat different picture emerges (Table 17). In the northern half of the state, most hunters think the dates were about right, whereas further south, most hunters believe the dates were too early. The attitude of southern hunters was no doubt influenced by the mild weather that characterized the 1986 duck season.

Experimental September Giant Canada Goose Season in Northeastern Illinois. Responses to Question #17 indicate that a plurality (37%) of the hunters in northeastern Illinois believe the experimental September Canada goose season in their area should not occur during the September teal season (Table 18). Another 26% believe the experimental goose season should occur during the September teal season, and the remaining 37% expressed no opinion about this subject.

Responses to Question #16 suggest that a plurality (43%) of the hunters prefer having the experimental Canada goose season during September 25-30 (Table 18). Another 24% opted for various dates between September 1 and 24, and the remaining 33% had no opinion.

Unsolicited Comments. Respondents to the 1986 questionnaire volunteered 927 unsolicited comments. The sentiments most frequently expressed were to the effect that the duck season (21.6% of comments) or the Canada goose season (11.7%) should occur later and/or should be

longer. Other comments included negative statements about steel shot (12.1%) and the September teal season (10.1%). Additional sentiments included support for a daily bag limit of 2 Canada geese statewide (5.8%), and opinions of the management and hunting regulations for various public hunting areas (5.5%)--the subject most frequently mentioned was the fluctuating water levels at Batchtown. Other comments were relative to the need for saving and/or increasing waterfowl habitat and public hunting areas (3.8%), having a poor duck season (2.9%), desire for splitting the duck season (2.4%), complimenting the DOC (2.3%), positives and negatives of the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois (2.3%), liberalizing the daily bag limit for ducks (1.9%), legalizing harvest of other species of ducks during the September teal season (1.7%), support for steel shot (1.5%), dissatisfaction with duck hunting zones (1.5%), need for more law enforcement (1.3%), and doubts as to whether lead poisoning is a problem in waterfowl populations (1.2%). The remaining comments (10.4%) dealt with 40 miscellaneous subjects. Three individuals advocated hunting ducks during spring migration.

## DISCUSSION

The duck season in Illinois, and in all other states in the Mississippi Flyway, was reduced from 50 days in 1984 to 40 days in 1985 and 1986. Similarly, the daily bag limit, as determined by the Point System, was reduced from a maximum of 10 ducks (including 4 mallards) to a maximum of 5 ducks (including 3 mallards). The intent of the restrictive regulations in 1985 and 1986 was to reduce the nationwide harvests of mallards and of total ducks by at least 25% of what the harvests would have been had stabilized (liberal) regulations continued

past 1984. The present study suggests that the harvests increased 11% for mallards and 7% for total ducks in Illinois, 1986 versus 1984 (Table 5). According to FWS harvest surveys (Carney et al. 1986 and 1987), the 1986 harvests (versus 1984) were reduced by 7% for mallards and 13% for total ducks in Illinois, by 13% for mallards and 27% for total ducks in the Mississippi Flyway, and by 14% for mallards and 25% for total ducks in the entire nation. Thus, the objective to reduce the harvests by 25% was achieved for total ducks in the Mississippi Flyway and in the entire nation. However, the reduction was not achieved for mallards or total ducks in Illinois, or for mallards in the Mississippi Flyway and in the entire nation. These findings are similar to those reported for the 1985 season (Anderson 1987), and they illustrate that the duck harvests in 1985 and 1986 were not as severely curtailed in Illinois as in most other states in the Mississippi Flyway.

The data in Tables 7 and 8 indicate that 45-50% of Illinois' duck hunters can be classified as "casual" in their activities--i.e., they spent  $\leq 8$  days afield and harvested  $\leq 4$  ducks in 1986. These hunters account for only 16% of the total days afield and 11% of the total duck harvest. At the other extreme, 11-15% of Illinois' duck hunters may be considered "intense" in their sport--i.e., they spent  $\geq 21$  days afield and harvested  $\geq 17$  ducks in 1986. These hunters account for 37% of the total days afield and 38% of the total duck harvest. Although less extreme, the adage that "10% of the fishermen catch 90% of the fish" has application to duck hunters.

The harvest of Canada geese increased by 9,236 birds (7,599 during regular goose season and 1,677 during experimental September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois) in 1986 (Tables 9 to 11). For

individual zones and regions, the Canada goose harvest increased 19% in the Southern Quota Zone, 36% in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 265% in the Tri-county Zone, and 36% in northeastern Illinois (Region 2). These increases are attributable to a 37% increase in the quota in the Southern Quota Zone (to 24,000 birds), a 20% increase in the number of days in the season in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (to 50 days) and Tri-county Zone (to 25 days), a 100% increase in the number of days in the remainder of the state (to 40 days), and approval by the FWS to conduct the 6-day experimental September giant Canada goose season in Region 2. The latter provided considerable recreation for hunters in northeastern Illinois--3,106 hunters expended 8,824 days afield to pursue giant Canada geese. With the addition of the September season, the 9 counties in Region 2 harvested an average of 458 Canada geese per county in 1986, which is within 1% of the statewide average of 463 geese in each of the 102 counties in the state.

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Table 1. Reasons that purchasers of the 1985 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp did not buy a stamp again in 1986 (n = 525).

Reason Given by Respondent	Percentage
Didn't Hunt Waterfowl in Illinois Because:	
No special reason, just didn't hunt	30.8
Didn't have time	20.4
Nonresident that didn't come to Illinois	7.6
Poor hunting conditions/scarcity of ducks	5.3
Health problems (personal and/or in family)	4.6
No place to hunt/lost lease	4.2
Moved to another state	2.5
Too expensive	2.3
Don't like steel shot	1.7
Quit duck hunting	1.5
Hunted other species	1.5
Flood water destroyed blind and/or area	1.3
Hunted in another state	1.1
Regulations too restrictive	1.0
7 miscellaneous reasons	3.8
	<hr/>
	89.6
Exempt due to age ( $\geq 65$ years)	2.7
Stamps were unavailable	0.7
Deceased	0.6
5 miscellaneous reasons	1.1
Reason not given	5.3

Table 2. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1986.

Year	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested <sup>a</sup>
1981	61,929	63,652	874,730	408,314
1982	57,691	58,766	795,807	386,992
1983	56,162	58,240	815,523	465,128
1984	55,250	56,533	748,390	412,655
1985	55,670	56,899	699,113	392,253
1986	59,734	61,876	887,446	468,841

<sup>a</sup> Teal, ducks, coots, and geese.



Table 3. Teal harvest and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the September teal season in Illinois in 1986 (n = 2,025).

Administrative Region <sup>a</sup>	Hunters		Days Afield		Teal		
	Number	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter
1A	968		2,569	2.65	2,190	0.85	2.26
1B	4,238		10,311	2.43	8,843	0.86	2.09
2	1,568		4,171	2.66	2,307	0.55	1.47
3A	4,471		11,846	2.65	10,950	0.92	2.45
3B	767		2,402	3.13	869	0.36	1.13
4	1,068		2,636	2.47	2,006	0.76	1.88
5	2,002		5,539	2.77	2,608	0.47	1.30
Unknown	367		767		602		
Entire State	15,449	25.0	40,241	2.60	30,375 <sup>c</sup>	0.75	1.97

<sup>a</sup> See Figure 7.

<sup>b</sup> Percent of all waterfowl hunters.

<sup>c</sup> The 95% confidence interval is 3,499.

Table 4. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 1986.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Teal
1981	14,802	38,586	22,946
1982	14,863	41,856	28,785
1983	13,295	39,475	29,355
1984	14,158	39,481	32,730
1985	13,852	36,521	29,260
1986	15,449	40,241	30,375

Table 5. Duck and coot harvest and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986. (n = 2,025).

Administrative Region <sup>a</sup>	Hunter		Days Afield		Ducks			
	Number	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter	Number of Coots
1A	3,237		34,202	10.57	18,690	0.55	5.77	251
1B	13,848		169,308	12.23	113,543	0.67	8.20	2,223
2	6,974		75,711	10.86	33,167	0.44	4.76	568
3A	13,981		189,095	13.53	119,695	0.63	8.56	970
3B	2,469		22,790	9.23	10,565	0.46	4.28	451
4	3,670		42,110	11.47	23,956	0.57	6.53	1,488
5	9,009		102,973	11.43	58,711	0.57	6.52	1,337
Unknown	400		1,901		1,253			84
Entire State	53,588	86.6	638,090	11.91	379,580 <sup>c,d</sup>	0.59	7.08	7,372 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> See Figure 7.

<sup>b</sup> Percent of all waterfowl hunters.

<sup>c</sup> The 95% confidence interval is 16,770.

<sup>d</sup> Includes 201,676 mallards, 65,414 wood ducks, and 112,490 other ducks.

<sup>e</sup> The 95% confidence interval is 1,946.

Table 6. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1981 through 1986.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Number of Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372

Table 7. Distribution of days afield relative to hunters who hunted various numbers of days during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 (n = 1,606 duck hunters.)

Days Afield Per Hunter	Percent of Days Afield		Percent of Hunters	
	Increment	Accumulative	Increment	Accumulative
1-4	5.4	5.4	24.9	24.9
5-8	11.0	16.4	20.5	45.4
9-12	14.8	31.2	16.6	62.0
13-16	14.5	45.7	11.7	73.7
17-20	17.5	63.2	10.8	84.5
21-30	24.8	88.0	11.5	96.0
31-40	11.3	99.3	3.8	99.8
> 40	0.7		0.2	100

Table 8. Distribution of the duck harvest relative to hunters who harvested various numbers of ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 (n = 1,606 duck hunters).

Ducks Harvested Per Hunter	Percent of Duck Harvest		Percent of Hunters	
	Increment	Accumulative	Increment	Accumulative
0	0.0	0.0	10.3	10.3
1-4	11.4	11.4	39.2	49.5
5-8	17.6	29.0	20.0	69.5
9-12	17.0	46.0	11.7	81.2
13-16	16.2	62.2	8.0	89.2
17-20	11.8	74.0	4.6	93.8
21-30	15.5	89.5	4.3	98.1
31-40	6.4	95.9	1.3	99.4
>40	4.1	100	0.6	100

Table 9. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, by county, during the experimental September giant Canada goose season in north-eastern Illinois in 1986.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese
Cook	220	577	60
DuPage	192	412	60
Grundy	220	687	121
Kane	467	1,402	229
Kankakee	165	467	85
Kendall	110	275	60
Lake	605	1,677	531
McHenry	357	1,045	97
Will	660	2,090	349
Unknown	110	192	85
Totals	3,106	8,824	1,677

Table 10. Goose harvest and hunter activity, by zones and administrative regions, during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1986 (n = 2,025).

Zone or Administrative Region <sup>a</sup>	Hunters		Days Afield		Geese					Per Day Afield <sup>c</sup>	Per Hunter
	Number	Percent <sup>b</sup>	Number	Per Hunter	Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese	Per Day Afield <sup>c</sup>			
Southern Quota Zone	18,774		96,241		25,858 (6,351) <sup>d</sup>	196 (30)	26,054 (6,381)	0.20	1.05		
Rend Lake Quota Zone	4,160		25,100		5,657 <sup>e</sup> (543)	377 (15)	6,034 (558)	0.22	1.32		
Tri-county Zone	4,436		24,653		4,647 (498)	287 (106)	4,934 (604)	0.18	0.98		
Remainder of State											
1A	1,032		7,289		1,071 (317)	15 (15)	1,086 (332)				
1B	1,719		7,840		2,052 (1,086)	136 (106)	2,188 (1,192)				
2	2,630		18,811		2,448 (804)	75 (17)	2,523 (821)				
3A	1,444		9,559		2,369 (1,222)	1,479 (513)	3,848 (1,735)				
3B	481		3,542		271 (60)	30 (0)	301 (60)				
4	172		1,479		166 (60)	15 (15)	181 (75)				
5 <sup>f</sup>	825		5,777		996 (407)	15 (15)	1,011 (422)				
Total	8,303		54,297		9,373 (3,956)	1,765 (681)	11,138 (4,637)	0.12	0.78		
Entire State	30,327	49.0	200,291		45,535 (11,348)	2,625 (832)	48,160 <sup>g</sup> (12,180)	0.18	1.19		

a See Figure 7.  
b Percent of waterfowl hunters.  
c Excludes geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.  
d Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting. The value for the Southern Quota Zone was much higher in 1986 than in previous years.  
e An estimated 52.3% (2,958) were taken on the public hunting area and 47.7% (2,699) were taken on private lands.  
f Excluding Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone.  
g The 95% confidence interval is 5,057.



Table 11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1981 through 1986.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302(6,312) <sup>a</sup>	3,082(1,719)	47,384(8,031)
1982	24,058	107,557	29,574(4,968)	1,499( 710)	31,073(5,678)
1983	26,199	124,639	31,395(4,325)	962( 577)	32,357(4,902)
1984	22,426	102,583	23,147(2,859)	1,675( 593)	24,822(3,452)
1985	22,160	105,792	37,976(5,248)	2,324( 753)	40,300(6,001)
1986	30,327	200,291	45,535(11,348)	2,625( 832)	48,160(12,180)

<sup>a</sup> Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

Table 12. Distribution of mean annual harvest of Canada geese among counties in Illinois during 1982-1986.

REGION 1A		REGION 1B		REGION 2		REGION 3A	
Boone	27	Bureau	119	Cook	255	Adams	100
Carroll	256	Henderson	164	DuPage	42	Brown	71
DeKalb	12	LaSalle	141	Grundy	181	Calhoun	103
JoDavies	0	McDonough	35	Kane	282	Cass	46
Lee	92	Marshall	65	Kankakee	56	Christian	36
Ogle	89	Mercer	347	Kendall	45	Greene	0
Stephenson	50	Peoria	44	Lake	501	Hancock	10
Whiteside	139	Putnam	93	McHenry	292	Jersey	55
Winnebago	210	Rock Island	75	Will	347	Logan	6
		Stark	25			Macoupin	69
Total	875	Tazewell	114	Total	2,001 <sup>a</sup>	Mason	168
		Warren	3			Menard	0
		Woodford	130			Mongomery	31
		Subtotal	1,355			Morgan	56
		Tri-county zone <sup>b</sup>	1,581			Pike	437
		Total	2,936			Sangamon	52
						Schuyler	15
						Scott	3
						Total	1,258
REGION 3B		REGION 4		REGION 5			
Champaign	32	Bond	47	Clay	4	Marion	0
Clark	0	Clinton	127	Crawford	14	Massac	4
Coles	4	Madison	213	Edwards	0	Perry	288
Cumberland	0	Monroe	48	Effingham	0	Pope	40
Dewitt	14	Randolph	379	Fayette	84	Pulaski	96
Douglas	8	St. Clair	371	Gallatin	0	Richland	0
Edgar	22	Washington	0	Hamilton	14	Saline	17
Ford	42			Hardin	0	Wabash	17
Iroquois	24	Total	1,185	Jasper	51	Wayne	30
Livingston	45			Johnson	33	White	39
McLean	10			Lawrence	8	Subtotal	739
Macon	25					Southern Quota	
Moultrie	4					Zone <sup>c</sup>	19,652
Platt	0					Rend Lake	
Shelby	3					Area <sup>d</sup>	4,604
Vermilion	42					Total	24,995
Total	275						

ENTIRE STATE 33,525

Table 12. Continued - page 2.

<sup>a</sup> Excludes 1,677 Canada geese harvested during the experimental giant Canada goose season in September 1986.

<sup>b</sup> In Fulton, Henry, and Knox counties, which accounted for 79.4, 13.9, and 6.7% of the harvest, respectively.

<sup>c</sup> Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.

<sup>d</sup> Franklin and Jefferson counties, which were designated as a quota zone in 1986.

Table 13. Number of ducks, geese and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) during the hunting seasons in Illinois in 1986 (n = 2,025).

Species	Cripples Lost	
	Number	Per 100 Birds Bagged
Ducks a	145,283 $\pm$ 11,876 b	38.3
Geese	20,699 $\pm$ 3,011	41.5
Coots	2,770 $\pm$ 1,450	37.6

a Regular duck season.

b 95% confidence interval.

Table 14. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) during the hunting seasons in Illinois in 1981-1986.

Year	Ducks		Geese		Coots	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
1981	104,216	30.8	12,573	26.5	1,717	34.7
1982	82,287	25.2	5,868	18.9	1,595	27.0
1983	96,907	24.0	7,627	23.6	2,947	28.1
1984	84,665	23.8	5,711	23.0	3,236	42.0
1985	100,191	31.6	15,918	39.5	2,357	40.8
1986	145,283	38.3	20,699	41.5	2,770	37.6

Table 15. Summary of the number of waterfowl that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) per 100 birds retrieved during the hunting seasons in the United States in 1971-1986. Data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Administrative Reports, 1973-1987.

Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots	All Species
1971	22.1	15.4	28.2	22.2
1972	22.4	15.5	29.6	22.3
1973	21.9	14.8	29.2	21.4
1974	21.5	14.3	29.1	21.2
1975	20.3	13.0	28.9	20.1
1976	19.4	14.2	26.8	19.3
1977	20.5	14.9	28.9	20.1
1978	20.2	15.7	29.0	20.1
1979	20.3	14.3	27.1	20.0
1980	19.2	12.9	30.9	18.8
1981	19.4	13.2	22.7	18.7
1982	19.2	15.2	27.7	18.9
1983	19.4	14.4	23.7	18.9
1984	19.5	14.2	30.4	19.1
1985	19.7	14.0	24.3	19.0
1986	20.1	15.7	32.5	20.3

Table 16. Attitudes of hunters toward having the September teal season and the dates for this season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

\*Responses to the question, "Do you favor or disfavor having the September teal season in Illinois?"

	(1,730)		
Favor	52.8%	± 2.4	a
Disfavor	20.8%	± 2.0	
No opinion	26.4%	± 2.1	

\*Responses to the question, "The dates for the September teal season in Illinois were September 13-21. What is your opinion of these dates?"

Responses by Duck Hunting Zones <sup>b</sup>

	<u>Northern</u> (71) <sup>c</sup>	<u>Central</u> (297)	<u>Southern</u> (89)	<u>Entire State</u> (457)		
Too early	15.5%	17.2%	30.3%	19.5%	± 3.7	a
Too late	9.9%	10.1%	12.4%	10.5%	± 2.9	
About right	69.0%	68.0%	50.6%	64.8%	± 4.5	
No opinion	5.6%	4.7%	6.7%	5.2%	± 2.1	

Responses by Administrative Regions <sup>b</sup>

	<u>1A</u> (29) <sup>c</sup>	<u>1B</u> (123)	<u>2</u> (47)	<u>3A</u> (133)	<u>3B</u> (23)	<u>4</u> (32)	<u>5</u> (59)
Too early	13.8%	13.8%	19.1%	15.0%	26.1%	43.8%	30.5%
Too late	17.2%	9.8%	8.5%	9.0%	17.4%	0.0%	15.3%
About right	65.5%	73.2%	66.0%	69.9%	52.2%	56.2%	44.1%
No opinion	3.5%	4.2%	6.4%	6.0%	4.3%	0.0%	10.2%

a The 95% confidence interval.

b See Figure 7.

c Respondents who hunted  $\geq 1$  days during the September teal season in Illinois in 1986.

Table 17. Attitudes of hunters toward shooting wood ducks and the dates for the regular duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

\*Responses to the question, "What is your personal attitude toward shooting wood ducks in Illinois?"

	(1,425) a	
I never shoot wood ducks	9.3%	± 1.5 b
I occasionally shoot wood ducks	46.7%	± 2.6
I shoot wood ducks just as readily as other ducks	37.5%	± 2.6
I prefer shooting wood ducks to other ducks	1.5%	± 0.6
I shoot wood ducks only	0.1%	± 0.2
No opinion	4.9%	± 1.1

\*Responses to the question, "The dates for the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 were October 15–November 23 (Northern Zone), October 23–December 1 (Central Zone), and October 30–December 8 (Southern Zone). What is your opinion of the dates for the county in which you hunted most?"

	Responses by Duck Hunting Zones c			Entire State (1,589)	
	Northern (247) a	Central (999)	Southern (343)		
Too early	31.2%	45.2%	61.8%	46.6%	± 2.5 b
Too late	7.3%	4.8%	1.7%	4.5%	± 1.0
About right	58.3%	47.0%	34.4%	46.1%	± 2.5
No opinion	3.2%	3.0%	2.1%	2.8%	± 0.8

	Responses by Administrative Regions c						
	1A (96) a	1B (409)	2 (208)	3A (415)	3B (74)	4 (108)	5 (268)
Too early	37.5%	31.8%	35.6%	55.9%	39.2%	52.8%	67.9%
Too late	9.4%	5.9%	7.7%	1.9%	9.5%	2.8%	1.5%
About right	52.1%	59.7%	52.9%	39.3%	44.6%	43.5%	29.1%
No opinion	1.0%	2.6%	3.8%	2.9%	6.7%	0.9%	1.5%

a Respondents who hunted  $\geq 1$  days during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986.

b The 95% confidence interval.

c See Figure 7.



Table 18. Attitudes of hunters toward the dates for the experimental September giant Canada Goose season in northeastern Illinois (Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

\*Responses to the question, "Do you think that the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois should or should not occur during the September teal season?"

	(302) a	
Should occur during September teal season	26.2%	± 5.1 b
Should not occur during September teal season	37.1%	± 5.6
No opinion	36.7%	± 5.5

\*Responses to the question, "What dates in September do you prefer for the September Canada Goose season in northeastern Illinois?"

	(279) a	
September 1-6	2.2%	± 1.8 b
September 7-12	3.6%	± 2.2
September 13-18	9.0%	± 3.4
September 19-24	9.6%	± 3.5
September 25-30	42.6%	± 5.4
No opinion	33.0%	± 5.6

a Respondents who reside in northeastern Illinois.

b The 95% confidence interval.

1986 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out the questionnaire on the following pages for your waterfowl hunting activities during the 1986 season.

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois in 1986, answer the first four questions and return this form.

The questionnaire is divided into six segments: General Information, September Teal Season, Regular Duck Season, September Canada Goose Season in Northeastern Illinois, Regular Goose Season, and Other Topics.

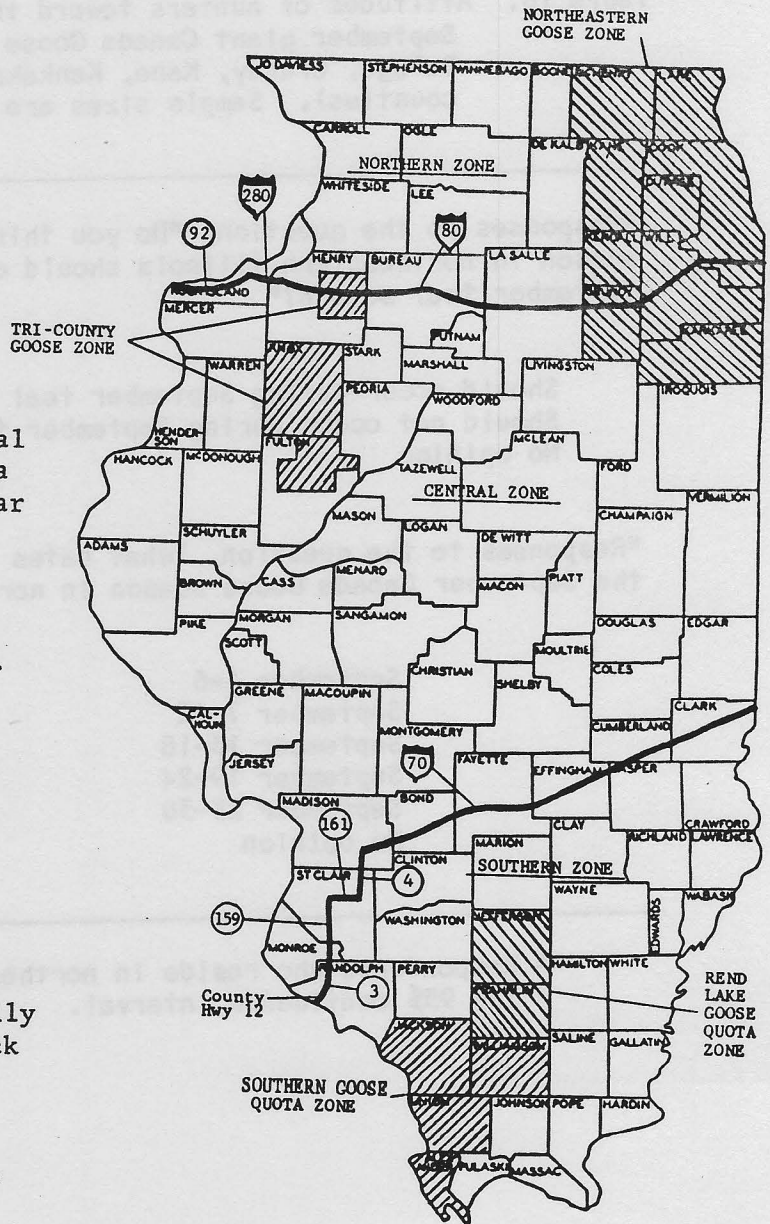
Report only your kill. DO NOT report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted.

Write in the number of days on which you hunted ducks and the number of days on which you hunted geese. Include your unsuccessful days.

If you hunted both ducks and geese at the same time, count the day toward your primary target -- that is, primarily ducks or primarily geese. DO NOT count the hunt as a day of duck hunting and also as a day of goose hunting.

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

When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed envelope and mail. Postage is prepaid.



Your comments are welcome but please write them on the separate paper provided to receive proper attention

Thank you for your cooperation

POSTAGE IS PREPAID

POSTAGE IS PREPAID

Figure 1. The 1986 Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Questionnaire.

Figure 1 - continued.

1986 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE  
(see instructions on first page)

Numbers at right are for official use only
--

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. How many 1986 Federal (United States) Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps did you purchase for your personal use? . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10
2. How many 1986 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamps did you purchase for your personal use? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 11-12
3. If you did not purchase a 1986 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp, give reason: \_\_\_\_\_ 13-14
4. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1986 season?  
(circle appropriate answer)                      Yes.....1                      No.....2                      15

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

5. How many different days did you hunt teal during the September teal season in Illinois in 1986? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 16
6. How many teal did you personally harvest during the September teal season in Illinois in 1986? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 17-18
7. The dates for the September teal season in Illinois were September 13-21. What is your opinion of these dates? (circle appropriate answer)  
  
Too early...1      Too late...2      About right...3      No opinion...4                      19
8. Do you favor or disfavor having the September teal season in Illinois?  
(circle appropriate answer)  
  
Favor.....1      Disfavor.....2      No opinion.....3                      20

REGULAR DUCK SEASON

9. How many different days did you hunt ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 21-22
10. In which county did you hunt ducks most during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986? . . . . . Name of county \_\_\_\_\_ 23-25
11. List the number of ducks and coots you personally harvested during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986. DO NOT include teal killed during the September teal season or birds killed in other states or countries.

I personally killed and retrieved:	I knocked down in sight but could not retrieve:		
Mallards _____		26-28	
Wood Ducks _____	Ducks _____	29-31	38-40
Other Ducks _____		32-34	
Coots _____	Coots _____	35-37	41-43

(continued on following page)

12. The dates for the regular duck season in Illinois in 1986 were October 15-November 23 (Northern Zone), October 23-December 1 (Central Zone), and October 30-December 8 (Southern Zone). What is your opinion of the dates for the county in which you hunted most? (circle appropriate answer)

Too early...1      Too late...2      About right...3      No opinion...4      44

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

13. How many different days did you hunt Canada geese during the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1986? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 45

14. In which county did you hunt Canada geese most during the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1986? . . .County \_\_\_\_\_ 46-47

15. How many Canada geese did you personally harvest during the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1986? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 48-49

16. What dates in September do you prefer for the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois? (circle most appropriate answer)

*September 1-6.....1	*September 19-24.....4	50
*September 7-12.....2	*September 25-30.....5	
*September 13-18.....3	*No opinion.....6	

17. Do you think that the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois should or should not occur during the September teal season? (circle most appropriate answer)

*Should occur during September teal season . . . . .	.1	51
*Should not occur during September teal season . . . . .	.2	
*No opinion. . . . .	.3	

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON

18. List the number of days you hunted geese and the number of geese you personally harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1986. DO NOT include Canada geese killed during the September Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois. NOTE: If the geese were killed coincidental to your duck hunting, leave the number of days blank.

	Days	Canada Geese	Other Geese	
*In Southern Quota Zone (see map).....				52-57
*In Rend Lake Quota Zone (see map)....				58-63
*In Tri-County Zone (see map).....				64-69
*Other areas (write in name of each county): a. _____				70-78
b. _____				79-87
c. _____				88-96

19. Of the Canada geese you harvested in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, how many did you take on:

*The Rend Lake Public Hunt Area.....	_____	97-98
*Private Land.....	_____	99-100

(continued on following page)

20. How many geese did you knock down in sight but neither you nor anyone else could retrieve? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 101-103

OTHER TOPICS

21. What is your personal attitude toward shooting wood ducks in Illinois?  
(circle most appropriate answer)

- \*I never shoot wood ducks. . . . . 1
- \*I occasionally shoot wood ducks when other ducks are not present. . . 2
- \*I shoot wood ducks just as readily as other ducks . . . . . 3
- \*I prefer shooting wood ducks to other ducks . . . . . 4      104
- \*I shoot wood ducks only . . . . . 5
- \*No opinion. . . . . 6

Thank you for your cooperation

105-107

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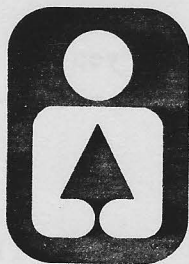
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1986 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE  
(see instructions on first page)

The Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, The Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1984 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217)782-7616.

Figure 1. Continued - page 4.

Illinois



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

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

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

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is vital to the management of our waterfowl resources: (1) to safeguard waterfowl populations, (2) to grant maximum waterfowl 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 waterfowl populations. These statistics include distribution of total harvest, number of hunters, and hunting success.

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

Please take a few minutes and fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate.

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MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Waterfowl Hunting Questionnaire, and requested that you fill out and return it as soon as possible. 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 to us. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. The information supplied by you and other waterfowl hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Conservation Department in better directing the management of Illinois' waterfowl resources.

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

Postage is prepaid for returning the completed questionnaire. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

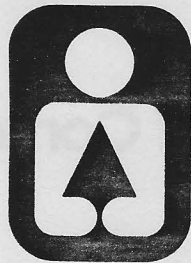
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. H. Moak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James H. Moak, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing (first follow-up) of the questionnaire.

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MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report of your waterfowl hunting activities for the past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this information is very important which only you can supply.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed. We hope you will complete it and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. Your response is needed--even though you did not hunt waterfowl or had an unsuccessful season.

Postage is prepaid for returning the questionnaire. Just fill it out and drop in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending your questionnaire now. Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Jim Moak, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

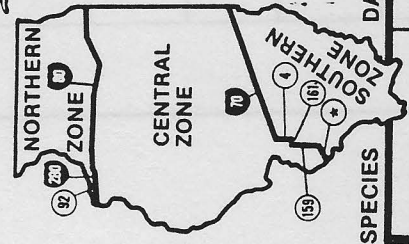
Figure 4. The letter that accompanied the third mailing (second follow-up) of the questionnaire.







# 1986 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION



SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Ducks	Oct. 15-Nov. 23, 1986 (North) Oct. 23-Dec. 1, 1986 (Central) Oct. 30-Dec. 8, 1986 (South)	Half hour before sunrise to sunset	See Section on Point System	30
Coots			15	
Blue, Snow, White-Fronted Geese & Brant			5, only 1 Canada goose and 2 white-fronted geese.	10, only 4 Canada geese and 4 white-fronted geese.
Canada Geese (All areas except those listed below)	Oct. 15-Nov. 23, 1986 (North) Oct. 23-Dec. 1, 1986 (Central) Oct. 30-Dec. 8, 1986 (South)	Half hour before sunrise to sunset		
Canada Geese (Tri-County Zone)	Oct. 23-Nov. 16, 1986			
All Geese (Rend Lake Quota Zone)	Nov. 12-Dec. 31, 1986 or when quota of 7,200 Canada geese is reached	Half hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.		
All Geese (Southern Illinois Quota Zone)	Nov. 17, 1986-Jan. 5, 1987, or when quota of 24,000 Canada geese is reached	Sunrise to 3 p.m.	5, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese.	
Canada Geese (Northeastern Illinois Canada Goose Zone)	Sept. 25-Sept. 30, 1986 (Special Season in addition to those above)	Half hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4

\* Modoc Ferry, route to Randolph County Hwy. 12 to Illinois-3 to Illinois -159.

## SPECIAL GOOSE ZONES

Tri-County Zone: Fulton (Buckheart, Canton, Cass, Deerfield, Fairview, Farmington, Joshua, Orion, and Putnam Townships, and that portion of Banner Township bounded on the north by Illinois-9 and on the east by US-24), Henry (Alba, Annawan, Atkinson, and Cornwall Townships), and Knox Counties  
 Southern Illinois Quota Zone: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson Counties  
 Rend Lake Quota Zone: Franklin and Jefferson Counties  
 Northeastern Illinois Canada Goose Zone: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties

**NONTOXIC SHOT ZONES** — Refer to 1986 Waterfowl Hunting Information brochure for complete listing and description of zones.

## LICENSES, STAMPS, AND PERMITS

Hunters must have a current, valid license and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. Please refer to 1986 Illinois Hunting & Trapping Information brochure for exemptions and further information.  
 Public Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit ..... Duck \$ 6.00  
 Goose \$15.00

## POINT SYSTEM

Canvasbacks may not be hunted. Bag limits on ducks are established by the Point System. Point values are:  
 100 Points — Black duck, mallard hen.  
 70 Points — Redhead, wood duck, hooded merganser.  
 35 Points — Mallard drake, ringneck, pintail, all other species not listed in other point categories.  
 20 Points — Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, gadwall, shoveler, scaup, wigeon, all other mergansers except hooded.  
 The daily bag limit is reached when the point value equals or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit cannot exceed two days' bag limits.

## GOOSE LIMITS

The daily bag limit of geese is five per day, which may not include more than two Canada geese or their subspecies in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone or one Canada goose or its subspecies outside this zone, and two white-fronted geese. The possession limit is ten, which may not include more than four Canada geese or subspecies, and four white-fronted geese.

Refer to the 1986 Waterfowl Hunting Information brochure for a summary of State and Federal regulations. NOTE: Each hunter should also consult Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, and Chapter 61 of the Illinois Revised Statutes for a complete listing of regulations, or talk with a local Conservation Police Officer.

## Target Illinois Poachers — If you see a violation report it. Call toll free 1-800-252-0163.

Illinois Department of Conservation • Division of Wildlife Resources  
 Lincoln Tower Plaza • 524 S. 2nd Street • Springfield, IL 62706 • 217/782-6384  
The Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs, services, or activities. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Illinois Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1984 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217) 782-1816.

TEAL SEASON: September 13-21. Shooting hours 7 am-4 pm. Daily bag limit 4 blue-winged teal and/or green-winged teal.

Figure 6. Waterfowl hunting regulations in Illinois in 1986.

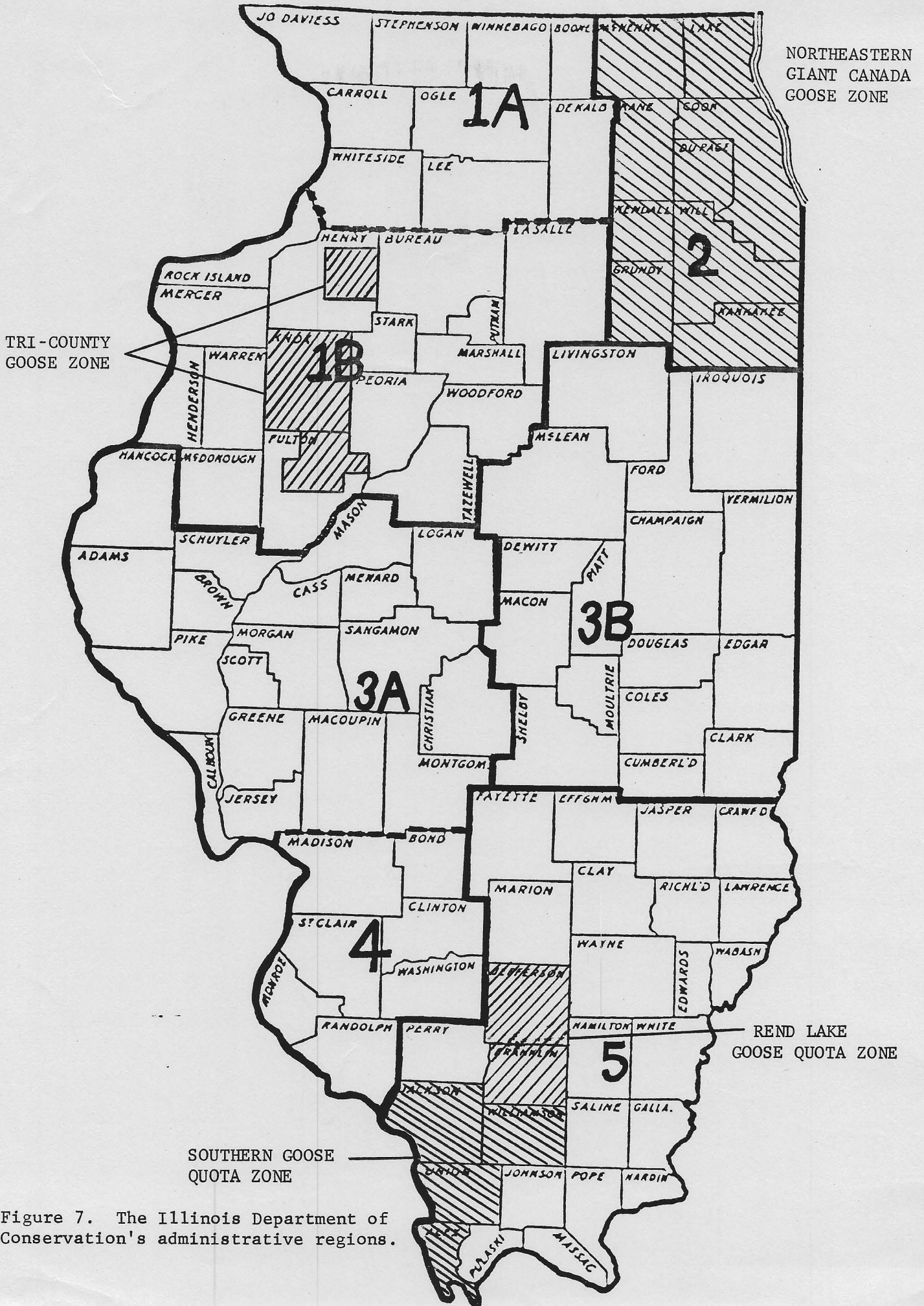


Figure 7. The Illinois Department of Conservation's administrative regions.

WESTERN  
MOUNTAIN  
CROSSING  
CROSSING



WESTERN  
MOUNTAIN  
CROSSING

WESTERN  
MOUNTAIN  
CROSSING

Figure 1. The Illinois Department of  
Conservation's administrative regions.