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WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HARVEST, HUNTER ACTIVITY, AND ATTITUDES
TOWARD DUCK SHOOTING TIME, GOOSE SEASON DATES, AND
SHOTGUN SHELL LIMIT FOR GOOSE HUNTERS, IN 1993-94

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Abstract: Purchasers of the previous year's (1992) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp were sampled via mail questionnaire to obtain information on waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward selected issues, during the 1993 season (50,976 stamps were sold in 1993). Of 2,763 respondents (70% response), 563 (20%) did not purchase a stamp again in 1993. Thus, the sample size was reduced to 2,200 respondents, 88% of which hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1993-94. An estimated 51,340 hunters (same as in 1992) expended 682,498 days afield (4% less than in 1992) and harvested 326,446 waterfowl (12% more than in 1992). The ratio of duck hunters to goose hunters was 1.16:1 in 1993. During the September teal season, 6,474 hunters spent 16,722 days afield and harvested 8,562 teal (29% less than in 1992). During the regular duck season, 40,941 hunters expended 366,656 days afield and harvested 217,600 ducks (1% more than in 1992) and 1,445 coots. Duck hunters spent 32% of their days afield on public hunting areas, 23% on private clubs, and 45% on other areas. During the regular goose season, 35,489 hunters devoted 299,120 days afield to harvest 93,361 Canada geese (57% more than in 1992), 1,314 other geese, and 94,675 total geese. The Canada goose harvest included 36,679 taken in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, 8,927 taken in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 9,392 taken in the Fulton-Knox County Zone, and 19,427 taken in Region 2. The number of geese harvested per hunter for the season (2.63) was the highest recorded in the last 13 years. Nearly one-half (47%) of the statewide goose hunting activity occurred between 20 December and 16 January. A majority (74%) of the hunters preferred that shooting time begin 1/2 hour before sunrise during the regular duck season, did not support a shotgun shell limit for goose hunters, and were supportive of a late (10 December-29 January) goose season in southern Illinois. Hunters in northern and central portions of the state were divided in their opinions of goose season dates. An index to the reports for the 1981-1993 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Surveys was prepared (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 1993-94 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 1993 season (Fig. 1) was similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989; Anderson and Williamson 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994). The mailing list was developed from the names of purchasers of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods used to mail the 1993-94 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 3,936 purchasers (3,589 residents and 347 non-residents) of the previous year's (1992) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp on 12 January 1994. Non-respondents were mailed 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 23 February and again on 1 April, respectively. As of 1 June 1994, 2,763 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 70%.

The mailing list for the 1993-94 questionnaire was developed by systematically selecting stubs from the sales of 36,900 of the previous year's (1992) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. The stamps were printed with matching (i.e., same I.D. numbers) stubs

attached. Vendors were instructed to write each stamp purchaser's name and mailing address on the stub, and to return the stubs to the DOC Permit Office in Springfield. Persons on the mailing list were notified via letter postmarked 14 October 1993 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 survey (Anderson 1986). The 1993-94 estimates were based on a sales of 50,976 of the 1993 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps.

An index to subjects covered in the reports for the 1981-1993 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Surveys was prepared. This index is attached to the present report (Appendix A).

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

Illinois' early teal season took place on 4-12 September 1993, and the daily bag limit was any aggregate of 4 blue-winged and green-winged teal. Shooting hours were from sunrise to sunset (7 am to 4 pm in 1992).

Hunting regulations during the regular duck season in 1993 were similar to those used in 1992. 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 to sunset shooting time (Fig. 6).

For Canada geese, the 1993 season length was 46 days (79 days in 1992) in the North Zone, Central Zone, and Fulton-Knox County Zone. These seasons were split into two time segments.

The Canada goose season extended for 51 days (79 days in 1992) in the South Zone. In the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones, the seasons were 51 days or when 30,600 and 9,200 Canada geese, respectively, were harvested. The statewide quota was 61,300 Canada geese. The bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day statewide.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed an extra 9 days (7-15 October north of I-80 and 21-29 October south of I-80) of Canada goose hunting in the 9 counties in northeastern Illinois. This hunting effort replaced the experimental early (1-10 September) season in this region, and it was directed toward local giant Canada geese, which have reached nuisance proportions in many urban areas.

FINDINGS

Of the 2,763 respondents to the questionnaire, 563 (20%) did not purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp again in 1993. The other 2,200 respondents purchased an average of 1.09 stamps each: 91.7% purchased 1 stamp, 7.4% purchased 2 stamps, 0.8% purchased 3-5 stamps, and 0.1% purchased ≥ 6 stamps. Of the 2,200 stamp purchasers, 1,930 (88%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 1993 season.

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

An estimated 51,340 waterfowl hunters (same as in 1992) were active in Illinois during the 1993 season (Table 1). They spent 682,498 days afield (4% less than in 1992) and harvested 326,446 waterfowl (12% more than in 1992).

Of the 51,340 hunters who were active in 1993, 31% hunted ducks only, 20% hunted geese only, and 49% hunted both ducks and geese. It is noteworthy that the proportion of waterfowl hunters who pursued geese peaked at 74% in 1991, then decreased to 69% in 1992 and remained at that level in 1993 (Table 2).

September Teal Season. An estimated 6,474 hunters spent 16,722 days afield, and harvested 8,562 teal during Illinois' 9-day season (Table 3). The success rate averaged 0.51 teal per day afield and 1.32 teal per hunter. There were more teal hunters (1,520), more days afield (3,932), and more teal harvested (2,219) in Administrative Region 1B than in any other region. Region 3A was 2nd in all three categories. The 1993 estimates for teal hunters, days afield, and teal harvested were 8-29% less than comparable estimates for 1992 (Table 4). The FWS estimated that Illinois' September teal harvest decreased from 13,480 ducks in 1992 to 3,500 ducks in 1993 (Martin and Padding 1994). The Great Flood of 1993 undoubtedly had a major negative impact on teal hunting in Illinois, especially in Regions 1A, 1B, and 3A.

Regular Duck Season. An estimated 40,941 individuals hunted ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1993 (Tables 5 and 6). These hunters harvested 217,600 ducks in 366,656 days

afield. There were more duck hunters and more days spent afield in Region 1B than in any other region. However, the duck harvest in Region 1B (52,263) was slightly less than the harvest in Region 3A (54,521).

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. Similarly, 56% of the duck hunters were active in their county of residence, and 33% of them were active only in their county of residence.

Statewide in 1993, 40% of the duck hunters were active on public hunting areas, 27% were active on private clubs, and 60% were active on other areas (Table 7). Of days afield, 32% occurred on public hunting areas, 23% occurred on private clubs, and 45% occurred on other areas. In 1981, public hunting areas attracted 35% of the hunters and 40% of the days afield, private clubs attracted 17% of the hunters and 18% of the days afield, and other areas attracted 47% of the hunters and 42% of the days afield. The extensive flooding during the summer of 1993 could have appreciably altered the distribution of duck hunting activities that year.

Statewide, hunting success was 0.58 duck per day afield and 5.21 ducks per hunter during the 1993 season (Table 5). It is noteworthy that, in spite of the impacts of extensive flooding, duck hunting effort, harvest, and success changed little from 1992 to 1993 (Table 6).

The 217,600 ducks harvested in Illinois in 1993 included an estimated 134,334 mallards, 39,906 wood ducks, and 43,360 other

ducks. The FWS estimated that 179,745 total ducks were harvested in the state during the regular duck 1993 season, which included 106,032 mallards, 28,112 wood ducks, and 45,601 other ducks (Martin and Padding 1994). The FWS estimates indicated that duck harvest decreased 21% in Illinois, decreased 3% in the Mississippi Flyway, and did not change in the United States, from 1992 to 1993.

Coot Hunting. The coot harvest was estimated at 1,445 birds in Illinois in 1993, 56% less than the estimated harvest for 1992 (Tables 5 and 6). The FWS estimated the Illinois coot harvest at 1,024 birds for the 1993 season, down 32% from that agency's estimate for 1992 (Martin and Padding 1994).

Regular Goose Season. An estimated 35,489 goose hunters were active during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1993-94, and they spent 299,120 days afield (Table 8). The Southern Illinois Quota Zone, located in Region 5, accounted for 41% of the goose hunters and 31% of the days afield. The Rend Lake Quota Zone, also in Region 5, accommodated 14% of the hunters and 8% of the days afield. The Fulton-Knox County Zone, in Region 1B, attracted 16% of the hunters and 15% of the days afield. The values for Region 2 were 17% and 20%, respectively.

There was an estimated 94,675 geese harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1993-94, which included 93,361 Canada geese and 1,314 other geese (Table 8). The Canada goose harvest increased 57% from 1992-93 to 1993-94 (Table 9). The FWS estimated that 94,812 Canada geese, 362 other geese, and 95,174 total geese were taken in the state in 1993-94 (Martin and

Padding 1994).

The Canada goose harvest in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone was tabulated (via daily registration forms) at 36,679 birds during the 1993-94 season (R.M. Whitton, pers. commun.). This represents 39% of the statewide harvest of Canada geese during the regular goose season. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, an estimated 8,927 Canada geese (10% of state's total harvest) were taken. This estimate was 13% greater than the projected harvest (i.e., projected from the reported harvest on public hunting areas) of 7,909 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 9,392 Canada geese or 10% of the state's total. The other 38,363 Canada geese (41% of total) were harvested in the remainder of the state. These birds included an estimated 19,427 Canada geese taken in Region 2, 5,038 taken in Region 1B, and 4,354 taken in Region 4. About 3% of the Canada geese harvested outside designated goose zones were taken coincidentally to duck hunting (Table 8).

In lieu of an early September season, the FWS approved an extra 9 days (7-15 October north of I-80 and 21-29 October south of I-80) 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 5,753 hunters (16% of the statewide total) spent 18,339 days afield (6%) and harvested 6,188 Canada geese (7%) (Table 10). Lake, McHenry, and Will counties accounted for 60% of the hunters, 66% of the days afield, and 72% of the goose harvest. During an extra 9 days (3-11 October) added to the 1992-93 season

in the same region, an estimated 2,771 hunters expended 8,366 days afield and harvested 2,776 Canada geese.

Statewide, hunters experienced an overall success rate of 0.31 goose per day afield and 2.63 geese per hunter during the 1993-94 season (Table 8). The number of geese per hunter was the highest recorded since the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey was initiated in 1981. In comparison, hunters averaged 0.17 goose per day afield and 1.64 geese during the 1992 season. In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, success was 0.40 and 2.50 geese, respectively, in 1993. Similarly, hunting success was 0.36 and 1.78 geese at Rend Lake, 0.21 and 1.73 geese in the Fulton-Knox County Zone, and 0.28 and 2.41 geese in the remainder of the state.

The temporal distributions of hunter activity and Canada goose harvest during the 1993-94 season are summarized by zone in Table 11. Statewide, 47% of the days afield and 58% of the goose harvest occurred during the last 34% (20 December-16 January) of the season. In the North Zone, 42% of the days afield and 43% of the goose harvest occurred during the last 50% (27 November-19 December) of the season. In the Central Zone and Fulton-Knox County Zone, 38-42% of the days afield and 38-52% of the goose harvest occurred during the last 30% (20 December-2 January) of the season. In the South Zone, Rend Lake Quota Zone, and Southern Illinois Quota Zone, 66-82% of the days afield and 75-88% of the goose harvest occurred during the last 54% (20 December-16 January) of the season. These percentages were dictated by two overriding factors: the timing of goose

migration and the dates when the goose hunting seasons were open.

According to information reported by goose hunters in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, 17% of the days afield occurred on public hunting areas, 37% occurred on commercial hunting clubs, and 46% occurred on non-commercial/private areas (Table 12). Similarly, 11% of the Canada goose harvest took place on public hunting areas, 46% on commercial hunting clubs, and 43% on non-commercial/private areas. Goose hunting activities on public hunting areas and on non-commercial/private areas were lowest in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake Refuge and highest at Crab Orchard NWR. For hunting activities on commercial hunting clubs, this pattern was reversed. These distribution patterns of hunting activity and goose harvest may have been influenced by two important factors in 1993: (1) the extensive flooding of the Horseshoe Lake area during the summer and (2) the exceptionally high hunting success rates that occurred during the goose season. Either or both of these factors could have "temporally" altered the distribution of hunting activity and goose harvest.

Crippling Losses. Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 62,250 ducks, 21,067 geese, and 813 coots in Illinois during the 1993-94 hunting season (Table 13). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not actual numbers, equate to 28.6 ducks, 22.3 geese, and 40.0 coots lost per 100 harvested. After being somewhat elevated during the mid- and late-1980s, the 1991-1993 crippling rates for ducks were on par with the rates experienced in the early 1980s. The low crippling rate for geese in 1993-94 was thought to be a

manifestation of the increased vulnerability of the birds due to a preponderance of immatures in the flock.

Nationwide crippling rates for ducks and geese during the 1993 season, as measured via hunter questionnaire surveys conducted by the FWS, were similar to, or lower than, the rates that prevailed in the 1950's and 1960s (Table 14).

Attitudes and Opinions of Hunters

Legal Shooting Time During Regular Duck Season. According to responses to question #10, an overwhelming majority of the duck hunters (74%) preferred 1/2 hour before sunrise as the legal shooting time during the regular duck season (Table 15). This sentiment prevailed in all zones and all regions of the state, ranging from a low of 65% in Administrative Region 1B to a high of 89% in Region 3B. For duck hunters who utilized public hunting areas, 79% (n=623) preferred 1/2 hour before sunrise; for hunters who hunted on private clubs, 62% (n=415) preferred 1/2 before sunrise; and for hunters who used others types of areas, 77% (n=928) preferred 1/2 hour before sunrise.

Shotgun Shell Limit for Goose Hunters. When asked how they felt about imposing a shotgun shell limit for goose hunting, almost two-thirds (63%) of the goose hunters statewide were unsupportive of the idea (Table 16). This attitude was pervasive throughout all zones and regions in the state. The only exception was the Rend Lake Quota Zone, where 44% of the goose hunters were supportive of a shotgun shells limit and 49% were unsupportive of such a measure.

Goose Season Dates in North and Central Zones. Goose hunters in the various zones were polled to determine their opinions of the dates to be used for the 1994-95 goose season. A plurality (30%) of the respondents in the North Zone preferred a continuous goose season that begins with the duck season (Table 17). When the responses are examined in pairs, it appears that 50% (1st response + 2nd response) of the goose hunters in this zone preferred a split goose season, 45% (3rd response + 4th response) opted for a continuous season, and 54% (2nd response + 3rd response) liked a season that includes all of the duck season.

Respondents who hunted geese in the Central Zone expressed views about goose season dates that were difficult to interpret (Table 18). In this zone, 27% of the hunters preferred a split season with dates similar to those used in 1993-94, 24% liked a split season that begins with (and includes all of) the duck season, 21% chose a continuous season that begins with the duck season, and 21% voted for a continuous season that begins about 2 weeks after the opening of the duck season. When the responses are examined in pairs, it appears that 51% (1st response + 2nd response) of the respondents in the Central Zone liked a split goose season, 42% (3rd response + 4th response) liked a continuous season, and 45% (2nd response + 3rd response) wanted a goose season that includes all of the duck season.

Majorities of goose hunters in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (59%), Southern Illinois Quota Zone (52%), and the remainder of the South Zone (75%) preferred a season that begins 2 weeks later

than in 1993-94 (Table 19).

DISCUSSION

Compared to 1992, the number of Illinois duck hunters in 1993 increased 4%, their days afield increased 1%, and their duck harvest increased 1% (Table 6). The extensive flooding during the summer months destroyed food resources in the Illinois and Upper Mississippi River valleys, as well as in smaller river systems. Nevertheless, as many sportspeople participated in duck hunting in 1993 as in 1992, and hunting success and total duck harvest were similar during the 2 years. It appears that the Great Flood of 1993 had less impact on duck hunting activities and the duck harvest than might have been expected.

The 1993-94 goose hunting season was characterized by a high harvest and exceptionally high hunting success rates. An estimated 93,361 Canada geese were taken statewide, which was the highest harvest recorded for this species since the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter survey was initiated in 1981 (Table 9). This harvest was 52% greater than Illinois' allocation of 61,300 Canada geese. The Southern Illinois Quota Zone was credited with a harvest of 36,679 geese (20% greater than quota), the Rend Lake Quota Zone with 8,927 geese (3% less than quota), and the remainder of the state with 47,755 geese (122% greater than quota). An unprecedented 19,427 Canada geese were harvested in Administrative Region 2, which consists of 9 counties in northeastern Illinois.

Goose hunters harvested an average of 2.63 geese during the 1993-94 season (Table 8), which was the highest success rate recorded since the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey was initiated in 1981. The high hunting success rate was attributed to the high proportion of immature birds in the fall flight of Canada geese. With inexperienced immatures predominating, the flocks were unusually vulnerable to decoys, calling, and other hunting techniques. As a result, geese could be enticed to approach within easy shooting distances of hunters, which enabled them to make "clean" kills and allow relatively few birds to escape as cripples. Seasoned hunters and guides throughout the state told countless stories of how flock after flock of Canada geese were repeatedly lured to decoy spreads. In the words of many guides, "I have never seen anything like it in all my years of goose hunting."

The issue of whether legal shooting time during the regular duck season should begin at sunrise or at 1/2 hour before sunrise continues to be 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), 76% in 1992, and 74% in 1993 (Table 15). This sentiment prevailed in all zones and regions of the state. It also prevailed on public areas (79%), on private clubs (62%), and on other types of areas (77%). In a survey on public areas in the early 1980s, 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.

Based on the findings of this survey, it is evident that a majority of the goose hunters in southern Illinois prefer to have a relatively late goose season. That is, they want the season to begin and end 2 weeks later than the dates (27 November-16 January) used for the 1993-94 season (Table 19). Unfortunately, the preferences of goose hunters in northern and central portions of the state toward goose season dates are less clear. About one-half of the hunters in these areas would like to have a split season and about one-half would like to have a continuous season. To complicate matters, about one-half of the hunters would also like for the goose season to include all of the duck season. It appears that, regardless of the dates used for the goose seasons in northern and central Illinois, a sizable percentage of goose hunters in these areas will be dissatisfied unless a longer season can be offered. Such a season, must meet approval of the Mississippi Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would begin with the duck season and continue uninterrupted through December when the main goose migrations occur.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1993 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
1993	50,976 (995)	51,340	682,498	326,446

^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, in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

16. Would you be supportive or unsupportive of a regulation that limits goose hunters to 10 shotgun shells (i.e., 5 shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit) statewide? This regulation would apply only during those periods when the duck season was closed. (circle number for appropriate answer)

Supportive....1 Unsupportive....2 No opinion....3

17. If you hunted Canada geese in the Southern Quota Zone:

17a. Which refuge were you closest to most of the time? (circle one number)

Horseshoe Lake Refuge..1 Union County Refuge..2 Crab Orchard Refuge..3

17b. How many days did you hunt and how many geese did you harvest on each of the the following types of areas?

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Geese</u>
Public hunting area.....	_____	_____
Commercial goose hunting club.....	_____	_____
Non-commercial goose hunting club or private area..	_____	_____

18. Because of a reduction in the number of migrant Canada geese in the fall flight, it was necessary to shorten the regular goose hunting season in Illinois in 1993-94. The season dates were October 16-24 and November 13-December 19 in the North Zone, October 30-November 7 and November 27-January 2 in the Central Zone, and November 27-January 16 in the South Zone. Given these facts, and assuming that the fall flight of Canada geese is about the same next year, which of the following season dates would you prefer in 1994-95? (check [✓] one answer for each zone in which you hunted waterfowl)

18a. FOR NORTH ZONE AND CENTRAL ZONE

	<u>All Seasons are 46 Days Long</u>	
	<u>North Zone</u>	<u>Central Zone</u>
*Split season with dates similar to those used in 1993-94.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 15-23 & Nov 12-Dec 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 29-Nov 6 & Nov 26-Jan 1
*Split season that begins with (and includes all of) the duck season.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 15-Nov 13 & Dec 3-18	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 29-Nov 27 & Dec 17-Jan 1
*Continuous season that begins with the duck season.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 15-Nov 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 29-Dec 13
*Continuous season that begins about 2 weeks after opening of the duck season..	<input type="checkbox"/> Oct 29-Dec 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov 12-Dec 27
*No opinion.....	<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion

18b. FOR SOUTH ZONE, REND LAKE QUOTA ZONE, AND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUOTA ZONE

All Seasons are 51 Days Long

*Season dates similar to those used in 1993-94..... Nov 26-Jan 15

*Season dates 1 week later than in 1993-94..... Dec 3-Jan 22
(NOTE: 2nd firearms deer season is Dec 1-4)

*Season dates 2 weeks later than in 1993-94..... Dec 10-Jan 29

*No opinion..... No opinion

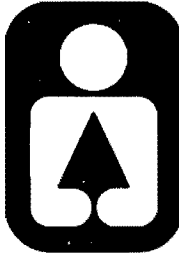
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Assistant Director

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.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted ducks, and the percentage who hunted geese, in Illinois from 1981 through 1993 seasons.

Season (Year)	Percentage Who Hunted:			Percentage Who Were:	
	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
1993	31	20	49	80	69

Table 3. Teal harvest and hunter activity, by administrative region, during the September teal season in Illinois in 1993 (n = 2,200).

Administrative Region ^a	Number of Hunters	Days Afield		Teal		
		Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield	Per Hunter
1A	734	1,494	2.04	906	0.61	1.23
1B	1,520	3,932	2.59	2,219	0.56	1.46
2	917	2,516	2.74	880	0.35	0.96
3A	1,389	3,381	2.43	1,930	0.57	1.39
3B	367	1,075	2.93	171	0.16	0.47
4	550	1,677	3.05	893	0.53	1.62
5	917	2,438	2.66	1,458	0.60	1.59
Unknown	80	209		105		
Entire State	6,474	16,722	2.58	8,562 ^b	0.51	1.32

^aSee figure 7.

^bThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 3,345$.

Table 4. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 1993.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hunters</u>	<u>Days Afield</u>	<u>Number of Teal</u>
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
1993	6,474	16,722	8,562

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

Table 5. Duck and coot harvests and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1993 (n = 2,200).

Administrative Region ^a	Number of Hunters	Days Afield		Ducks			Number of Coots
		Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Day Afield ^b	Per Hunter ^b	
1A	3,722	29,251	7.86	17,189 (486) ^c	0.57	4.49	13
1B	9,724	93,623	9.63	52,263 (512)	0.55	5.32	236
2	8,125	68,671	8.45	29,677 (762)	0.42	3.56	407
3A	7,732	80,046	10.35	54,521 (854)	0.67	6.94	342
3B	1,913	12,109	6.33	5,581 (26)	0.46	2.90	223
4	2,542	23,563	9.27	16,677 (538)	0.68	6.35	79
5	6,710	57,794	8.61	41,298 (1,103)	0.70	5.99	145
Unknown	473	1,599		394 (39)			
Entire state	40,941	366,656	8.96	217,600 (4,320) ^{d,e}	0.58	5.21	1,445 ^f

^aSee Figure 7.

^bExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^cDucks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^dThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 24,087$.

^eIncludes 134,334 mallards, 39,906 wood ducks, and 43,360 other ducks.

^fThe 95% confidence interval is ± 915 .

Table 6. Summary of duck and coot harvests and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1993.

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	7,372
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
1993	40,941	366,656	134,334	39,906	43,360	217,600	1,445

^aThe estimates of duck hunters, days afield, 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 in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 7. Distribution of duck hunters and days afield in relation to type of areas hunted in Illinois during the 1993 season. Sample size (hunters/days) are in parentheses.

Administrative Region ^a		<u>Public Hunting Areas</u>		<u>Private Clubs</u>		<u>Other Areas</u>	
		Hunters	Days	Hunters	Days	Hunters	Days
1A	(142/1,096)	36.6%	39.5%	7.0%	3.3%	69.7%	57.2
1B	(371/3,534)	36.1	25.6	36.9	36.5	53.9	37.9
2	(310/2,543)	23.5	22.2	26.1	20.5	71.6	57.3
3A	(295/2,961)	41.7	33.8	35.8	28.9	51.9	37.3
3B	(73/445)	52.1	52.1	9.6	2.7	52.1	45.2
4	(97/905)	56.7	34.7	18.6	17.1	62.9	48.2
5	(256/2,178)	55.5	42.0	20.3	12.7	61.3	45.3
Unknown	(18/47)	44.4	68.1	33.3	29.8	5.6	2.1
Entire State	(1,562/13,709)	40.0	32.1	27.0	23.0	59.6	44.9

^aSee Figure 7.

Table 8. Goose harvest and hunter activity, by zones and administrative regions, during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1993-94 (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	14,720	92,937	6.31	36,679 (41) ^c	137 (14)	36,816 (55)	0.40	2.50
Rend Lake Quota Zone	5,024	24,902	4.96	8,927 (0)	27 (0)	8,954 (0)	0.36	1.78
Fulton-Knox County Zone	5,510	44,996	8.17	9,392 (83)	233 (0)	9,625 (83)	0.21	1.73
Remainder of State								
1A	1,431	7,887	5.51	1,780 (207)	55 (28)	1,835 (235)	0.20	1.12
1B	3,133	22,390	7.15	5,038 (221)	178 (14)	5,216 (235)	0.22	1.59
2	6,131	60,256	9.83	19,427 (221)	219 (28)	19,648 (249)	0.32	3.16
3A	2,458	15,746	6.41	3,710 (303)	423 (0)	4,133 (303)	0.24	1.56
3B	1,080	6,644	6.15	1,164 (28)	14 (0)	1,178 (28)	0.17	1.06
4	1,485	11,263	7.58	4,354 (124)	14 (0)	4,368 (124)	0.38	2.86
5 ^d	1,972	11,614	5.89	2,738 (28)	14 (0)	2,752 (28)	0.23	1.38
Unknown	81	485	--	152 (0)	0 (0)	152 (0)	--	--
Total	15,800 ^e	136,285	8.63	38,363 (1,132)	917 (70)	39,280 (1,202)	0.28	2.41
Entire State	35,489 ^e	299,120	8.43	93,361 (1,256)	1,314 (84)	94,675 ^f (1,340)	0.31	2.63

^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 $\pm 8,423$.

Table 9. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 1993-94. Note: The data in this table for 1993 include the data presented 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)
1993	35,489	299,120	93,361 (1,260)	1,314 (82)	94,675 (1,342)

^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 in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, by county, during the early segment (7-15 October north of I-80 and 21-29 October south of I-80) of the regular goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1993. Note: The data in this table are included in the data presented in Tables 8 and 9.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese
Cook	243	621	246
DuPage	378	864	438
Grundy	378	1,296	397
Kane	621	1,945	424
Kankakee	297	513	123
Kendall	189	594	96
Lake	1,323	4,456	2,067
McHenry	1,080	3,676	1,383
Will	1,026	3,943	986
Unknown	218	431	28
Totals	5,753	18,339	6,188

Table 11. Temporal distribution of Canada goose harvest and hunter activity in Illinois during the 1993 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Zone	Dates		Percentage		
			Hunters	Days	Geese
North Zone	Oct 16-24	(172) ^a	43.6	29.4	25.6
	Nov 13-26		38.4	28.7	31.3
	Nov 27-Dec 19		44.8	41.9	43.1
Central Zone Fulton-Knox	Oct 30-Nov 7	(141) ^a	41.8	19.8	19.5
	Nov 27-Dec 19		57.4	42.6	28.6
	Dec 20-Jan 2		51.1	37.6	51.9
Remainder	Oct 30-Nov 7	(173) ^a	31.2	20.7	26.3
	Nov 27-Dec 19		48.0	37.3	36.2
	Dec 20-Jan 2		46.2	42.0	37.5
South Zone Rend Lake ^c	Nov 27-Dec 19	(91) ^a	27.5	18.3	12.0
	Dec 20-Jan 2		50.5	41.6	40.9
	Jan 3-16		56.0	40.1	47.1
Southern Ill ^c	Nov 27-Dec 19	(375) ^a	50.9	33.9	24.7
	Dec 20-Jan 2		46.7	29.8	27.5
	Jan 3-16		57.9	36.3	47.8
Remainder	Nov 27-Dec 19	(29) ^a	48.3	19.1	14.0
	Dec 20-Jan 2		79.3	49.9	50.9
	Jan 3-16		55.2	31.2	35.1
Statewide	Oct 16-24	(1,254) ^b	12.3	5.3	4.3
	Oct 30-Nov 7		19.9	8.5	6.6
	Nov 13-26		20.8	8.9	6.8
	Nov 27-Dec 19		51.7	30.3	24.2
	Dec 20-Jan 2		46.8	27.1	26.8
	Jan 3-16		37.0	19.9	31.3

^aGoose hunters who were active exclusively in the respective zones.

^bAll goose hunters in all zones.

^cCanada goose quota zones.

Table 12. Distribution of goose hunters, days afield, and geese harvested in relation to types of areas hunted in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone during the 1993-94 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Type of Area	Percentages		
	Hunters	Days Afield	Geese
<u>Vicinity of Horseshoe Lake Refuge</u>			
	(118)	(616)	(437)
Public Hunting	9.3	3.6	3.9
Commercial Hunting	74.6	64.0	69.8
Non-Commercial/Private	22.9	32.4	26.3
<u>Vicinity of Union County Refuge</u>			
	(117)	(584)	(485)
Public Hunting	44.4	16.1	12.0
Commercial Hunting	48.7	55.1	56.9
Non-Commercial/Private	29.1	28.8	31.1
<u>Vicinity of Crab Orchard NWR</u>			
	(272)	(2,063)	(1,681)
Public Hunting	29.0	21.6	12.8
Commercial Hunting	43.8	24.2	36.5
Non-Commercial/Private	44.5	54.2	50.7
<u>All Refuges</u>			
	(507)	(3,263)	(2,603)
Public Hunting	28.0	17.2	11.1
Commercial Hunting	52.1	37.2	45.9
Non-Commercial/Private	35.9	45.6	43.0

Table 13. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 1993 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
1993	62,250	28.6	21,067	22.3	813	40.0

^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 in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 14. 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 1993 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	---
1970	21.1	15.3	---
1971	22.1	15.4	28.2

Table 14 - continued.

Table 14. Continued - page 2.

Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots
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
1993	22.7	14.9	27.6

*No data for 1952-1970.

Table 15. Attitudes of duck hunters toward legal shooting time during the regular duck season in Illinois (1993 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 or 1/2 hour before sunrise?"

Responses by Waterfowl Zones

	<u>North</u> (395) ^a	<u>Central</u> (839)	<u>South</u> (306)	<u>Entire State</u> (1,556) ^b
*Sunrise	20.5%	27.2%	15.7%	23.1%
*1/2 hour before	76.2	69.5	82.3	73.8
*No opinion	3.3	3.3	2.0	3.1

Responses by Administrative Regions

	<u>1A</u> (142) ^a	<u>1B</u> (371)	<u>2</u> (309)	<u>3A</u> (293)	<u>3B</u> (72)	<u>4</u> (97)	<u>5</u> (256)
*Sunrise	22.5%	31.8%	23.9%	24.2%	6.9%	16.5%	16.0%
*1/2 hour before	73.2	65.2	72.5	72.4	88.9	83.5	81.6
*No opinion	4.3	3.0	3.6	3.4	4.2	0.0	2.4

^aRespondents who hunted ducks ≥ 1 days in the respective zones and regions during the 1993 season.

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

Table 16. Attitudes of goose hunters toward a shotgun shell limit in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Would you be supportive or unsupportive of a regulation that limits goose hunters to 10 shotgun shells (i.e., 5 shells per Canada goose in the daily bag limit) statewide? This reaction would apply only during those periods when the duck season was closed."

Responses by Waterfowl Zones

	<u>North Zone</u> (209)	<u>Central Zone</u>		<u>South Zone</u>			<u>Entire State</u> (1,230)
		<u>FKCZ^a</u> (193)	<u>Remainder</u> (272)	<u>RLOZ^b</u> (178)	<u>SIOZ^c</u> (535)	<u>Remainder</u> (85)	
*Supportive	23.9%	28.0%	28.3%	43.8%	29.7%	34.1%	28.9%
*Unsupportive	68.9	63.2	65.8	49.4	62.1	61.2	63.0
*No opinion	7.2	8.8	5.9	6.8	8.2	4.7	8.1

Responses by Administrative Regions

	<u>1A</u> (52)	<u>1B</u> (100)	<u>2</u> (192)	<u>3A</u> (81)	<u>3B</u> (36)	<u>4</u> (47)	<u>5</u> (58)
*Supportive	25.0%	36.0%	24.0%	14.8%	27.8%	40.4%	34.5%
*Unsupportive	67.3	59.0	67.7	80.2	72.2	53.2	60.3
*No opinion	7.7	5.0	8.3	5.0	0.0	6.4	5.2

^aFulton-Knox County Zone.

^bRend Lake Quota Zone.

^cSouthern Illinois Quota Zone.

Table 17. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates used for the goose hunting season in the North Zone in Illinois in 1993-94. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Response to the question,

"Because of a reduction in the number of migrant Canada geese in the fall flight, it was necessary to shorten the regular goose hunting season in Illinois in 1993-94. The season dates were October 16-24 and November 13-December 19 in the North Zone, October 30-November 7 and November 27-January 2 in the Central Zone, and November 27-January 16 in the South Zone. Given these facts, and assuming that fall flight of Canada geese is about the same next year, which of the following season dates would you prefer in 1994-95?"

	<u>North Zone</u> (199) ^a
*Split season with dates similar to those used in 1993-94 (Oct 15-23 & Nov 12-Dec 18)	26.1%
*Split season that begins with (and includes all of) the duck season (Oct 15-Nov 13 & Dec 3-18)	24.1
*Continuous season that begins with the duck season (Oct 15-Nov 29)	30.2
*Continuous season that begins about 2 weeks after opening of the duck season (Oct 29-Dec 13)	14.6
*No opinion	5.0

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in this zone during the 1993-94 season.

Table 18. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates used for the goose hunting season in the Central Zone in Illinois in 1993-94. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Because of a reduction in the number of migrant Canada geese in the fall flight, it was necessary to shorten the regular goose hunting season in Illinois in 1993-94. The season dates were October 16-24 and November 13-December 19 in the North Zone, October 30-November 7 and November 27-January 2 in the Central Zone, and November 27-January 16 in the South Zone. Given these facts, and assuming that the fall flight of Canada geese is about the same next year, which of the following season dates would you prefer in 1994-95?"

	<u>Central Zone</u> (234) ^a
*Split season with dates similar to those used in 1993-94 (Oct 29-Nov 6 & Nov 26-Jan 1)	26.5%
*Split season that begins with (and includes all of) the duck season (Oct 29-Nov 27 & Dec 17-Jan 1)	24.4
*Continuous season that begins with the duck season (Oct 29-Dec 13)	20.5
*Continuous season that begins about 2 weeks after opening of the duck season (Nov 12-Dec 27)	21.4
*No opinion	7.2

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in this zone during the 1993-94 season.

Table 19. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates used for the goose hunting season in the South Zone, Rend Lake Quota Zone, and Southern Illinois Quota Zone in 1993-94. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question,

"Because of a reduction in the number of migrant Canada geese in the fall flight, it was necessary to shorten the regular goose hunting season in Illinois in 1993-94. The season dates were October 16-24 and November 13-December 19 in the North Zone, October 30-November 7 and November 27-January 2 in the Central Zone, and November 27-January 16 in the South Zone. Given these facts, and assuming that the fall flight of Canada geese is about the same next year, which of the following season dates would you prefer in 1994-95?"

	South Zone		
	Rend Lake Quota Zone (117) ^a	Southern Illinois Quota Zone (530)	Remainder (84)
*Season dates similar to those used in 1993-94 (Nov 26-Jan 15)	16.9%	22.6%	11.9%
*Season dates 1 week later than in 1993-94 (Dec 3-Jan 22) (Note: 2nd firearm deer season is Dec 1-4)	20.9	18.7	11.9
*Season dates 2 weeks later than in 1993-94 (Dec 10-Jan 29)	58.8	52.3	75.0
*No opinion	3.4	6.4	1.2

^aRespondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in the respective zones during the 1993-94 season.

1993-94 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 activities during the 1993-94 season.

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1993-94 season, answer the first three 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.

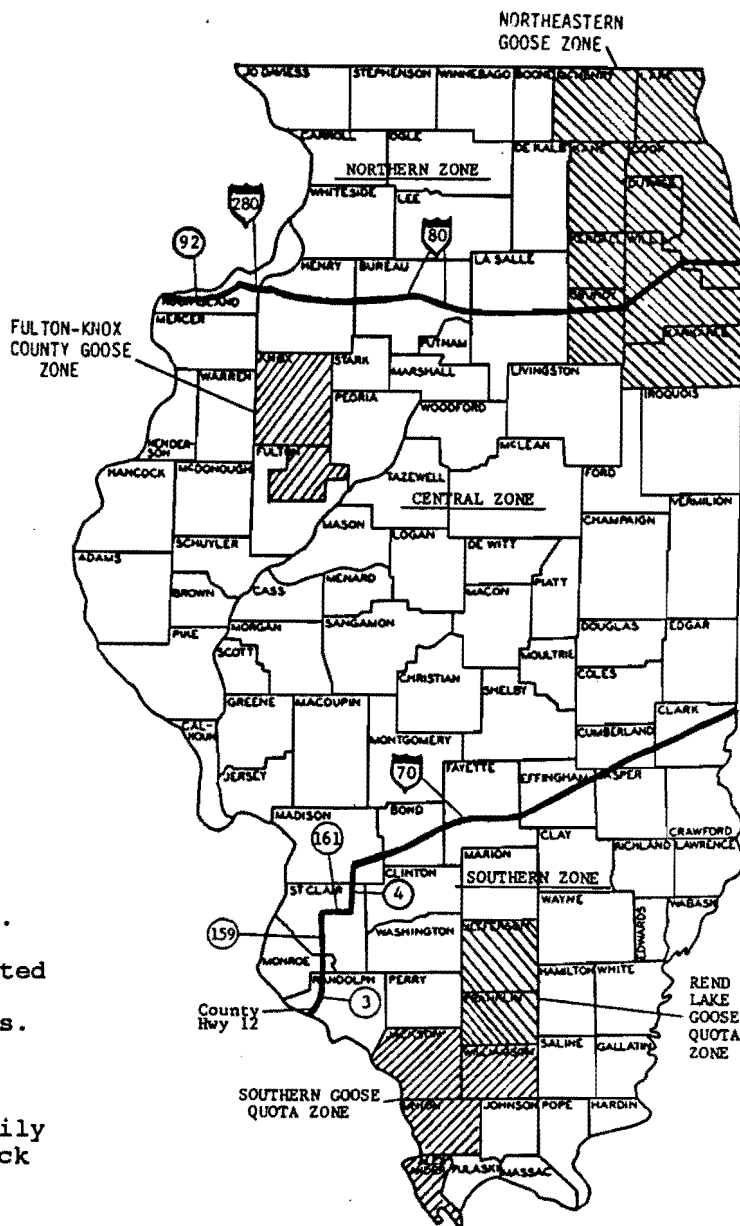
If you hunted both ducks and geese at the same time, count the day toward your primary target -- that is, primarily ducks or primarily geese. DO NOT count the hunt as a day of duck hunting and also as a day of goose hunting.

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

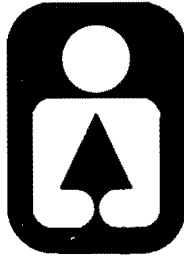
Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the 1993-94 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.
Figure 1 - continued.

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant 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:

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 "Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg".

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W2

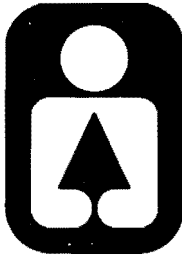
Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing of the questionnaire.

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant 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:

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,

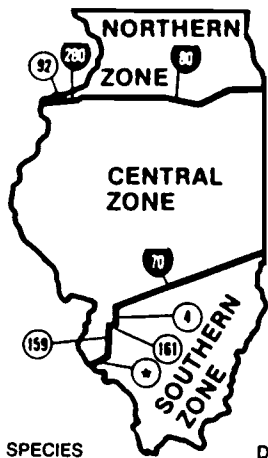
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief

Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W3

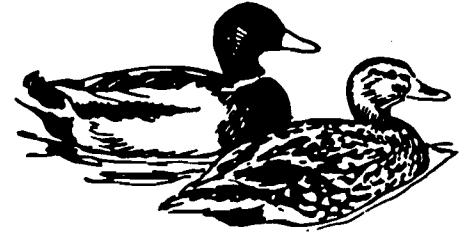
Figure 4. The letter that accompanied the third mailing of the questionnaire.



1993 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, Orion, and Putnam townships, and the portion of Banner Township bounded on the north by Illinois-9 and on the east by US-24), and Knox Counties.

Southern Illinois Quota Zone: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson Counties.

Rend Lake Quota Zone: Franklin and Jefferson Counties.

Northeastern Canada Goose Zone: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. These counties are also open to all goose hunting during the regular goose seasons.

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 4 - Sept. 12 (Statewide)	Sunrise - Sunset	4	8
Ducks	North Oct. 16 - Nov. 14	½ hour before sunrise to sunset	3 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	Central Oct. 30 - Nov. 28		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	South Nov. 8 - Dec. 5		15	30
ALL GEESSE (a) (All areas except special goose zones)	North Oct. 16 - Oct. 24 Nov. 13 - Dec. 19	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
All Geese	Central Oct. 30 - Nov. 7 Nov. 27 - Jan. 2, 1994			
All Geese	South Nov. 27 - Jan. 16, 1994			
SPECIAL GOOSE ZONES Northeastern Canada Goose Zone	North of I-80 Oct. 7 - Oct. 15			
Canada Geese Only	South of I-80 Oct. 21 - Oct. 29		2	4
Fulton-Knox County Zone	Oct. 30 - Nov. 7 Nov. 27 - Jan. 2, 1994			14, Only 4 Canada geese and 4 white-fronted geese
Rend Lake Quota Zone	Nov. 27 - Jan. 16, 1994	½ hour before sunrise to 3 p.m. (b)	7, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	14, only 10 (c) Canada geese and 4 white-fronted geese
Southern Illinois Quota Zone	Nov. 27 - Jan. 16, 1994	½ hour before sunrise to 3 p.m. (b)		

LICENSES, STAMPS, AND PERMITS

Hunters must have a current, valid hunting license and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. All required State stamps must be signed or affixed on the hunting license in the appropriate space. Federal stamps must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. Please refer to the 1993 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*
Sportsman's License (hunt-fish)	\$13.75

* Does not include agent's fee which may be 50¢ or 75¢.

A state habitat stamp is NOT required to hunt waterfowl.

IF YOU WANT TO HUNT WATERFOWL IN ILLINOIS AND YOU ARE:

	under 16	16 - 64	65 & Older	disabled †	service-man †	land-owner †
YOU NEED:						
hunting license	X	X				
federal waterfowl stamp		X	X	X	X	X
state waterfowl stamp		X				

† For the purpose of this section "DISABLED" = disabled American veterans with at least 10% service-related disability or disabled persons certified under the Illinois Handicap Card Act as having a Type 1 or Type 4 Class 2 disability. "SERVICE-MAN" = persons on leave from the Armed Services, having earned the military as an honor reader. "LAND-OWNER" (or tenant) = those persons and their children, parents, brothers, and sisters permanently residing on their land and hunting or trapping on the land.

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 for 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 1993 Waterfowl Hunting Information card and the 1993 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 520 of the Illinois Compiled 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.

* For the deaf and hearing impaired.

Illinois Bell Relay 1-800-526-0844 *

Illinois Department of Conservation • Division of Wildlife Resources • Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South Second Street • Springfield, IL 62701-1787 • 217/782-6384

The Illinois Department of Conservation receives federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. 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 Illinois Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Opportunity Officer, Department of Conservation, 524 South Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Office of Human Resources U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20264.

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Figure 6. Waterfowl hunting regulations in Illinois during the 1993-94 season.

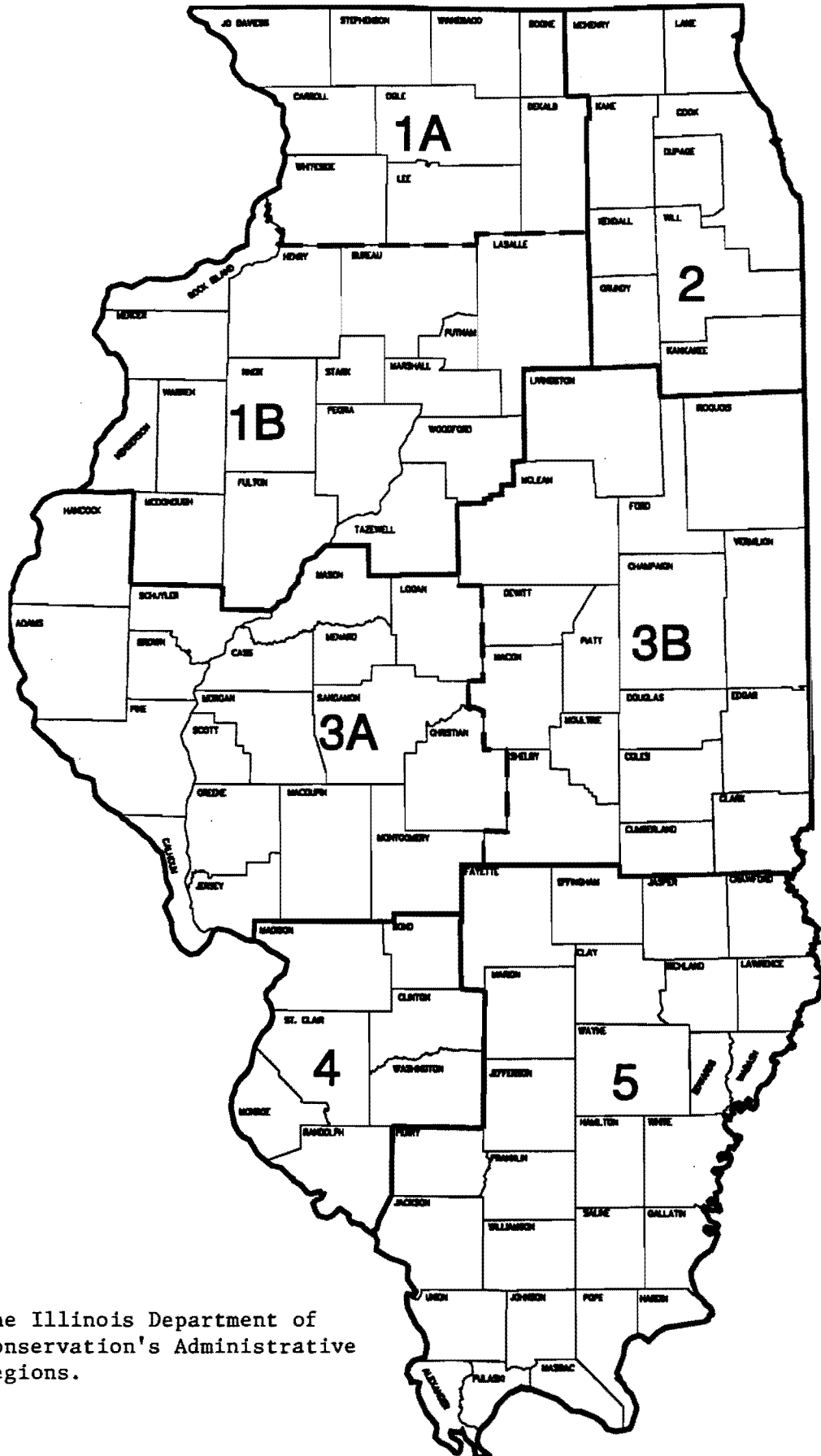


Figure 7. The Illinois Department of Conservation's Administrative Regions.

APPENDIX A

INDEX TO REPORTS FOR 1981-1993 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEYS

Compiled by Anne E. Zielske - Investigations and Surveys Program*

Six major topics are presented in this index: Coot Hunting, Duck Season, Goose Season, September Giant Goose Season, September Teal Season and Waterfowl Hunting (general). Subtopics are listed alphabetically below each main topic. After each subtopic follows the periodic report number, the page number and the year covered by the survey. For example, 39,6,(81) equates to periodic report #39, page #6 for the year 1981.

COOT HUNTING

Harvest

By Administrative Region: 39,7,(81); 47,6,(82);
48,5,(83); 54,9,(84); 59,6,(85); 60,6,(86);
61,6,(87); 64,6,(88); 69,6,(89); 72,6,(90);
76,6,(91); 80,7,(92); 81,7,(93).

Compared With:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates:

39,7,(81); 47,6,(82); 48,5,(83); 54,9,(84);
59,6,(85); 60,6,(86); 61,6,(87); 64,6,(88);
69,6,(89); 72,6,(90); 76,6,(91); 80,7,(92);
81,7,(93).

* Assigned to the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Previous year: 54,9,(84); 59,6,(85); 60,6,(86);
 61,6,(87); 64,6,(88); 69,6,(89); 72,6,(90);
 76,7,(91); 80,7,(92); 81,7,(93).

Hunting Activity

Coincidental to duck harvest: 80,7,(92).

Days afield: 80,7,(92).

Hunters:

Number of: 80,7,(92).

DUCK SEASON

Attitudes and Opinions

Dates for season: 60,10,(86); 61,9,(87); 64,9-10,(87).

Location of line that divides zones: 47,8,(82).

Legal shooting times: 39,8,(81); 64,9,(88); 69,9,(89);
 80,12,(92); 81,11,(93).

Point system: 64,9,(88).

Restrictive hunting regulations: 59,8,(85); 64,9,(88).

Shooting hen mallards: 61,9,(87); 64,10,(88); 76,10,(91).

Shooting wood ducks: 60,9,(86); 76,10,(91).

Harvest

By Administrative Region: 39,6,(81); 47,5,(82);

48,4,(83); 54,8,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86);

61,5,(87); 64,5,(88); 69,5,(89); 72,5,(90);

76,5,(91); 80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Compared With:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates: 39,7,(81);

47,6,(82); 48,5,(83); 54,8,(84); 59,5,(85):

60,6,(86); 61,5,(87); 64,5,(88); 69,5,(89);

72,5,(90); 76,5,(91); 80,7,(92); 81,6,(93).

Previous year: 47,5,(82); 48,4,(83); 54,8,(84);

59,5,(85); 60,5,(86); 61,5,(87); 64,5,(88);

69,5,(89); 72,5,(90); 76,5,(91); 80,7,(92).

Duck identification ability: 72,10,(90).

Impact on wood ducks: 69,6,(89); 72,6,(90); 76,6,(91).

Percent by number of days afield: 72,6,(90).

Shooting drake mallards vs. hens: 69,6,(89).

Success rate: 48,4,(83); 54,8,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86);

61,5,(87); 64,5,(88); 69,5,(89); 72,5,(90);

76,5,(91); 80,6,(92); 81,6,(93).

Hunting Activity

Area:

County hunted: 81,5-6,(93).

Type hunted: 39,6,(81); 47,5,(82); 54,8,(84);

81,6,(93).

Days afield: 39,6,(81); 47,5,(82); 48,4,(83); 54,8,(84);

59,5,(85); 60,5,(86); 61,5,(87); 64,5,(88);

69,5,(89); 72,5,(90); 76,5,(91); 80,6,(92);

81,5,(93).

Hunters:

Number of: 39,6,(81); 47,5,(82); 48,4,(83);

54,8,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86); 61,5,(87);

64,5,(88); 69,5,(89); 72,5,(90); 76,5,(91);

80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Resident or non-resident: 39,6,(81); 47,5,(82);
48,4,(83).

GOOSE SEASON

Attitudes and Opinions

Dates for season: 64,10,(87); 81,11-12,(93).

In Quota Zone:

Bag limit and season length: 47,9,(82); 48,7,(83);
69,10,(89).

Hunting guides: 47,10,(82).

Moving the public hunting area at Horseshoe Lake:
47,10,(82).

Shotgun shell limit: 47,9,(82); 81,11,(93).

Split Goose Season Upstate:

Support for: 69,19,(89); 72,11,(90); 76,10,(91).

Extra Days in Northeastern Illinois, total numbers: 81,8,(93).

Harvest

Average for 1982-1986: 60,8,(86).

Average for 1988-1992: 80,Appendix A,(92).

By Administrative Region and Goose Zone: 47,7,(82);

48,5,(83); 54,9,(84); 59,6,(85); 60,7,(86);

61,7,(87); 64,7,(88); 69,7,(89); 72,7,(90);

76,7,(91); 80,8,(92); 81,7,(93).

Compared With:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates: 39,7,(81);

47,7,(82); 48,5,(83); 54,9,(84); 59,6,(85);

60,7,(86); 61,7,(87); 64,7,(88); 69,7,(89);

72,7,(90); 76,7,(91); 80,8,(92); 81,7,(93).

Previous year: 47,6,(82); 54,9,(83); 59,6,(85);

60,7,(86); 61,7,(87); 64,7,(88); 69,7,(89);

72,7,(90); 76,7,(91); 80,8,(92); 81,7,(93).

Out-of-State goose hunting: 80,10,(92).

Outside of designated zone: 61,8,(87); 81,8,(93).

Percent by number of days afield: 72,9,(90); 76,8,(91);

80,10,(92).

Success rate: 39,7,(81); 47,7,(82); 48,6,(83);

54,10,(84); 59,7,(85); 60,8,(86); 61,8,(87);

64,7,(88); 69,8,(89); 72,7,(90); 76,8,(91);

80,9,(92); 81,8-9,(93).

Hunting Activity

Area, type hunted in quota zone: 47,9,(82); 81,9-10,(93).

Days afield: 39,7,(81); 47,7&9,(82); 48,5,(83);

54,9,(84); 59,6,(85); 60,7,(86); 61,7,(87);

64,7,(88); 69,7,(89); 72,7,(90); 76,7,(91);

80,8,(92); 81,7,(93).

Hunters:

Number of: 39,7,(81); 47,6,(82); 48,5,(83);

54,9,(84); 59,6,(85); 60,7,(86); 61,7,(87);

64,7,(88); 69,7,(89); 72,7,(90); 76,7,(91);

80,8,(92); 81,7,(93).

Residency by Administrative Region: 47,9,(82).

Resident or non-resident: 39,7,(81); 48,5,(83).

Hunt before/after 17 December in quota zone: 47,9,(82).

Temporal distribution: 81,9,(93).

SEPTEMBER GIANT CANADA GOOSE SEASON (discontinued in 1992)

Attitudes and Opinions

Dates for season: 60,10,(86); 61,9,(87).

Harvest

By county: 60,6,(86); 61,6,(87); 64,6,(88); 69,6,(89);
72,7,(90); 76,6,(91).

Percent per day: 61,7,(87); 64,6,(88).

Subspecies taken: 60,7,(86); 61,6,(87).

Hunting Activity

Hunters:

Number of: 60,6,(86); 61,6,(87); 64,6,(88);
69,6,(89); 72,7,(90); 76,6,(91).

Time of day: 64,6,(88).

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON (suspended from 1988-1991 by FWS)

Attitudes and Opinions

Dates for season: 60,9,(86); 80,11,(92).

Illegal kill during season: 48,7,(83).

Support for season: 47,8,(82); 60,9,(86); 80,11,(92).

Harvest

By Administrative Region: 39,5,(81); 47,4,(82);
48,4,(83); 54,7,(85); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86);
61,5,(87); 80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Compared with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates
and previous year: 54,7,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86);
61,5,(87); 80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Success rate: 57,7,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,5,(86); 61,5,(87);
80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Hunting Activity

Days afield: 81,5,(93).

Hunters:

Number of: 39,5,(81); 47,4,(82); 48,4,(83);
54,7,(84); 59,5,(85); 60,6,(86); 61,5,(87);
80,6,(92); 81,5,(93).

Resident or non-resident: 39,5,(81); 47,4,(82);
48,4,(83).

WATERFOWL HUNTING (GENERAL)

Attitudes and Opinions

Evaluation of public areas: 69,9,(89).

Use of non-toxic shot: 39,9,(81); 59,8,(85).

Seriousness of lead poisoning: 39,8,(81).

Boats and Blinds Usage: 54,11,(84).

Carlyle Lake, zone located in: 54,11,(84).

Characteristics of Respondents

Age: 39,5,(81); 47,3,(82); 48,3,(83); 54,6,(84);
59,4,(85).

Expenditures: 39,5,(81); 47,9,(82); 72,12,(90).

Membership in organizations: 47,4,(82).

Percentage who hunted in Illinois: 47,3,(82);
48,3,(83); 54,6,(86); 59,4,(85); 60,4,(86);
61,4,(87); 64,4,(88); 69,4,(89); 72,4,(90);
76,4,(91); 80,5,(92).

Resident or non-resident: 39,5,(81); 47,3,(82);
48,3,(83); 54,6,(84); 59,4,(85).

Waterfowl stamp (purchase and use): 54,6,(84);
69,4,(85); 60,4,(86); 61,4,(87); 64,4,(88);
69,4,(89); 72,4,(90); 76,4,(91); 80,5,(92);
81,4,(93).

Crippling Losses

Indexes of: 39,8,(81); 47,8,(82); 48,6,(83); 54,10,(84);
59,7,(85); 60,8,(86); 61,8,(87); 64,8,(88);
69,8,(89); 72,9,(90); 76,9,(91); 80,11,(92);
81,10,(93).

Compared with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 81,11,(93).

When using dogs: 61,9,(87).

Calls, number owned: 80,15,(92).

Decoys, number owned: 80,15,(92).

Hunting Regulations: 39,5,(81); 47,3,(82); 48,3,(83);
54,4,(84); 59,3,(85); 60,3,(86); 61,3,(87); 64,3,(88);
69,3,(89); 72,3,(90); 76,3,(91); 80,5,(92); 81,3,(93).

Law Enforcement, checking waterfowl hunters: 48,7,(83).

Methods and Materials for Conducting Surveys: 39,3,(81);
47,2,(82); 48,2,(83); 54,2,(84); 59,2,(85); 60,2,(86);
61,2,(87); 64,2,(88); 69,2,(89); 72,2,(90); 76,2,(91);
80,2,(92); 81,2,(93).

National Migratory Bird Harvest Program, knowledge of:

80,14,(92).

Non-toxic Steel Shot, waterfowl harvested with: 39,9,(81);
54,11,(84).

Procedures for Data Analysis

Prior to 1984: 39,4,(81).

Recalculated procedure, 1984-1993: 54,3,(84).

Shotgun and Ammunition Usage

Gauge of: 54,10,(84).

Reloaded shotgun shells: 54,11,(84).

Sources of Information for Hunters: 48,6,(83).

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity (all species combined):

54,7,(84); 59,4,(85); 60,4,(86); 61,4,(87); 64,5,(88);

69,4,(89); 72,4,(90); 76,4,(91); 80,5,(92); 81,4,(93).