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WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HARVEST, HUNTER ACTIVITY, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD SHOOTING
HEN MALLARDS, LEGAL SHOOTING TIME, POINT SYSTEM, AND SEASON DATES IN 1988

William L. Anderson, Investigations and Surveys Program

Robert A. Williamson, Waterfowl Program

Abstract: Purchasers of the (1987) 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 1988 season (57,848 stamps were sold in 1988). Of 3,007 respondents (74% response), 752 (25%) did not purchase a stamp again in 1988. Thus, the sample size was reduced to 2,255 respondents, 87% of which hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1988. An estimated 57,796 hunters (4% less than in 1987) expended an estimated 695,845 days afield (15% less than in 1987) and harvested an estimated 277,743 waterfowl (22% less than in 1987). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended the September teal season for 1988. During the regular duck season, 46,748 hunters expended 413,046 days afield and harvested 200,830 ducks (31% less than in 1987) and 2,093 coots. During an experimental September giant Canada goose season in 9 northeastern counties (Region 2), 4,246 hunters spent 11,181 days afield and harvested 2,270 Canada geese. For this experimental season, 79% of the hunting occurred before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m., and the 1st and 2nd goose (in a daily bag limit of 5) accounted for 87% of the harvest. During the regular goose season, 37,258 hunters devoted 271,451 days afield to harvest 72,550 Canada geese (101% greater than in 1987) and 74,382 total geese. The Canada goose harvest included 39,332 (6% greater than quota) taken in the Southern Quota Zone, 9,236 (17% less than quota) taken in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 6,708 taken in the Tir-County Zone, and 5,095 taken in Region 2. Harvest in the latter (regular season and September season combined) averaged 818 Canada geese per county, or 10% greater than the statewide average for all 102 counties. Majorities (or pluralities) of the duck hunters thought the restrictive hunting regulations in 1988 were about right, liked the dates for opening the season, liked the Conventional System for determining the daily bag limit, and disliked the sunrise shooting time.

The purpose of this study was to collect information via mail questionnaire from a systematic sample of waterfowl hunters in Illinois following the 1988 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 1988 season (Fig. 1) was similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989). The mailing list was developed from the names of purchasers of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

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METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods used to mail the 1988 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 4,077 purchasers (3,681 residents and 396 non-residents) of the (1987) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp on 6 January 1989. Non-respondents were mailed 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 10

February and again on 16 March, respectively. As of 17 May 1989, 3,007 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 74%.

The mailing list for the 1988 questionnaire was developed by systematically selecting stubs from the sales of 40,000 of the (1987) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. The stamps are printed with matching (i.e., same I.D. numbers) stubs attached. Vendors are 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 via letter postmarked 10 November 1988 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 1988 estimates were based on a sales of 57,848 of the 1988 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The duck hunting regulations employed in 1988 were more restrictive than those used during the 3 previous years. The 1988 regulations permitted a 30-day season, a bag limit of 3 ducks (2 mallards) per day using the Conventional System, and sunrise shooting (Table 5). In contrast, the regulations in 1985-1987 included a 40-day season, a maximum bag limit of 5 ducks (3

mallards) per day using the Point System, and 1/2 hour before sunrise shooting time. As directed by the FWS, the intent of the restrictions in 1988 was to reduce the nationwide duck harvest to no greater than 75% of what it would have been had the 1985-1987 regulations continued for another year. The FWS also suspended the September teal season for 1988.

For Canada geese, the season length was 50 days (40 days in 1987) for most of the state, and the bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day (same as in 1987). In the Tri-County Zone, Canada geese (mostly giants) were hunted for 50 days and the daily bag limit was 2 geese. In the Southern and Rend Lake Quota Zones, the season was 50 days or when 37,000 and 11,100 Canada geese, respectively, were harvested; the daily bag limit was 2 Canada geese in both zones.

The FWS approved an experimental early Canada goose season for 9 counties in northeastern Illinois for 1987-1989. This hunting effort was directed at local giant Canada geese, which are excessive in urban areas. As specified by the FWS, this early season was held on 1-10 September, and the bag limit was 5 geese per day.

FINDINGS

Characteristics of Respondents

Of the 3,007 respondents to the questionnaire, 752 (25%) did not purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp again in 1988. Of the 2,255 respondents who did purchase a 1988 stamp, 87% hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 1988 season.

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

An estimated 57,796 waterfowl hunters were active in Illinois during the 1988 season (Table 1). They spent an estimated 695,845 days afield and harvested an estimated 277,743 waterfowl. These estimates are 4, 15, and 22% less, respectively, than those calculated for the 1987 season.

September Teal Season. The FWS suspended the September teal season in Illinois and in all other states for 1988.

Regular Duck Season. An estimated 46,748 individuals hunted ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988 (Table 2). In 413,046 days afield, these hunters harvested an estimated 200,830 ducks. There were more duck hunters (11,491), more days afield (118,278), and more ducks harvested (65,000) in Region 3A than in any other region. Region 1B was 2nd in all 3 categories. For the entire state in 1988, hunting success was 0.49 duck per day afield and 4.30 ducks per hunter. The duck harvest was 31% less, ducks per day afield 6% less, and ducks per hunter 23% less in 1988 than in 1987 (Table 3).

The 200,830 ducks harvested in Illinois in 1988 included an estimated 128,837 mallards, 25,674 wood ducks, and 46,319 other ducks. In comparison, the FWS estimated that 79,432 mallards, 9,705 wood ducks, 23,055 other ducks, and 112,192 total ducks were harvested during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988 (Martin et al. 1989). The FWS estimates indicate that duck harvest decreased 49% in Illinois, 52% in the Mississippi Flyway, and 50%

in the United States, from 1987 to 1988 (Martin et al. 1989).

Coot Harvest. The coot harvest, most of which is coincidental to duck hunting, was estimated at 2,093 birds in Illinois in 1988, 22% less than the estimated harvest for 1987 (Tables 2 and 3). The FWS estimated the Illinois coot harvest at 338 birds for the 1988 season, down 78% from that agency's estimate for 1987 (Martin et al. 1989).

September Giant Canada Goose Season. This experimental 10-day (1-10 September 1988) season, approved by the FWS to exert hunting pressure on giant Canada geese that reside in northeastern Illinois (Fig. 7), resulted in an estimated harvest of 2,270 Canada geese (Table 4). An estimated 4,246 hunters spent 11,181 days afield during this early season. During the same 10 days in 1987, an estimated 5,283 hunters expended 15,425 days afield and harvested 1,660 Canada geese. In 1988, 3 counties (DuPage, McHenry, and Will) accounted for 50% of the days afield and 59% of the harvest. Most (79%) of the hunting occurred from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 10 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to sunset (Table 5).

Responses to question #13 indicated that 87% of the Canada geese harvested during the September season in 1988 were taken by hunters who shot 1 or 2 birds per day (Table 6). The 3rd, 4th, and 5th goose, as allowed in the daily bag, contributed little to the total harvest of Canada geese during this experimental season. These data support similar findings reported by hunters for the giant Canada goose season in September 1987.

Regular Goose Season. A total of 37,258 goose hunters was estimated to have been active during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1988, and they spent an estimated 271,451 days afield (Table 7). The Southern Quota Zone, located in Region 5, accounted for 56% of the goose hunters and 48% of the days afield. The Rend Lake Quota Zone, also in Region 5, accommodated 16% of the hunters and 13% of the days afield. The Tri-County Zone (in Fulton, Knox, and Henry counties) was responsible for 11% of the hunters and 12% of the days afield. The values for Region 2 were 10% and 9%, respectively.

There was an estimated 74,382 geese harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1988, which included 72,550 Canada geese and 1,832 other geese (Table 8). For Canada geese, the harvest increased 101% from 1987 to 1988 (Table 7). The total harvest (regular season plus September season) in 1988 included 74,820 Canada geese (98% greater than in 1987) and 76,652 geese of all species (95% greater than in 1987). The FWS estimated that 64,890 Canada geese, 0 other geese, and 64,890 total geese were taken in the state in 1988 (Martin et al. 1989).

The Canada goose harvest in the Southern Quota Zone was tabulated at 39,332 birds during the 1988 season (D.D. Thornburg, pers. commun.). This represents 54% of the statewide harvest of white-cheeked geese during the regular goose season. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, an estimated 9,236 Canada geese (13% of state's total harvest) were taken. This estimate is 22% less than the projected harvest (i.e., projected from the reported harvest on

public hunting areas) of 11,874 Canada geese for the entire Rend Lake Quota Zone (D.D. Thornburg. per. commun.). The Tri-County Zone was credited with a harvest of 6,708 Canada geese or 9% of the state's total. The other 17,274 Canada geese (24% of total) were harvested in the remainder of the state. These birds included an estimated 5,095 Canada geese taken in Region 2, 2,967 taken in Region 3A, and 2,722 taken in Region 1B. One-fifth (20%) of the Canada geese harvested outside designated goose zones were taken coincidentally to duck hunting (Table 7).

Hunters had an overall success rate of 0.26 goose per day afield and 1.88 geese per hunter during the regular goose season in 1988 (Table 7). This compares to a success of 0.15 goose per day afield and 1.04 geese per hunter in 1987. In the Southern Quota Zone, success was 0.31 and 1.90 geese, respectively, in 1988. Similarly, hunting success was 0.27 and 1.59 geese at Rend Lake, 0.22 and 1.60 geese in the Tri-County Zone, and 0.19 and 1.13 geese in the remainder of the state.

Crippling Losses. Crippling losses were estimated at 71,211 ducks, 24,578 geese, and 1,103 coots in Illinois during the 1988 hunting season (Table 9). These estimates equate to 35.5 ducks, 33.0 geese, and 52.7 coots lost per 100 harvested. The crippling rates, as reported by hunters via the Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Questionnaire, were higher in 1988 than during the early 1980's. Nationwide crippling rates during the 1988 season, as measured by hunter questionnaire surveys conducted by the FWS, were similar to the rates that prevailed in the 1950's and 1960's (Table 11).

Attitudes and Opinions of Hunters

Duck Hunting Regulations. Responses to question #8 indicate that Illinois hunters slightly preferred the Conventional System (47%) over the Point System (42%) for determining the daily bag limit of ducks (Table 12). This finding was unexpected because the Point System had been used for 17 years prior to resurrection of the Conventional System in 1988. The state's duck hunters apparently adjusted to the Conventional System very quickly in 1988.

Responses to question #9 suggest that hunters were evenly divided as to whether the regular duck season should begin on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday) or on a weekday (Table 12).

According to responses to question #10, hunters strongly preferred beginning legal shooting time 1/2 hour before sunrise (65%) over sunrise (33%) (Table 12).

Also, according to responses to question #11, hunters strongly preferred opening the duck season on a date different from the opening of the upland game season (Table 12). 62% of the respondents favored a different date compared to 18% who wanted to open the duck season on the same date as the upland game season.

Finally, responses to question #19 indicated that most hunters (54%) felt that the restrictive duck hunting regulations in 1988 were about right, given the condition of the continental duck population (Table 12). 29% of the respondents thought the regulations were too restrictive and 12% believed they were too liberal.

Shooting Hen Mallards. Responses to question #7 indicated that 22% of the duck hunters never shoot hen mallards and that 63% shoot hens only occasionally (Table 13). Only 10% of the hunters stated that they shoot hen mallards as readily as other species of ducks. These findings are similar to those for the 1987 season, when the Point System was in effect for determining the daily bag limit of ducks.

Duck and Goose Season Dates. In responding to question #20, hunters generally showed support for the dates used to open the regular duck and goose seasons in Illinois in 1988 (Table 14). Statewide, 48% of the duck hunters thought similar dates should be used for setting the 1989 duck season. In like fashion, 53% of the goose hunters believed that similar dates should be used for the goose season in 1989. The only groups of hunters who expressed dissatisfaction were duck hunters in southern portions of the state and goose hunters at Rend Lake; pluralities of these hunters thought the dates are too early.

Unsolicited Comments. Respondents returned 1,145 unsolicited comments with the 1988 questionnaire. Of these, 452 (40%) pertained to duck hunting; 186 (16%) dealt with dates for the regular duck or goose hunting seasons; 178 (16%) were about waterfowl hunting in general; 107 (9%) related to public areas; 81 (7%) were concerned with goose hunting; 50 (4%) were directed to steel shot and/or lead poisoning; 49 (4%) were attitudes toward the

September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois; and 42 (4%) expressed opinions of the September teal season.

Of the 452 comments relating to the duck season, 19% advocated closing the season for 1 to 5 years; 14% felt that shooting time should begin 1/2 hour before sunrise (versus 5% who argued for sunrise), primarily to increase opportunity to harvest early-flying wood ducks; 7% said they voluntarily curtailed their duck hunting activities in 1988; 6% expressed support for the restrictive hunting regulations; 6% were arguments for a longer season; 5% wanted to reinstate the Point System (versus 3% who liked the Conventional System); 5% believed the hen mallard should be totally protected; 5% proposed a split season; and 25% dealt with 25 miscellaneous subjects.

Of the 186 comments dealing with season dates, 67% were to the effect that the duck and/or goose seasons should be later; 24% believed the dates should be earlier; and 9% thought they were about right.

Regarding the 178 comments about waterfowl hunting in general, 28% expressed the belief that violations were rampant and/or that additional law enforcement was needed; 25% were complimentary to the DOC, especially the management of Canada geese; 13% were concerns for protecting and/or enhancing waterfowl habitat; 11% were requests for more (and earlier) information about the annual hunting regulations and/or for providing more educational materials; and 23% addressed 12 miscellaneous subjects.

With regards to the 107 comments relating to public hunting areas, 16% urged the DOC to purchase additional areas, particularly

in northeastern Illinois; 14% believed the Rend Lake area was overcrowded and out of control and/or regulated hunting (i.e., check stations with daily drawings) was necessary (5% argued against regulated hunting at Rend Lake); 13% felt that too much food was available on the goose refuges in the Southern Quota Zone; 7% were of the opinion that the Carlyle Lake area was overcrowded and/or regulated hunting was needed (4% were against regulated hunting at Carlyle Lake); and 41% dealt with 39 other areas.

Of the 81 comments concerned with goose hunting, 17% complained that "skybusting" was excessive and/or should be minimized via limits on the number of shotgun shells or by legislation; 14% wanted a longer season; 10% stated they had a good season; 9% were grateful for the 50-day season throughout the state; 9% wanted to hunt to 4 p.m. or sundown in the Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone; 7% advocated a split season; and 34% addressed 11 miscellaneous subjects.

Of the 50 comments directed at steel shot or lead poisoning, 74% were complaints about steel shot (primarily that it was ineffective) and/or nontoxic shot regulations; 14% were supportive of and/or positive to steel shot; 6% wanted to legalize size #F steel shot; 4% felt the public should be provided more educational materials on shooting steel shot; and 2% believed the problem of lead poisoning was exaggerated.

Of the 49 comments regarding the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois, 35% believed the season should be later (in late September, October, or January); 23% complained that the geese were not on accessible and/or huntable areas; 14% were supportive of the season; 12% were negative to the season; 10%

stated that the season was poorly publicized; 4% felt the season was too short; and 2% wanted the season to include Boone County.

Of 42 comments about the September teal season, 48% supported closure of the season; 45% wanted the season reinstated; and 7% wanted to allow harvesting of wood ducks and other species.

DISCUSSION

Because of prolonged drought in prairie Canada and reduced duck populations, the duck seasons were reduced in all states in the Mississippi Flyway from 40 days in 1985-1987 to 30 days in 1988. Similarly, the daily bag limit was reduced from a maximum of 5 ducks (3 mallards) using the Point System to 3 ducks (2 mallards) using the Conventional System, and shooting time was changed from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunrise. The restrictions were designed to reduce the nationwide harvests of mallards and of total ducks by at least 25%. The present survey indicates that the harvests decreased 17% for mallards and 31% for total ducks in Illinois (Table 3). According to FWS harvest surveys, (Martin et al. 1989), the 1988 harvests were reduced by 29% for mallards and 49% for total ducks in Illinois, by 44% for mallards and 52% for total ducks in the Mississippi Flyway, and by 42% for mallards and 50% for total ducks in the entire nation. Thus, the objective to reduce the harvests by at least 25% appears to have been achieved.

The restrictive duck hunting regulations--especially the change to sunrise shooting time--had a major negative impact on the harvest of wood ducks, a locally nesting species not affected by drought in Canada. Because they leave their roosts early and are

active during twilight, wood ducks are most vulnerable to the gun before sunrise. The present survey suggests that the number of woodies harvested in Illinois decreased from 58,488 birds in 1987 to 25,674 birds in 1988, a decline of 56%. FWS surveys indicate decreases of 71% in Illinois, 52% in the Mississippi Flyway, and 49% for the entire nation. It is unfortunate that the wood duck, whose populations are healthy, could not have been harvested at higher rates in 1988.

The restrictive duck hunting regulations in 1988 were met with reasonable acceptance by the state's hunters (Table 12). A majority (54%) of the hunters thought the restrictive regulations were about right, given the condition of the continental duck population. More specifically, a plurality (47%) of the hunters favored the conversion from the Point System to the Conventional System for determining the daily bag limit, and nearly one-half (44%) liked changing opening day from a weekday to a weekend. A plurality (48%) of the hunters also supported the dates used for opening the duck season (Table 14). On the down side, most (62%) of the hunters did not like opening the duck season on the same date as the upland game season, and most (65%) disliked changing shooting time from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunrise (Table 12). The latter manifested more dissatisfaction among hunters in Illinois, as well as other states in the Mississippi Flyway, than any other change in the duck hunting regulations for 1988.

The harvest of Canada geese increased by 36,447 (101%) birds during the regular goose season in 1988 (Table 8). For individual zones, the harvest increased by 20,747 (112%) Canada geese in the

Southern Quota Zone, by 4,364 (90%) Canada geese in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, and by 3,429 (105%) Canada geese in the Tri-County Zone. The harvests in the Southern and Rend Lake quota zones were, respectively, +2,332 (+6%) and -1,864 (-17%) of the maximum number of Canada geese allowed via the quota system.

The harvest of Canada geese in northeastern Illinois (Region 2) increased from 3,361 to 5,095 (52%) birds during the regular goose season in 1988, for an average of 566 geese per county. When the 2,270 geese taken during the 10-day experimental September giant Canada goose season are included, the harvest in northeastern Illinois totals 7,365 Canada geese or an average of 818 geese per county. This is 10% greater than the statewide average of 734 Canada geese per county in 1988. The liberalization in regulations for hunting Canada geese, and the increases in harvests of these highly prized game birds, should have boosted hunters satisfaction in the northeastern counties and throughout the state.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1988.

Year	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested ^a
1981	61,929	63,652	874,730	413,264
1982	57,691	58,766	795,807	392,897
1983	56,162	58,240	815,523	475,601
1984	55,250	56,533	748,390	420,357
1985	55,670	56,899	699,113	392,253
1986	59,734	61,876	887,446	467,164
1987	58,803 ^b	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988	57,848	57,796	695,848	277,743

^a Teal, ducks, coots, and geese. The September teal season was suspended for 1988.

^b Excludes 5,550 stamps purchased by a commercial art company.

Table 2. Duck and coot harvest and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988 (n = 2,255).

Administrative Region ^a	Hunters		Days Afield		Ducks			
	Number	Percent ^b	Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter	
								Number
1A	3,192		27,538	8.63	14,800	0.54	4.64	73
1B	10,418		99,968	9.60	53,399	0.53	5.13	29
2	7,893		63,898	8.10	24,686	0.39	3.13	378
3A	11,491		118,278	10.29	65,000	0.55	5.66	1,279
3B	1,683		13,639	8.10	3,605	0.26	2.14	14
4	3,250		25,710	7.91	11,180	0.43	1.34	116
5	8,357		63,028	7.54	27,710	0.44	3.32	204
Unknown	464		987		450			0
Entire State	46,748	80.8	413,046	8.84	200,850 ^{c,d}	0.49	4.30	2,093 ^e

^a See Figure 7.

^b Percent of all waterfowl hunters.

^c The 95% confidence interval is $\pm 14,400$.

^d Includes 128,837 mallards, 25,674 wood ducks, and 46,319 other ducks.

^e The 95% confidence interval is $\pm 2,217$.

Table 3. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1981 through 1988.

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
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988	46,748	413,046	128,837	25,674	46,319	200,830	2,093

Table 4. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, by county, during the experimental September giant Canada goose season in north-eastern Illinois in 1988.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese
Cook	389	837	181
DuPage	419	1,465	490
Grundy	448	1,196	271
Kane	538	1,794	322
Kankakee	209	628	103
Kendall	60	149	0
Lake	688	1,256	65
McHenry	718	1,914	374
Will	777	2,542	464
Totals	4,246	11,781	2,270

Table 5. Time of day hunters were active during the experimental September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988.

Time of Day	Hunters	
	Number	Percentage
1/2 hour before sunrise - 8 a.m.	77	34.1
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	55	24.3
10 a.m. - 12 noon	9	4.0
12 noon - 3 p.m.	6	2.7
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	32	14.1
5 p.m. - sunset	47	20.8

Table 6. The contribution that the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th goose in the daily bag made to the harvest of Canada geese during the experimental September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988.

	Dail Bag				
	1 Goose	2 Geese	3 Geese	4 Geese	5 Geese
Occurrence (n = 71 daily bags)	31 (43.7%)	31 (43.7%)	5 (7.0%)	2 (2.8%)	2 (2.8%)
	Goose				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Contribution: (n = 126 geese)	31				
	31	31			
	5	5	5		
	2	2	2	2	
	2	2	2	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	71	40	9	4	2
	(56.3%)	(31.8%)	(7.1%)	(3.2%)	(1.6%)

Table 7. Goose harvest and hunter activity, by zones and administrative regions, during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1988 (n = 2,255).

Zone or Administrative Region a	Hunters			Days Afield			Geese				
	Number	Percent b	Number	Number	Per Hunter	Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese	Per Day Afield c	Per Hunter c	Per Hunter c
Southern Quota Zone	20,842		129,446	6.21	39,332(310) d	568(78)	39,900(388)	0.31	1.90		
Rend Lake Quota Zone	5,861		34,328	5.86	9,236(13)	103(0)	9,339(13)	0.27	1.59		
Tri-county Zone	4,276		31,337	7.33	6,708(155)	297(26)	7,005(181)	0.22	1.60		
Remainder of State											
1A	1,136		7,116		1,999(361)	26(26)	2,025(387)				
1B	2,332		11,991		2,722(761)	181(13)	2,903(774)				
2	3,887		24,370		5,095(915)	103(13)	5,198(928)				
3A	2,512		15,041		2,967(851)	400(78)	3,367(929)				
3B	568		2,512		555(52)	0(0)	555(52)				

Table 7 - continued.

Table 7. Continued - page 2.

4	778	6,668	1,342(104)	116(78)	1,458(182)
5 e	1,675	8,642	2,594(349)	38(38)	2,632(387)
Total	12,888	76,340	17,274(3,393)	864(246)	18,138(3,639)
Entire State	37,258	271,451	72,550(3,871)	1,832(350)	74,382(4,221)
	64.4	7.29	0.26	0.19	1.13
					1.88

a See Figure 7.

b Percent of all waterfowl hunters.

c Excludes geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

d Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

e Excluding Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake.

f The 95% confidence interval is $\pm 6,134$.

Table 8. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1981 through 1988.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302(6,312) ^a	3,082(1,719)	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)
1987	32,246	224,164	36,103(3,563)	1,525(499)	37,628(4,062)
1988	37,258	271,451	72,550(3,871)	1,832(350)	74,382(4,221)

^a Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

Table 9. Number of waterfowl that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) during the hunting seasons in Illinois in 1988 (n = 2,255).

Species	Cripples Lost	
	Number	Per 100 Birds Bagged
Ducks ^a	71,211 ± 7,530	35.5
Geese	24,578 ± 3,437	33.0
Coots	1,103 ± 1,029	52.7

^a Regular duck season.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 10. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) during the hunting seasons in Illinois in 1981-1988.

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
1987	98,155	34.0	18,375	48.8	2,013	74.7
1988	71,211	35.5	24,578	33.0	1,103	52.7

Table 11. 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 from 1952 to 1988. Data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Hunter Questionnaire Surveys.

Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots
1952	27.9	22.9	
1953	22.5	16.1	
1954	23.0	17.1	
1955	23.6	19.9	
1956	23.3	16.8	
1957	21.8	17.6	
1958	23.3	19.6	
1959	20.2	19.9	
1960	23.0	17.9	
1961	22.1	17.9	
1962	22.6	17.5	
1963	23.8	18.6	
1964	23.8	17.9	
1965	23.5	18.6	
1966	22.4	16.1	
1967	22.0	15.9	
1968	23.2	16.1	
1969	22.5	14.4	

Table 11 - continued

Table 11. Continued - page 2.

1970	21.1	15.3	
1971	22.1	15.4	28.2
1972	22.4	15.5	29.6
1973	21.9	14.8	29.2
1974	21.5	14.3	29.1
1975	20.3	13.0	28.9
1976	19.4	14.2	26.8
1977	20.5	14.9	28.9
1978	20.2	15.7	29.0
1979	20.3	14.3	27.1
1980	19.2	12.9	30.9
1981	19.4	13.2	22.7
1982	19.2	15.2	27.7
1983	19.4	14.4	23.7
1984	19.5	14.2	30.4
1985	19.7	14.0	24.3
1986	20.1	15.7	32.5
1987	24.5	20.5	27.5
1988	23.9	16.3	31.0

Table 12. Attitudes of hunters toward selected duck hunting regulations in Illinois in 1988. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "Do you prefer the Point System or the Conventional System for determining the daily bag limit for duck hunting?"

	(1,595) a
Point System	42.0%
Conventional System	46.7
No opinion	11.3

*Responses to the question, "Do you prefer beginning the regular duck season on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday) or on a weekday?"

	(1,603) a
Weekend	43.5%
Weekeday	44.7
No opinion	11.8

*Responses to the question, "In your opinion, should legal shooting time during the regular duck season in Illinois begin at sunrise or 1/2 hour before sunrise?"

	(1,605) a
Sunrise	32.5%
1/2 hour before sunrise	65.2
No opinion	2.3

*Responses to the question, "In your opinion, should the regular duck season in Illinois begin on the same date as the upland game season or on a different date?"

	(1,599) a
On same date as upland game	17.5%
On different date	62.1
No opinion	20.4

*Responses to the question, "Given the condition of the continental duck population, what is your opinion of the duck hunting regulations (30 days, 3 ducks per day, sunrise shooting time, no September teal season) that were in effect in Illinois in 1988?"

	(1,533) a
Too restrictive	28.7%
Too liberal	11.9
About right	53.7
No opinion	5.7

a Respondents who hunted ≥ 1 days during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988.

Table 13. Attitudes of hunters toward shooting hen mallards in Illinois in 1988. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "What is your personal attitude toward shooting hen mallards in Illinois?"

	(1,598) ^a
I never shoot hen mallards	22.4%
I occasionally shoot hen mallards	63.3
I shoot hen mallards just as readily as other ducks	9.5
I prefer shooting hen mallards to other ducks	0.1
I shoot hen mallards only	0.0
No opinion	4.7

^a Respondents who hunted ≥ 1 days during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988.

Table 14. Attitudes of hunters toward the dates for the regular duck and goose hunting seasons in Illinois in 1988. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "The dates for beginning the regular duck and goose hunting seasons in Illinois in 1988 were October 29 in the North Zone, November 5 in the Central Zone, and November 11 (ducks) and November 21 (geese) in the South zone. As they apply to the county in which you hunt most, how do you feel about using similar dates for beginning the duck and goose hunting seasons in 1989 ? (For purposes of answering this question, assume that the season lengths will be 30 days for ducks and 50 days for geese in 1989.)"

Duck Hunting: Responses by Hunting Zones

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(287) a	(934)	(351)	(1,582)
Too early	20.9%	25.6%	47.9%	29.8%
Too late	30.7	22.0	8.5	20.5
About right	47.0	50.5	41.3	47.7
No opinion	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.0

Duck Hunting: Responses by Administrative Regions

	<u>1A</u>	<u>1B</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	(109) a	(352)	(269)	(388)	(57)	(110)	(287)
Too early	23.9%	16.5%	25.7%	28.9%	29.8%	40.9%	48.8%
Too late	32.1	29.5	23.0	18.3	22.8	10.0	9.4
About right	44.0	52.3	49.4	50.3	45.6	48.2	39.4
No opinion	0.0	1.7	1.9	2.5	1.8	0.9	2.4

Goose Hunting: Responses by Hunting Zones

	<u>North</u>	<u>Central</u> ^c	<u>South</u> ^d	<u>Tri-county</u>	<u>Rend Lake Quota</u>	<u>Southern Quota</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(81) b	(210)	(86)	(138)	(191)	(677)	(1,236)
Too early	24.7%	30.0%	39.5%	18.1%	49.2%	41.4%	36.3%
Too late	24.7	14.3	10.5	9.4	4.7	4.6	8.3
About right	50.6	55.2	50.0	70.3	44.5	51.0	53.3
No opinion	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.2	1.6	3.0	2.1

Goose hunting: Responses by Administrative Regions

	<u>1A</u>	<u>1B</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	(29) b	(201)	(90)	(80)	(14)	(18)	(914)
Too early	20.7%	16.8%	35.6%	28.8%	57.2%	50.0%	43.4%
Too late	31.0	13.4	13.3	16.2	7.1	0.0	4.6
About right	48.3	67.9	51.1	55.0	35.7	50.0	49.2
No opinion	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8

- a Respondents who hunted ≥ 1 days during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988.
- b Respondents who hunted ≥ 1 days during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1988.
- c Excluding tri-county zone.
- d Excluding Rend Lake and Southern Quota Zones.

1988 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTING QUESTIONNAIRE
(see instructions on first page)

Numbers at right are for official use only
--

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. How many 1988 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps did you purchase for your personal use? (do not include Federal stamps). _____ 9-10
2. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1988 season?
(circle number for appropriate answer) Yes.....1 No.....2 11

REGULAR DUCK SEASON

3. How many different days did you hunt ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988?. _____ 12-13
4. In which county did you hunt ducks most during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988?.Name of county _____ 14-16
5. List the number of ducks and coots you personally harvested during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988. **DO NOT** include birds killed in other states or countries.

I personally killed and retrieved:	I knocked down in sight but could not retrieve:	
Mallards _____		17-19
Wood Ducks _____	Ducks _____	20-22 29-31
Other Ducks _____		23-25
Coots _____	Coots _____	26-28 32-34

6. On how many different days did you shoot your limit of ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1988? _____ 35-36
7. What is your personal attitude toward shooting hen mallards in Illinois?
(circle number for most appropriate answer)
 - *I never shoot hen mallards. 1
 - *I occasionally shoot hen mallards 2
 - *I shoot hen mallards just as readily as other ducks . . . 3 37
 - *I prefer shooting hen mallards to other ducks 4
 - *I shoot hen mallards only 5
 - *No opinion. 6
8. Do you prefer the Point System or the Conventional System for determining the daily bag limit for duck hunting? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Point System...1	Conventional System...2	No opinion...3	38
------------------	-------------------------	----------------	----

(continued on following page)

9. Do you prefer beginning the regular duck season on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday) or on a weekday? (circle number for appropriate answer)
- Weekend...1 Weekday...2 No opinion...3 39
10. In your opinion, should legal shooting time during the regular duck season in Illinois begin at sunrise or 1/2 hour before sunrise? (circle number for appropriate answer)
- Sunrise.....1 1/2 hour before sunrise.....2 No opinion.....3 40
11. In your opinion, should the regular duck season in Illinois begin on the same date as the upland game hunting season or on a different date? (circle number for appropriate answer)
- On same date as upland game...1 On different date...2 No opinion...3 41

SEPTEMBER GIANT CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

NOTE: This was a special experimental season that took place on September 1-10 in the following 9 counties only: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will (see map on first page).

12. How many different days did you hunt Canada geese during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988?. . . . _____ 42-43
13. At what time of the day did you do most of your hunting during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988? (circle more than one number, if applicable)
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------|
| a. 1/2 hour before sunrise to 8am . . . 1 | d. 12 noon to 3pm . . . 4 | 44-49 |
| b. 8am to 10am. 2 | e. 3pm to 5pm 5 | |
| c. 10am to 12 noon. 3 | f. 5pm to sundown . . . 6 | |
14. In which county did you hunt Canada geese most during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988?. . County _____ 50-51
15. How many Canada geese did you personally harvest during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988?. . . . _____ 52-53
16. If you harvested 1 or more Canada geese during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1988, on how many different days did you harvest 1 goose, 2 geese, 3 geese, 4 geese, or 5 geese?
- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. I harvested 1 Canada goose on _____ days? | 54-55 |
| b. I harvested 2 Canada geese on _____ days? | 56-57 |
| c. I harvested 3 Canada geese on _____ days? | 58-59 |
| d. I harvested 4 Canada geese on _____ days? | 60-61 |
| e. I harvested 5 Canada geese on _____ days? | 62-63 |

(continued on following page)

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON

17. List the number of days you hunted geese and the number of geese you personally harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1988. DO NOT include Canada geese killed during the September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois. NOTE: If the geese were killed coincidental to your duck hunting, leave the number of days blank.

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Canada Geese</u>	<u>Other Geese</u>	
*In Southern Quota Zone (see map).....	_____	_____	_____	64-69
*In Rend Lake Quota Zone (see map)....	_____	_____	_____	70-75
*In Tri-County Zone (in Fulton, Knox, and Henry counties, see map).....	_____	_____	_____	76-81
*Other areas (write in name of each county): a. _____	_____	_____	_____	82-90
b. _____	_____	_____	_____	91-99
c. _____	_____	_____	_____	100-108

18. How many geese did you knock down in sight but neither you nor anyone else could retrieve? _____ 109-111

OTHER TOPICS

19. Given the condition of the continental duck population, what is your opinion of the duck hunting regulations (30 days, 3 ducks per day, sunrise shooting time, no September teal season) that were in effect in Illinois in 1988? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Too restrictive...1 To liberal...2 About right...3 No opinion...4 112

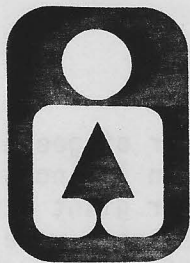
20. The dates for beginning the regular duck and goose hunting seasons in Illinois in 1988 were October 29 in the North Zone, November 5 in the Central Zone, and November 11 (ducks) and November 21 (geese) in the South Zone. As they apply to the county in which you hunt most, how do you feel about using similar dates for beginning the duck and goose hunting seasons in 1989? (For purposes of answering this question, assume that the season lengths will be 30 days for ducks and 50 days for geese in 1989.) (circle one number for duck season and one number for goose season)

	<u>Too Early</u>	<u>Too Late</u>	<u>About Right</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
Duck Season	1	2	3	4	113
Goose Season.	1	2	3	4	114

Thank you for your cooperation

POSTAGE IS PREPAID

Illinois



Department of Conservation

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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.



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:

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,

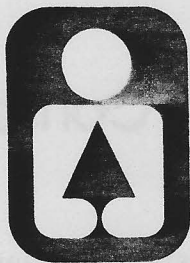
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Moak". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name below.

James H. Moak, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing 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.

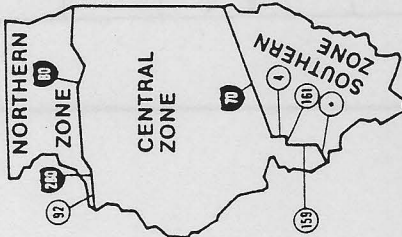
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Moak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

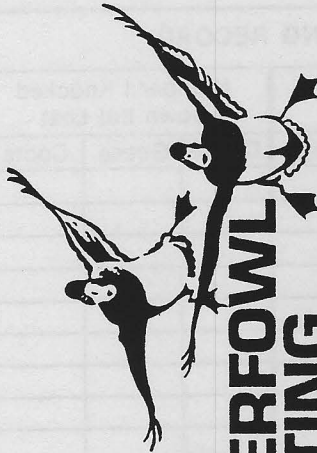
Jim Moak, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

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



1988 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION



SPECIES DATES (Inclusive) HOURS DAILY LIMIT POSSESSION LIMIT

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	
Ducks	Oct. 29-Nov. 27, 1988 (North) Nov. 5-Dec. 4, 1988 (Central) Nov. 11-Dec. 10, 1988 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	15	30	
Coots					
All Geese (All areas except those listed below)	Oct. 29-Dec. 17, 1988 (North) Nov. 5-Dec. 24, 1988 (Central) Nov. 21-Jan. 9, 1989 (South)	Sunrise to 3 p.m.	5, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese.	10, only 4 Canada geese and 4 white-fronted geese.	
All Geese (Rend Lake Quota Zone)	Nov. 21-Jan. 9, 1989 or when quota of 11,000 Canada geese is reached				
All Geese (Southern Illinois Quota Zone)	Nov. 21-Jan. 9, 1989, or when quota of 37,000 Canada geese is reached				
All Geese (Tri-County Zone)	Nov. 5-Dec. 24, 1988	Sunrise to sunset			

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

NONTOXIC SHOT ZONES — Refer to 1988 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 1988 Illinois Hunting Information brochure for exemptions and further information.

Public Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit Duck \$ 6.00
 Goose \$15.00
 Federal Migratory Stamp \$10.00

BAG LIMITS

Canvasbacks may not be hunted. Bag limits on ducks are established by a conventional bag limit as follows:

The basic daily bag limit shall be 3 ducks, no more than two of which shall be wood ducks or mallards (no more than one hen mallard) and not more than one black duck, one redhead or one pintail.

GOOSE LIMITS

The daily bag of geese is five per day, which may not include more than two Canada geese or their subspecies and two white-fronted geese in all areas. The possession limit is ten, which may not include more than four Canada geese or subspecies, and four white-fronted geese.

Refer to the 1988 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 of activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 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.

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois 5M 9-87

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

Figure 6. The waterfowl hunting regulations that were in effect in Illinois during the 1988-89 season.

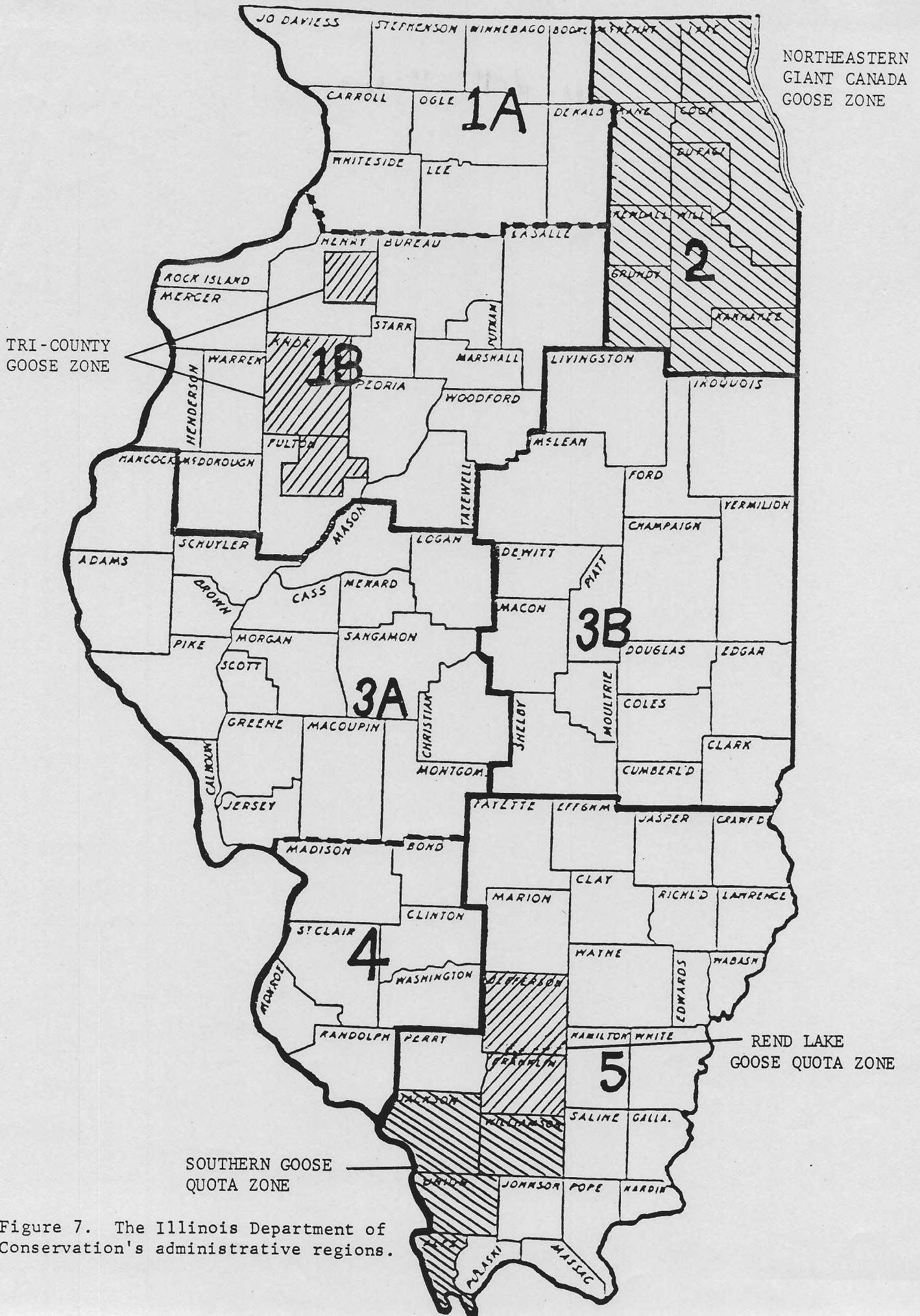


Figure 7. The Illinois Department of Conservation's administrative regions.

WESTERN
GOOSE ZONE



TRI-COUNTY
GOOSE ZONE

WESTERN
GOOSE ZONE

SOUTHERN GOOSE
ZONE

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