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WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HARVEST, HUNTER ACTIVITY, AND ATTITUDES
TOWARD SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON, DUCK SHOOTING TIME, AND GOOSE
HUNTING REGULATIONS, IN 1992-93

William L. Anderson, Investigations and Surveys Program

Robert A. Williamson, Waterfowl Program

Abstract: Purchasers of the previous year's (1991) 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 1992 season (51,261 stamps were sold in 1992). Of 2,749 respondents (70% response), 549 (20%) did not purchase a stamp again in 1992. Thus, the sample size was reduced to 2,200 respondents, 87% of which hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1992-93. An estimated 51,274 hunters (13% less than in 1991) expended 714,550 days afield (16% less than in 1991) and harvested 292,535 waterfowl (28% less than in 1991). The ratio of duck hunters to goose hunters was 1.1:1 in 1992. After a 4-year hiatus, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reinstated the September teal season in 1992. During this season in Illinois, 7,696 hunters spent 18,265 days afield and harvested 12,069 teal (48% less than in 1987). During the regular duck season in 1992, 39,272 hunters expended 362,427 days afield and harvested 216,427 ducks (30% less than in 1991) and 3,275 coots. Two-thirds (66%) of the duck hunters were afield on opening day. The experimental September giant Canada goose season in 9 northeastern counties (Region 2) was replaced with 9 extra days added to the regular goose season in 1992. During the regular goose season statewide, 35,253 hunters devoted 334,352 days afield to harvest 59,352 Canada geese (36% less than in 1991) and 60,764 total geese. The Canada goose harvest included 17,255 taken in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, 7,331 taken in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 7,550 taken in the Fulton-Knox County Zone, and 8,219 taken in Region 2. With a bag limit of 2 Canada geese per day in effect in 1992-93, the 1st goose in the bag accounted for 71% of the Canada goose harvest. About 8% of Illinois resident waterfowl hunters ventured out-of-state to pursue geese during the 1992-93 season. Majorities of duck hunters approved of the September teal season, thought the dates for this season were about right, and preferred that shooting time begin 1/2 hour before sunrise during the regular duck

season. Goose hunters expressed their opinions of season dates in the North and Central Zones and of several regulations in the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones. Only 10% of Illinois' waterfowl hunters were aware that the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program is scheduled for implementation in Illinois in 1996. Harvests of Canada geese by county, zone, and administrative regions during the 1988-1992 seasons are presented in Appendix A.

The purpose of this study was to collect information via mail questionnaire from a systematic sample of waterfowl hunters in Illinois following the 1992-93 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 1992 season (Fig. 1) was similar in format to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989; Anderson and Williamson 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993). However, the 1992-93 questionnaire was 5 pages in length whereas questionnaires used in previous years were 4 pages. The mailing list was developed from the names of purchasers of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods used to mail the 1992-93 Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Survey 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 3,900 purchasers (3,439 residents and 461 non-residents) of the previous year's (1991) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp on 21 January 1993. Non-respondents

were mailed 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 4 March and again on 12 April, respectively. As of 8 June 1993, 2,749 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 70%.

The mailing list for the 1992-93 questionnaire was developed by systematically selecting stubs from the sales of 37,213 of the previous year's (1991) 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 21 October 1992 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 1992-93 estimates were based on a sales of 51,261 of the 1992 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. In addition, the harvests of Canada geese by county, zone, and administrative regions were compiled and are presented in Appendix A.

A commercial art company purchased a large number of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps in 1987. In April 1994, it was learned that this company had also purchased large numbers of the stamps in 1988-1992 (Table 1). Consequently, many of the

estimates for hunter activity and waterfowl harvest were inflated in the final reports for 1988-1991 (Anderson and Williamson 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993). When using these reports, the estimates for duck hunters; goose hunters; days afield; ducks and coots harvested; ducks, geese, and coots crippled; and number of geese crippled per 100 bagged; should be adjusted with the following multipliers: 0.9248 in 1988, 0.9398 in 1989, 0.9584 in 1990, and 0.9648 in 1991. Similarly, estimates of total waterfowl harvest, which are listed in Table 1 of each report, should be adjusted with the multipliers 0.9554 in 1988, 0.9570 in 1989, 0.9774 in 1990, and 0.9971 in 1991. The estimates of geese harvested in these years remain the same as in the original reports.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The duck hunting regulations employed in 1992 were similar to those used in 1991. The regulations included a 30-day season, a bag limit of 3 ducks (2 mallards) per day using the Conventional System, and 1/2 hour before sunrise shooting time (Fig. 6).

After being closed for 4 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reinstated the September teal season in 1992. This season took place on 5-13 September, and the daily bag limit was 4 blue-winged and/or green-winged teal. Shooting hours were 7 am to 4 pm.

For Canada geese, the 1992 season length was 79 days (84-90 days in 1991) for most of the state, and the bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day statewide (3 per day in 1991). In the

Fulton-Knox County Zone, Canada geese (mostly giants) were hunted for 79 days. In the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones, the season was 79 days or when 39,500 and 11,850 Canada geese, respectively, were harvested. Unlike in 1991, the goose seasons in the North Zone and Central Zone were not split in 1992-93. The FWS allowed 9 extra days (3-11 October) of goose hunting in the 9 counties in northeastern Illinois during the regular goose season in 1992-93. This hunting effort replaced the experimental early (1-10 September) season in this region, and it was directed toward local giant Canada geese, which are approaching nuisance proportions in urban areas.

FINDINGS

Of the 2,749 respondents to the questionnaire, 549 (20%) did not purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp again in 1992. The other 2,200 respondents purchased an average of 1.09 stamps each: 93.1% purchased 1 stamp, 5.8% purchased 2 stamps, 0.9% purchased 3-5 stamps, and 0.2% purchased ≥ 6 stamps. Of the 2,200 stamp purchasers, 1,916 (87%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 1992 season.

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

An estimated 51,274 waterfowl hunters were active in Illinois during the 1992 season (Table 1). They spent an estimated 714,550 days afield and harvested an estimated 292,535 waterfowl. These estimates are 13%, 16%, and 28% less, respectively, than those calculated for the 1991 season.

Of the 51,274 hunters who were active in 1992, 31% hunted ducks only, 24% hunted geese only, and 45% hunted both ducks and geese. It is noteworthy that the steady increase in goose hunters from 1985 to 1991 was reversed in 1992 (Table 2).

September Teal Season. After being suspended for 4 years, FWS reinstated the September teal season in Illinois and in all other qualifying states in 1992. An estimated 7,696 hunters spent 18,265 days afield, and harvested 12,069 teal during Illinois' 9-day season (Table 3). The success rate averaged 0.66 teal per day afield and 1.57 teal per hunter. There were more teal hunters (2,109), more days afield (5,403), and more teal harvested (4,080) in Administrative Region 3A than in any other region. Region 1B was 2nd in all three categories. The 1992 estimates for teal hunters, days afield, and teal harvested were 37-48% less than comparable estimates in 1987 (Table 4).

Regular Duck Season. An estimated 39,272 individuals hunted ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1992 (Tables 5 and 6). In 362,275 days afield, these hunters harvested 216,427 ducks. There were more duck hunters, more days afield, and more ducks harvested in Region 3A than in any other region. Two-thirds (66%) of the duck hunters were afield on opening day, 59% were afield on the second day, and 53% were afield on both days (Table 7). Two-thirds (67%) of the duck hunters were active in a single county, 24% were active in 2 counties, and 9% were active in ≥ 3 counties.

For the entire state in 1992, hunting success was 0.57 duck per day afield and 5.22 ducks per hunter (Table 5). Total duck

harvest was 30% less, ducks per day afield 21% less, and ducks per hunter 21% less in 1992 than in 1991 (Table 6).

The 216,427 ducks harvested in Illinois in 1992 included an estimated 124,112 mallards, 34,280 wood ducks, and 58,035 other ducks. The FWS estimated that 233,285 total ducks were harvested in the state during the regular duck 1992 season, which included 130,616 mallards, 22,815 wood ducks, and 79,854 other ducks (Martin and Padding 1993). The FWS estimates indicated that duck harvest increased 2% in Illinois, 6% in the Mississippi Flyway, and 2% in the United States, from 1991 to 1992.

Coot Hunting. The coot harvest was estimated at 3,275 birds in Illinois in 1992, 197% greater than the estimated harvest for 1991 (Tables 5 and 6). The FWS estimated the Illinois coot harvest at 1,467 birds for the 1992 season, up 71% from that agency's estimate for 1991 (Martin and Padding 1993).

The questionnaire for the 1992 survey asked whether the participants went afield specifically to hunt coots in Illinois. Eight (0.36%) respondents answered in the affirmative, which suggests there were 211 bonafide coot hunters in the state during the 1992 season. The 8 hunters reported spending an average of 3.63 days afield and harvesting an average of 1.81 coots. Based on these data, bonafide coot hunters harvested 383 birds (12% of total harvest) in Illinois in 1992. The remaining 2,892 (88%) coots were apparently taken coincidentally by duck hunters.

September Giant Canada Goose Season: This experimental early season, which took place 1-10 September in the 9 northeastern counties in 1991, was discontinued in 1992. In its

place, the FWS allowed 9 extra days during the regular goose season (see next section).

Regular Goose Season. An estimated 35,253 goose hunters were active during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1992, spending 334,010 days afield (Table 8). The Southern Illinois Quota Zone, located in Region 5, accounted for 44% of the goose hunters and 33% 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 Fulton-Knox County Zone, in Region 1B, was responsible for 16% of the hunters and 13% of the days afield. The values for Region 2 were 12% and 11%, respectively.

There was an estimated 60,764 geese harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1992, which included 59,352 Canada geese and 1,412 other geese (Table 8). For Canada geese, the harvest decreased 36% from 1991 to 1992 (Table 9). The FWS estimated that 76,713 Canada geese, 1,121 other geese, and 77,834 total geese were taken in the state in 1992 (Martin and Padding 1993). The harvests of Canada geese by county, zone, and administrative regions during the 1988-1992 seasons are presented in Appendix A.

The Canada goose harvest in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone was tabulated at 17,255 birds during the 1992 season (R.M. Whitton, pers. commun.). This represents 29% of the statewide harvest of white-cheeked geese during the regular goose season. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, an estimated 7,331 Canada geese (12% of state's total harvest) were taken. This estimate was 10% greater than the projected harvest (i.e., projected from the reported harvest on public hunting areas) of 6,666 Canada geese

for the entire Rend Lake Quota Zone (R.M. Whitton, pers. commun.). The Fulton-Knox County Zone was credited with a harvest of 7,550 Canada geese or 13% of the state's total. The other 27,216 Canada geese (46% of total) were harvested in the remainder of the state. These birds included an estimated 8,219 Canada geese taken in Region 2, 5,383 taken in Region 5, and 3,044 taken in Region 1B. About 9% of the Canada geese harvested outside designated goose zones were taken coincidentally to duck hunting (Table 8).

The FWS approved an extra 9 days (3-11 October) of goose hunting for the 9 counties in Region 2 (northeastern Illinois) to exert pressure on local giant Canada geese. During this early segment of the regular goose season, an estimated 2,771 hunters (8% of the statewide total) spent 8,366 days afield (3%) and harvested 2,776 Canada geese (5%) (Table 10). Lake, McHenry, and Kane counties accounted for 57% of the hunters, 58% of the days afield, and 69% of the goose harvest. During a similar--but earlier (1-10 September) and experimental--season in 1991, an estimated 3,847 hunters expended 11,322 days afield and harvested 3,510 Canada geese.

For the entire 1992 goose season, hunters had an overall success rate of 0.17 goose per day afield and 1.64 geese per hunter (Table 8). This compares to a success rate of 0.21 goose per day afield and 2.15 geese per hunter in 1991. In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, success was 0.16 and 1.14 geese, respectively, in 1992. Similarly, hunting success was 0.17 and 1.33 geese at Rend Lake, 0.17 and 1.30 geese in the Fulton-Knox

County Zone, and 0.18 and 1.40 geese in the remainder of the state.

Statewide, goose hunters reported harvesting no Canada geese on 73% of their days afield (Table 11). They reported harvesting 1 goose on 16% of the days afield and 2 geese (daily bag limit for Canada geese) on 11% of the days. During the 1991 season, when the daily bag limit was 3 Canada geese, hunters reported harvesting 1 Canada goose on 17% of the days afield, 2 geese on 9% of the days, and 3 geese on 4% of the days. In using these data, the reader is cautioned to exercise discretion because the percentages were not adjusted for reporting bias. In other words, the percentages are indices only--they are not absolute values.

Nevertheless, the above data cast light on the relative contributions that the first goose and second goose in the daily bag make to the total Canada goose harvest. As such, the first goose accounted for 71%, and the second goose 29%, of the Canada goose harvest in Illinois in 1992-93 (Table 12). During the 1991-92 season, the first goose accounted for 65% of the Canada goose harvest, the second goose accounted for 27%, and the third goose accounted for 8%.

Out-of-State Goose Hunting. Participants in the survey were asked if they traveled to another state or province to hunt geese during the 1992-93 season. Among Illinois residents, 9% of the goose hunters and 8% of all waterfowl hunters answered "yes" (Table 13). Wisconsin was the state most frequently visited, which appears logical because the east-central portion of that

state attracts large numbers of MVP Canada geese early in the fall, and it is relatively close to metropolitan northeastern Illinois. The 2nd most visited state was Missouri, which was followed by provinces of Canada. Other states frequently visited were South Dakota, Texas, Iowa, and Arkansas.

Crippling Losses. Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 68,027 ducks, 18,631 geese, and 1,450 coots in Illinois during the 1992 hunting season (Table 14). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not true estimates, equate to 31.4 ducks, 32.1 geese, and 45.7 coots lost per 100 harvested. After being somewhat elevated during the mid- and late-1980s, the 1989-1992 crippling rates for ducks were on par with the rate experienced in 1981. A similar trend was evident for geese except that the crippling rates were elevated in 1990 and 1992.

Nationwide crippling rates for ducks and geese during the 1992 season, as measured via hunter questionnaire surveys conducted by the FWS, were similar to the rates that prevailed in the 1950's and early 1960s (Table 15).

Attitudes and Opinions of Hunters

September Teal Season. When asked to express their opinions of the September teal season, 54% of the duck hunters indicated they approved (Table 16). Another 23% expressed disapproval of this early season and 23% had no opinion. Similarly, when asked how they felt about the dates used for the September teal season in 1992, 62% of the teal hunters thought the dates were about

right and 29% through the dates were too early (Table 16).

Legal Shooting Time During Regular Duck Season. According to responses to question #20, an overwhelming majority of the duck hunters (76%) preferred 1/2 hour before sunrise as the legal shooting time for the regular duck season (Table 17). This sentiment prevailed in all zones and regions of the state, ranging from a low of 64% in Region 1B to a high of 94% in Region 3B. In the 10 counties embracing the Illinois River Valley from Spring Valley to Beardstown, 61% of the duck hunters voted for 1/2 hour before sunrise, 36% selected sunrise, and 3% had no opinion about legal shooting time (n=354).

Goose Season Dates in North and Central Zones. Goose hunters in the North Zone and Central Zone were polled to determine their opinions of the dates used for the goose seasons in these zones in 1992-93 (Table 18). A plurality (47%) of the respondents in the North Zone preferred retaining the early 10-day segment (as used in 1990 and 1991) and have the goose season end 10 days earlier. However, in the Central Zone, the vast majority of the respondents (71%) thought the 10 days should be added to the end of the goose season. For both zones, a clear majority (61%) of the goose hunters opted for the later season.

Respondents who participated in the early segment of the Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992 were asked to select the dates they preferred for this segment (Table 19). About one-third of the respondents (36%) opted for early October and one-fourth (24%) chose late September. There was little interest (5% of respondents) in having this segment of the goose

season in early September and only a moderate amount of interest (23%) was evident for having it in January.

Goose Hunting Regulations in Quota Zones. Responses to questions relating to goose hunting regulations in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone (SIQZ) and Rend Lake Quota Zone (RLQZ) are summarized in Tables 20 and 21. A plurality of goose hunters in the SIQZ (42%) and a majority in the RLQZ (51%) supported current regulations that require a minimum distance of 200 yards between adjacent blinds (parties). The second most popular distance was 300 yards, which was selected by 35% of the SIQZ hunters and 27% of the RLQZ hunters. There was little interest in decreasing the minimum distance between blinds (parties) to 100 yards (15% and 17%, respectively).

A plurality of the goose hunters in the SIQZ (42%) and a majority in the RLQZ (53%) thought the minimum distance between the refuge boundary and the nearest blind (party) should be decreased to 100 yards. About one-fourth of the hunters in the two zones (24% and 22%, respectively) voted to maintain the current regulation that requires a minimum distance of 200 yards between the refuge and the nearest blind (party).

With regards to the maximum number of hunters allowed per blind (party), pluralities of goose hunters in the SIQZ (46%) and RLQZ (45%) chose 3. One-third (32%) of the hunters in the SIQZ and 43% in the RLQZ voted for 4 hunters per blind (party). Hunters in both zones expressed little support (8% and 1%, respectively) for increasing the number of hunters allowed in each blind (party) to more than 4.

When asked to indicate the closing time they preferred for goose hunting, a majority of the hunters in the SIQZ (53%) and a plurality in the RLQZ (47%) selected sunset. The second most popular time in the two zones (19% and 23%, respectively) was 3 pm. In both zones, little support (3-12% and 3-13%, respectively) was voiced for closing times of 12 noon, 1 pm, 2 pm, or 4 pm.

When asked how they felt about a closing time of sunset 2 days per week and at 3 pm on the other days, majorities of goose hunters in the two zones (55% and 55%, respectively) voted for this idea. However, 36% of the hunters in the SIQZ and 40% in the RLQZ reacted negatively toward this option.

When the subject of imposing a shotgun shell limit on hunters was addressed, a plurality of goose hunters in the SIQZ (49%) and a majority in the RLQZ (55%) voted for a limit of some kind. Among those in favor of a shell limit, the largest groups in both zones (20% and 25%, respectively) chose 5 shells per goose Canada goose in the daily bag limit. However, 46% of the goose hunters in the SIQZ and 42% of those in the RLQZ did not want a shell limit of any kind.

National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. After describing the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP), the waterfowl hunters were asked whether they were previously aware that this program was scheduled for implementation in Illinois in 1996 (Table 22). Only 10% were. When asked whether they thought HIP was an appropriate or inappropriate action for the federal government to take, the

waterfowl hunters were about equally divided--44% and 41%, respectively. These findings are similar to those reported for dove hunters in Illinois following the 1992 season (Anderson and David 1994). It appears that migratory bird hunters are poorly informed about HIP. The FWS, DOC, and other state conservation agencies should launch an aggressive public education campaign for this program.

Decoys and Calls Owned by Waterfowl Hunters

Illinois waterfowl hunters reported owning an average of 112.5 decoys at the close of the 1992 season (Table 23). The decoys included hunting duck decoys (56%), hunting goose decoys (39%), antique/decorative duck decoys (3%), antique/decorative goose decoys (<1%), and decoys of species other than ducks or geese (2%). Active duck hunters owned an average of 71 hunting duck decoys, and active goose hunters owned an average of 55 hunting goose decoys. Interestingly, 17% of the duck hunters and 22% of the goose hunters owned no decoys. These data suggest that Illinois waterfowl hunters owned about 5.8 million decoys following the 1992 season. If these decoys were worth an average of \$5 each, their total value was \$29 million.

Illinois waterfowl hunters also reported owning an average of 6.7 calls, 63% of which were for ducks and 37% were for geese (Table 23). Active duck hunters owned an average of 4.7 duck calls, and active goose hunters owned an average of 3.0 goose calls.

DISCUSSION

From 1981 to 1986, waterfowl hunters harvested an average of 426,923 waterfowl (ducks, geese, and coots) annually in Illinois (Table 1). During these 6 years, duck hunting regulations were relatively liberal (40- or 50-day seasons and 5 or 10 ducks per day using the Point System) and ducks accounted for 91% of the waterfowl harvest. From 1987 to 1992, waterfowl hunters took an average of 318,509 waterfowl, 75% of which were ducks. Except for 1987, duck hunting during these years was restricted to 30 days and the daily bag limit was 3 ducks using the Conventional System.

With the above information for perspective, it is apparent that the 1991 waterfowl season was outstanding (Table 1). That year's harvest totaled 406,854 waterfowl, the highest since 1986. Although both duck harvest and goose harvest increased from 1990 to 1991, the former accounted for 81% of the total increase in harvest between these years. The high waterfowl harvest in 1991 was accompanied by relatively high numbers of hunters and days afield (Table 1).

Between 1991 and 1992, the number of waterfowl hunters decreased 13%, days afield decreased 16%, and waterfowl harvested decreased 28% (Table 1). The duck harvest decreased 26%, and the goose harvest decreased 38%. Although these data cast a long shadow over the 1992 season, waterfowl hunting in that year was not a disaster. Two other years--1988 and 1990--experienced lower waterfowl harvests. In terms of waterfowl harvested, the 1992 season is most appropriately classified as average or

slightly below average.

Based on the findings of this annual survey, the number of Illinois goose hunters and their days afield increased 59% and 216%, respectively, from 1985 to 1992 (Table 8 and Anderson 1987). In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, goose hunters increased 18% and days afield increased 115% during this 7-year period. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, the increases were 77% and 278%, and in the Fulton-Knox County Zone, the increases were 222% and 562%. For the remainder of the state, goose hunters increased 109% and days afield increased 272% from 1985 to 1992. Clearly, goose hunting activity has increased dramatically in recent years, especially in the Fulton-Knox County Zone and in other areas outside the two quota zones. These increases in hunting activity, and the geographical shifts they manifest, should be taken into consideration when making decisions for the management of Canada geese in Illinois.

The debate as to whether legal shooting time during the regular duck season should begin at sunrise or at 1/2 hour before sunrise remains controversial. Many hunters believe that shooting before sunrise, when low light conditions often make duck identification difficult, is a poor conservation practice. However, the available evidence indicates that pre-sunrise shooting has no more impact on waterfowl populations than delaying shooting time to sunrise (Williamson 1993). Over the years, duck hunters who participated in the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey have consistently preferred beginning shooting time at 1/2 hour before sunrise: 74% in 1981 (Anderson 1983), 65% in

1988 (Anderson and Williamson 1990), 63% in 1989 (Anderson and Williamson 1991), and 76% in 1992 (Table 17). This sentiment prevailed in all zones and regions of the state. On public areas, more than 80% of hunters favored 1/2 hour before sunrise (Anderson and Miller 1981 and 1982). Given these facts, the DOC's Waterfowl Program has consistently recommended 1/2 hour before sunrise as the legal shooting time for duck hunting in Illinois.

According to the present survey, majorities or pluralities of goose hunters in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone preferred reducing the minimum distance between refuge boundaries and the nearest blind (party) from 200 yards to 100 yards and changing closing time from 3 pm to sunset (or to sunset 2 days per week and remaining at 3 pm on the other days) (Tables 20 and 21). We point out that current regulations governing these matters are long-standing, and they have demonstrated benefits to the goose population and the sport of goose hunting. Accordingly, we recommend against making any changes in the minimum distance between refuge boundaries and the nearest blind (party), or in closing time, in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone.

A majority or plurality of the goose hunters in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone also supported the idea of adopting a shotgun shell limit. Shell limits have proven valuable for controlling "skybusting" and improving the overall quality of goose hunting on public hunting areas. Thus, we recommend implementing regulations that restrict goose hunters in

the Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone to 5 shotgun shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit.

Finally, majorities or pluralities of the goose hunters in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone supported current regulations that require a minimum distance of 200 yards between blinds (parties) and allow a maximum of 3 hunters per blind (party) (Tables 20 and 21). The hunters expressed virtually no interest in allowing 5 or 6 hunters per blind (party). They apparently believe that a decrease in the minimum distance between blinds (parties) and/or an increase in the number of hunters per blind (party) will reduce the quality of goose hunting in the quota zones. We concur and recommend against making any changes in these regulations.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1992 hunting seasons.

Season (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 (5,550) ^b	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988 ^c	53,498 (4,350)	53,450	644,056	264,316
1989 ^c	55,693 (3,570)	55,709	749,033	322,359
1990 ^c	55,009 (2,390)	55,152	708,391	270,796
1991 ^c	58,421 (2,130)	59,038	855,279	406,854
1992	51,261 (1,395)	51,274	714,550	292,535

^aTeal, ducks, coots, and geese combined. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended the September teal season in 1988 through 1991.

^bStamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

^cThe estimates of waterfowl hunters and days afield for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates of waterfowl (teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined) harvested have been reduced to 94.54% - 97.74% of the original estimates. See last paragraph of the METHODS section for explanation.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted ducks, and the percentage who hunted geese, in Illinois from 1981 through 1992 seasons.

Season (Year)	<u>Percentage Who Hunted:</u>			<u>Percentage Who Were:</u>	
	Ducks Only	Geese Only	Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1981	63	14	23	86	37
1982	69	11	20	89	31
1983	55	13	32	87	45
1984	60	12	28	88	40
1985	61	10	29	90	39
1986	51	13	36	87	49
1987	47	14	39	86	53
1988	36	19	45	81	64
1989	29	21	50	79	71
1990	27	30	43	70	73
1991	26	27	47	73	74
1992	31	24	45	76	69

Table 3. Teal harvest and hunter activity, by administrative region, during the September teal season in Illinois in 1992 (n = 2,200).

Administrative Region ^a	Number of Hunters	Days Afield		Teal		
		Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter
1A	606	1,133	1.87	673	0.59	1.11
1B	1,871	4,428	2.37	3,658	0.83	1.95
2	712	1,634	2.29	489	0.30	0.69
3A	2,109	5,403	2.56	4,080	0.76	1.93
3B	369	896	2.43	462	0.52	1.25
4		1,344	2.04	621	0.46	0.94
5	1,186	2,978	2.51	1,756	0.59	1.48
Unknown	184	445			330	
Entire state	7,696	18,265	2.37	12,069 ^b	0.66	1.57

^aSee Figure 7.

^bThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 3,784$.

Table 4. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 1992.

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
1987	12,297	32,582	23,193
1988 ^a			
1989 ^a			
1990 ^a			
1991 ^a			
1992	7,696	18,265	12,069

^aThe September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 5. Duck and coot harvest and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1992 (n = 2,200).

Administrative Region ^a	Number of Hunters	Days Afield		Ducks			Number of Coots
		Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter ^b	
1A	3,216	27,306	8.49	13,429 (938) ^c	0.46	3.88	0
1B	9,357	87,241	9.32	56,530 (2,654)	0.62	5.76	634
2	4,876	38,876	7.97	19,332 (1,215)	0.47	3.72	198
3A	9,409	105,375	11.20	71,161 (2,258)	0.65	7.32	1,268
3B	2,319	19,082	8.23	7,619 (53)	0.40	3.26	158
4	3,005	23,774	7.91	13,243 (1,043)	0.51	4.06	713
5	6,642	56,852	8.56	32,946 (3,169)	0.52	4.48	277
Unknown	448	3,769		1,968 (171)			27
Entire state	39,272	362,275	9.22	216,427 (11,501) ^{d,e}	0.57	5.22	3,275 ^f

^aSee Figure 7.

^bExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^cDucks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^dThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 23,642$.

^eIncludes 124,112 mallards, 34,280 wood ducks, and 58,035 other ducks.

^fThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 2,228$.

Table 19. Dates preferred by goose hunters for the early (or late) segment of the regular Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois (1992 season). The sample size is in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"If an early (or late) Canada goose season is offered for northeastern Illinois again in 1993-94, which of the following dates would you prefer?"

		(97) ^a
September	4-12	5.2±4% ^b
September	18-26	23.7±6
October	2-10	36.1±6
October	23-31	12.4±4
January	1-9	14.4±5
January	22-30	8.2±4

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥1 days during the early Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992.

^bThe 95% confidence interval.

Table 20. Opinions of Illinois goose hunters toward goose hunting regulations in the Southern Quota Zone following the 1992-93 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Goose hunting regulations in the Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone may be changed. Options for some of the more important regulations are listed below. Please circle the option you prefer for each regulation in each quota zone."

		(546) ^a
Minimum distance between adjacent blinds (parties)		
	100 yds	15+3 ^b
	200 yds	42+4
	300 yds	35+4
	No opinion	8+3
		(539)
Minimum distance between refuge boundary and nearest blind (party)		
	100 yds	42+4 ^b
	200 yds	24+4
	300 yds	23+4
	No opinion	11+3
		(551)
Maximum number of hunters allowed per blind (party)		
	2	10+3 ^b
	3	46+4
	4	32+4
	5	2+3
	6	1+3
	Unlimited	5+3
	No opinion	4+3

Table 20 - continued.

Table 20. Continued - Page 2.

		(546)
Daily closing time for goose hunting	12noon	5±3%
	1pm	5±3
	2pm	3±3
	3pm	19±4
	4pm	12±3
	Sunset	53±4
	No opinion	3±3
		(541)
Close at sunset 2 days per week and at 3pm on the other days	Yes	55±4%
	No	36±4
	No opinion	9±3
		(546)
Maximum number of shotgun shells allowed per goose in the daily bag limit	3	4±3%
	5	20±4
	8	10±3
	12	15±3
	Unlimited	46±4
	No opinion	5±3

*Respondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in the Southern Quota Zone during the 1992-93 season.

^bThe 95% confidence interval.

Table 21. Opinions of Illinois goose hunters toward goose hunting regulations in the Rend Lake Quota Zone following the 1992-93 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Goose hunting regulations in the Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone may be changed. Options for some of the important regulations are listed below. Please circle the option you prefer for each regulation in each quota zone."

		(196) ^a
Minimum distance between adjacent blinds (parties)	100 yds	17±4 ^{§b}
	200 yds	51±7
	300 yds	27±6
	No opinion	5±4

		(192)
Minimum distance between refuge boundary and nearest blind (party)	100 yds	53±7 [§]
	200 yds	22±6
	300 yds	15±4
	No opinion	10±4

		(198)
Maximum number of hunters allowed per blind (party)	2	4±4 [§]
	3	45±7
	4	43±7
	5	1±4
	6	0
	Unlimited	5±4
No opinion	2±4	

Table 21 - continued.

Table 21. Continued - Page 2.

		(192)
Daily closing time for goose hunting	12noon	3+4%
	1pm	13+4
	2pm	5+4
	3pm	23+6
	4pm	8+4
	Sunset	47+7
	No opinion	1+4
		(193)
Close at sunset 2 days per week and at 3pm on the other days	Yes	55+7%
	No	40+7
	No opinion	5+4
		(197)
Maximum number of shotgun shells allowed per goose in the daily bag limit	3	4+4%
	5	25+6
	8	10+4
	12	16+4
	Unlimited	42+7
	No opinion	3+4

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in the Rend Lake Quota Zone during the 1992-93 season.

^bThe 95% confidence interval.

Table 22. Attitudes of Illinois waterfowl hunters toward the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (1992 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to a multi-part question prefaced with the statement,
 "A new Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program will be implemented for waterfowl (and other migratory game bird) hunters in Illinois (and most other states) in 1996. Hunters will be required to show proof (for example, carry a card that costs \$2.00 annually) that their name and mailing address are on record with this Federal program. The purpose of the program is to improve the management of migratory game birds through more accurate harvest surveys."

*"Were you previously aware that this new requirement is scheduled for implementation in Illinois?"

	(1,862) ^a
Yes	9.8±2% ^b
No	90.2±2

*"In your opinion, is implementation of a Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program an appropriate or inappropriate action for the Federal government to take for the purpose of improving the management of migratory game birds?"

	(1,848) ^a
Appropriate	44.4±3%
Inappropriate	41.2±3
No Opinion	14.4±2

^aRespondents who hunted ducks and/or geese ≥1 days in Illinois during the 1992-93 season.

^bThe 95% confidence interval.

Table 23. Mean number of decoys and calls owned by waterfowl hunters in Illinois during the 1992-93 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Type of Decoy or Call	All Waterfowl Hunters	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
	(1,896)	(1,490)	(1,298)
Duck decoys hunting	62.5	70.5 ^a	
antique and/or decorative	3.2		
Goose decoys hunting	44.2		55.4 ^b
antique and/or decorative	0.6		
Other species decoys	2.0		
Duck calls	4.2	4.7 ^c	
Goose calls	2.5		3.0 ^d

^a17.0% owned 0 decoy, 20.1% owned 1-25 decoys, 20.6% owned 26-50 decoys, 23.1% owned 51-100 decoys, 13.6% owned 101-200 decoys, and 5.6% owned 201-800 decoys.

^b22.4% owned 0 decoy, and 28.4% owned 1-25 decoys, 21.1% owned 26-50 decoys, 16.1% owned 51-100 decoys, 8.0% owned 101-200 decoys, and 4.0% owned 201-1,000 decoys.

^c6.2% owned 0 call, 70.0% owned 1-5 calls, 16.3% owned 6-10 calls, and 7.5% owned 11-200 calls.

^d7.5% owned 0 call, 81.4% owned 1-5 calls, 8.5% owned 6-10 calls, and 2.6% owned 11-35 calls.

1992-93 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

INSTRUCTION

To properly manage Illinois' waterfowl resources, the Department of Conservation needs information about waterfowl hunters, their hunting activities, and their opinions on selected issues.

Please answer the questions on the following pages for your waterfowl hunting during the 1992-93 season.

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1992-93 season, answer the first two questions and return this form.

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.

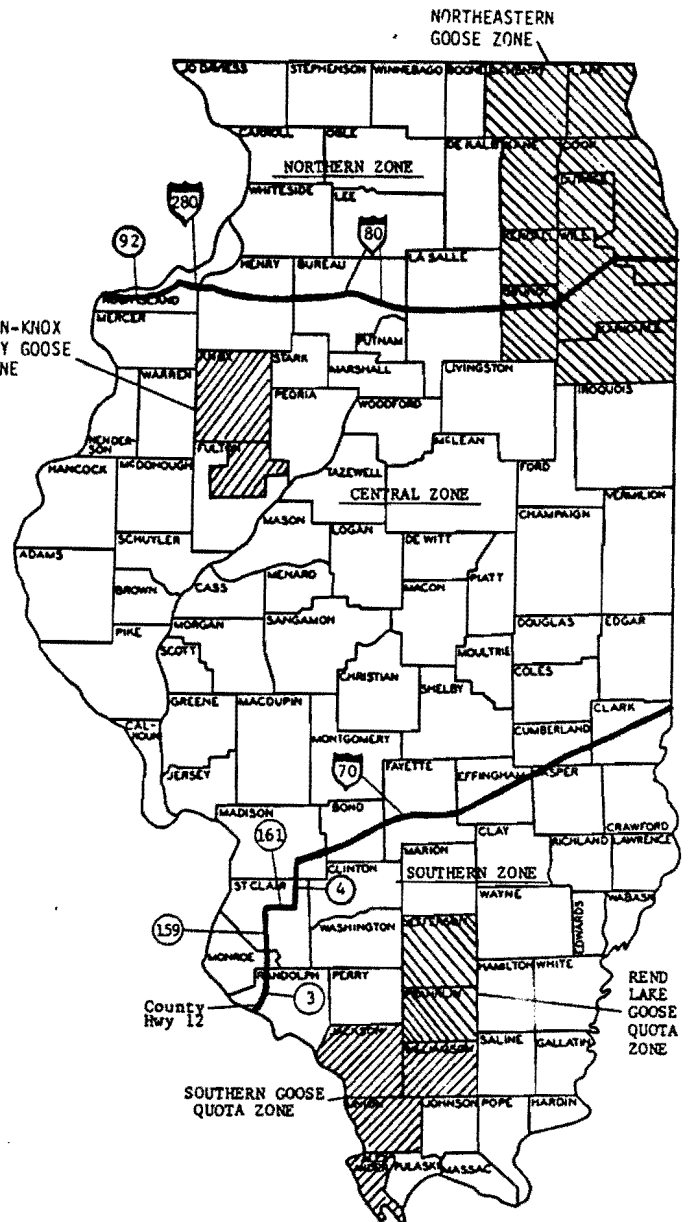
If you hunted both ducks and geese at the same time, count the day toward your primary target -- that is, primarily ducks or primarily geese. **DO NOT** count the hunt as a day of duck hunting and also as a day of goose hunting.

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

Your responses are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name. Since you are part of a small, randomly selected group, your participation and your opinions are very important.

When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed envelope and mail. **POSTAGE IS PREPAID**

Thank you for your cooperation



Your comments are welcome but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the 1992 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.
Figure 1 - continued.

9. Did you go afield specifically to hunt coots in Illinois during the 1992 season? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes.....1 No.....2

If YES, how many days? _____

EARLY CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

NOTE: This season took place on October 3-11 in the following 9 counties only: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will (see map on first page).

10. How many different days did you hunt Canada geese during the early Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992?. _____

11. In which county did you hunt Canada geese most during the early Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992?. . . _____

12. How many Canada geese did you personally harvest during the early Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992?. _____

13. If an early (or late) Canada goose season is offered for northeastern Illinois again in 1993-94, which of the following dates would you prefer? (circle number for appropriate answer)

- September 4-12.....1 October 2-10.....3 January 1-9.....5
- September 18-26.....2 October 23-31.....4 January 22-30...6

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON

14. List the number of days you hunted geese and the number of geese you personally harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1992-93. DO NOT include Canada geese killed during the early (October 3-11) Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois. (NOTE: If you killed geese 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).....	_____	_____	_____
*In Rend Lake Quota Zone (see map)....	_____	_____	_____
*In Fulton-Knox County Zone (in Fulton and Knox counties, see map).....	_____	_____	_____
*Other areas (write in name of each county): a. _____	_____	_____	_____
b. _____	_____	_____	_____
c. _____	_____	_____	_____

15. On how many different days did you harvest 0 geese, 1 goose, or 2 geese?

- a. Number of days harvesting 0 geese _____
- b. Number of days harvesting 1 goose _____
- c. Number of days harvesting 2 geese _____

16. How many geese did you knock down in sight but neither you nor anyone else could retrieve? _____

17. Did you travel to another state (or province) to hunt geese during the 1992-93 season? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Yes.....1 No.....2

If YES, which state (or province)? _____

OTHER TOPICS

18. The dates for the early teal season in Illinois in 1992 were September 5-13. How do you feel about using similar dates for the early (September) teal season in 1993? (circle number for appropriate answer)

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

19. Do you approve or disapprove of having an early (September) teal season in Illinois? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Approve.....1 Disapprove.....2 No opinion.....3

20. In your opinion, should legal shooting time during the regular duck season 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

21. In 1990 and 1991, the goose seasons in the North Zone and Central Zone were split into 2 segments--an early 10-day segment that occurred on September 28-October 6 and a regular segment that began on the same dates that the duck seasons began. Because the 1992 Federal framework allowed only 79 days for goose hunting, the Department of Conservation selected October 17-January 3 for the goose season in the North Zone and October 31-January 17 for the goose season in the Central Zone. There was no early segment. Given these facts, which of the following choices would you have preferred for the goose seasons in the North Zone and Central Zone in 1992-93? (circle number for appropriate answer)

- a. Retain the early 10-day segment and have the goose seasons end 10 days earlier in each zone 1
- b. Eliminate the early 10-day segment and have the goose seasons end 10 days later in each zone 2
- c. No opinion 3

22. How many decoys do you own?

- a. Number of duck decoys for hunting. _____
- b. Number of goose decoys for hunting _____
- c. Number of antique and/or decorative duck decoys. _____
- d. Number of antique and/or decorative goose decoys _____
- e. Number of decoys of species other than ducks or geese. _____

23. How many duck calls do you own? _____

24. How many goose calls do you own? _____

25. Goose hunting regulations in the Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone may be changed. Options for some of the more important regulations are listed below. Please circle the option you prefer for each regulation in each quota zone.

Hunting Regulation	Options						
a. Minimum distance between adjacent blinds (parties)							
Southern Q.Z. . . . .	.100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	300 yds	No opinion		
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	.100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	300 yds	No opinion		
b. Minimum distance between refuge boundary and nearest blind (party)							
Southern Q.Z. . . . .	.100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	300 yds	No opinion		
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	.100 yds	200 yds	300 yds	300 yds	No opinion		
c. Maximum number of hunters allowed per blind (party)							
Southern Q.Z.	2	3	4	5	6	Unlimited	No opinion
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	2	3	4	5	6	Unlimited	No opinion
d. Daily closing time for goose hunting							
Southern Q.Z.	12noon	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	Sunset	No opinion
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	12noon	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	Sunset	No opinion
e. Close at sunset 2 days per week and at 3pm on the other days							
Southern Q.Z. . . . .	.Yes					No	No opinion
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	.Yes					No	No opinion
f. Maximum number of shotgun shells allowed per goose in the daily bag limit							
Southern Q.Z.	3	5	8	12	Unlimited	No opinion	
Rend Lake Q.Z.. . . .	3	5	8	12	Unlimited	No opinion	

26. A new Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program will be implemented for waterfowl (and other migratory game bird) hunters in Illinois (and most other states) in 1996. Hunters will be required to show proof (for example, carry a card that costs \$2.00 annually) that their name and mailing address are on record with this Federal program. The purpose of the program is to improve the management of migratory game birds through more accurate harvest surveys.

26a. Were you previously aware that this new requirement is scheduled for implementation in Illinois?

Yes.....1 No.....2

26b. In your opinion, is implementation of a Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program an appropriate or inappropriate action for the Federal government to take for the purpose of improving the management of migratory game birds?

Appropriate.....1 Inappropriate.....2 No opinion.....3

Thank you for your cooperation
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Table 6. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1992.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks			Total	Number of Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks		
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	567,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988 ^a	43,233	381,985	119,149	23,743	42,836	185,728	1,936
1989 ^a	43,841	407,478	133,128	28,065	63,073	224,266	2,049
1990 ^a	38,759	350,119	112,370	33,253	51,562	197,185	2,287
1991 ^a	42,911	393,247	177,221	49,556	80,793	307,570	1,101
1992	39,272	362,275	124,112	34,280	58,035	216,427	3,275

^aThe estimates of duck hunters, days afield, and ducks and coots harvested for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. See last paragraph of the METHODS section for explanation.

Table 7. Percentage of Illinois duck hunters who were afield on opening day, second day, and/or third day of the 1992 duck season. The season opened on (Saturday) 17 October in the North Zone, (Saturday) 31 October in the Central Zone, and (Saturday) 14 November in the South Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

		Waterfowl Zones					
		North	Central	South	Entire State		
		(264)	(900)	(309)	(1,490) ^a		
1st day		66	67	65	66		
2nd day		61	61	55	59		
3rd day		30	34	33	34		
1st and 2nd day		53	54	49	53		
2nd and 3rd day		24	30	26	28		
All 3 days		22	26	24	25		
None of the 3 days		22	23	27	24		

		Administrative Regions						
		1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5
		(122)	(355)	(185)	(357)	(88)	(114)	(252)
1st day		71	64	61	73	61	65	66
2nd day		59	61	54	68	49	50	56
3rd day		31	35	26	39	24	28	36
1st and 2nd day		55	54	45	61	43	45	50
2nd and 3rd day		24	30	20	35	21	23	27
All 3 days		21	26	18	32	18	20	25
None of the 3 days		22	26	26	17	30	29	25

^aIncludes a few hunters who could not be identified as to zone or region.

Table 8. Goose harvest and hunter activity, by zones and administrative regions, during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1992-93 (n = 2,200). Note: The data in Table 10 are included in this table.

Zone or Administrative Region ^a	Hunters	Days Afield		Geese			Per Day Afield ^b	Per Hunter ^b
		Number	Per Hunter	Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese		
Southern Quota Zone	15,400	108,883	7.07	17,255 (24) ^c	317 (0)	17,572 (24)	0.16	1.14
Rend Lake Quota Zone	5,513	44,080	8.00	7,331 (73)	97 (0)	7,428 (73)	0.17	1.33
Fulton-Knox County Zone	5,704	43,700	7.66	7,550 (158)	170 (0)	7,720 (328)	0.17	1.30
Remainder of State								
1A	1,901	12,874	6.77	2,070 (292)	85 (73)	2,155 (365)	0.14	0.94
1B	3,667	22,434	6.12	3,044 (536)	61 (24)	3,105 (560)	0.11	0.69
2	4,101	35,172	8.58	8,219 (487)	61 (0)	8,280 (487)	0.22	1.90
3A	3,504	21,347	6.09	4,737 (499)	414 (24)	5,151 (523)	0.22	1.32
3B	1,820	11,706	6.43	1,486 (146)	37 (37)	1,523 (183)	0.11	0.74
4	1,820	14,395	7.91	2,265 (85)	73 (12)	2,338 (97)	0.16	1.23
5 ^d	2,281	19,365	8.49	5,383 (378)	97 (0)	5,480 (378)	0.26	2.24
Unknown	54	54	--	12 (0)	0 (0)	12 (0)	--	--
Total	16,187 ^e	137,347		27,216 (2,423)	828 (170)	28,044 (2,593)	0.18	1.40
Entire State	35,253 ^e	334,010	9.24	59,352 (2,679)	1,412 (170)	60,764 ^f (2,849)	0.17	1.64

^aSee Figure 7.

^bExcludes geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^cNumber of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^dExcludes Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone.

^eThe totals are less than the sums of the above values because some hunters were active in >1 zone and/or region.

^fThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 6,264$.

Table 9. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 1992-93.

Note: The data in this table for 1992 include the data in Table 10.

Season (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 ^b	34,456	251,176	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989 ^b	39,459	329,369	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990 ^b	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515)	1,319 (97)	68,446 (1,612)
1991 ^b	43,692	450,807	92,239 (1,245)	2,434 (70)	94,673 (1,315)
1992	35,253	334,010	59,352 (2,679)	1,412 (170)	60,764 (2,849)

^aNumber of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^bThe estimates of goose hunters and days afield for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for geese harvested have not been reduced. See last paragraph of the METHODS section for explanation.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, by county, during the early segment (3-11 October) of the regular goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1992.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese
Cook	163	597	183
DuPage	217	652	146
Grundy	163	489	146
Kane	489	1,385	524
Kankakee	190	435	49
Kendall	0	0	0
Lake	462	1,820	791
McHenry	625	1,657	596
Will	435	1,304	341
Unknown	27	27	0
Totals	2,771	8,366	2,776

Table 11. Percentage of days that goose hunters harvested 0, 1, or 2 Canada geese during the regular goose season in

Illinois in 1992-93. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Note: The percentages in this table were not adjusted for reporting bias (Anderson 1986), and therefore, they are indices that are valid only for relative comparisons.

Zone or Region		Percentage of Days		
		0 Goose	1 Goose	2 Geese
Southern Quota Zone	(376/2,819) ^a	74.4	15.5	10.1
Rend Lake Quota Zone	(90/895)	70.7	15.1	14.2
Fulton-Knox County Zone	(145/1,263)	69.6	20.1	10.3
Remainder of State				
1A	(44/331)	81.3	12.7	6.0
1B	(65/443)	76.3	16.0	7.7
2	(94/670)	70.9	16.9	12.2
3A	(71/509)	69.2	15.5	15.3
3B	(28/221)	76.0	15.8	8.2
4	(25/236)	79.7	13.5	6.8
5	(31/304)	61.5	18.1	20.4
Total	(358/2,714)	72.9	15.7	11.4
Entire State	(1,298/11,735)	72.9	16.1	11.0

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days exclusively in each of the respective zones and regions/number of days they hunted.

Table 12. The contribution that the 1st, and 2nd goose in the daily bag limit made toward the total harvest of Canada geese in Illinois in 1992-93 (calculated from data in Table 11).

Zone or Region	Percentage of Harvest	
	<u>1st</u> Goose	<u>2nd</u> Goose
Southern Quota Zone	72	28
Rend Lake Quota Zone	67	33
Fulton-Knox County Zone	75	25
Remainder of state		
1A	76	24
1B	75	25
2	70	30
3A	67	33
3B	75	25
4	75	25
5	66	34
Total	71	29
Entire State	71	29

Table 13. Illinois waterfowl hunters and goose hunters who hunted geese in another state or country during the 1992 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Parameter	Illinois Resident Waterfowl Hunters	Illinois Resident Goose Hunters
Hunted in another state or country	(1,713) 8.3%	(1,152) 8.8%
State or country visited	(136)	(96)
Wisconsin	19.1%	21.9%
Missouri	17.6	16.7
Canada	14.7	13.5
South Dakota	7.4	8.3
Texas	6.6	7.3
Iowa	5.9	6.3
Arkansas	4.4	6.3
Others	24.3 ^a	19.7 ^b

^a13 states.

^b11 states.

Table 14. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 1992 seasons.

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 ^a	65,856	35.5	22,730	30.6	1,020	52.7
1989 ^a	66,150	29.5	21,696	23.3	1,083	52.9
1990 ^a	59,007	29.9	23,895	34.9	868	38.0
1991 ^a	74,932	24.4	27,164	28.7	301	27.3
1992	68,027	31.4	18,631	32.1	1,450	45.7

^aThe estimates of ducks, geese, and coots crippled for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for number of geese crippled per 100 bagged have been similarly reduced. See last paragraph of the METHODS section for explanation.

Table 15. Summary of the number of waterfowl that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) per 100 birds retrieved in the United States from 1952 through 1992 seasons. 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	---- ^a
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 15 - continued

Table 14. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 1992 seasons.

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
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1991 ^a	74,932	24.4	27,164	28.7	301	27.3
1992	68,027	31.4	18,631	32.1	1,450	45.7

^aThe estimates of ducks, geese, and coots crippled for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for number of geese crippled per 100 bagged have been similarly reduced. See last paragraph of the METHODS section for explanation.

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Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots
1952	27.9	22.9	---- ^a
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 15 - continued

Table 15. Continued - page 2.

Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots
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
1989	22.5	15.9	32.1
1990	23.4	16.4	30.4
1991	24.3	17.1	28.1
1992	24.1	17.1	30.6

*No data for 1952-1970.

Table 16. Attitudes of duck hunters toward the September teal season in Illinois and the dates used for this season in 1992. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Do you approve or disapprove of having an early (September) teal season in Illinois?"

	(1,466) ^a
Approve	54.1±3% ^b
Disapprove	22.7±3
No opinion	23.2±3

Responses to the question,

"The dates for the early teal season in Illinois in 1992 were September 5-13. How do you feel about using similar dates for the early (September) teal season in 1993?"

	(292) ^c
Too early	28.9±5%
About right	62.4±6
Too late	2.4±3
No opinion	6.3±3

^aRespondents who hunted teal during the September teal season and/or ducks during the regular duck season in 1992.

^bThe 95% confidence interval.

^cRespondents who hunted teal during the September teal season.

Table 17. Attitudes of duck hunters toward legal shooting time during the regular duck season in Illinois (1992 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

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

Responses by Waterfowl Zones

	<u>North</u> (259) ^a	<u>Central</u> (890)	<u>South</u> (308)	<u>Entire State</u> (1,473) ^b
Sunrise	22.0±5% ^c	25.6±3%	15.6±4%	22.8±3%
1/2 hour before	76.1±5	72.6±3	83.8±4	75.6±3
No opinion	1.9±3	1.8±2	0.6±3	1.6±2

Responses by Administrative Regions

	<u>1A</u> (119) ^a	<u>1B</u> (350)	<u>2</u> (184)	<u>3A</u> (351)	<u>3B</u> (88)	<u>4</u> (114)	<u>5</u> (251)
Sunrise	25.2%	33.9%	21.2%	25.4%	5.7%	14.9%	15.1%
1/2 hour before	73.9	64.0	77.2	72.9	94.3	85.1	84.1
No opinion	0.9	3.1	1.6	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8

^aRespondents who hunted ducks ≥1 days in the respective zones and regions during the 1992 season.

^bIncludes a few hunters who could not be identified as to zone or region.

^cThe 95% confidence interval.

Table 18. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates used for the goose hunting seasons in the North Zone and Central Zone in Illinois in 1992-93. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"In 1990 and 1991, the goose seasons in the North Zone and Central Zone were split into 2 segments--an early 10-day segment that occurred on September 28-October 6 and a regular segment that began on the same dates that the duck seasons began. Because the 1992 Federal framework allowed only 79 days for goose hunting, the Department of Conservation selected October 17-January 3 for the goose season in the North Zone and October 31-January 17 for the goose season in the Central Zone. There was no early segment. Given these facts, which of the following choices would you have preferred for the goose seasons in the North Zone and Central Zones in 1992-93?"

	<u>North Zone</u> (164) ^a	<u>Central Zone</u> (343) ^a	<u>Both Zones</u> (507) ^a
Retain the early 10-day segment and have the goose seasons end 10 days earlier in each zone	47.0±8% ^b	17.5±5%	27.0±4%
Eliminate the early 10-day segment and have the goose seasons end 10 days later in each zone	40.9±8	71.1±5	61.3±4
No opinion	12.1±5	11.4±3	11.7±3

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥1 days in the respective zones during the 1992-93 season.

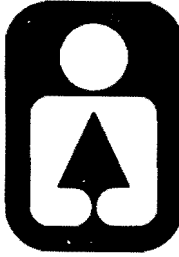
^bThe 95% confidence interval.

rent Manning
irector

ohn W. Comerio
eputy Director

ruce F. Clay
ssistant Director

Illinois



Department of Conservation
life and land together

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

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.

Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid.

Yours for better waterfowling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg".

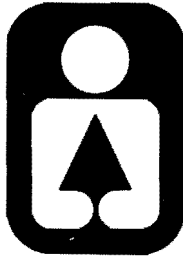
Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W1

Figure 2. The letter that accompanied the first mailing of the questionnaire.

rent Manning
irector

Illinois



Department of Conservation
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ohn W. Comerio
eputy Director

ruce F. Clay
ssistant Director

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

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 "Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg".

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief

Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W2

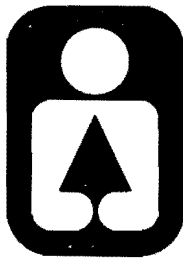
Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing of the questionnaire.

rent Manning
irector

ohn W. Comerio
eputy Director

ruce F. Clay
ssistant Director

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

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.

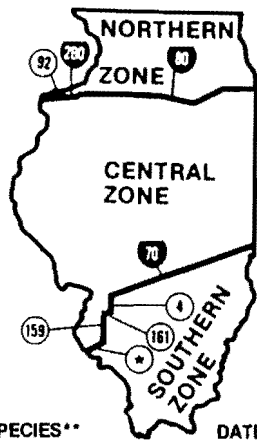
Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief

Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W3

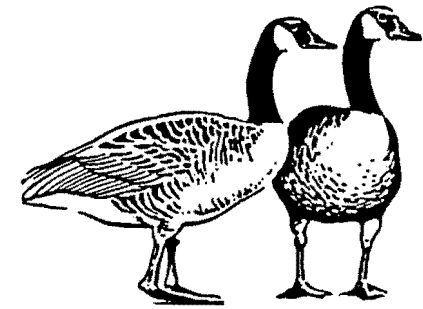
Figure 4. The letter that accompanied the third mailing of the questionnaire.



1992 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION

Steel Shot Required Statewide

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



SPECIAL GOOSE ZONES

Fulton-Knox County Zone: Fulton (Buckheart, Canton, Cass, Deerfield, Fairview, Farmington, Joshua, Orlon, and Putnam Townships, and that portion of Banner Township bounded on the north by Illinois-9 and on the east by US-24), and Knox Counties
Southern Illinois Quota Zones: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson Counties
Rend Lake Quota Zone: Franklin and Jefferson Counties
Northeastern Goose Zone: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. These counties are also open to goose hunting during the regular goose seasons.

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 the *1992 Digest of Hunting & Trapping Regulations* for exemptions and further information.

Annual Fees Are (including agent's fees):

Resident hunting license	\$ 7.50
Non-resident hunting license 5 day/regular	\$25.75/\$45.75
State Waterfowl Stamp	\$10.50
Federal Waterfowl Stamp	\$15.00*
Sportsmen's License (hunt-fish)	\$13.75

* Does not include agent's fees which may be 50c or 75c

BAG LIMIT

Ducks

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. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit of ducks and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

Geese

The daily bag of geese is 7 per day, which may not include more than two Canada geese or their subspecies and two white-fronted geese.

Refer to the 1992 Waterfowl Hunting Information brochure and the *1992 Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations* for a summary of State and Federal regulations. NOTE: Each hunter should also consult Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, 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 or 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

SPECIES**	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 5-Sept. 13 (Statewide)	7 am-4 pm	4	8
Ducks	North Oct. 17-Nov. 15	½ hour before sunrise to sunset	3 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	Central Oct. 31-Nov. 29		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
	South Nov. 14-Dec. 13		15	30
ALL GEESE (All areas except special goose zones)		½ hour before sunrise to sunset	7, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	14, only 4 Canada geese and 4 white-fronted geese
Canada and Light Geese				
North	Oct. 17-Jan. 3, 1993			
Central	Oct. 31-Jan. 17, 1993			
South	Nov. 14-Jan. 31, 1993			
White-fronted Geese				
North	Oct. 17-Dec. 25			
Central	Oct. 31-Jan. 8, 1993			
South	Nov. 14-Jan. 22, 1993			
SPECIAL GOOSE ZONES				
Northeastern Canada Goose Zone				
Canada Geese Only	Oct. 3-Oct. 11		2	4
Fulton-Knox County Zone				
Canada and Light Geese	Oct. 31-Jan. 17, 1993		7, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	14, only 4 Canada geese & 4 white-fronted geese
White-fronted Geese	Oct. 31-Jan. 8, 1993			
Rend Lake Quota Zone		½ hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.	7, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	14, only 10 Canada geese & 4 white-fronted geese
Canada and Light Geese	Nov. 14-Jan. 31, 1993			
White-fronted Geese	Nov. 14-Jan. 22, 1993			
Southern Illinois Quota Zone		Sunrise to 3 p.m.	7, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	14, only 10 Canada geese & 4 white-fronted geese
Canada and Light Geese	Nov. 14-Jan. 31, 1993			
White-fronted Geese	Nov. 14-Jan. 22, 1993			

**Light Geese (Snow/Blue Geese and Ross' Geese); White-Fronted Geese (includes Brants).

Figure 6. Waterfowl hunting regulations in Illinois during the 1992 season.

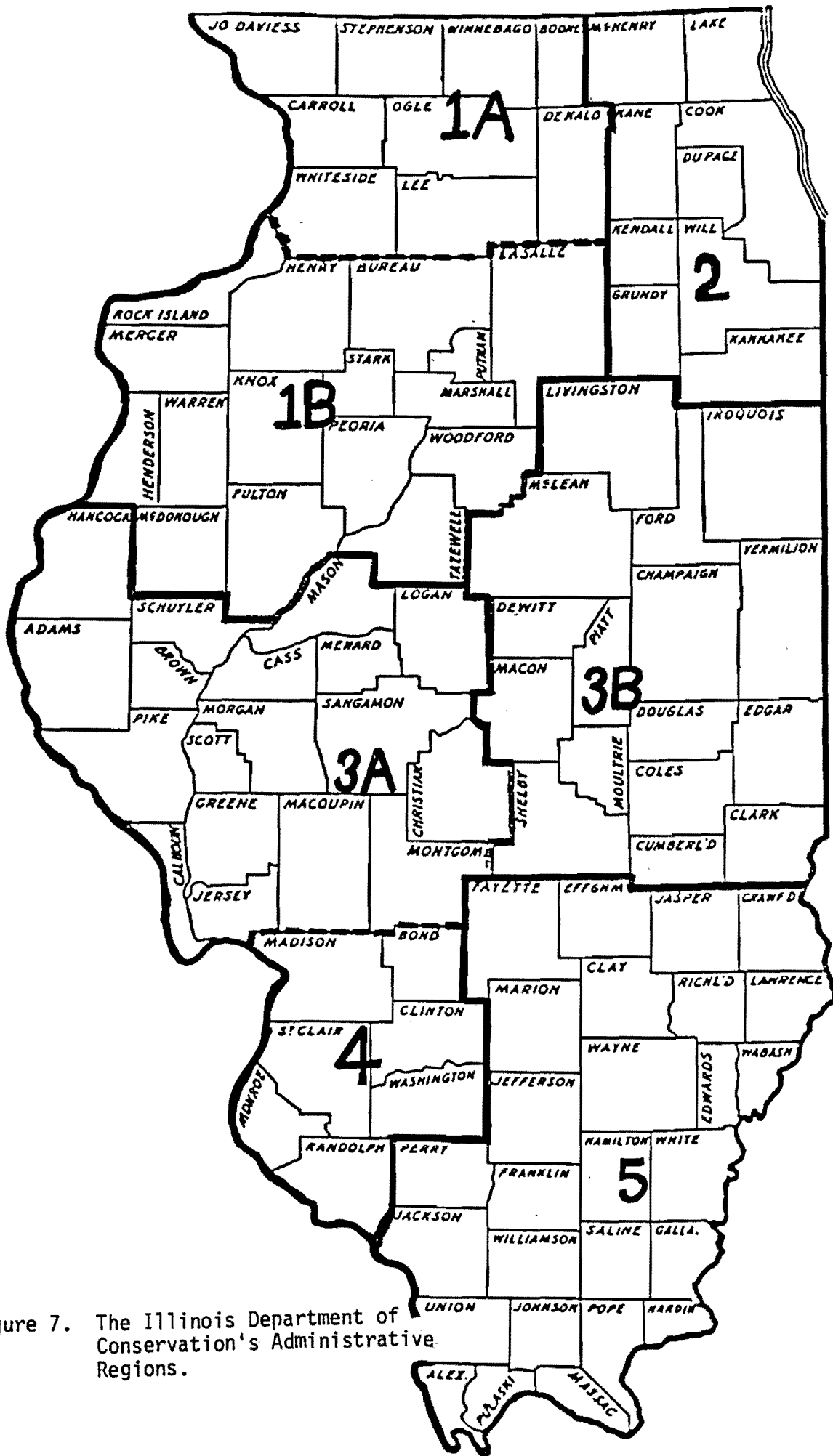


Figure 7. The Illinois Department of Conservation's Administrative Regions.

Appendix A

Harvests of Canada geese by county, zone, and administrative region in Illinois during the 1988-1992 seasons.

Table A1. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 1A (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Boone	64	13	151	56	73	71 (0.1) ^a
Carroll	568	1,026	627	1,217	536	796 (1.0)
DeKalb	64	78	11	70	12	47 (0.1)
JoDaviess	52	65	130	98	0	69 (0.1)
Lee	103	26	195	56	146	105 (0.1)
Ogle	52	104	119	154	304	147 (0.2)
Stephenson	0	52	22	112	134	64 (0.1)
Whiteside	219	156	389	433	304	300 (0.4)
Winnebago	877	701	433	825	561	679 (0.9)
Total	1,999	2,221	2,077	3,021	2,070	2,278 (3.0)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

Table A2. Harvest of Canada geese by county and zone during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 1B (Illinois 1988-1992).

County or Zone	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Bureau	593	312	270	797	304	455 (0.6) ^a
Henderson	748	117	260	461	158	349 (0.5)
Henry	383	383	383	461	304	383 (0.5)
LaSalle	413	1,234	563	979	768	792 (1.0)
McDonough	0	0	22	15	24	12 (<0.1)
Marshall	0	104	119	350	122	139 (0.1)
Mercer	193	480	76	280	73	220 (0.3)
Peoria	232	740	324	755	341	478 (0.6)
Putnam	181	195	54	112	37	116 (0.1)
Rock Island	39	52	216	531	97	187 (0.2)
Stark	0	65	595	28	110	160 (0.2)
Tazewell	297	403	97	629	426	370 (0.5)
Warren	0	0	0	0	24	5 (<0.1)
Woodford	26	260	195	517	256	251 (0.3)
Subtotal	3,105	4,345	3,174	5,915	3,044	3,917 (5.1)
Fulton-Knox County	6,325 ^c	7,501 ^c	5,578 ^c	15,341	7,331	8,415 (11.0)
Total	9,430	11,846	8,752	21,256	10,375	12,332 (16.1)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

^bBased on mean for 1991 and 1992. Henry County was included in the Fulton-Knox County Zone in 1988-1990.

^cExcluded Henry County in 1988-1990.

Table A3. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 2 (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Cook	438	130	368	448	341	345 (0.5) ^a
DuPage	671	1,052	952	517	365	711 (0.9)
Grundy	890	1,091	292	573	742	718 (0.9)
Kane	864	961	995	2,112	1,900	1,367 (1.8)
Kankakee	142	416	249	266	183	251 (0.3)
Kendall	26	78	86	70	37	59 (0.1)
Lake	516	1,156	1,309	2,251	1,400	1,326 (1.7)
McHenry	645	1,234	2,229	1,203	1,741	1,411 (1.8)
Will	903	1,273	920	1,496	1,510	1,220 (1.6)
Total	5,095	7,391	7,400	8,936	8,219	7,408 (9.7)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

Table A4. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 3A (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Adams	245	247	22	224	195	187 (0.2) *
Brown	0	0	11	70	49	26 (<0.1)
Calhoun	800	792	216	1,272	816	779 (1.0)
Cass	13	39	86	364	523	205 (0.3)
Christian	0	0	32	419	170	124 (0.2)
Green	103	338	97	98	49	137 (0.2)
Hancock	13	156	141	266	0	115 (0.1)
Jersey	529	584	206	769	146	447 (0.6)
Logan	39	0	0	42	37	24 (<0.1)
Macoupin	0	182	76	322	73	131 (0.2)
Mason	438	506	216	447	585	438 (0.6)
Menard	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Montgomery	13	130	65	56	268	106 (0.1)
Morgan	0	403	141	391	110	209 (0.3)
Pike	645	1,156	746	4,545	1,327	1,684 (2.2)
Sangamon	52	52	76	951	304	287 (0.4)
Schuyler	77	78	108	98	85	89 (0.1)
Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Total	2,967	4,663	2,239	10,334	4,737	4,988 (6.5)

*Percentage of statewide harvest.

Table A5. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 3B (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Champaign	0	0	0	0	24	5 (0.0) ^a
Clark	0	0	0	0	122	24 (<0.1)
Coles	0	39	0	28	0	13 (0.0)
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
DeWitt	39	130	0	210	37	83 (0.1)
Douglas	39	13	0	0	0	10 (0.0)
Edgar	180	298	54	1,035	122	338 (0.5)
Ford	52	13	43	42	12	32 (0.1)
Iroquois	0	0	43	14	110	33 (<0.1)
Livingston	0	13	151	573	487	246 (0.3)
McLean	52	195	65	322	207	168 (0.2)
Macon	0	143	249	84	110	117 (0.2)
Moultrie	116	0	0	56	0	34 (0.0)
Piatt	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Shelby	0	0	141	56	12	42 (0.1)
Vermilion	77	260	130	503	243	244 (0.3)
Total	555	1,104	876	2,923	1,486	1,389 (1.8)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

Table A6. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 4 (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Bond	130	78	130	224	207	154 (0.2) ^a
Clinton	193	779	790	475	305	508 (0.7)
Madison	52	312	75	154	134	145 (0.2)
Monroe	77	156	11	601	12	171 (0.2)
Randolph	503	506	552	629	1,011	641 (0.8)
St. Clair	361	1,247	1,222	1,049	572	891 (1.2)
Washington	26	117	---	---	24	33 (0.0)
Total	1,342	3,195	2,780	3,132	2,265	2,543 (3.3)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

Table A7. Harvest of Canada geese by county and zone during the regular goose season in Administrative Region 5 (Illinois 1988-1992).

County or Zone	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Clay	0	52	43	42	158	59 (0.1) ^a
Crawford	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Edwards	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Effingham	0	0	0	0	37	7 (<0.1)
Fayette	1,006	1,844	1,212	1,678	2,898	1,728 (2.3)
Gallatin	0	78	22	112	0	42 (0.1)
Hamilton	0	0	303	391	49	149 (0.2)
Hardin	0	0	0	56	0	11 (<0.1)
Jasper	0	13	0	0	110	25 (<0.1)
Johnson	90	13	119	28	12	52 (0.1)
Lawrence	0	0	0	0	0	0 (0.0)
Marion	90	39	22	0	12	33 (<0.1)
Massac	90	494	0	0	12	119 (0.2)
Perry	904	2,182	443	1,244	1,254	1,205 (1.6)
Pope	0	234	0	0	0	47 (0.1)
Pulaski	116	753	238	154	317	316 (0.4)
Richland	103	13	0	0	61	35 (<0.1)
Saline	169	195	400	28	61	171 (0.2)
Wabash	0	78	22	42	12	31 (<0.1)
Wayne	26	65	97	224	390	160 (0.2)
White	0	0	0	42	0	8 (<0.1)
Subtotal	2,594	6,053	2,921	4,041	5,383	4,198 (5.5)
Rend Lake Quota						
Zone ^b	9,236	12,613	8,763	12,138	7,331	10,016 (13.1)
Southern Quota						
Zone ^c	39,332	42,254	31,319	26,402	17,255	31,312 (40.9)
Total	51,162	60,920	43,003	42,581	29,969	45,527 (59.5)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

^bFranklin and Jefferson counties.

^cAlexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.

Table A8. Harvest of Canada geese by Administrative Region and Zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 1988-1992).

Region or Zone	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
1A	1,999	2,221	2,077	3,021	2,070	2,278 (3.0) ^a
1B:Fulton-Knox						
Zone	6,325	7,501	5,578	15,341	7,331	8,415 (11.0)
Remainder	3,105	4,345	3,174	5,915	3,044	3,917 (5.1)
Total	9,430	11,846	8,752	21,256	10,375	12,332 (16.1)
2	5,095	7,391	7,400	8,936	8,219	7,408 (9.7)
3A	2,967	4,663	2,239	10,334	4,737	4,988 (6.5)
3B	555	1,104	876	2,923	1,486	1,389 (1.8)
4	1,342	3,195	2,780	3,132	2,265	2,543 (3.3)
5:Rend Lake						
Quota Zone	9,236	12,613	8,763	12,138	7,331	10,016 (13.1)
Southern						
Quota Zone	39,332	42,254	31,319	26,402	17,255	31,312 (40.9)
Remainder	2,594	6,053	2,921	4,041	5,383	4,198 (5.5)
Total	51,162	60,920	43,003	42,581	29,969	45,527 (99.9)
Unknown	0	39	0	56	12	21 (<0.1)
Statewide	72,550	91,379	67,127	92,239	59,352	76,529 (100.0)

^aPercentage of statewide harvest.

Table A9. Harvest of Canada geese by county during the early (September) goose season in Administrative Region 2 (Illinois 1988-1992).

County	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Mean
Cook	181	208	76	56	---- ^a	130
DuPage	490	117	76	0	---	171
Grundy	271	221	87	420	---	250
Kane	322	455	465	601	---	461
Kankakee	103	26	43	42	---	53
Kendall	0	39	43	14	---	24
Lake	65	585	487	853	---	497
McHenry	374	455	822	993	---	661
Will	468	844	779	531	---	655
Total	2,270	2,950	2,878	3,510	---	2,902

^aNo early (September) season.