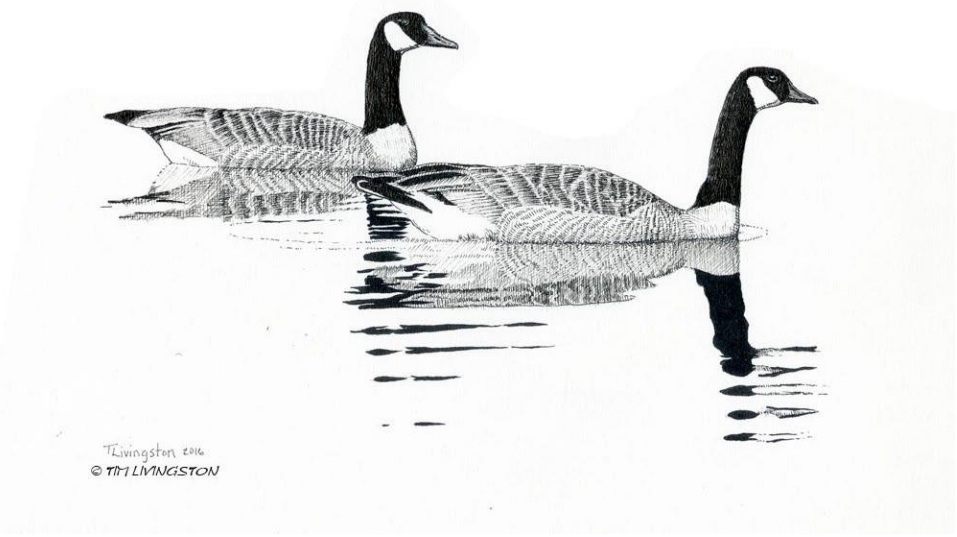
***Human*Dimensions**
Research Program

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

2019-2020 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences



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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

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HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

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Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 30, 2020

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-29
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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OBJECTIVE

To survey waterfowl (duck, goose, and coot) hunters annually to determine their activities, harvest, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions.

ABSTRACT

A total of 2,125 (44% response rate) Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires to the 2019-20 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. An estimated 35,185 adult waterfowl hunters spent 1 day or more afield during 2019-20, a decrease of 12.1% from the 40,047 hunters in 2018-19. Waterfowl hunters spent 841,828 days afield, an increase of 1.3 % from the 831,043 days devoted during the 2018-19 license year. Total waterfowl harvest increased 14.4%, from 412,402 during 2018-19 to 471,872 during 2019-20. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 164,043 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 51,564 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 108,340 other ducks. A total of 19,268 teal (*Anas spp.*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 85,188 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 19.9% increase from the 71,035 Canada geese harvested during the 2018-19 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 15,429 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, an 17.2% increase from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 4,039 adults took 4,528 youths waterfowl hunting, a 16.2% decrease in adult participation and a 21.6% decrease in youth participation from the 2018-19 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season. Hunter preferences for seasons and satisfaction with the waterfowl seasons are also discussed.

METHODS

Mailings

A random sample of 5,000 waterfowl hunters was drawn from the population of Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp purchasers from the 2019-20 license year. No pre-season diary for recording hunting activity and waterfowl harvest was sent during the fall of 2019. On 10 March 2020, hunters were mailed an 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope. The effective

sample was reduced from 5,000 questionnaires to 4,886 due to 114 being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 15 April 2020. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 29 April 2020, followed by a second postcard mailing on 27 May 2020. A third and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 10 June 2020. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 27.0 (SPSS Inc. 2019). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

Statewide Estimates

Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 47,552 adult resident Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2018-19 series) and were computed following the procedures outlined below (Anderson et al. 1998), with slight modification. The correction factors for multiple stamp buyers (A_1) and stamp exempt hunters (A_2) were removed beginning with the estimates of 2016-17. The original formulas are presented for understanding how previous year's estimates were created.

The total number of active waterfowl hunters was estimated using the number of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold and adjusting for multiple-stamp buyers, non-hunting stamp buyers, and stamp-exempt hunters. The number of teal, duck, and goose hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days afield ($Days_{sp}$), birds crippled but not retrieved ($Crip_{sp}$) and harvest ($Harv_{sp}$) were calculated as follows:

$$Hunt_{sp} = Hunt_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Days_{sp} = Days_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Crip_{sp} = Crip_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Harv_{sp} = Harv_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2 A_3}{n}$$

Where:

$Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to the 2019-20 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who reported hunting for each species (adjustment for non-hunters is inherent),

L_t = total number of Illinois migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold in 2019-20,

A_1 = fixed reduction factor for multiple-stamp buyers (0.957; Anderson 1986),

A_2 = fixed expansion factor for stamp-exempt hunters (1.086; Anderson et al. 1998),

n = number of respondents to 2019-20 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who purchased a stamp,

$Days_r$ = total number of days spent hunting reported by respondents,

$Crip_r$ = total number of birds crippled but not retrieved reported by respondents,

$Harv_r$ = total harvest of each species reported by respondents,

A_3 = fixed reduction factor for reporting bias (0.501 for teal, ducks, and coots; Anderson 1985; 0.478 for geese; Anderson et al. 1996).

Confidence intervals for the estimated numbers of ducks, coots, and geese harvested were calculated by:

$$95\%\ \text{CI}\left[Harv_{sp}\right] = \pm 2L_t\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\left(\frac{L_t - n}{L_t}\right)$$

Where s = standard deviation of total species harvest reported by respondents.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

Illinois incorporated a fourth waterfowl zone in 2011-12 for the regular waterfowl seasons and 2012-13 for the September goose season. The four zones are the North, Central, South Central, and South zones (Appendix G). The early (September) teal (*Anas spp.*) season length was 16 days with a daily bag of 6 teal and a possession limit of 18. Early (September) Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season length and start date (1 September) were the same for all four zones. Possession limit was 15 geese in the North and Central zones and 6 in the South Central and South zones. Hunters could hunt for 15 days statewide and could harvest 5 geese a day in the North and Central zones and 2 birds per day in the South Central and South zones. Length and daily

bag limit of the regular duck season did not change (60-day season/6-bird daily bag limit) in 2019-20. Basic daily bag limits were 6 ducks with an 18 possession limit, 5 mergansers with a 15 possession limit, and 15 coots with a 45 possession limit; individual species limits are in Appendix H. Regular Canada goose season length remained unchanged (90 days) in the North and Central zones. Regular Canada goose season length in the South Central and South zone was 84 days and 65 days, respectively. Daily bag limit was 3 for Canada Geese, 2 for White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*), and 1 for Brant geese (*Branta bernicla*). These species had a possession limit of 3 times the daily bag.

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

We received 2,125 questionnaires that were considered usable, for an overall response rate of 44%. Eighty-five percent of respondents indicated they had purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2019-20 season (Figure 1) and 1,316 (74.8%) of license purchasers reported hunting 1 day or more for waterfowl (Figure 2).

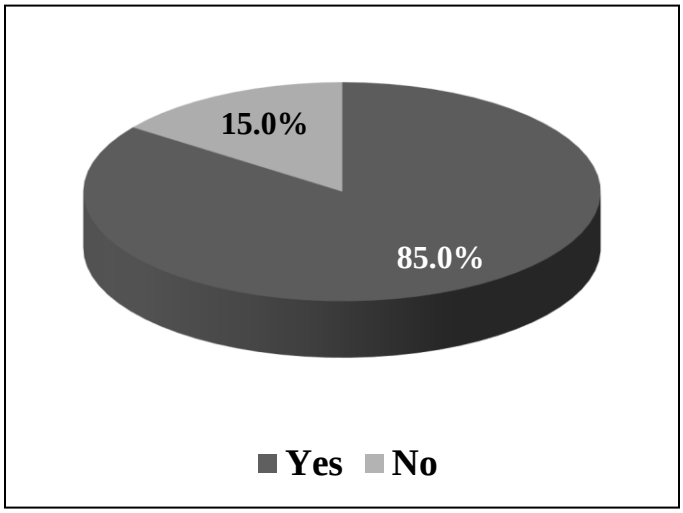

Figure 1. Percentage of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2019-20 seasons (n = 2,125).

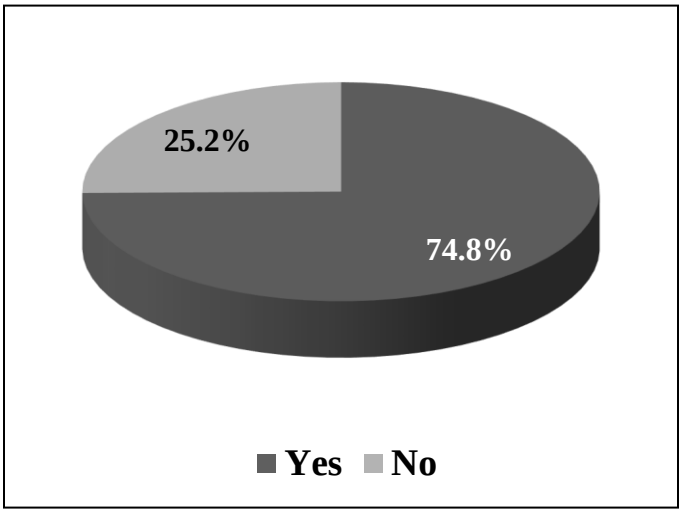

Figure 2. Percentage of license purchasers who hunted waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting season (n = 1,759).

The number of waterfowl hunters decreased from 40,047 during the 2018-19 season to 35,185 during the 2019-20 season, a 12.1% decrease in the number of hunters (Figure 3 and Table 1). Hunters reported spending 841,828 days afield, an increase of 1.3% from the 831,043 days devoted during the 2018-19 license year. Total waterfowl harvest increased 14.4%, from 412,402 during 2018-19 to 471,872 during the 2019-20 season (Table 1). Almost thirty-three percent of hunters hunted ducks only, 7.9% hunted geese only, and 59.3% hunted both ducks and geese (Figure 4 and Table 2).

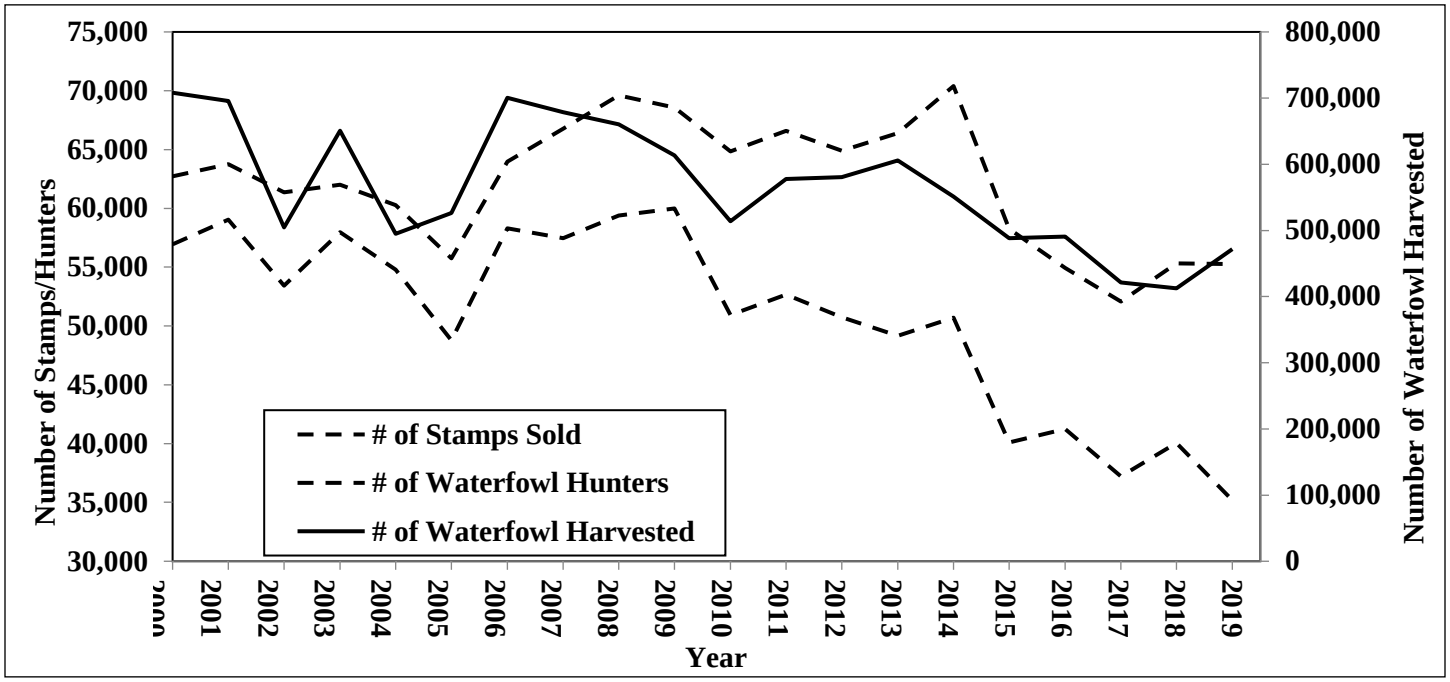

Figure 3. Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2019.

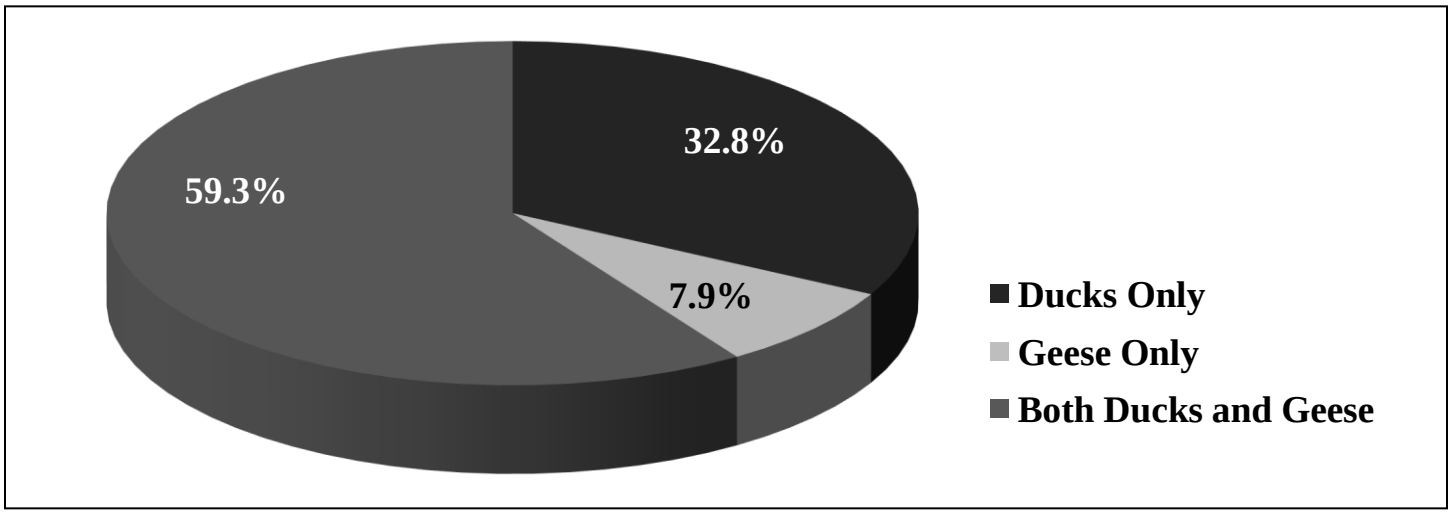

Figure 4. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2019-20 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal season hunters decreased 14.1% from 9,263 during 2018 to 7,955 during 2019 (Figure 5 and Table 3). Days afield decreased 7.4% from 35,334 during 2018 to 32,706 during 2019. Fewer teal hunters and decreased days afield coincided with a decreased teal harvest of 19,268 ± 8,795 during the 2019 September teal season, a 17.4% decrease from the 2018 harvest (23,326). The Central zone accounted for about one-half of teal hunters (47.3%), most of the teal harvested (57.3%), and half of teal hunter days afield (49.7%). The North Zone recorded the second-most days afield, hunters, and total teal harvested (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 4.11 days afield, and harvested an average of 0.59 teal per hunter per day and 2.42 teal per hunter for the season (Figure 6 and Table 5).

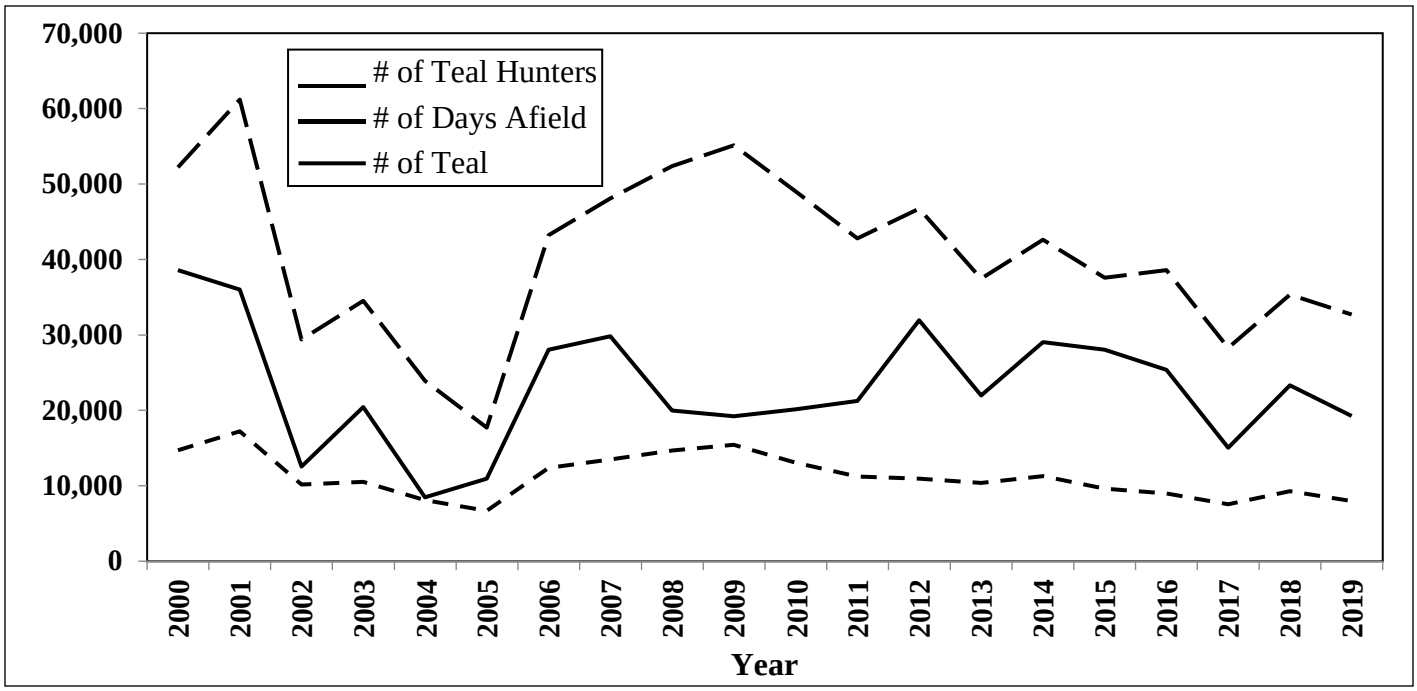

Figure 5. Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2019.

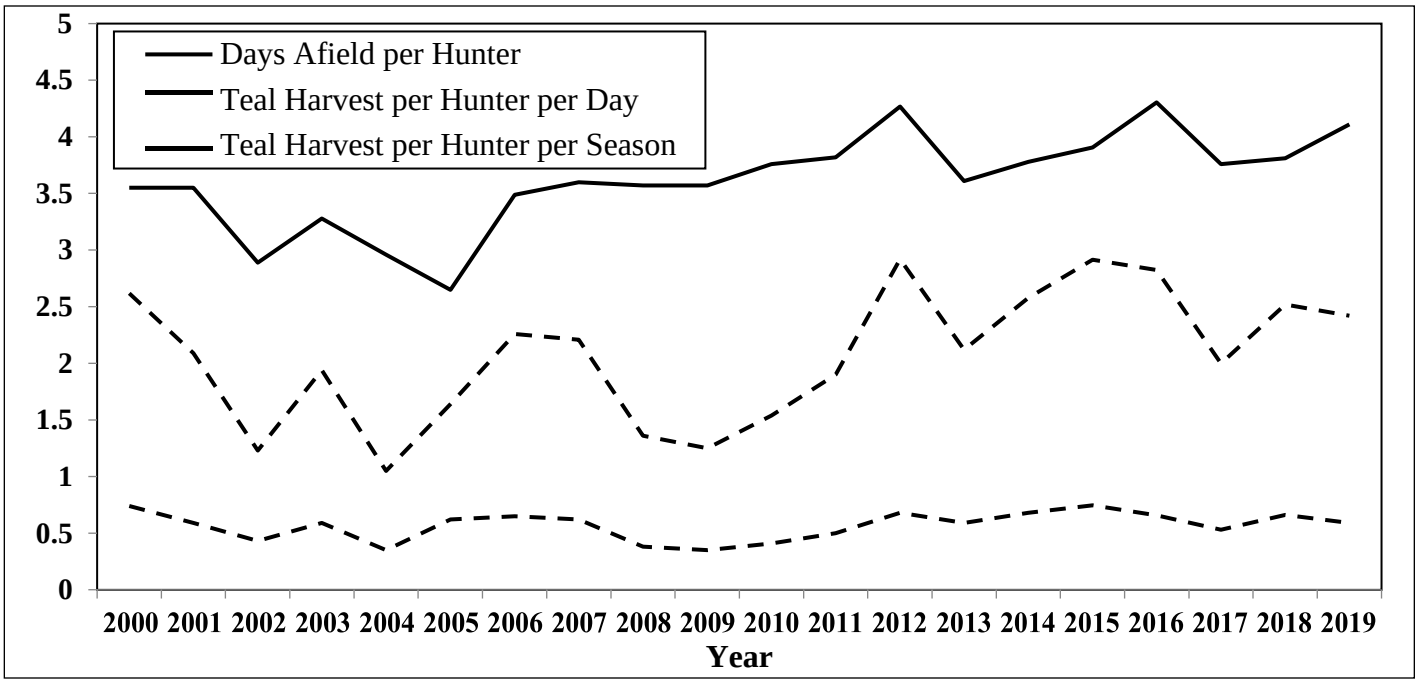

Figure 6. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2019.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting

The Youth Waterfowl Season dates changed in all 4 zones; number of days to hunt remained unchanged from 2018 to 2019. Youth age 17 and under were able to hunt ducks, geese, and coots for two days one week prior to opening of the regular duck season in the North, Central, and South Central zones, but 12 days earlier in the South zone. Seven percent of those who purchased an Illinois waterfowl stamp took a youth hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (Figure 7). Number of adults who participated in the 2019 youth hunt decreased 16.2% from 4,822 to 4,039 participants, but number of youth participants decreased 21.6% from 5,775 during 2018 to 4,528 youths during 2019 (Table 6). Thirty-five percent (35.9%) of the hunting groups that participated in the 2019 youth waterfowl season had at least one youth who had never hunted ducks or geese before (Figure 8), and 14.0% of hunters indicated this was their first time accompanying a youth during the hunt (Figure 9). Harvest of ducks during the youth season decreased 22.9%, from 7,452 during 2018 to 5,748 during 2019, and geese increased from 729 to 790 from 2018 to 2019.

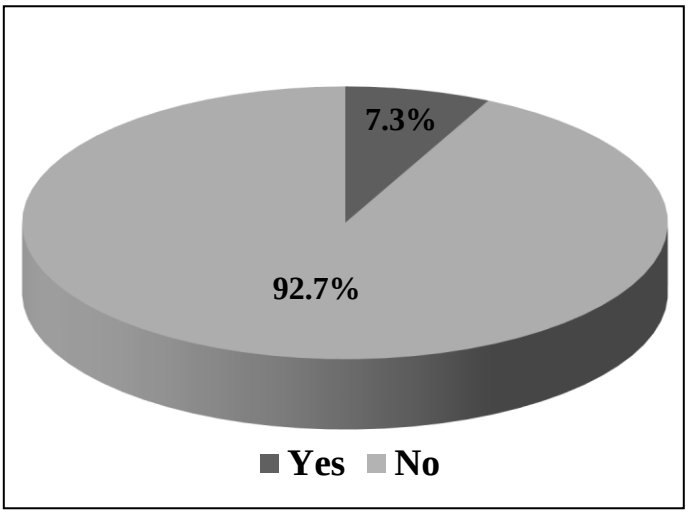

Figure 7. Percentage of hunters* who took a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting during the 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (*n* = 1,806).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they purchased hunting license the 2019-20 Waterfowl seasons.

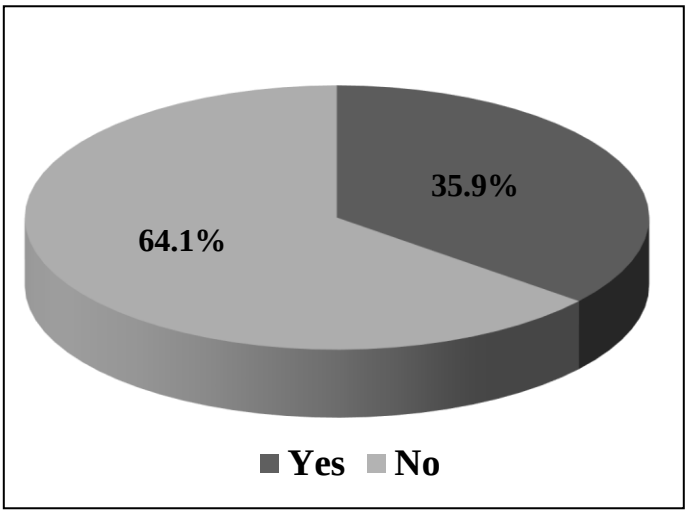

Figure 8. Percentage of hunters* who took at least one youth (17 years old or younger) hunting for the first time (*n* = 128).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

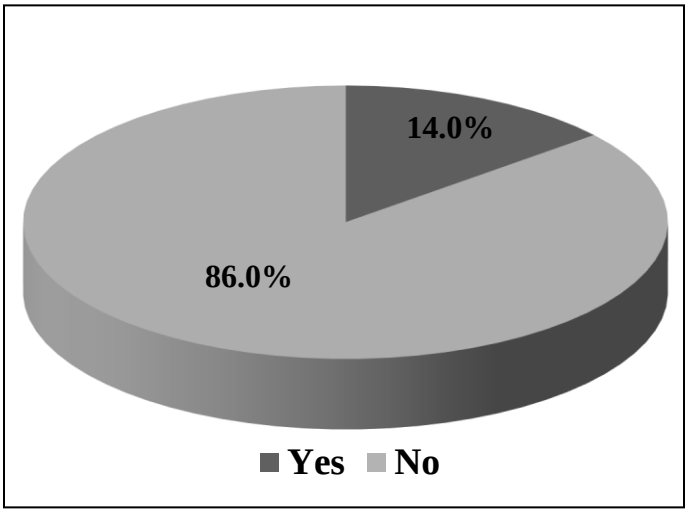

Figure 9. Percentage of hunters* for whom it was their first time taking a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting. (*n* = 129).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

Twenty-two percent of respondents (22.9%) took a youth hunting during the regular duck or goose season; an additional 4.0% had a youth accompany them but did not hunt (Figure 10). Hunters were more likely to take youths hunting during the regular duck season than goose season (Figure 11).

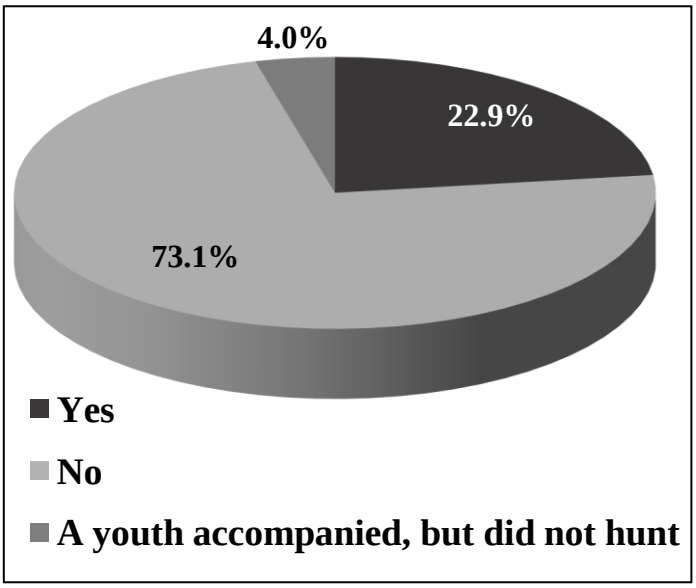

Figure 10. Percentage of hunters* who took a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting during the 2019-20 regular duck or goose season in Illinois (*n* = 747).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during the 2019-20 regular duck or goose season.

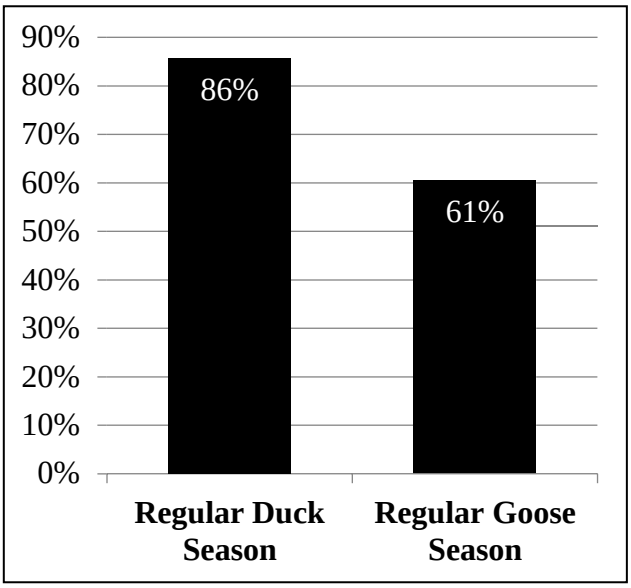

Figure 11. Seasons hunters* took a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting during 2019-20 (*n* = 114).
*Cases selected for those who took youth hunting or had youth accompany them while hunting.

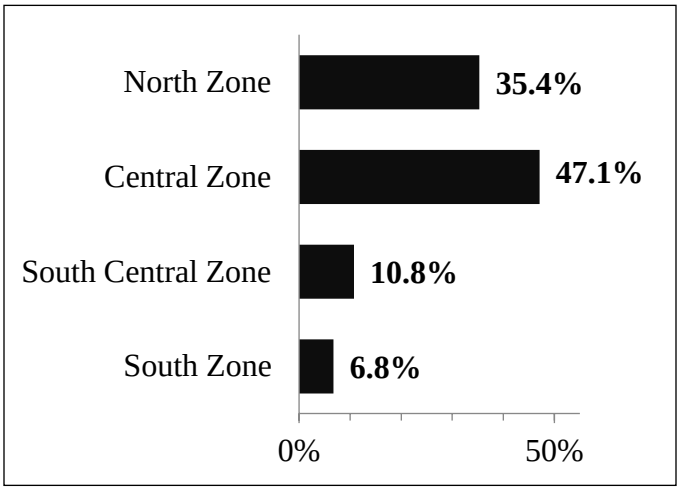

Figure 12. Zones hunters* hunted in most often during the 2019-20 duck season (*n* = 1,123).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2019-20 duck seasons.

Regular Duck Season

Number of duck hunters decreased by 1,986 (5.9%) from 33,836 during the 2018-19 season to 31,850 in the 2019-20 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 482,946 days afield (*M* = 15.16) during the 2019-20 season, a decrease of 4.0% from the 464,327 days reported during the 2018-19 season. Almost half (47.1%) of

respondents hunted the Central Zone most often, followed by the North, South Central, and South zones (Figure 12).

Total duck harvest during 2019-20 was 323,946, an increase of 18.7% from the 272,823 reported for 2018-19 (Table 7). Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 50.6% of the total regular season duck harvest, whereas wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 15.9% and 33.4%, respectively (Figure 13). Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois increased by 16,310 birds (11.0%) from 147,733 during the 2018-19 season to 164,043 during the 2019-20 season (Figure 14 and Table 7). Wood duck harvest increased 22,561 (77.8%) from 29,003 during 2018-19 to 51,564 during 2019-20. The harvest of other ducks increased 12,253 (12.8%) from 96,087 during 2018-19 to 108,340 during 2019-20, and statewide coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased from 2,088 during 2018-19 to 2,238 coots during 2019-20.

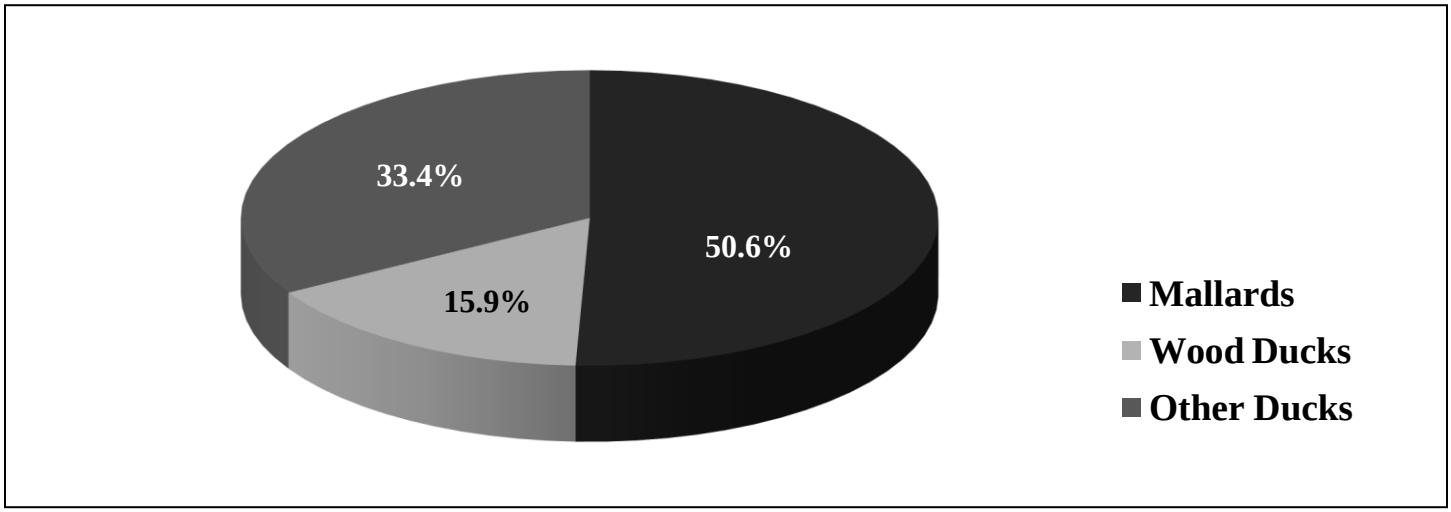

Figure 13. Proportion of mallards, wood, & other ducks harvested during the 2019-20 regular duck season.[a]

[a]Proportions are by mallard, wood duck, and other ducks due to how hunters are asked to report their harvest. This order (mallard, wood duck, and other ducks) is not necessarily the order of the most-often harvested ducks in Illinois.

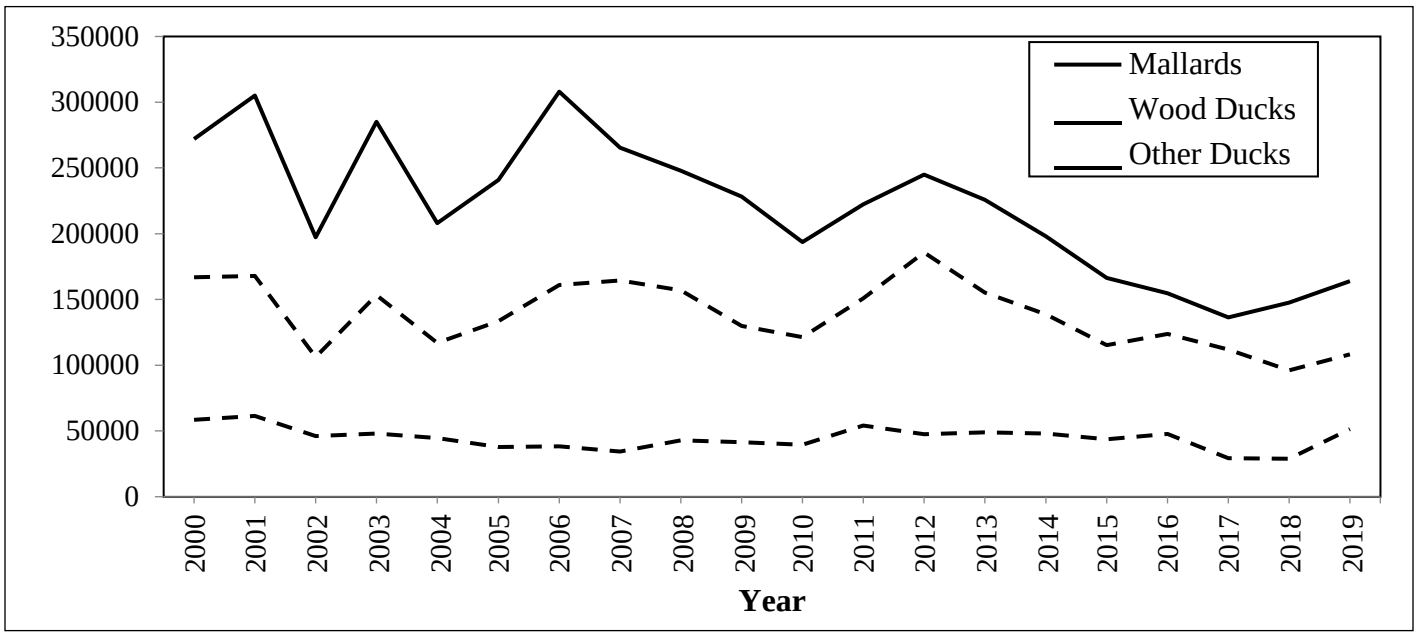

Figure 14. Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000 – 2019.

The 2019-20 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones in Table 8. Across the four waterfowl zones, the greatest number of hunters, days afield, and ducks harvested occurred in the Central zone. The South zone had the highest daily success rate (harvest/hunter/day) at 0.78 ducks per day, whereas the Central zone had the highest season success rate (harvest/hunter/season) at 10.60 ducks per season. Statewide, duck hunter daily success increased to 0.67 ducks/day and hunter season success increased from 8.06 in 2018-19 to 10.17 during 2019-20 (Table 9). Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day (n = 1,041), 30.7% hunted 5 days or less (Figure 15 and Table 10); 10.0% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks, whereas 22.9% harvested more than 30 ducks.

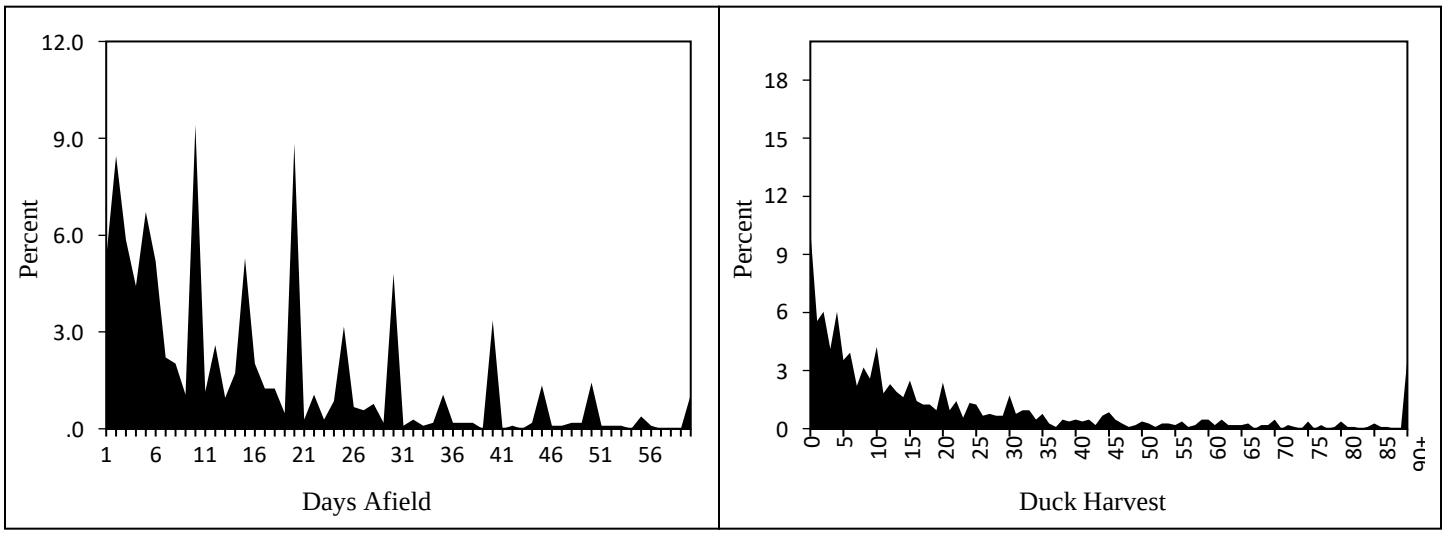

Figure 15. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' during the 2019-20 regular duck season.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 8,658 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2019 season, a decrease of 12.7% from the 9,916 who participated during 2018 (Figure 16 and Table 11). Statewide, early goose season hunters spent 33,410 days afield in 2019, 5.5% more than in 2018 (35,361), and harvested approximately 15,429 Canada geese, an increase from the 2018 (13,165) harvest by 17.2%. The Central zone accounted for the most hunters (48.1%) and days afield (47.0%), though the North zone accounted for the most harvested Canada geese (51.3%; Figure 17, Table 11).

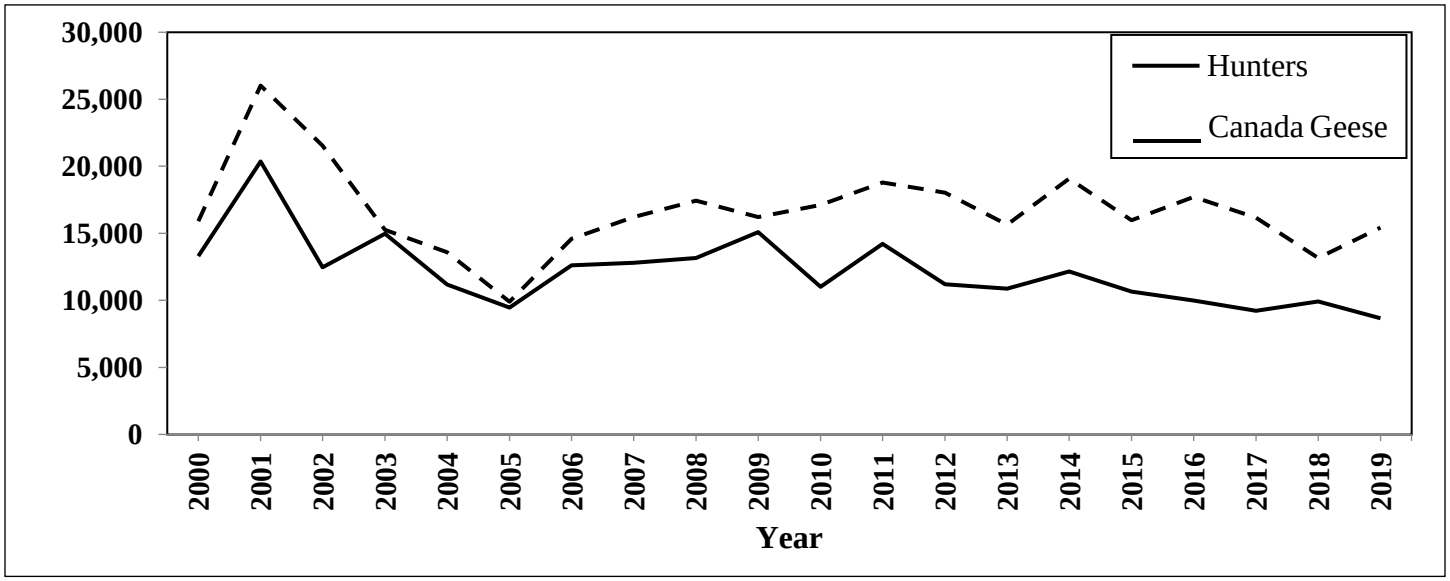

Figure 16. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2019.

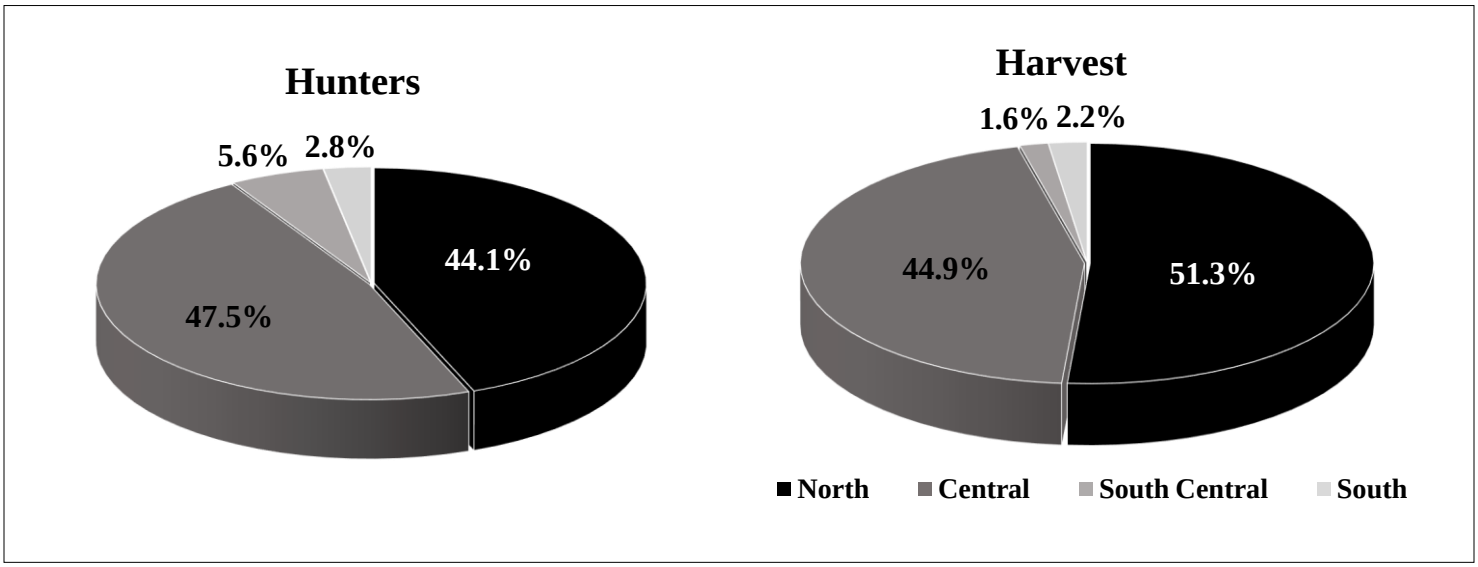

Figure 17. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2019.

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2019-20 regular goose season increased 19.9% from 2018-19 (Table 12, Figure 18). An estimated 23,222 hunters spent 292,766 days afield and harvested 85,188 Canada geese during 2019-20. Number of goose hunters in Illinois decreased 8.4% during 2019-20 compared to 2018-19, and number of days afield decreased 1.1%. Hunters also harvested 19,158 other geese, of which 12,080 were light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese) (*Chen caerulescens*) and 7,078 were white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), for a total combined harvest of 104,346 geese (Table 12, Figure 19).

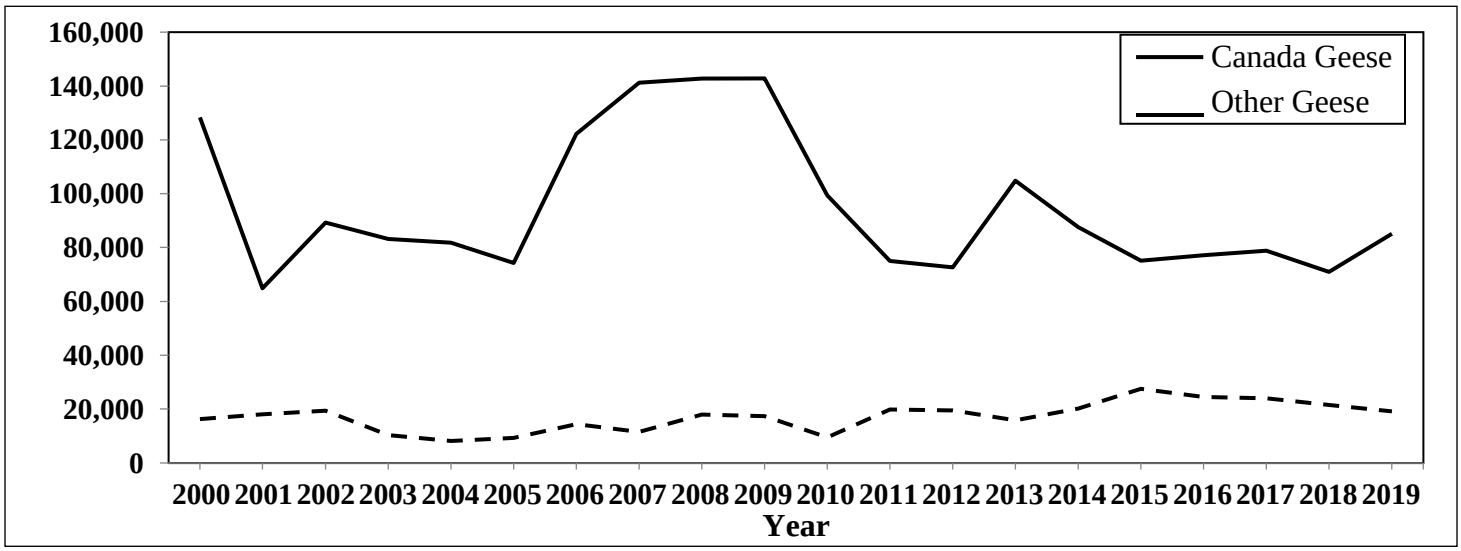

Figure 18. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2019.

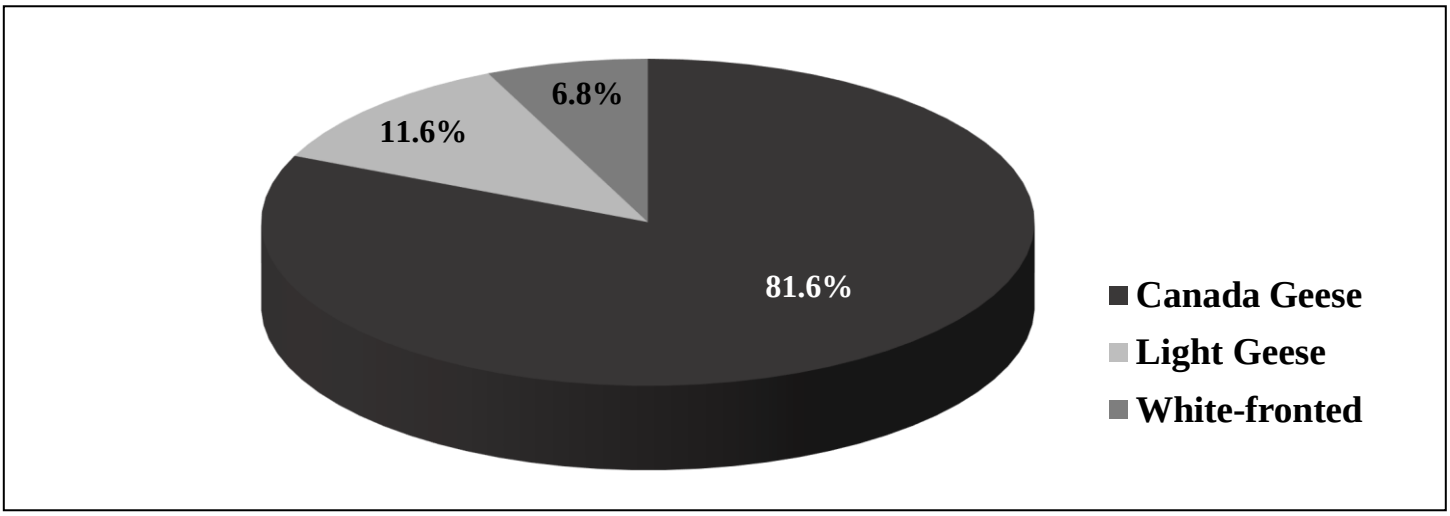

Figure 19. 2019-20 Illinois' regular goose season harvest.

Goose hunters reported a mean of 12.61 days afield and mean harvest of 4.49 geese and 0.36 geese per hunter per day; 44.4% of goose hunters harvested ≥ 5 geese (Figure 20 and Tables 13 and 14). The Central Zone led the state in the number of goose hunters (48.6%) and days afield (46.7%; Table 14). The North zone harvested the most Canada geese (52.1%) with the Central zone harvesting the most white-fronted (60.3%) and light geese (43.8%) (Table 14). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2017-18 through 2019-20) in Table 15.

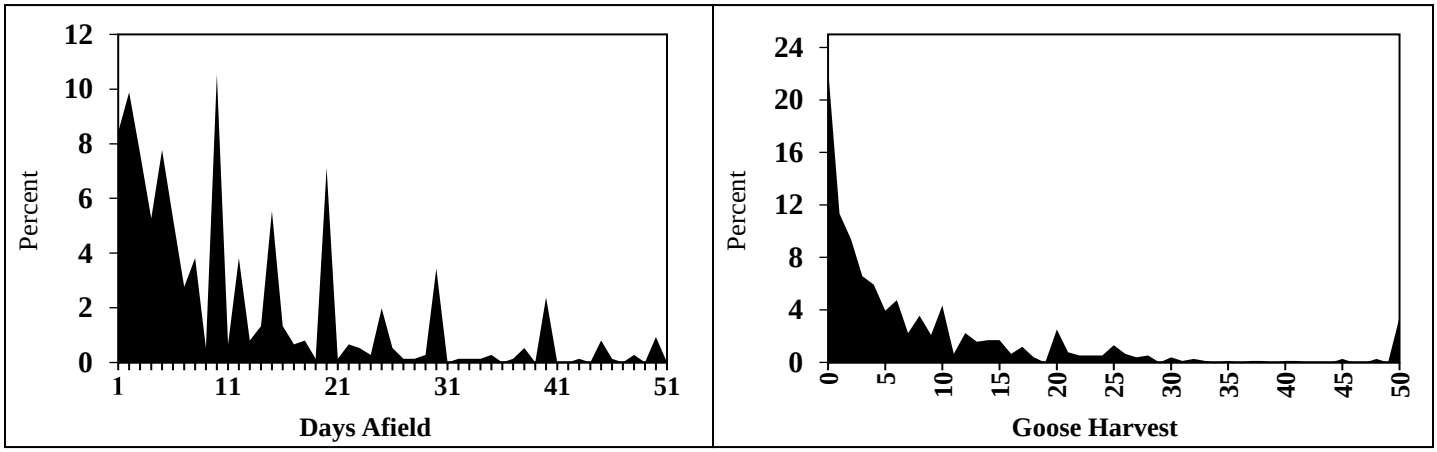

Figure 20. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2019-20 regular goose season.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) during the 2019-20 regular season were estimated at 40,630 ducks and 5,783 geese (Table 16). These estimates, considered to be indices because they contain information about the relative number and are not actual number or abundance estimates, equate to 12.5 ducks and 5.5 geese lost per 100 harvested.

White-fronted/Specklebelly Goose Harvest

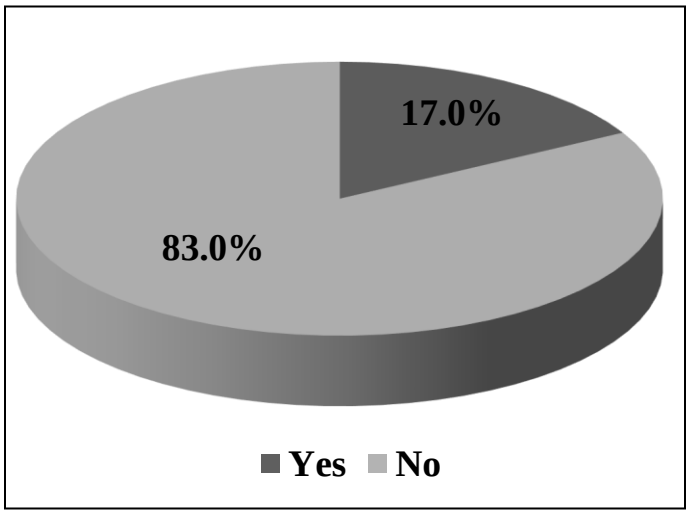

Figure 21. Proportion of hunters* who reported harvest of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting seasons (*n* = 759).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2019-20 goose seasons.

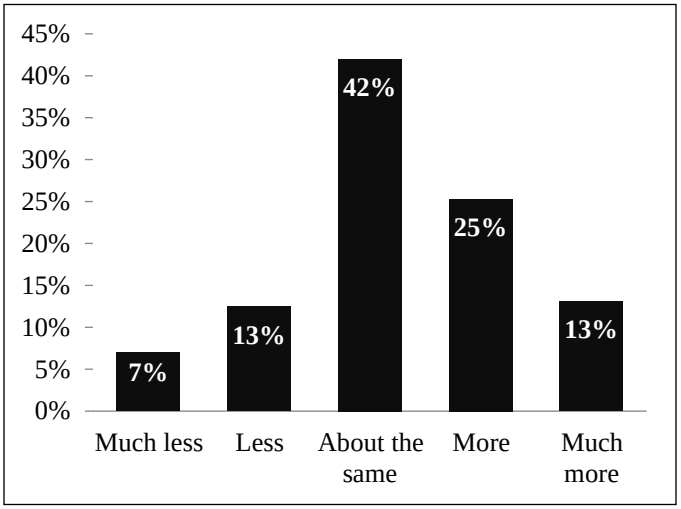

Figure 22. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese hunters* seen in 2019-20 compared to the last 5 years (*n* = 759).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during the 2019-20 regular goose season.

Seventeen percent of those who hunted one day or more for geese during 2019-20 harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese (Figure 21). Thirty-eight percent of regular goose hunters saw more or much more white fronted geese as compared to five years ago (Figure 22). Sixty percent of regular goose hunters (60.2%) did not target or shoot at them and 21.6% did not target them but shot if they had the opportunity. Fourteen percent of goose hunters (14.6%) used specklebelly calls and 17.1% used specklebelly decoys (Figure 23).

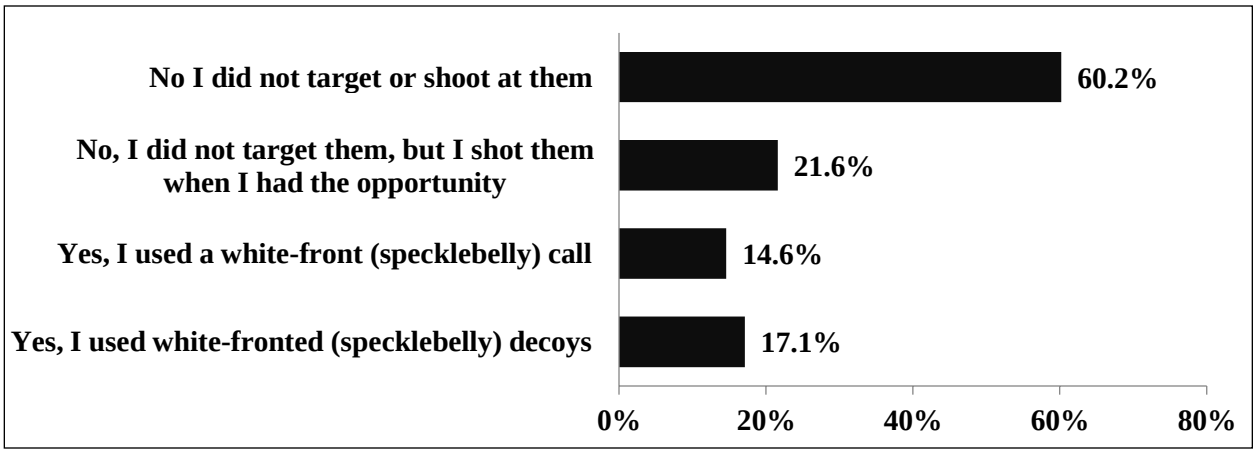

Figure 23. Proportion of hunters* who targeted white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season (*n* = 759).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

Public and Private Land Use

Seventy percent (70.3%) of respondents used private land most often when hunting waterfowl, including: private land owned by someone who gave them permission (42.6%), their own private land (15.6%), and private land under lease (12.1%; Figure 24). Over twenty-five percent (25.9%) used state land/water most often when hunting waterfowl with another 3.8% using federal land/water most often. Over forty percent (41.4%) of hunters had hunted on Illinois public lands during 2019-20 (Figure 25). Among those who used public lands, public lands in the Central zone were most popular (Figure 26). Over half (58.8%) of hunters who used public lands had at least 1 hunt in a blind awarded through a lottery (Figure 27). One-third (33.0%) of hunters hunted on private land that included wetlands where the habitat was managed specifically for waterfowl (Figure 28). Respondents hunted for waterfowl an average of 10.9 days on private property (e.g., farm ponds, streams, rivers, marshes) during 2019-20, 8.5 days on state or federal public land, and 8.0 days on private duck clubs (commercial and non-commercial).

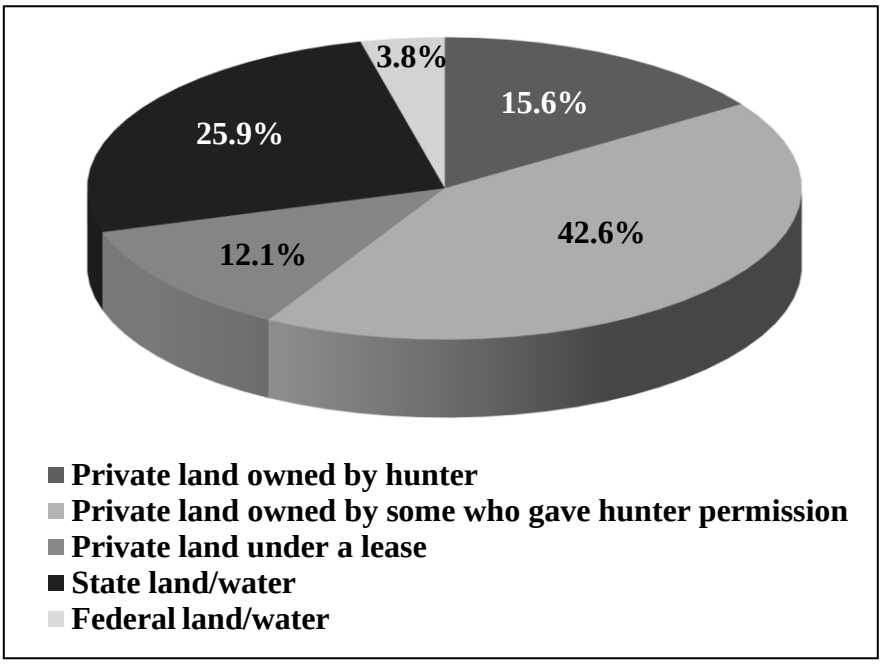

Figure 24. Type of land that hunters* used most often to hunt waterfowl during 2019-20 (*n* = 1,099).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least 1 day during 2019-20.

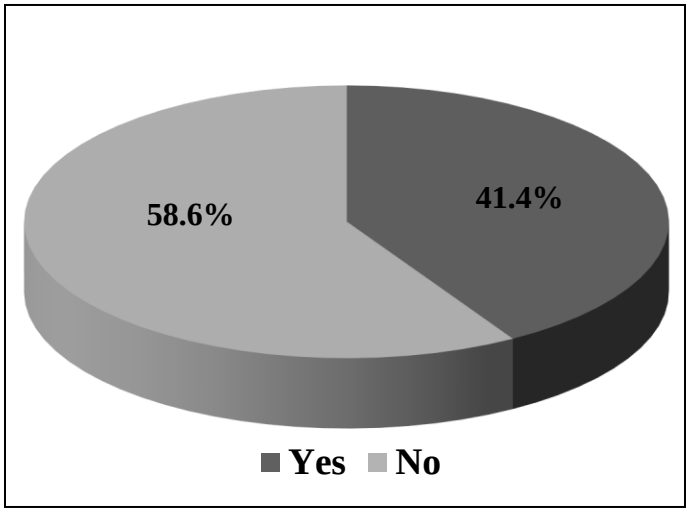

Figure 25. Percentage of hunters* who hunted on Illinois state public lands during 2019-20 (*n* = 1,142)

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least 1 day during 2019-20.

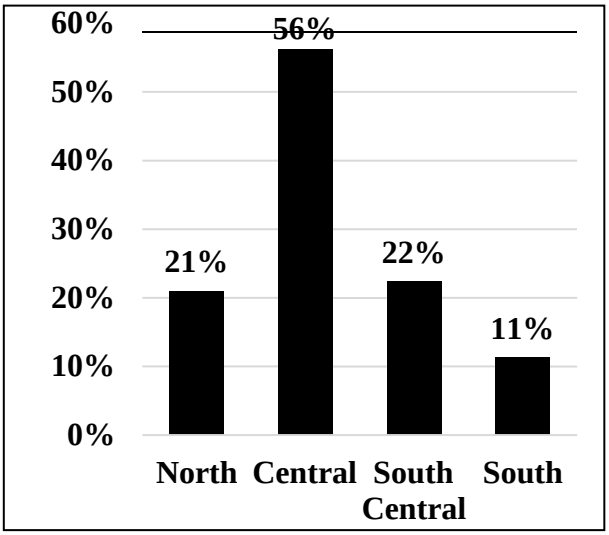

Figure 26. Zone in which public land hunted was located (*n* = 533).

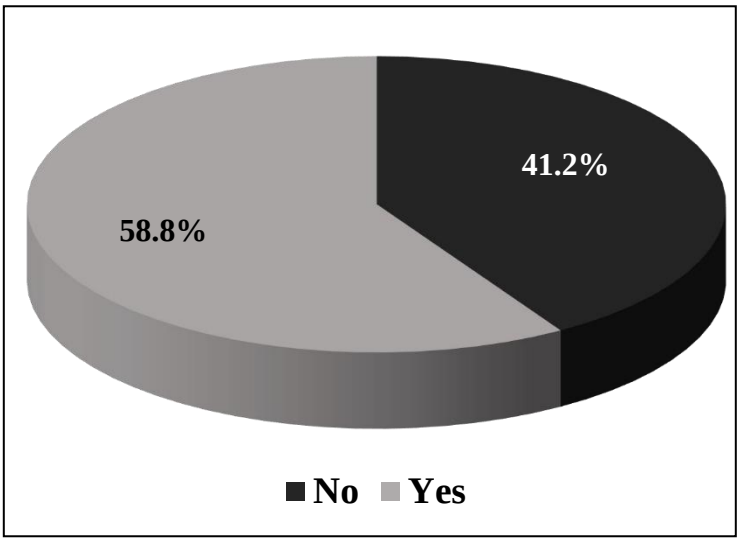

Figure 27. Percentage of waterfowl hunters whose public land use was in a blind awarded by lottery (*n* = 515).

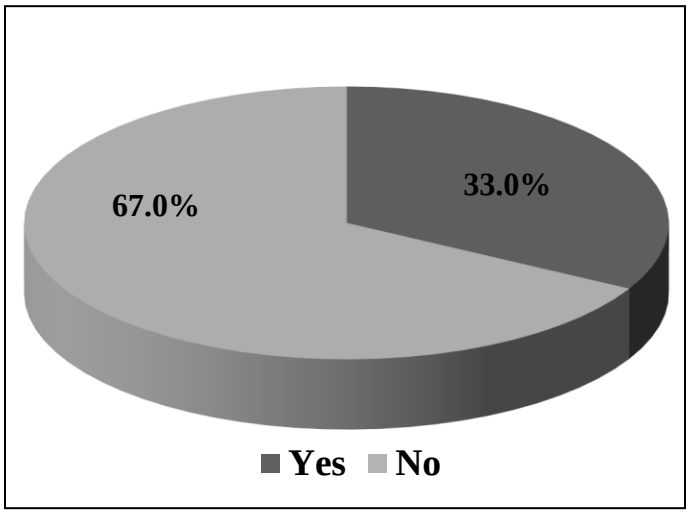

Figure 28. Percentage of hunters* that hunted on private land where habitat was managed specifically for waterfowl (*n* = 1,006).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least 1 day during 2019-20.

Satisfaction with 2019-20 Duck and Goose Seasons

As a condition of implementing a four-zone structure, Illinois was required to collect information on hunter satisfaction in areas of the state impacted by waterfowl zone changes. The former South zone was divided into two zones with a goal of providing preferred season dates to most hunters in the South Central and South zones. South Central zone duck hunters harvested the second lowest average number of ducks per hunter per season (*M* = 7.99), an average of 2.61 fewer than Central zone hunters and 1.47 ducks per hunter per season

fewer than hunters in the South zone, and 0.43 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the North zone. North zone duck hunters had the highest level of satisfaction for all but "amount of time you spent duck hunting" and "weather during duck season." South Central zone hunters were the least satisfied zone with all measures except "amount of time you spent duck hunting" (Table 17). Total goose harvest was greatest among hunters in the North and South Central zones (M = 4.52 and M = 4.30, respectively). South Central and South zone goose hunters harvested the fewest Canada geese per hunter per season (M = 1.12 and M = 1.49, respectively). North zone Canada goose hunters had the highest level of satisfaction with every measured aspect of the 2019-20 regular Canada goose season, while South Central zone hunters had the lowest level of satisfaction with all aspects except "amount of time you spent Canada goose hunting" and "weather during Canada goose season" (Table 18). South Central zone hunters harvested the highest average number of greater white-fronted geese per season (M = 0.83), followed by hunters in the South (M = 0.82), Central (M = 0.38), and North zones (M = 0.03). Satisfaction was highest in all aspects among greater white-fronted goose hunters in the North and Central zones except "number of greater white-fronted geese you saw" and "amount of time you spent greater white-fronted goose hunting" (Table 19).

Satisfaction with Season Timing and Zone Configuration

When asked about season timing, a majority of duck hunters in the South Central zone (62.5%) and over 40% of duck hunters in the North (40.2%), Central (45.7%), and South zones (41.2%) reported that the 2019-20 duck season was timed "too early" (Figure 29 and Table 20). A majority of teal hunters and September Goose hunters in each zone reported those seasons were timed "about right." A majority of goose hunters in the North and Central zones reported timing for the 2019-20 goose season was "about right."

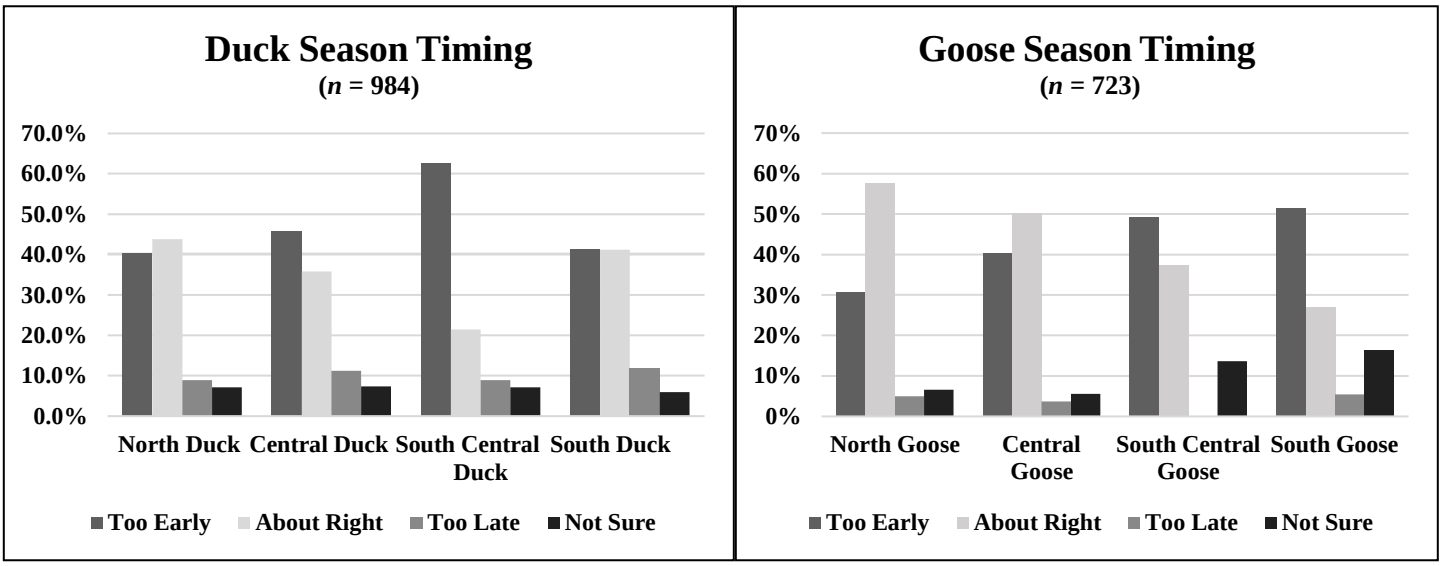

Figure 29. Duck and goose hunter* opinions about the timing of the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day in the corresponding season and zone.

Importance of Factors to Waterfowl Season

Respondents who hunted during the 2019-20 waterfowl season indicated the most important factors to their waterfowl season were: (1) enjoying nature and the outdoors (M = 4.5), (2) being with friends/family (M = 4.3), and (3) hearing or seeing ducks/geese (M = 4.3; Table 21). Over half of hunters in the North (62.7%), Central (51.3%), and South Central zones (53.7%) believed "enjoying nature and the outdoors" was an extremely important factor to their waterfowl season. Hunters believed that "taking ducks/geese home for food" (M = 3.4) and "shooting ducks/geese" (M = 3.5) were the least important factors to their waterfowl season.

Avidity among Waterfowl Hunters

Over half (52.6%) of respondents who hunted during the 2019-20 waterfowl season spent 11 days or more preparing for waterfowl hunting (e.g., training dogs, working on boats, decoys, scouting areas to hunt) (Figure 30). Seventeen percent of respondents hunted waterfowl in a state other than Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season with the most frequent states including: Arkansas (n = 60), Missouri (n = 55), and Wisconsin (n = 55). Hunters traveled farther during a typical waterfowl hunting trip in 2019-20 to hunt ducks (M = 36.1 miles) than when hunting geese (M = 30.8 miles). Less than half of respondents (43.0%) belonged to a local,

state, or national waterfowl hunting organization, including 36.2% that belonged to a national waterfowl hunting organization (Figure 31). Hunters harvested an average of 3.6 species during the 2019-20 waterfowl season. The most frequent species harvested by respondents included: mallard (*n* = 918), wood duck (*n* = 563), and gadwall (*n* = 474). Only 9.9% of hunters harvested a greater variety of species during 2019-20 than they had in the last 5 years. Few hunters indicated either they (*n* = 5) or their hunting partner (*n* = 7) harvested a species during the 2019-20 waterfowl season that they were unable to identify when harvested.

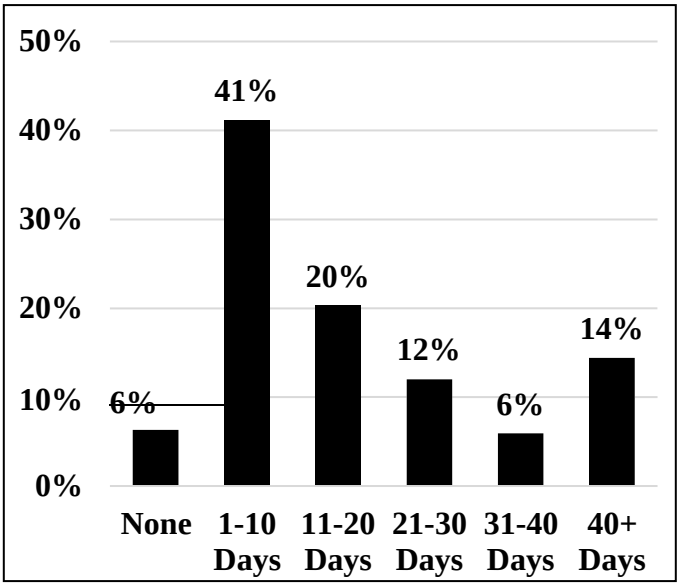

Figure 30. Approximate number of days spent preparing for waterfowl hunting (e.g., training dogs, working on boats, decoys, scouting areas to hunt) (*n* = 1,094).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least one day during the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.

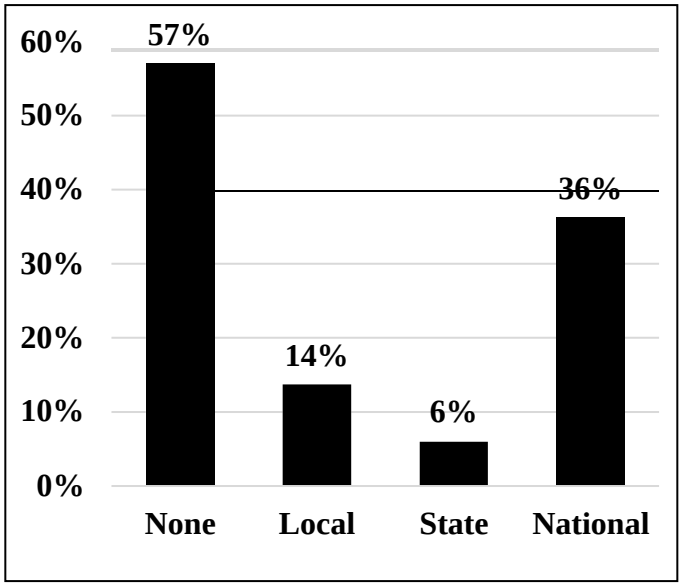

Figure 31. Percentage of respondents belonging to a local, state, or national waterfowl hunting organization (*n* = 1,296).

Sandhill Crane Hunting

Several states have established a sandhill crane hunting season. Sixty-nine (69.2%) percent of respondents were supportive of having a sandhill crane season in Illinois (Figure 32). A majority (61.3%) of respondents would hunt during the sandhill crane hunting season if one was offered in Illinois (Figure 33).

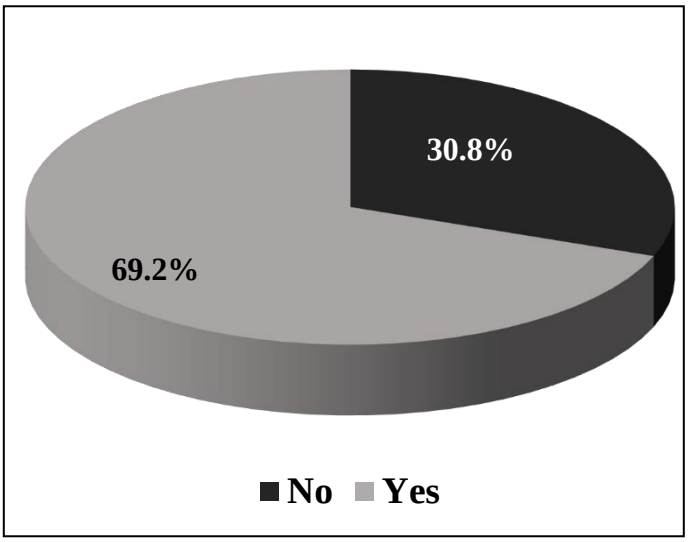

Figure 32. Percentage of respondents that support having a sandhill crane hunting season in Illinois (n = 1,694).

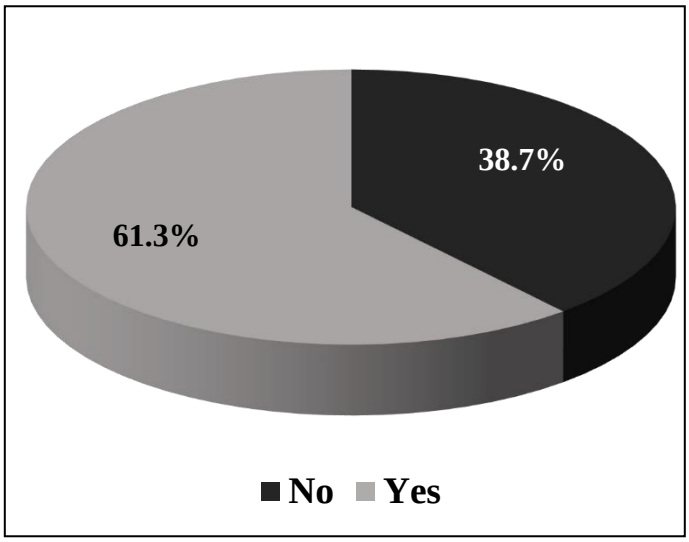

Figure 33. Percentage of respondents that would hunt during the sandhill crane hunting season if one were offered in Illinois (n = 1,645).

Hunter Characteristics

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2019-20 waterfowl season have hunted waterfowl in Illinois for a mean of 27.8 years. These hunters averaged 50.1 years of age and started at the age of 18.5. The counties with most respondents were McHenry (5.5%), Cook (5.0%), Will (4.3%), Madison (4.2%), and Tazewell (4.2%). Females comprised 2.1% of survey respondents and 0.9% of those who hunted during the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting seasons (Figure 34). Most respondents (99.0%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois before this season (Figure 35). Over half (52.9%) of respondents reported they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois, whereas 6.3% reported they never hunted waterfowl in Illinois (Figure 36). Respondents indicated if they only had one day to hunt, then they would hunt: (1) ducks (35.8%), (2) deer (31.6%), (3) geese (8.1%), and pheasants (8.1%).

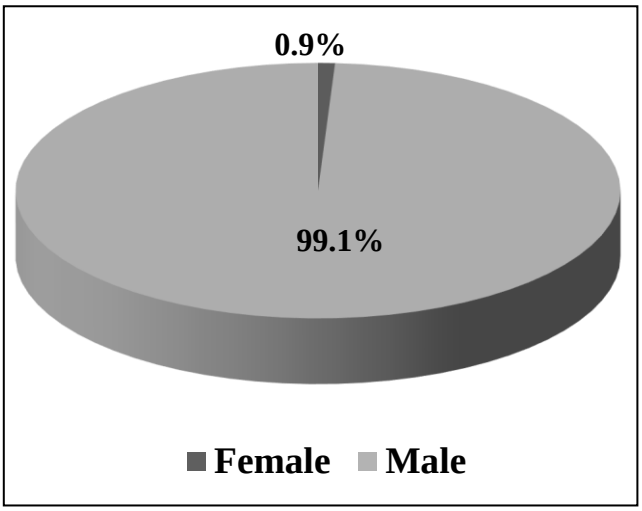

Figure 34. Gender distribution of respondents who hunted* waterfowl during one of the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons (*n* = 1,150).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day or more during the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.

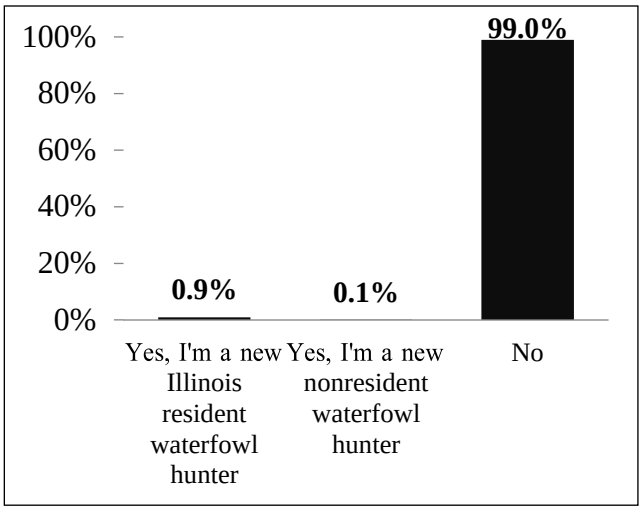

Figure 35. Number of hunters* whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was during one of the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons (*n* = 1,133).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least one day during the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.

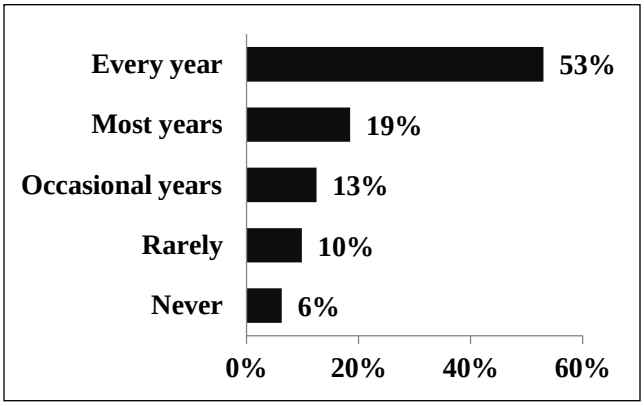

Figure 36. How often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois (*n* = 2,123).

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 2007 through 2019 hunting seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest[b]
2007	66,765	57,454	1,150,304	678,623
2008	69,590	59,379	1,175,243	660,306
2009	68,549	59,987	1,222,980	613,335
2010	64,828	50,936	985,075	513,882
2011	66,581	52,660	1,147,037	577,654
2012	64,896	50,740	1,155,346	580,557
2013	66,394	49,170	1,052,728	605,720
2014	70,391	50,698	982,193	550,946
2015	58,247	40,104	795,289	488,321
2016	54,920	41,242	870,721	490,463
2017	52,069	37,215	732,166	421,384
2018	55,303	40,047	831,043	412,402
2019	55,255	35,185	841,828	471,872

[a] Full listing for harvest 1981-Present can be found in Appendix F.
[b]Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined, and including September Teal and Canada goose seasons and youth hunt.

Table 2. Percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 2007 through 2019 seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
2007	27.7%	12.2%	60.1%	87.8%	72.3%
2008	25.9%	10.6%	63.5%	89.4%[b]	74.1%[b]
2009	27.5%	8.4%	64.1%	91.6%[b]	72.5%[b]
2010	25.0%	13.1%	61.9%	86.9%[b]	75.0%[b]
2011	20.7%	18.3%	61.0%	81.7%	79.3%
2012	29.4%	9.8%	60.8%	90.2%	70.6%
2013	30.2%	9.8%	60.0%	90.2%	69.8%
2014	30.8%	10.9%	58.3%	89.1%	69.2%
2015	28.3%	8.6%	63.0%	91.3%	71.6%
2016	29.3%	8.2%	62.5%	91.8%	70.7%
2017	29.8%	12.3%	57.8%	87.6%	70.1%
2018	31.9%	9.2%	58.9%	90.8%	68.1%
2019	32.8%	7.9%	59.3%	92.1%	67.2%

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.
[b]2008-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample.

Table 3. Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 2007-19).

Season [a] (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
2007	13,478	48,115	29,800
2008	14,652	52,365	19,981
2009	15,436	55,139	19,222 ± 7,372
2010	13,038	49,038	20,127 ± 9,332
2011	11,221	42,811	21,227 ± 7,993
2012	10,944	46,719	31,942 ± 11,740
2013	10,378	37,431	21,967 ± 7,169
2014	11,282	42,635	29,058 ± 10,909
2015	9,615	37,574	28,031± 9.911
2016	8,969	38,610	25,346 ± 9,296
2017	7,526	28,306	15,062 ± 5,480
2018	9,263	35,334	23,326 ± 8,817
2019	7,955	32,706	19,268 ± 8,795

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season (Illinois, 2019).

	n	Estimated Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	95	2,907	11,718	5,012
Central Zone	125	3,824	16,246	11,036
South Central Zone	34	1,040	3,916	2,882
South Zone	10	306	826	337
Unknown	0	0	0	0

[a]The number of individual teal hunters in the state is less than the sum of duck hunters from the categories above because some hunted in more than one zone.

Table 5. Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 2007-2019).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
2007	16/4	3.60	0.62	2.21
2008	16/4	3.57	0.38	1.36
2009	16/4	3.57	0.35	1.25
2010	16/4	3.76	0.41	1.54
2011	16/4	3.82	0.50	1.90
2012	16/4	4.27	0.68	2.92
2013	16/6	3.61	0.59	2.12
2014	16/6	3.78	0.68	2.58
2015	16/6	3.91	0.75	2.92
2016	16/6	4.31	0.66	2.83
2017	16/6	3.76	0.53	2.00
2018	16/6	3.81	0.66	2.52
2019	16/6	4.11	0.59	2.42

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2007-2019.

Season[a] (Year)	Adult Participation	Youth Participation	Days Hunting	Mean Youths/ Hunting Party	Total Ducks	Ducks/ Youth/Day	Total Coots	Coots/ Youth/ Day	Total Geese	Geese/ Youth/ Day
2007	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12
2008	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10
2009	7,073	9,772	15,922	1.63	11,229	0.71	599	0.04	2,396	0.15
2010	5,471	7,452	11,828	1.59	9,156	0.77	419	0.04	1,420	0.12
2011	6,325	8,642	14,059	1.63	9,569	0.68	1,333	0.09	1,318	0.09
2012	7,825	10,001	52,448[b]	1.27	8,147[c]	0.41	503[c]	0.03	1,064[c]	0.05
2013	8,438	8,639	19,136	1.02	12,715	1.33	359	0.04	2,065	0.23
2014	6,405	8,572	13,798	1.33	9,004	1.30	192	0.03	929	0.14
2015	4,718	6,291	9,873	1.33	8,171	1.65	117	0.02	571	0.12
2016	4,398	5,921	8,553	1.34	6,731	1.57	139	0.03	927	0.23
2017	4,780	6,459	9,956	1.35	8,283	1.66	89	0.02	1464	0.32
2018	4,822	5,775	8,663	1.20	7,452	1.72	205	0.05	729	0.18
2019	4,039	4,528	10,158	1.31	5,748	1.13	107	0.02	790	0.16

[a]1996 - 2019 information can be located in Appendix F.

[b]Results include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2-day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

[c]Results are a 2-day estimate based on the mean number harvested by youth from the entire season

Table 7. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 2007-2019).

Season (Year)[a]	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks: Mallards	Wood Ducks	Canvasback	Other Ducks	Total	Coots
2007	49,114	600,614	265,369	34,628	5,925	158,444	464,366	3,771
2008	50,683	600,574	247,895	43,051	---[b]	156,849	447,795	2,266
2009	49,648	626,832	228,211	41,549	---[b]	129,795	399,555 ± 69,698	3,904 ± 3,342
2010	43,450	499,758	193,758	39,611	---[b]	121,375	354,859 ± 60,571	1,770 ± 2,435
2011	46,619	632,712	222,405	54,294	---[b]	150,786	427,484 ± 66,551	4,327 ± 2,663
2012	43,444	630,233	244,988	47,623	---[b]	185,776	478,387 ± 50,294	4,133 ± 3,536
2013	43,653	563,961	225,873	49,001	---[b]	155,306	430,179 ± 29,431	2,143 ± 4,031
2014	44,019	525,114	197,997	48,216	4,820	133,795	384,828 ± 39,741	4,681 ± 3,311
2015	36,499	496,656	166,506	43,655	4,437	115,182	329,780 ± 34,835	3,185 ± 1,960
2016	34,386	459,029	154,698	47,986	6,794	123,928	333,406 ± 37,408	4,424 ± 1,338
2017	30,025	394,034	136,381	29,372	3,642	108,295	277,689 ± 24,826	1,544 ± 921
2018	33,836	464,327	147,733	29,003	5,200	90,887	272,823 ± 28,512	2,088 ± 1,764
2019	31,850	482,946	164,043	51,564	4,798	103,542	323,946 ± 34,906	2,238 ± 1,799

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.
[b]Hunters were not asked to distinguish Canvasback from Other Ducks and are included in Other Ducks for this year.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season (Illinois 2019-20).

Zone	*n*	Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted/ Hunter	Ducks/ Hunter/ Day	Ducks/ Hunter/ Season
North	370	11,320	144,104	85,547	12.73	0.59	7.56
Central	542	16,583	243,813	175,845	14.70	0.72	10.60
South Central	141	4,314	59,202	59,202	13.72	0.58	7.99
South	97	2,968	35,827	35,827	12.07	0.78	9.46
Unknown	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Statewide	1,041	31,850	482,946	482,946	15.16	0.67	10.17

[a]The number of individual duck hunters in the state is less than the sum of duck hunters from the categories above because some hunted in more than one zone.

Table 9. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 2007-2019).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield/ Hunter	Duck Harvest/Hunter[b]	
			Per Day	Per Season
2007	60/6(4,2)	12.23	0.77	9.45
2008	60/6(4,2)	11.85	0.75	8.84
2009	60/6(4,2)	12.63	0.64	8.05
2010	60/6(4,2)	11.50	0.71	8.17
2011	60/6(4,2)	13.57	0.68	9.17
2012	60/6(4,2)	14.51	0.76	11.01
2013	60/6(4,2)	12.92	0.76	9.85
2014	60/6(4,2)	11.93	0.73	8.74
2015	60/6(4,2)	13.61	0.66	9.01
2016	60/6(4,2)	13.35	0.73	9.70
2017	60/6(4,2)	13.12	0.70	9.25
2018	60/6(4,2)	13.72	0.59	8.06
2019	60/6(4,2)	15.16	0.67	10.17

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.
[b]Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

Table 10. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2019-20.

	Days Hunting Ducks (%)	Number of Ducks Harvested (%)
0	---	10.0%
1-5	30.7%	24.2%
6-10	19.9%	15.5%
11-15	11.7%	10.5%
16-20	13.8%	7.8%
21-25	5.7%	4.8%
26-30	7.0%	4.4%
>30	11.1%	22.9%

*Number of ducks harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson 1985).

Table 11. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 2007-2019).

			Waterfowl Zone				
	Year[a]	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Hunters[b]	2007	12,788	4,723	6,413		1,652	0
	2008	13,157	4,934	6,690		1,533	0
	2009	15,102	5,232	8,089		1,781	0
	2010	11,015	3,918	5,813		1,285	0
	2011	14,214	4,625	7,889		1,700	0
	2012	11,192[b]	4,601	5,928	1,161	249	0
	2013	10,865[b]	3,646	6,076	681	462	0
	2014	12,147	4,153	6,679	934	554	0
	2015	10,659	3,226	6,104	1,075	443	0
	2016	9,973	3,324	5,125	1,316	381	0
	2017	9,225	2,746	5,472	849	296	0
	2018	9,916	3,187	5,503	899	599	0
	2019	8,658	3,855	4,161	490	245	0
Days Afield	2007	41,549	14,169	22,080		5,300	0
	2008	45,637	17,305	23,174		5,158	0
	2009	51,318	19,591	26,048		5,678	0
	2010	39,019	15,929	19,236		3,854	0
	2011	49,306	16,832	27,441		5,033	0
	2012	39,589	17,079	18,613	3,524	373	0
	2013	40,955	12,323	24,816	2,042	1,774	0
	2014	44,919	16,300	23,844	3,288	1,488	0
	2015	38,744	13,505	21,191	2,404	1,645	0
	2016	41,935	14,925	20,950	4,883	1,177	0
	2017	33,817	9,442	19,714	3,595	1,067	0
	2018	35,361	12,777	18,035	2,779	1,771	0
	2019	33,410	15,634	15,695	1,316	765	0
Canada Geese	2007	16,207	6,057	8,645		1,505	0
	2008	17,419	7,343	8,951		1,125	0
	2009	16,212	6,101	8,336		1,774	0
	2010	17,115	7,967	7,859		1,289	0
	2011	18,790	6,339	10,874		1,577	0
	2012	18,028	8,557	7,664	1,599	228	0
	2013	15,644	5,165	9,271	523	685	0
	2014	19,089	7,527	9,015	1,770	777	0
	2015	15,693	4,233	8,587	2,147	726	0
	2016	17,711	7,895	7,780	1,539	497	0
	2017	16,155	4,154	10,282	1,199	510	20
	2018	13,165	4,909	6,928	925	404	0
	2019	15,429	7,912	6,932	249	336	0

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.

[b]Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.

Table 12. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 2007-2019).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
2007	43,046	445,670	141,205 (404)	11,582 (55)	152,787 (459)
2008	44,404	461,868	142,806 (590)	17,956 (0)	160,762 (590)
2009	44,601	473,769	142,836 (585)	17,382 (355)	160,218 (940) ± 36,569
2010	36,803	385,432	99,422 (534)	9,594 (46)	109,016 (580) ± 22,523
2011	36,996	411,380	75,061 (618)	19,862 (33)	94,923 (651) ± 22,387
2012	34,034	386,356	72,682 (0)	19,597 (0)	92,280 (0) ± 19,570
2013	33,809	391,246	104,887 (0)	15,859 (0)	120,746 (0) ± 12,775
2014	34,226	369,179	87,672 (50)	20,313 (0)	107,985 (50) ± 15,517
2015	31,280	330,482	75,198 (0)	27,576 (0)	102,774 (0) ± 17,608
2016	26,490	312,725	77,216 (0)	24,563 (0)	101,779 (0) ± 18,215
2017	24,039	276,009	78,850 (0)	27,637 (0)	106,486 (0) ± 14,607
2018	25,363	296,021	71,035 (0)	21,578 (0)	92,613 (0) ± 16,720
2019	23,222	292,766	85,188 (0)	19,158 (0)	104,346 (0) ± 23,241

Numbers in parentheses represent the number of geese harvested while duck hunting.
[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 13. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested.

	Days Hunting Geese (%)	Number of Geese Harvested (%)
0	---	22.4%
1-5	39.0%	37.2%
6-10	22.9%	17.0%
11-15	12.1%	7.9%
16-20	10.0%	4.7%
21-25	3.6%	3.7%
26-30	4.5%	2.0%
>30	7.9%	5.1%

Table 14. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2019-20).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Estimated Goose Harvest: Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese[b]	Total Geese	Total Days Hunted/ Hunter	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Day	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Season
North	9,943	125,165	44,385	278	278	44,941	12.59	0.36	4.52
Central	11,290	136,822	36,868	4,270	5,294	46,433	12.12	0.34	4.11
South Central	1,683	17,439	1,887	1,404	3,949	7,239	10.36	0.42	4.30
South	1,377	13,340	2,047	1,126	2,559	5,733	9.69	0.43	4.16
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	23,222	292,766	85,188	7,078	12,080	104,346	12.61	0.36	4.49

[a]Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.
[b]Harvest estimates include Ross' geese.

Table 15. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season, three-year trend (Illinois 2017-18 through 2019-20).

Zone	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	17,723	29,352	44,385	30,487	13,367
Central	45,302	35,407	36,868	39,192	5,341
South Central	10,141	3,490	1,887	5,173	4,377
South	5,684	2,787	2,047	3,506	1,922
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	78,850	71,035	85,188	78,358	7,089

Table 16. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2007 - 2019 regular seasons).

Season[a] (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
2007	77,914	16.8	16,627	10.9
2008	74,044	16.5	14,166	8.8
2009	67,718	16.9	12,245	7.6
2010	57,388	16.2	9,217	8.5
2011	64,268	15.0	6,937	7.3
2012	71,054*	14.9*	10,452*	11.3*
2013	59,064	13.7	8,847	7.3
2014	51,909	13.5	7,856	7.3
2015	47,442	14.4	7,622	7.4
2016	43,666	13.1	6,149	5.6
2017	37,491	13.5	6,657	6.3
2018	36,996	13.6	5,558	6.0
2019	40,630	12.5	5,783	5.5

[a]1981-2019 information can be located in Appendix F.
*Amended from 2012-13 report.

Table 17. Illinois duck hunters' satisfaction with various aspects of the 2019-20 duck seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of ducks you saw	North *n* = 343	14.0%	28.9%	27.1%	23.9%	6.1%	2.8 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 475	20.2%	35.2%	23.4%	18.1%	3.2%	2.5 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 115	44.3%	35.7%	12.2%	7.8%	0.0%	1.8 (0.9)
	South *n* = 71	28.2%	36.6%	12.7%	19.7%	2.8%	2.3 (1.2)
Mid-season matched peak of duck migration	North *n* = 339	17.7%	36.9%	28.3%	14.5%	2.7%	2.5 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 470	24.0%	36.4%	26.0%	11.9%	1.7%	2.3 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 114	51.8%	32.5%	12.3%	3.5%	0.0%	1.7 (0.8)
	South *n* = 70	31.4%	38.6%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	2.1 (1.0)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 338	15.4%	33.7%	27.8%	19.2%	3.8%	2.6 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 472	22.7%	33.1%	25.6%	16.3%	2.3%	2.4 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 115	41.7%	37.4%	14.8%	5.2%	0.9%	1.9 (0.9)
	South *n* = 71	35.2%	32.4%	16.9%	14.1%	1.4%	2.1 (1.1)
Number of ducks migrating through areas you hunted	North *n* = 340	18.5%	30.9%	28.8%	16.2%	5.6%	2.6 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 471	23.6%	37.2%	22.7%	14.4%	2.1%	2.3 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 115	45.2%	41.7%	8.7%	4.3%	0.0%	1.7 (0.8)
	South *n* = 70	32.9%	40.0%	15.7%	10.0%	1.4%	2.1 (1.0)
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North *n* = 338	11.2%	23.7%	32.8%	26.0%	6.2%	2.9 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 473	9.1%	25.2%	31.1%	29.4%	5.3%	3.0 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 115	19.1%	18.3%	25.2%	33.0%	4.3%	2.9 (1.2)
	South *n* = 70	18.6%	25.7%	20.0%	31.4%	4.3%	2.8 (1.2)
Number of ducks you harvested	North *n* = 338	18.3%	32.5%	29.3%	16.3%	3.6%	2.5 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 471	23.1%	33.5%	25.3%	15.5%	2.5%	2.4 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 115	42.6%	30.4%	16.5%	9.6%	0.9%	2.0 (1.0)
	South *n* = 71	26.8%	43.7%	15.5%	11.3%	2.8%	2.2 (1.1)
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	North *n* = 324	20.1%	28.1%	30.9%	18.5%	2.5%	2.6 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 457	24.3%	30.4%	29.3%	14.2%	1.8%	2.4 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 111	50.5%	23.4%	20.7%	5.4%	0.0%	1.8 (0.9)
	South *n* = 71	21.1%	26.8%	26.8%	21.1%	4.2%	2.6 (1.2)
Weather during duck season	North *n* = 338	15.7%	22.2%	38.2%	21.3%	2.7%	2.7 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 470	14.0%	26.6%	41.3%	17.0%	1.1%	2.6 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 114	18.4%	23.7%	46.5%	11.4%	0.0%	2.5 (0.9)
	South *n* = 70	14.3%	34.3%	31.4%	20.0%	0.0%	2.6 (1.0)

[a]1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2019-20 regular duck season.

Table 18. Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction hunting Canada geese (CAGO) during the 2019-20 goose seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of CAGO you saw	North *n* = 305	4.9%	15.1%	25.2%	35.4%	19.3%	3.5 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 318	13.8%	23.9%	30.5%	23.9%	7.9%	2.9 (1.2)
	South Central *n* = 59	47.5%	25.4%	15.3%	10.2%	1.7%	1.9 (1.1)
	South *n* = 38	42.1%	31.6%	15.8%	5.3%	5.3%	2.0 (1.1)
Mid-season matched peak of CAGO migration	North *n* = 303	8.9%	21.8%	31.0%	24.8%	13.5%	3.1 (1.2)
	Central *n* = 316	19.6%	27.5%	32.3%	15.8%	4.7%	2.6 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 59	52.5%	23.7%	18.6%	5.1%	0.0%	1.8 (0.9)
	South *n* = 37	37.8%	40.5%	13.5%	5.4%	2.7%	1.9 (1.0)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 304	14.1%	27.3%	27.0%	25.3%	6.3%	2.8 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 316	23.1%	29.7%	27.2%	16.1%	3.8%	2.5 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 59	52.5%	20.3%	16.9%	10.2%	0.0%	1.8 (1.0)
	South *n* = 37	54.1%	24.3%	8.1%	13.5%	0.0%	1.8 (1.1)
Number of CAGO that migrated through area you hunted	North *n* = 304	11.2%	18.8%	28.3%	27.3%	14.5%	3.2 (1.2)
	Central *n* = 315	19.0%	27.3%	27.9%	19.0%	6.7%	2.7 (1.2)
	South Central *n* = 59	59.3%	16.9%	13.6%	10.2%	0.0%	1.7 (1.0)
	South *n* = 37	62.2%	24.3%	2.7%	5.4%	5.4%	1.7 (1.1)
Amount of time you spent CAGO hunting	North *n* = 305	10.5%	22.6%	33.1%	26.2%	7.5%	3.0 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 315	11.7%	23.2%	35.2%	23.8%	6.0%	2.9 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 59	16.9%	22.0%	32.2%	25.4%	3.4%	2.8 (1.1)
	South *n* = 37	37.8%	18.9%	35.1%	8.1%	0.0%	2.1 (1.0)
Number of CAGO you harvested	North *n* = 303	23.1%	25.4%	22.4%	24.4%	4.6%	2.6 (1.2)
	Central *n* = 316	29.4%	29.1%	21.2%	16.8%	3.5%	2.4 (1.2)
	South Central *n* = 59	57.6%	20.3%	11.9%	10.2%	0.0%	1.7 (1.0)
	South *n* = 37	51.4%	32.4%	5.4%	10.8%	0.0%	1.8 (1.0)
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	North *n* = 303	13.9%	21.1%	36.3%	22.8%	5.9%	2.9 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 313	21.4%	23.6%	33.2%	17.6%	4.2%	2.6 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 59	44.1%	20.3%	20.3%	11.9%	3.4%	2.1 (1.2)
	South *n* = 37	35.1%	21.6%	40.5%	2.7%	0.0%	2.1 (0.9)
Weather during CAGO season	North *n* = 295	12.5%	18.6%	38.0%	25.4%	5.4%	2.9 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 311	14.8%	22.8%	39.9%	19.6%	2.9%	2.7 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 58	25.9%	20.7%	43.1%	8.6%	1.7%	2.4 (1.0)
	South *n* = 37	21.6%	35.1%	32.4%	10.8%	0.0%	2.3 (0.9)

[a] 1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2019-20 regular goose season.

Table 19. Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction hunting greater white-fronted geese (GWFG) during the 2019-20 goose seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (SD) [a]
Number of GWFG you saw	North *n* = 198	22.7%	18.7%	43.9%	10.6%	4.0%	2.5 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 248	11.7%	17.7%	36.7%	23.8%	10.1%	3.0 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 56	30.4%	19.6%	19.6%	25.0%	5.4%	2.6 (1.3)
	South *n* = 37	21.6%	16.2%	32.4%	18.9%	10.8%	2.8 (1.3)
Mid-season matched peak of GWFG migration	North *n* = 192	21.4%	21.4%	50.0%	4.7%	2.6%	2.5 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 243	17.7%	21.8%	37.0%	18.9%	4.5%	2.7 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 56	33.9%	25.0%	23.2%	17.9%	0.0%	2.3 (1.1)
	South *n* = 36	33.3%	22.2%	16.7%	19.4%	8.3%	2.5 (1.4)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 189	27.5%	18.5%	44.4%	6.9%	2.6%	2.4 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 241	29.5%	29.0%	32.4%	7.1%	2.1%	2.2 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 55	49.1%	27.3%	10.9%	12.7%	0.0%	1.9 (1.1)
	South *n* = 35	48.6%	25.7%	14.3%	8.6%	2.9%	1.9 (1.1)
Number of GWFG that migrated through area you hunted	North *n* = 188	26.1%	18.6%	42.0%	9.0%	4.3%	2.5 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 241	17.0%	20.3%	34.9%	21.6%	6.2%	2.8 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 56	39.3%	19.6%	19.6%	16.1%	5.4%	2.3 (1.3)
	South *n* = 35	31.4%	40.0%	2.9%	14.3%	11.4%	2.3 (1.4)
Amount of time you spent GWFG hunting	North *n* = 182	20.3%	15.9%	47.8%	12.1%	3.8%	2.6 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 238	17.2%	16.8%	46.2%	15.5%	4.2%	2.7 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 56	16.1%	17.9%	37.5%	25.0%	3.6%	2.8 (1.1)
	South *n* = 34	29.4%	20.6%	35.3%	11.8%	2.9%	2.4 (1.1)
Number of GWFG you harvested	North *n* = 180	33.9%	16.7%	40.0%	6.7%	2.8%	2.3 (1.1)
	Central *n* = 237	36.3%	25.3%	30.0%	6.8%	1.7%	2.1 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 56	50.0%	17.9%	17.9%	14.3%	0.0%	2.0 (1.1)
	South *n* = 35	45.7%	34.3%	8.6%	11.4%	0.0%	1.9 (1.0)
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	North *n* = 186	21.5%	13.4%	53.2%	9.7%	2.2%	2.6 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 238	20.2%	23.1%	37.8%	15.1%	3.8%	2.6 (1.1)
	South Central *n* = 56	42.9%	16.1%	25.0%	12.5%	3.6%	2.2 (1.2)
	South *n* = 35	31.4%	20.0%	42.9%	2.9%	2.9%	2.3 (1.0)
Weather during GWFG season	North *n* = 189	16.4%	14.3%	49.7%	16.9%	2.6%	2.8 (1.0)
	Central *n* = 242	15.3%	21.1%	42.6%	18.2%	2.9%	2.7 (1.0)
	South Central *n* = 56	23.2%	25.0%	41.1%	8.9%	1.8%	2.4 (1.0)
	South *n* = 35	22.9%	31.4%	34.3%	11.4%	0.0%	2.3 (1.0)

[a] 1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2019-20 regular goose season.

Table 20. Hunter* opinions of the timing of 2019-20 waterfowl seasons**.

Season	*n*	Too Early (%)	About Right (%)	Too Late (%)	Not Sure (%)
North Teal	83	12.0%	77.1%	7.2%	3.6%
Central Teal	110	14.5%	73.6%	8.2%	3.6%
South Central Teal	32	12.5%	71.9%	9.4%	6.3%
South Teal	12	16.7%	66.7%	8.3%	8.3%
Teal Combined	246	14.2%	73.6%	8.1%	4.1%
North Sept. Goose	111	11.7%	81.1%	2.7%	4.5%
Central Sept. Goose	117	12.0%	79.5%	3.4%	5.1%
South Central Sept. Goose	16	25.0%	68.8%	0.0%	6.3%
South Sept. Goose	8	12.5%	87.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Sept. Goose Combined	266	12.8%	79.7%	3.0%	4.5%
North Reg. Duck	338	40.2%	43.8%	8.9%	7.1%
Central Reg. Duck	466	45.7%	35.8%	11.2%	7.3%
South Central Reg. Duck	112	62.5%	21.4%	8.9%	7.1%
South Reg. Duck	68	41.2%	41.2%	11.8%	5.9%
Reg. Duck Combined	1,010	45.4%	37.2%	10.3%	7.0%
North Reg. Goose	305	30.8%	57.7%	4.9%	6.6%
Central Reg. Goose	322	40.4%	50.3%	3.7%	5.6%
South Central Reg. Goose	59	49.2%	37.3%	0.0%	13.6%
South Reg. Goose	37	51.4%	27.0%	5.4%	16.2%
South Reg. Combined	740	38.1%	50.8%	4.1%	7.0%

*Cases selected for those that indicated they hunted at least 1 day during the corresponding zone/season in 2019-20.
**Zone determined by zone hunted in most often for species in 2019-20 season.

Table 21. Importance of factors to Illinois hunters' 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.

	Zone	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	$\bar{x}$ (SD) [a]
Enjoying solitude and escape from normal life	North n = 391	2.6%	2.3%	17.9%	43.7%	33.5%	4.0 (0.9)
	Central n = 522	3.4%	3.8%	22.4%	44.1%	26.2%	3.9 (1.0)
	South Central n = 121	4.1%	5.0%	17.4%	47.1%	26.4%	3.9 (1.0)
	South n = 74	1.4%	2.7%	21.6%	50.0%	24.3%	3.9 (0.8)
Experiencing the challenge of the hunt	North n = 392	1.3%	3.3%	19.1%	48.2%	28.1%	4.0 (0.8)
	Central n = 524	1.7%	2.7%	25.2%	50.4%	20.0%	3.8 (0.8)
	South Central n = 121	1.7%	1.7%	30.6%	44.6%	21.5%	3.8 (0.8)
	South n = 74	2.7%	1.4%	32.4%	44.6%	18.9%	3.8 (0.9)
Improving hunter skills	North n = 388	5.9%	8.2%	26.0%	36.6%	23.2%	3.6 (1.1)
	Central n = 522	6.3%	8.6%	31.0%	36.8%	17.2%	3.5 (1.1)
	South Central n = 120	7.5%	8.3%	31.7%	36.7%	15.8%	3.5 (1.1)
	South n = 74	9.5%	13.5%	29.7%	33.8%	13.5%	3.3 (1.2)
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	North n = 389	0.5%	1.0%	5.1%	30.6%	62.7%	4.5 (0.7)
	Central n = 522	0.6%	0.6%	6.5%	41.0%	51.3%	4.4 (0.7)
	South Central n = 121	0.8%	0.0%	6.6%	38.8%	53.7%	4.4 (0.7)
	South n = 74	1.4%	0.0%	10.8%	44.6%	43.2%	4.3 (0.8)
Getting some physical exercise	North n = 391	4.6%	5.4%	29.9%	32.2%	27.9%	3.7 (1.1)
	Central n = 523	5.7%	6.9%	31.0%	34.4%	22.0%	3.6 (1.1)
	South Central n = 121	5.0%	10.7%	33.9%	36.4%	14.0%	3.4 (1.0)
	South n = 74	10.8%	9.5%	28.4%	33.8%	17.6%	3.4 (1.2)
Hearing or seeing ducks/geese	North n = 389	0.3%	1.0%	10.3%	42.4%	46.0%	4.3 (0.7)
	Central n = 523	0.4%	1.0%	11.3%	44.0%	43.4%	4.3 (0.7)
	South Central n = 121	0.0%	1.7%	9.1%	38.0%	51.2%	4.4 (0.7)
	South n = 74	1.4%	0.0%	8.1%	50.0%	40.5%	4.3 (0.7)
Being with friends/family	North n = 391	0.0%	2.0%	11.5%	34.3%	52.2%	4.4 (0.8)
	Central n = 523	0.8%	2.1%	9.6%	34.4%	53.2%	4.4 (0.8)
	South Central n = 121	1.7%	1.7%	11.6%	41.3%	43.8%	4.2 (0.8)
	South n = 74	2.7%	2.7%	10.8%	36.5%	47.3%	4.2 (0.9)
Diversifying my outdoor recreation	North n = 389	4.9%	6.2%	25.7%	36.5%	26.7%	3.7 (1.1)
	Central n = 519	6.0%	9.8%	31.2%	33.3%	19.7%	3.5 (1.1)
	South Central n = 117	12.0%	10.3%	32.5%	31.6%	13.7%	3.2 (1.2)
	South n = 73	9.6%	6.8%	31.5%	32.9%	19.2%	3.5 (1.2)

[a] 1= Not Important, 5= Extremely Important

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2019-20 waterfowl season.

Table 21 Continued. Importance of factors to Illinois hunters' 2019-20 waterfowl seasons.

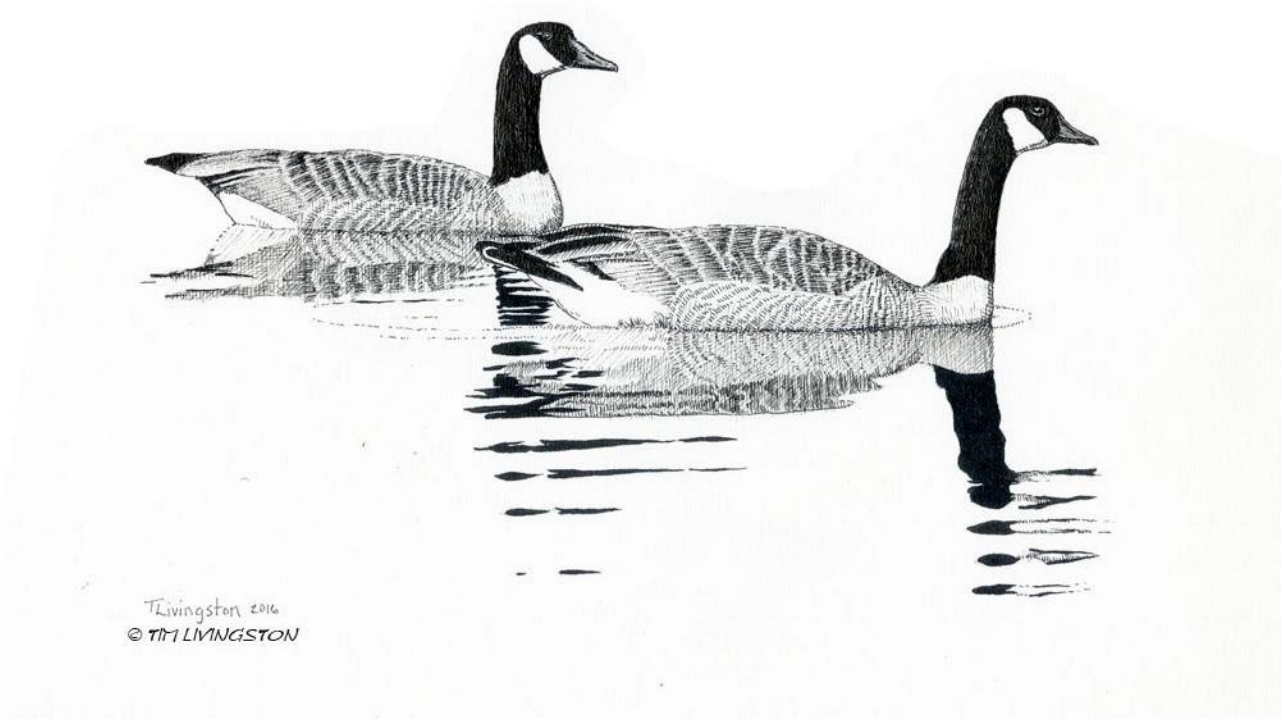
	Zone	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	$\bar{x}$ (SD) [a]
Teaching others (kids, friends) to hunt	North n = 389	5.4%	6.9%	24.9%	32.6%	30.1%	3.8 (1.1)
	Central n = 521	5.6%	9.8%	23.2%	30.7%	30.7%	3.7 (1.2)
	South Central n = 120	9.2%	6.7%	30.0%	26.7%	27.5%	3.6 (1.2)
	South n = 74	4.1%	9.5%	21.6%	33.8%	31.1%	3.8 (1.1)
Helping manage the waterfowl population	North n = 389	5.1%	5.7%	22.1%	35.5%	31.6%	3.8 (1.1)
	Central n = 522	4.8%	9.0%	23.4%	33.3%	29.5%	3.7 (1.1)
	South Central n = 121	5.8%	9.9%	29.8%	32.2%	22.3%	3.6 (1.1)
	South n = 74	9.5%	9.5%	17.6%	31.1%	32.4%	3.7 (1.3)
Knowing friends/family are seeing ducks/geese	North n = 388	3.9%	5.2%	23.2%	36.6%	31.2%	3.9 (1.0)
	Central n = 522	3.3%	6.1%	22.8%	41.0%	26.8%	3.8 (1.0)
	South Central n = 119	5.9%	5.0%	21.0%	44.5%	23.5%	3.7 (1.1)
	South n = 73	5.5%	6.8%	26.0%	34.2%	27.4%	3.7 (1.1)
Shooting ducks/geese	North n = 388	2.6%	10.6%	34.3%	29.4%	23.2%	3.6 (1.0)
	Central n = 523	1.1%	9.2%	37.7%	30.4%	21.6%	3.6 (1.0)
	South Central n = 120	2.5%	10.0%	30.8%	30.8%	25.8%	3.7 (1.0)
	South n = 72	5.6%	8.3%	27.8%	30.6%	27.8%	3.7 (1.1)
Taking ducks/geese home for food	North n = 390	3.8%	12.1%	31.5%	25.6%	26.9%	3.6 (1.1)
	Central n = 524	4.8%	11.8%	37.0%	26.0%	20.4%	3.5 (1.1)
	South Central n = 120	11.7%	14.2%	22.5%	24.2%	27.5%	3.4 (1.3)
	South n = 74	9.5%	9.5%	27.0%	29.7%	24.3%	3.5 (1.2)

[a] 1= Not Important, 5= Extremely Important

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2019-20 waterfowl season.

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2019-20 Season



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
&
The Illinois Natural History Survey

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of sporting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!
All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Section 1. Waterfowl Hunting in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) waterfowl biologists may better understand hunters in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2019-20 seasons?

_____Yes _____No

2. Which of the following best describes how often you hunt **waterfowl** (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois?

_____Every year _____Most years _____Occassional years _____Rarely _____Never

If you never hunt waterfowl in Illinois, please go to Section 6.

3. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting seasons?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," please go to Section 3)

3a. Was the 2019-20 Illinois waterfowl season your **first** time hunting waterfowl in Illinois?

_____No _____Yes (new Illinois resident hunter) _____Yes (new nonresident hunter)

Please refer to the zone map on the back of the included cover letter to answer question 3b.

3b. In which of the following zones did you hunt **waterfowl MOST often**? (Please select **one**)

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone

4. Which type of land do you hunt most often for waterfowl? Please choose one.

____ Private land owned by me

____ Private land owned by someone who gave me permission

____ Private land under a lease

____ State land/water

____ Federal land/water

4a. If you hunt on private land does it include wetlands where the habitat is managed specifically for waterfowl?

____ Yes ____ No

5. Did you hunt waterfowl on Illinois state public land during the 2019-20 seasons?

_____Yes_____No (If "No," please go to Question 6)

5a. If "Yes," in what zone(s) did you hunt waterfowl on public land? (Please check all that apply)

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____South Central Zone _____South Zone

5b. Did any of your hunts on public lands use a blind awarded through a lottery?

_____Yes _____No

6. How does the number of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese you saw this year compare to the last 5 years?

_____Much less _____Less _____About the same _____More _____Much more

7. Did you target white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season? (Please check all that apply)

_____Yes, I used white-fronted (specklebelly) decoys

_____Yes, I used a white-fronted (specklebelly) call

_____No, I did not target them, but I shot at them when I had the opportunity

_____No, I did not target or shoot at them

8. Think of your typical waterfowl hunting trip. How many miles do you drive for each of the following:

_____ miles to duck hunt _____ miles to goose hunt

9. How many **days** did you hunt ducks on the following types of areas during the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons in Illinois?

_____ days on state or federally-managed public hunting areas

_____ days on private duck clubs (commercial and non-commercial)

_____ days on other private land such as farm ponds, streams, rivers, marshes, etc.

10. Approximately how many days do you spend preparing for waterfowl hunting ("preparing" includes training dogs, working on boats, decoys, scouting areas to hunt, etc.)?

_____ none _____ 11-20 days _____ 31-40 days

_____ 1-10 days _____ 21-30 days _____ More than 40 days

11. Did you hunt waterfowl in a state other than Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season?

_____ Yes_____No (If "No," please go to Question 12)

11a. If "Yes," which state(s) or province(s) other than Illinois and what month(s) did you hunt during the 2019-2020 waterfowl season?

State/Province_____ Month _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

12. Do you belong to any local, state, or national waterfowl hunting organizations? (Please check all that apply)

_____ No _____ Yes, local _____ Yes, state _____ Yes, national

13. Please indicate which species you harvested during the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons. (Please check all that apply)

____ Mallard ____ Redhead ____ Green-winged Teal ____ Shoveler ____ Canvasback

____ Pintail ____ Gadwall ____ Blue-winged Teal ____ Scaup ____ Wood Duck

____ Coot ____ Wigeon ____ Ring-necked Duck

____ Other (please identify) _____

14. Did you harvest a greater variety of species this year than you have in the last 5 years? _____Yes _____ No

15. During the 2019-20 waterfowl seasons, did you or a hunting partner harvest a species that you were not able to identify when harvested? (Please check all that apply)

_____Yes, I did _____Yes, my hunting partner did _____No (If "No," please go to Section 2)

15a. If "Yes," how did you determine which species were harvested? (Please check all that apply)

_____ Internet/Social media _____ Ask hunting partner _____ Identification guide

_____ Ask hunting guide _____ Ask other hunters _____ Did not identify

15b. Which species were you unable to identify?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Section 2. Waterfowl Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that IDNR waterfowl biologists may estimate waterfowl harvest, conserve waterfowl populations, and provide hunting opportunities in Illinois. **If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2019-20 seasons, please go to Section 3.**

1. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2019 and January 31st, 2020 in the following tables.
- Include only **your personal effort and harvest** (**DO NOT** include harvests for party)
- Count part of 1 day as 1 whole day.
- Only report days hunted in the table for the species you targeted that day.

a. **September Teal Season** (DO NOT include harvest after September.)

Zone hunted	County hunted	Total days hunted	Teal harvested	Teal downed but not retrieved

b. **September Canada Goose Season** (DO NOT include harvest after September.)

Zone hunted	County hunted	Total days hunted	Geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved

c. **Regular Duck Season** (DO NOT include harvest from September.)

Zone hunted	County hunted	Total days hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Canvas-backs harvested	Other ducks harvested	Coots harvested	Ducks downed but not retrieved

d. **Regular Goose Season** (DO NOT include harvest from September or Conservation Order Light Goose season that occurs after regular goose season closes.)

Zone hunted	County hunted	Total days hunted	Canada geese harvested	White-fronted (Specklebelly) geese harvested	Snow/Blue/ Ross' geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved

Section 3. Youth Hunts. Please answer the following questions about mentoring youth hunters in Illinois.
Please note: **"Youths"** are defined as hunters **17 years of age or younger**.

1. Did you take a youth **(**17 years old or younger) hunting during the **2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

_____Yes _____No (If "No," please go to question 2)

1a. If "Yes," was this **at least one youth's first time** duck or goose hunting? _____Yes _____No

1b. Was this **YOUR** first time accompanying a youth during the **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

_____Yes _____No

1c. Please report information for each youth that hunted during the **2019 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**.
(North Zone: **Oct. 12-13**, Central Zone: **Oct. 19-20**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 2-3**, South Zone: **Nov. 16-17**)
Enter **0** if the youth did not harvest any ducks, geese, or coots.

	Age	Number of Days hunted	County hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Other ducks harvested	Geese harvested	Coots harvested
Youth 1								
Youth 2								
Youth 3								
Youth 4								

2. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2019-20 **regular** duck or goose seasons in Illinois?

_____Yes (If "Yes," please check which season(s)):_____Regular Duck _____Regular Goose

_____No

_____A youth accompanied me hunting, but they did not hunt

Section 4. Sandhill Crane Hunting. Please answer the following questions about sandhill crane hunting in Illinois.

1. Several states have a sandhill crane hunting season. If proposed, would you support a sandhill crane hunting season in Illinois? _____ Yes _____ No

2. Would you hunt during the sandhill crane hunting season if one were offered in Illinois?_____Yes_____No

Section 5. Satisfaction and Motivations for Waterfowl Hunting. Please provide the following information on satisfaction with hunting regulations, along with motivations for waterfowl hunting.

1. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent duck season(s) you hunted in Illinois** by circling the number that best matches your response. **If you did not hunt ducks during 2019-20, please go to question 2.**

REGULAR DUCK SEASON	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of ducks you saw	1	2	3	4	5
Mid-season matched peak of duck migration	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of shooting you got in	1	2	3	4	5
Number of ducks migrating through areas you hunted	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Number of ducks you harvested	1	2	3	4	5
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	1	2	3	4	5
Weather during duck season	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent goose season(s) you hunted in Illinois** by circling the number that best matches your response. CAGO refers to Canada geese and GWFG are greater white-fronted geese. **If you did not hunt geese during 2019-20, please go to question 3.**

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON	Species	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of geese you saw	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Mid-season matched peak of goose migration	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of shooting you got in	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Number of geese that migrated through area you hunted	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent goose hunting	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Number of geese you harvested	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5
Weather during goose season	CAGO	1	2	3	4	5
	GWFG	1	2	3	4	5

3. Do you feel the dates of the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting seasons were too early, about right, or too late in the zone where you hunted most often? (Please circle **one number for each season**.)

	Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure	I did not hunt this season.
Teal season (*September only*)	1	2	3	4	5
September Canada Goose Season (*September only*)	1	2	3	4	5
Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please indicate the importance of each of the factors below to your waterfowl season by circling the number that matches your answer.

	Not Important	**Slightly Important**	**Moderately Important**	**Very Important**	**Extremely Important**
Enjoying solitude and escape from normal life	1	2	3	4	5
Experiencing the challenge of the hunt	1	2	3	4	5
Improving hunter skills	1	2	3	4	5
Enjoying nature and the outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
Getting some physical exercise	1	2	3	4	5
Hearing or seeing ducks/geese	1	2	3	4	5
Being with friends/family	1	2	3	4	5
Diversifying my outdoor recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching others (kids, friends) to hunt	1	2	3	4	5
Helping manage the waterfowl population	1	2	3	4	5
Knowing friends/family are seeing ducks/geese	1	2	3	4	5
Shooting ducks/geese	1	2	3	4	5
Taking ducks/geese home for food	1	2	3	4	5

Section 6. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

1. How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? _____Years

2. At what age did you first hunt waterfowl? _____Years-old

3. What is your county of residence?_____County (If nonresident, please include state)

4. Please give your age. _____Years

5. What is your gender? _____Male _____Female

6. If you could have only one day to hunt, which of the following would you hunt? Please check one response.

____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Deer ____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants

____ Quail ____ Squirrels ____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys ____ Doves

____ Other (please identify)_____

Comments

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal 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 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from a list of 2019 resident/non-resident State Waterfowl stamp purchasers and Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We are asking you to provide information about your activities during the 2019-20 waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2019-20 seasons, we need to hear from you and we ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire.**

We have included the Illinois waterfowl zone map on the back of this letter if you need it to determine the zone(s) you hunted.

This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois. Results of this study will help waterfowl managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' duck and goose populations. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential**. By responding you will help us more effectively manage waterfowl and hunting in Illinois.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove you from our mailing list.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at https://publish.illinois.edu/human-dimensions/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/wildlife.

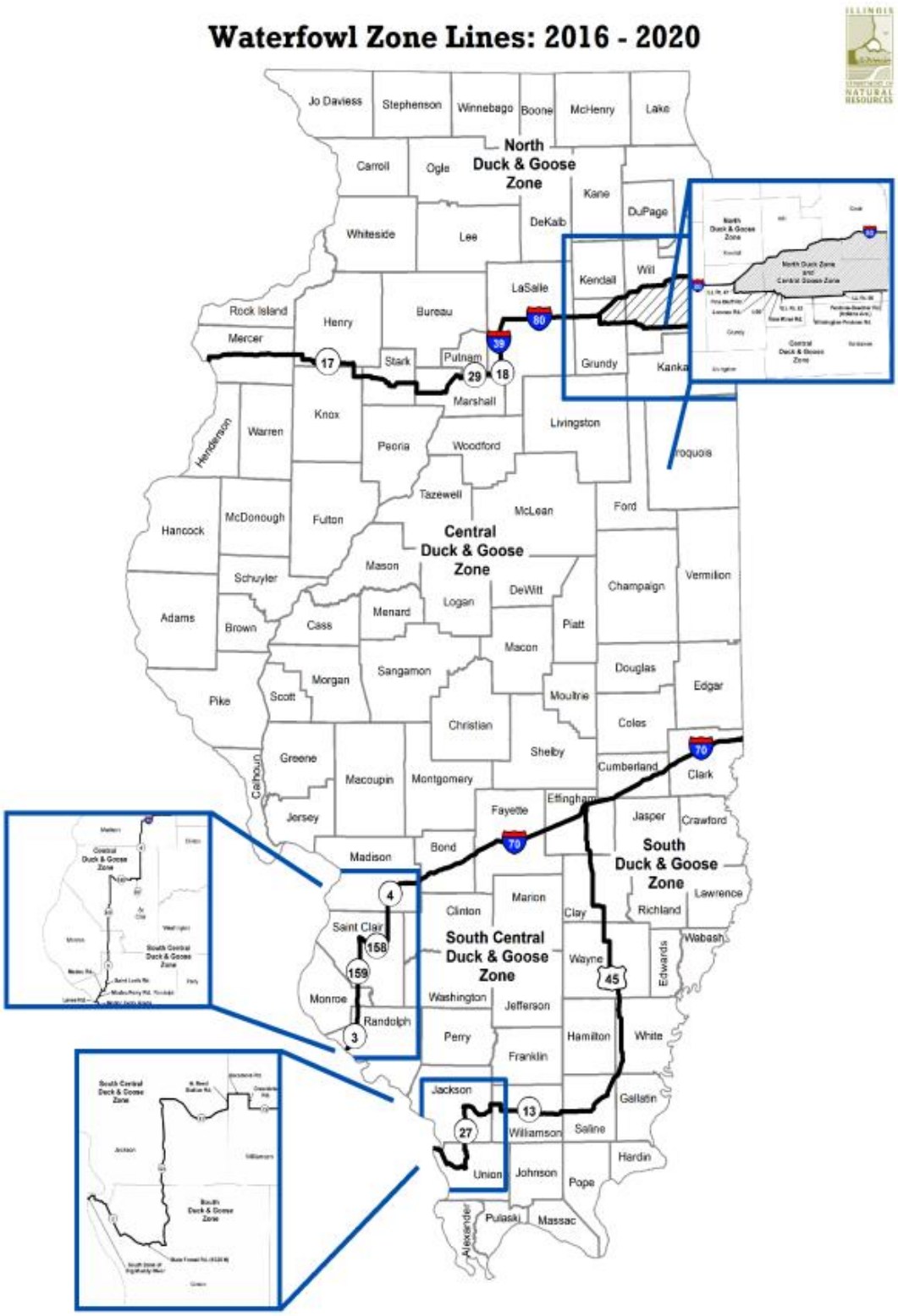
If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Paul B Johnson ©

1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA


Waterfowl Zone Lines: 2016 - 2020
Jo Daviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Ogle
North Duck & Goose Zone
Kane
DuPage
Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kendall
Will
LaSalle
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Stark
Putnam
Grundy
Kankakee
Marshall
Knox
Livingston
Henderson
Warren
Peoria
Woodford
Iroquois
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Central Duck & Goose Zone
Schuyler
Mason
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Menard
Logan
Piatt
Macon
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Sangamon
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Greene
Cumberland
Clark
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Jersey
Fayette
Effingham
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Bond
South Duck & Goose Zone
Clinton
Marion
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
Saint Clair
South Central Duck & Goose Zone
Wayne
Wabash
Edwards
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Randolph
Perry
Hamilton
White
Franklin
Jackson
Gallatin
Williamson
Saline
Union
Johnson
Hardin
Pope
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac

Appendix C

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2019 resident/non-resident State Waterfowl stamp purchasers and Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy for your use. The information you and other selected hunters provide will help waterfowl managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' duck and goose populations. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.** We have included the Illinois waterfowl zone map on the back of this letter if you need it to determine the zone(s) you hunted.

Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2019-20 seasons, we need to hear from you and we ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire. A postage paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

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If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

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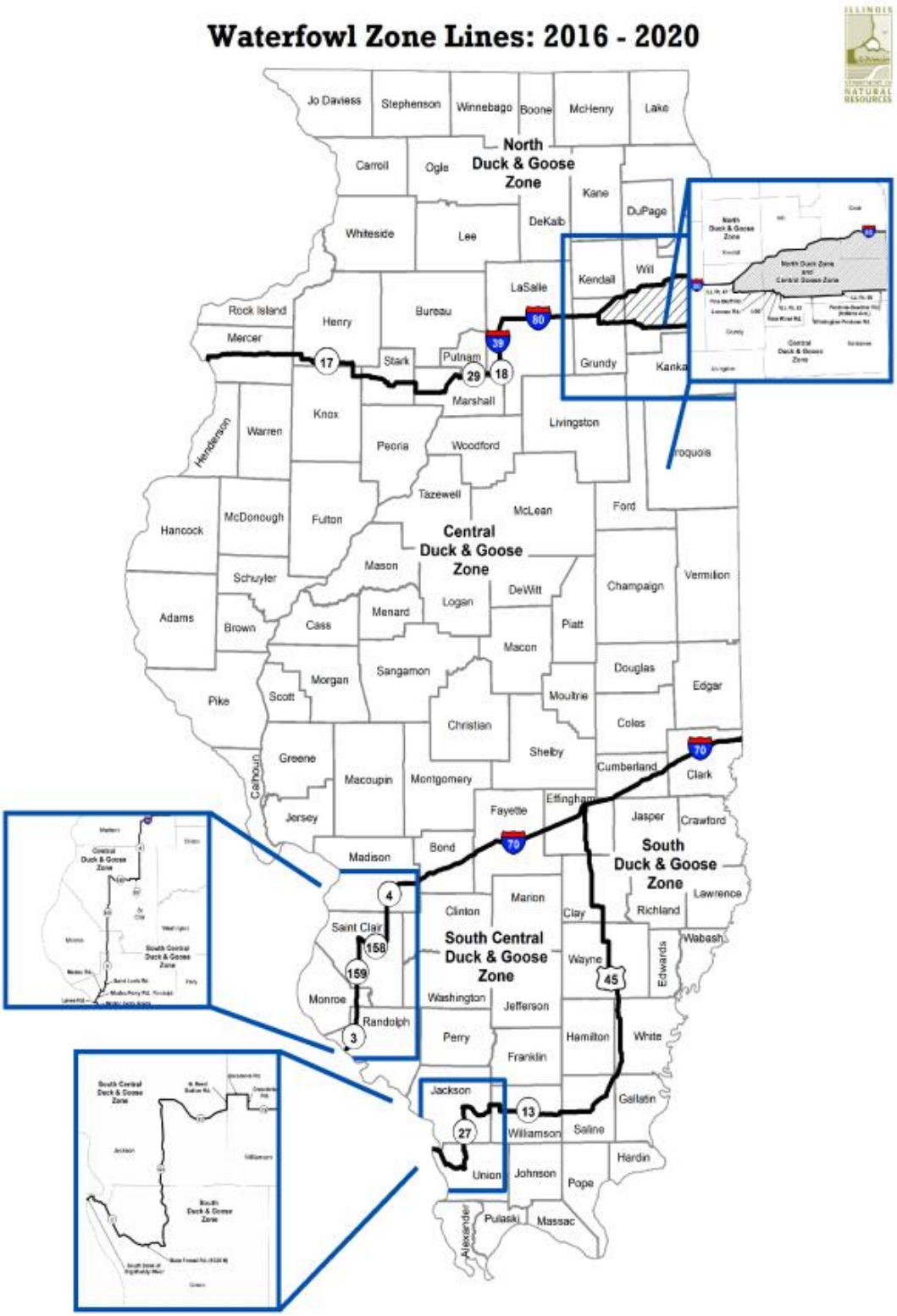
1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA


Waterfowl Zone Lines: 2016 - 2020
North Duck & Goose Zone
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South Central Duck & Goose Zone
Jo Daviess
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Boone
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Ogle
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Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kendall
Will
LaSalle
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Stark
Putnam
Grundy
Kankakee
Marshall
Livingston
Knox
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Iroquois
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Mason
Schuyler
Logan
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Menard
Macon
Platt
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Sangamon
Moultrie
Coles
Christian
Shelby
Greene
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Cumberland
Clark
Jersey
Fayette
Effingham
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Bond
Clinton
Marion
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
Saint Clair
Wayne
Edwards
Wabash
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Randolph
Perry
Hamilton
White
Franklin
Jackson
Gallatin
Williamson
Saline
Union
Johnson
Pope
Hardin
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac
4
70
158
159
45
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13
27

Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2019 resident/non-resident State Waterfowl stamp purchasers and Illinois Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

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Sincerely,

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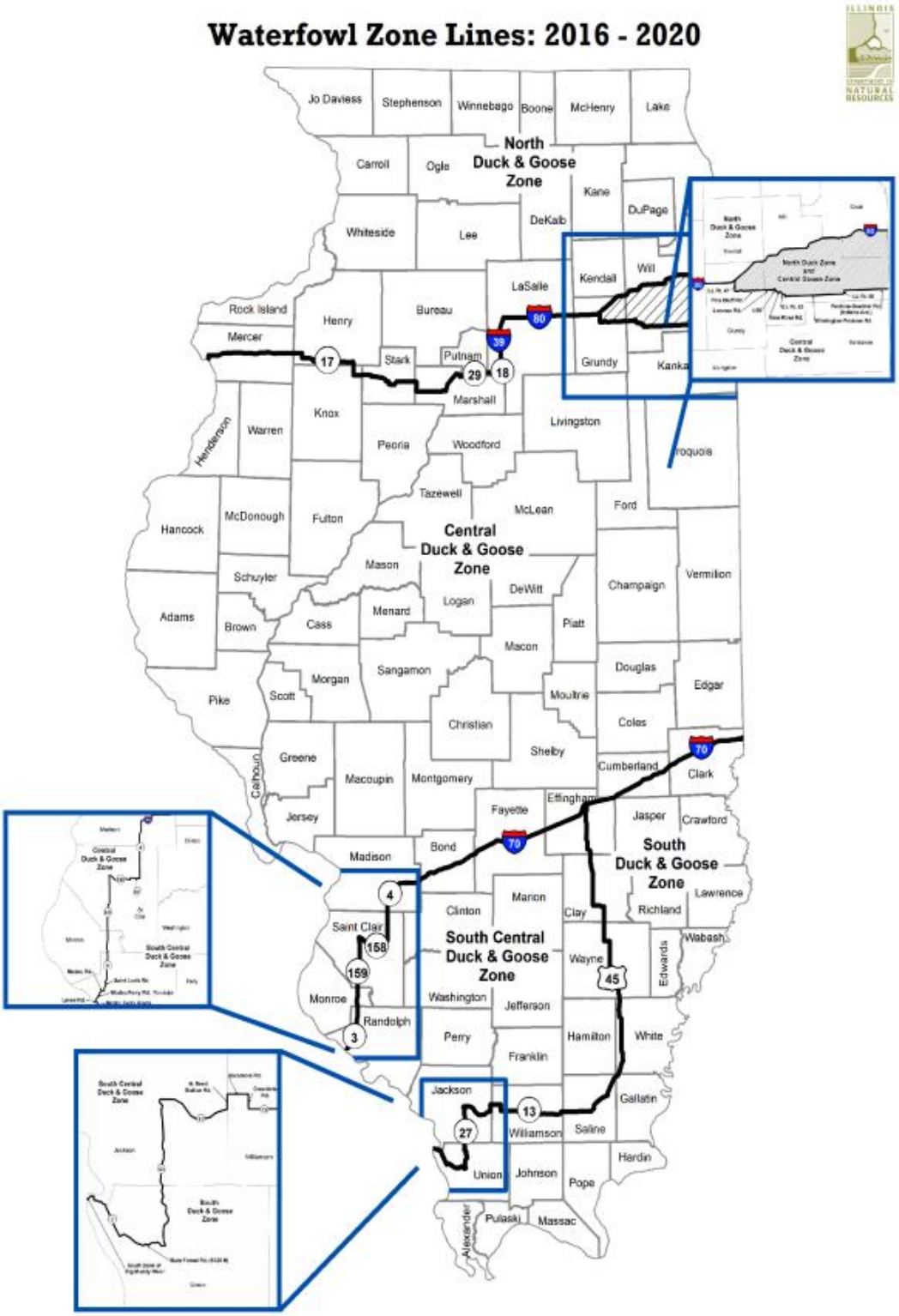
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LaSalle
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Putnam
Stark
Grundy
Kankakee
Marshall
Knox
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Livingston
Iroquois
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Central Duck & Goose Zone
Mason
Schuyler
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Menard
Logan
Platt
Macon
Douglas
Edgar
Morgan
Sangamon
Pike
Scott
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Greene
Cumberland
Clark
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Effingham
Jersey
Fayette
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Bond
South Duck & Goose Zone
Clinton
Marion
Clay
Lawrence
Saint Clair
South Central Duck & Goose Zone
Richland
Wabash
Wayne
Edwards
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Randolph
Perry
Hamilton
White
Franklin
Jackson
Gallatin
Williamson
Saline
Union
Johnson
Pope
Hardin
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac

Appendix F

Table F-1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2019 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated 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
1994	57,543 (955)	53,226	816,185	332,803
1995	60,564 (665)	55,454	884,328	498,854
1996	62,417 (545)	56,956	836,793	376,248
1997	59,961 (480)	54,715	881,030	401,236
1998	54,550 (450)	50,288	795,561	471,072
1999	63,782 (350)	58,003	1,472,301	783,195
2000	62,701 (330)	56,954	1,115,076	708,092
2001	63,745 (300)	59,029	1,337,297	695,790
2002	61,345 (1,520)	53,428	1,054,047	504,616
2003	61,991 (260)	57,985	1,251,974	650,906
2004	60,264	54,803	1,083,910	494,775
2005	55,734	48,772	868,299	526,221
2006	63,965	58,302	1,194,801	700,571
2007	66,765	57,454	1,150,304	678,623
2008	69,590	59,379	1,175,243	660,306
2009	68,549	59,987	1,222,980	613,335
2010	64,828	50,936	985,075	513,882
2011	66,581	52,660	1,147,037	577,654
2012	64,896	50,740	1,155,346	580,557
2013	66,394	49,170	1,052,728	605,720
2014	70,391	50,698	982,193	550,946
2015	58,247	40,104	795,289	488,321
2016	54,920	41,242	870,721	490,463
2017	52,069	37,215	732,166	421,384
2018	55,303	40,047	831,043	412,402
2019	55,255	35,185	841,828	471,872

[a]Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined, and including September Teal and Canada goose seasons and youth hunt. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended the September Teal season in 1988 through 1991.

[b]Stamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

[c]Estimates of waterfowl hunters and days afield for these years reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. Estimates of waterfowl (Teal, ducks, Coots, and geese combined) harvested reduced to 94.54% - 97.74 of original estimates. See Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table F-2. The percentage of regular season waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 1981 through 2019 seasons.

Season (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1981	63.0%	14.1%	22.9%	85.9%	37.0%
1982	59.1%	11.1%	29.8%	88.9%	40.9%
1983	55.0%	13.4%	31.6%	86.6%	45.0%
1984	60.3%	12.1%	27.6%	87.9%	39.7%
1985	61.1%	9.7%	29.2%	90.3%	38.9%
1986	51.0%	13.4%	35.6%	86.6%	49.0%
1987	46.6%	14.3%	39.1%	85.7%	53.4%
1988	35.5%	19.1%	45.4%	80.9%	64.5%
1989	29.2%	21.3%	49.5%	78.7%	70.8%
1990	26.7%	29.7%	43.6%	70.3%	73.4%
1991	26.0%	27.3%	46.7%	72.7%	74.0%
1992	31.3%	23.4%	45.3%	76.6%	68.7%
1993	30.9%	20.2%	48.9%	79.8%	69.1%
1994	30.3%	16.5%	53.2%	83.5%	69.7%
1995	33.2%	23.4%	43.4%	76.6%	66.8%
1996	35.8%	22.3%	41.9%	77.7%	64.2%
1997	38.8%	22.2%	39.0%	77.8%	61.2%
1998	47.6%	17.0%	35.4%	83.0%	52.4%
1999	27.2%	10.6%	62.2%	89.4%	72.8%
2000	34.0%	23.1%	42.9%	76.9%	66.0%
2001	33.0%	9.9%	57.1%	90.1%	67.0%
2002	33.8%	10.2%	56.0%	89.8%	66.2%
2003	32.3%	12.6%	55.1%	87.4%	67.7%
2004	32.1%	10.5%	57.4%	89.5%	67.9%
2005	37.2%	11.5%	51.3%	88.5%	62.8%
2006	28.8%	13.5%	57.7%	86.5%	71.2%
2007	27.7%	12.2%	60.1%	87.8%	72.3%
2008	25.9%	10.6%	63.5%	89.4%[a]	74.1%[a]
2009	27.5%	8.4%	64.1%	91.6%[a]	72.5%[a]
2010	25.0%	13.1%	61.9%	86.9%[a]	75.0%[a]
2011	20.7%	18.3%	61.0%	81.7%	79.3%
2012	29.4%	9.8%	60.8%	90.2%	70.6%
2013	30.2%	9.8%	60.0%	90.2%	69.8%
2014	30.8%	10.9%	58.3%	89.1%	69.2%
2015	28.3%	8.6%	63.0%	91.3%	71.6%
2016	29.3%	8.2%	62.5%	91.8%	70.7%
2017	29.8%	12.3%	57.8%	85.9%	68.8%
2018	31.9%	9.2%	58.9%	90.8%	68.1%
2019	32.8%	7.9%	59.3%	92.1%	67.2%

[a]2008-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample.

Table F-3. Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2019).

Season (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
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
1994	8,062	20,341	12,436
1995	9,123	24,865	19,731
1996	8,964	22,825	11,565
1997	11,819	32,179	22,005
1998	10,307	33,049	21,270
1999	20,036	74,170	55,199
2000	14,733	52,229	38,597
2001	17,222	61,199	36,013
2002	10,171	29,381	12,542
2003	10,522	34,505	20,453
2004	8,097	23,928	8,463
2005	6,686	17,708	10,953
2006	12,378	43,223	28,016
2007	13,478	48,115	29,800
2008	14,652	52,365	19,981
2009	15,436	55,139	19,222 ± 7,372
2010	13,038	49,038	20,127 ± 9,322
2011	11,221	42,811	21,227 ± 7,993
2012	10,944	46,719	31,942 ± 11,740
2013	10,378	37,431	21,967 ± 7,169
2014	11,282	42,635	29,058 ± 10,909
2015	9,615	37,574	28,031 ± 9.911
2016	8,969	38,610	25,346 ± 9,296
2017	7,526	28,306	15,062 ± 5,480
2018	9,263	35,334	23,326 ± 8,817
2019	7,955	32,706	19,268 ± 8,795

[a]The September Teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table F-4. Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2019).

Season (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest Per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	9/4	2.61	0.59	1.55
1982	9/4	2.82	0.69	1.94
1983	9/4	2.97	0.74	2.21
1984	9/4	2.79	0.83	2.31
1985	9/4	2.64	0.80	2.11
1986	9/4	2.60	0.75	1.97
1987	9/4	2.65	0.71	1.89
1988[a]	----	----	----	----
1989[a]	----	----	----	----
1990[a]	----	----	----	----
1991[a]	----	----	----	----
1992	9/4	2.37	0.66	1.57
1993	9/4	2.58	0.51	1.32
1994	9/4	2.52	0.61	1.54
1995	9/4	2.73	0.79	2.16
1996	9/4	2.55	0.51	1.29
1997	9/4	2.72	0.68	1.86
1998	16/4	3.21	0.64	2.06
1999	16/4	3.70	0.74	2.75
2000	16/4	3.55	0.74	2.62
2001	16/4	3.55	0.59	2.09
2002	9/4	2.89	0.43	1.23
2003	16/4	3.28	0.59	1.94
2004	9/4	2.96	0.35	1.05
2005	9/4	2.65	0.62	1.64
2006	16/4	3.49	0.65	2.26
2007	16/4	3.60	0.62	2.21
2008	16/4	3.57	0.38	1.36
2009	16/4	3.57	0.35	1.25
2010	16/4	3.76	0.41	1.54
2011	16/4	3.82	0.50	1.90
2012	16/4	4.27	0.68	2.92
2013	16/6	3.61	0.59	2.12
2014	16/6	3.78	0.68	2.58
2015	16/6	3.91	0.75	2.92
2016	16/6	4.31	0.66	2.83
2017	16/6	3.76	0.53	2.00
2018	16/6	3.81	0.66	2.52
2019	16/6	4.11	0.59	2.42

[a]September Teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table F-5. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 1996-2019.

Season[a] (Year)	Adult Participation	Youth Participation	Days Hunting	Mean Youths/ Hunting Party	Total Ducks	Ducks/ Youth/Day	Total Coots	Coots/ Youth/ Day	Total Geese	Geese/ Youth/ Day
1996	2,749	4,353	4,353	1.58	3,171	0.73	230	0.05	----[a]	---
1997	3,163	4,322	4,322	1.37	3,451	0.80	387	0.09	----[a]	---
1998	3,343	5,142	5,142	1.54	4,159	0.81	208	0.04	289	0.06
1999	5,505	8,113	8,113	1.47	5,835	0.72	629	0.08	571	0.07
2000	6,815	10,107	14,079	1.48	8,388	0.60	38	<0.01	882	0.06
2001	9,140	15,148	22,525	1.67	11,727	0.52	480	0.02	971	0.04
2002	8,498	13,325	19,548	1.57	9,085	0.46	271	0.01	887	0.05
2003	7,415	11,419	17,985	1.54	9,184	0.51	178	0.01	1,116	0.06
2004	5,603	7,891	12,997	1.41	7,477	0.58	48	<0.01	561	0.04
2005	4,540	6,489	10,268	1.58	5,644	0.55	583	0.06	965	0.09
2006	5,447	8,024	11,903	1.48	9,863	0.83	133	0.01	732	0.06
2007	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12
2008	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10
2009	7,073	9,772	15,922	1.63	11,229	0.71	599	0.04	2,396	0.15
2010	5,471	7,452	11,828	1.59	9,156	0.77	419	0.04	1,420	0.12
2011	6,325	8,642	14,059	1.63	9,569	0.68	1,333	0.09	1,318	0.09
2012	7,825	10,001	52,448[b]	1.27	8,147[c]	0.41	503[c]	0.03	1,064[c]	0.05
2013	8,438	8,639	19,136	1.02	12,715	1.33	359	0.04	2,065	0.23
2014	6,405	8,572	13,798	1.33	9,004	1.30	192	0.03	929	0.14
2015	4,718	6,291	9,873	1.33	8,171	1.65	117	0.02	571	0.12
2016	4,398	5,921	8,553	1.34	6,731	1.57	139	0.03	927	0.23
2017	4,780	6,459	9,956	1.35	8,283	1.66	89	0.02	1,464	0.32
2018	4,822	5,775	8,663	1.20	7,452	1.72	205	0.05	729	0.18
2019	4,039	4,528	10,158	1.31	5,748	1.13	107	0.02	790	0.16

1996 – 1999 were one day seasons and 2000 – present were 2-day seasons.

[a]Could not hunt geese during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in 1996 and 1997.

[b]Results include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2-day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

[c]Results are a 2-day estimate based on the mean number harvested by youth from the entire season

Table F-6. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2019).

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks[b]	Total	
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988[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
1994	44,447	475,264	137,263	44,683	64,998 (3,760)	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632 (5,393)	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431 (4,348)	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950 (5,800)	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439 (3,948)	386,862	2,920
1999	51,850	860,368	311,325	69,930	181,650 (4,977)	562,905	3,654
2000	43,810	621,542	271,903	58,604	166,834 (4,231)	497,341	2,206
2001	53,194	797,884	305,180	61,515	167,883 (1,968)	534,578	2,904
2002	47,964	642,542	197,392	46,238	106,213 (851)	349,843	1,743
2003	50,658	738,914	285,011	48,023	153,165 (1,789)	486,199	1,693
2004	49,046	652,960	207,982	44,725	116,951 (2,100)	369,658	1,607
2005	43,185	539,672	240,897	37,942	133,509 (3,918)	412,348	2,186
2006	50,437	658,881	308,000	38,366	161,098 (5,927)	507,464	3,065
2007	49,114	600,614	265,369	34,628	164,369 (5,925)	464,366	3,771
2008	50,683	600,574	247,895	43,051	156,849	447,795	2,266
2009	49,648	626,832	228,211	41,549	129,795	399,555 ± 69,698	3,904 ± 3,342
2010	43,450	499,758	193,758	39,611	121,375	354,859 ± 60,571	1,770 ± 2,435
2011	46,619	632,712	222,405	54,294	150,786	427,484 ± 66,551	4,327 ± 2,663
2012	43,444	630,233	244,988	47,623	185,776	478,387 ± 50,294	4,133 ± 3,536
2013	43,653	563,961	225,873	49,001	155,306	430,179 ± 29,431	2,143 ± 4,031
2014	44,019	525,114	197,997	48,216	138,615 (4,820)	384,828 ± 39,741	4,681 ± 3,311
2015	36,499	496,656	166,506	43,655	119,619 (4,437)	329,780 ± 34,835	3,185 ± 1,960
2016	34,386	459,029	154,698	47,986	130,722 (6,794)	333,406 ± 37,408	4,424 ± 1,338
2017	30,025	394,034	136,381	29,372	111,937 (3,624)	277,689 ± 24,826	1,544 ± 921
2018	33,836	464,327	147,733	29,003	96,087 (5,200)	272,823 ± 28,512	2,088 ± 1,764
2019	31,850	482,946	164,043	51,564	103,542 (4,798)	323,946 ± 31,987	2,238 ± 1,799

[a]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 Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.
[b]Numbers in parentheses represent harvest of Canvasback.

Table F-7. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2019).

Season (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit[b]	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter[a]	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	50/10(4,2)	12.85	0.48	6.17
1982	50/10(4,2)	12.38	0.51	6.26
1983	50/10(4,2)	12.91	0.62	8.00
1984	50/10(4,2)	12.20	0.59	7.14
1985	40/5(3,1)	10.84	0.57	6.17
1986	40/5(3,1)	11.91	0.59	7.08
1987	40/5(3,1)	10.80	0.52	5.59
1988	30/3(2,1)	8.84	0.49	4.30
1989	30/3(2,1)	9.29	0.55	5.12
1990	30/3(2,1)	9.03	0.54	4.90
1991	30/3(2,1)	9.16	0.72	6.57
1992	30/3(2,1)	9.22	0.57	5.22
1993	30/3(2,1)	8.96	0.58	5.21
1994	40/3(2,1)	10.96	0.51	5.47
1995	50/5(4,1)	11.36	0.74	8.40
1996	50/5(4,1)	10.41	0.58	6.03
1997	60/6(4,2)	12.09	0.57	6.84
1998	60/6(4,2)	12.39	0.75	9.27
1999	60/6(4,2)	16.59	0.65	10.86
2000	60/6(4,2)	14.19	0.80	11.36
2001	60/6(4,2)	15.00	0.67	10.05
2002	60/6(4,1)	13.40	0.54	7.29
2003	60/6(4,1)	14.59	0.66	9.60
2004	60/6(4,2)	13.31	0.57	7.54
2005	60/6(4,2)	12.50	0.76	9.55
2006	60/6(4,2)	13.06	0.77	10.06
2007	60/6(4,2)	12.23	0.77	9.45
2008	60/6(4,2)	11.85	0.75	8.84
2009	60/6(4,2)	12.63	0.64	8.05
2010	60/6(4,2)	11.50	0.71	8.17
2011	60/6(4,2)	13.57	0.68	9.17
2012	60/6(4,2)	14.51	0.76	11.01
2013	60/6(4,2)	12.92	0.76	9.85
2014	60/6(4,2)	11.93	0.73	8.74
2015	60/6(4,2)	13.61	0.66	9.01
2016	60/6(4,2)	13.35	0.73	9.70
2017	60/6(4,2)	13.12	0.70	9.25
2018	60/6(4,2)	13.72	0.59	8.06
2019	60/6(4,2)	15.16	0.67	10.17

[a]Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.
[b]The Point System was used in 1981-1987 (Havera 1999: 17-18). A maximum of 10 ducks (4 mallards, 2 hens) was allowed in 1981-1984, and a maximum of 5 ducks (3 Mallards, 1 hen) was allowed in 1985-1987.

Table F-8. Number of hunters who participated in the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2019).

			Waterfowl Zone				
	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Hunters[a]	1997	11,765	5,577	5,768	-----	-----	420
	1998	11,981	4,837	5,915	-----	677	552
	1999	16,945	6,005	9,869	-----	693	378
	2000	13,289	5,410	6,908	-----	971	0
	2001	20,359	7,318	10,807	-----	2,085	149
	2002	12,459	4,517	6,665	-----	1,135	142
	2003	14,973	5,532	7,761	-----	1,348	332
	2004	11,170	4,250	6,220	-----	984	0
	2005	9,448	3,949	5,034	-----	1,085	0
	2006	12,609	4,848	6,607	-----	1,154	0
	2007	12,788	4,723	6,413	-----	1,652	0
	2008	13,157	4,934	6,690	-----	1,533	0
	2009	15,102	5,232	8,089	-----	1,781	0
	2010	11,015	3,918	5,813	-----	1,285	0
	2011	14,214	4,625	7,889	-----	1,700	0
	2012	11,192[a]	4,601	5,928	1,161	249	0
	2013	10,865[a]	3,646	6,076	681	462	0
	2014	12,147[a]	4,153	6,679	934	554	0
	2015	10,659[a]	3,226	6,104	1,075	443	0
	2016	9,973[a]	3,324	5,125	1,316	381	0
	2017	9,225	2,746	5,472	849	296	0
	2018	9,916	3,187	5,503	899	599	0
	2019	8,658	3,855	4,161	490	245	0

[a]Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.

Table F-9. Number of Canada geese harvested during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2019).

	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Canada Geese	1997	11,443	7,621	3,774	-----	-----	48
	1998	7,852	4,184	3,046	-----	384	238
	1999	20,223	9,124	10,491	-----	491	117
	2000	15,897	6,191	8,774	-----	932	0
	2001	26,021	10,979	13,170	-----	1,580	290
	2002	21,534	8,971	11,130	-----	1,433	0
	2003	15,267	5,907	7,103	-----	2,221	36
	2004	13,587	6,319	5,915	-----	767	0
	2005	9,896	4,862	4,047	-----	987	0
	2006	14,578	6,771	6,717	-----	1,090	0
	2007	16,207	6,057	8,645	-----	1,505	0
	2008	17,419	7,343	8,951	-----	1,125	0
	2009	16,212	6,101	8,336	-----	1,774	0
	2010	17,115	7,967	7,859	-----	1,289	0
	2011	18,790	6,339	10,874	-----	1,577	0
	2012	18,028	8,557	7,664	1,599	228	0
	2013	15,644	5,165	9,271	523	685	0
	2014	19,089	7,527	9,015	1,770	777	0
	2015	15,693	4,233	8,587	2,147	726	0
	2016	17,711	7,895	7,780	1,539	497	0
	2017	16,155	4,154	10,282	1,199	510	20
	2018	13,165	4,909	6,928	925	404	0
	2019	15,429	7,912	6,932	249	336	0

Table F-10. Number of days afield during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2019).

	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Days Afield	1997	34,988	17,991	15,890	-----	-----	1,107
	1998	37,322	15,891	18,247	-----	1,880	1,304
	1999	64,881	21,795	39,768	-----	2,625	693
	2000	47,831	17,396	27,078	-----	3,357	0
	2001	73,587	26,359	40,208	-----	6,318	702
	2002	39,485	14,303	21,049	-----	4,092	41
	2003	51,083	18,799	26,532	-----	5,422	330
	2004	37,941	14,279	19,670	-----	2,592	0
	2005	29,143	12,184	14,352	-----	2,607	0
	2006	42,444	16,735	22,621	-----	3,088	0
	2007	41,549	14,169	22,080	-----	5,300	0
	2008	45,637	17,305	23,174	-----	5,158	0
	2009	51,318	19,591	26,048	-----	5,678	0
	2010	39,019	15,929	19,236	-----	3,854	0
	2011	49,306	16,832	27,441	-----	5,033	0
	2012	39,589	17,079	18,613	3,524	373	0
	2013	40,955	12,323	24,816	2,042	1,774	0
	2014	44,919	16,300	23,844	3,288	1,488	0
	2015	38,744	13,505	21,191	2,404	1,645	0
	2016	41,935	14,925	20,950	4,883	1,177	0
	2017	33,817	9,442	19,714	3,595	1,067	0
	2018	35,361	12,777	18,035	2,779	1,771	0
	2019	33,410	15,634	15,695	1,316	765	0

Table F-11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 1981-2019).

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[a])	47,384 (8,031[a])
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[a]	34,456	251,176	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989[a]	39,459	329,369	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990[a]	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515)	1,319 (97)	68,446 (1,612)
1991[a]	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)
1994	37,090	320,580	67,790 (1,895)	1,753 (77)	69,543 (1,972)
1995	37,060	367,341	92,478 (4,034)	3,183 (245)	95,661 (4,279)
1996	36,582	339,253	65,864 (2,527)	4,939 (114)	70,803 (2,641)
1997	33,498	295,107	61,282 (4,772)	7,572 (438)	68,854 (5,210)
1998	26,343	202,676	43,222 (2,463)	4,290 (305)	47,512 (2,968)
1999	42,246	464,769	119,611 (1,846)	14,568 (152)	134,179 (1,998)
2000	37,593	383,367	128,387 (1,406)	16,356 (0)	144,743 (1,406)
2001	39,570	382,102	64,907 (1,761)	18,189 (263)	83,096 (2,024)
2002	35,352	323,091	89,297 (3,259)	19,414 (1,433)	108,711 (4,692)
2003	39,275	409,487	83,207 (1,526)	10,458[b] (342)	93,665[b] (1,868)
2004	37,189	345,279	81,859 (3,418)	8,231 (349)	90,090 (3,767)
2005	30,614	271,708	74,293 (1,653)	9,353 (62)	83,646 (1,715)
2006	41,521	438,350	122,294 (1,338)	14,426 (869)	136,720 (2,207)
2007	43,046	445,670	141,205 (404)	11,582 (55)	152,787 (459)
2008	44,404	461,868	142,806 (590)	17,956 (0)	160,762 (590)
2009	44,601	473,769	142,836 (585)	17,382 (355)	160,218 ± 36,569 (940)
2010	36,803	385,432	99,422 (534)	9,594 (46)	109,016 ± 22,523 (580)
2011	36,996	411,380	75,061(618)	19,862 (33)	94,923 ± 22,387 (651)
2012	34,034	386,356	72,682 (0)	19,597 (0)	92,280 ± 19,570 (0)
2013	33,809	391,246	104,887 (0)	15,859 (0)	120,746 ± 12,775 (0)
2014	34,226	369,179	87,672 (50)	20,313 (0)	107,985 ± 15,517 (50)
2015	31,280	330,482	75,198	27,576	102,774 ± 17,608 (0)
2016	26,490	312,725	77,216 (0)	24,563 (0)	101,779 (0) ± 18,215
2017	24,039	276,009	78,850 (0)	27,637 (0)	106,486 (0) ± 14,607
2018	25,363	296,021	71,035 (0)	21,578 (0)	92,613 (0) ± 16,720
2019	23,222	292,766	85,188 (0)	19,158 (0)	104,346 (0) ± 23,241

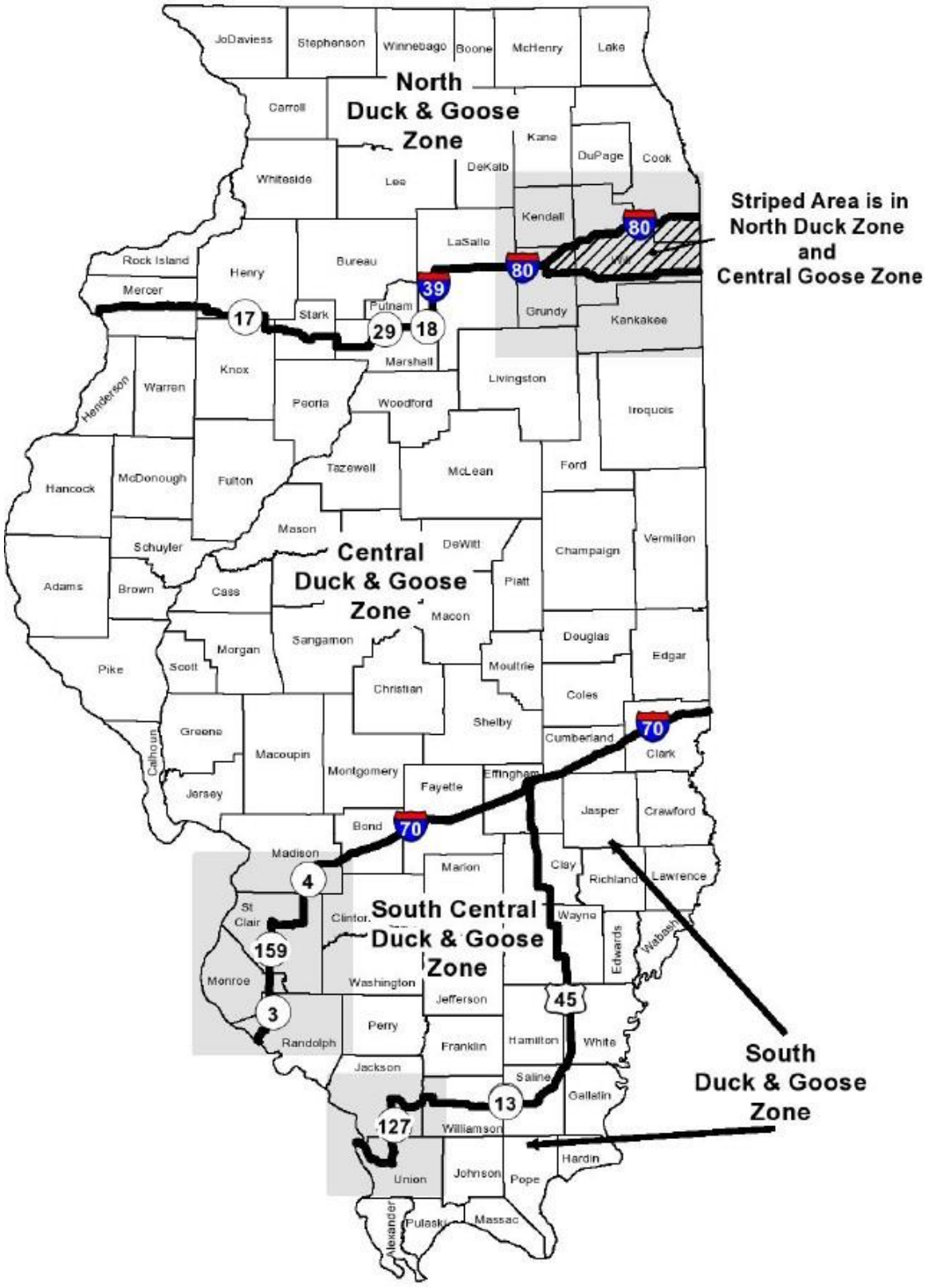
[a]The estimates of goose hunters and days hunted for these years have been reduced to 92.48%-96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for geese harvested have not been reduced (Anderson and Williamson 1994).
[b]Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

Table F-12. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1981-2019 seasons).

Season	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
(Year)	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
1981	104,216	30.8	12,573	26.5
1982	82,287	25.2	5,868	18.9
1983	96,907	24.0	7,627	23.6
1984	84,665	23.8	5,711	23.0
1985	100,191	31.6	15,918	39.5
1986	145,283	38.3	20,699	41.5
1987	98,155	34.0	18,375	48.8
1988	65,856	35.5	22,730	30.6
1989	66,150	29.5	21,696	23.3
1990[a]	59,007	29.9	23,895	34.9
1991[a]	74,932	24.4	27,164	28.7
1992	68,027	31.4	18,631	32.1
1993	62,250	28.6	21,067	22.3
1994	65,266	26.4	16,234	23.3
1995	86,834	23.0	18,391	19.2
1996	64,324	22.6	16,641	23.5
1997	67,979	23.3	12,490	18.1
1998	74,679	19.3	5,514	11.6
1999	95,961	17.0	12,934	9.6
2000	70,423	14.2	10,071	7.0
2001	88,019	16.5	7,148	8.6
2002	59,005	16.9	6,382	5.9
2003	77,361	15.9	12,661	10.8
2004	63,765	17.2	9,433	10.5
2005	68,121	16.5	7,666	9.2
2006	83,648	16.5	14,110	10.3
2007	77,914	16.8	16,627	10.9
2008	74,044	16.5	14,166	8.8
2009	67,718	16.9	12,245	7.6
2010	57,388	16.2	9,217	8.5
2011	64,268	15.0	6,937	7.3
2012	71,054*	14.9*	10,452*	11.3*
2013	59,064	13.7	8,847	7.3
2014	51,909	13.5	7,856	7.3
2015	47,442	14.4	7,622	7.4
2016	43,666	13.1	6,149	5.6
2017	37,491	13.5	6,657	6.3
2018	36,996	13.6	5,558	6.0
2019	40,630	12.5	5,783	5.5

[a]The estimates of ducks and geese crippled for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for the number of geese crippled per 100 bagged have been similarly reduced. See Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.
*Amended from 2012-13 report.

Appendix G


North Duck & Goose Zone
Central Duck & Goose Zone
South Central Duck & Goose Zone
South Duck & Goose Zone
Striped Area is in North Duck Zone and Central Goose Zone
JoDaviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Kendall
LaSalle
Grundy
Kankakee
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Putnam
Stark
Marshall
Livingston
Iroquois
Knox
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Mason
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Schuyler
Adams
Brown
Cass
Macon
Piatt
Sangamon
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Moultrie
Coles
Christian
Shelby
Greene
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Fayette
Effingham
Cumberland
Clark
Jersey
Bond
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Marion
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
St Clair
Clinton
Wayne
Edwards
Wabash
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Perry
Franklin
Hamilton
White
Randolph
Jackson
Saline
Gallatin
Williamson
Union
Johnson
Pope
Hardin
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac
17
29
18
80
39
70
4
159
3
45
13
127

Appendix H

WATERFOWL SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SPECIES	Zone	DATES (inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Teal *(early season)*	Statewide	7-22 Sep 2019	Sunrise to Sunset	6	18	Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal are the only legal duck species during this season. Daily and possession limits are for all teal species combined (in the aggregate).
Rail *(Sora and Virginia only)*	Statewide	7 Sep - 15 Nov 2019		25	75	Daily and possession limits are for both rail species combined (in the aggregate).
Snipe *(Wilson's snipe)*	Statewide	7 Sep - 22 Dec 2019		8	24	
Ducks	North	19 Oct - 17 Dec 2019	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6	18	Basic daily limit is 6 ducks of any species. However, daily limit can consist of no more than the following: 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 can be hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail and 1 mottled duck. Possession limit for ducks is three times the daily limit by species and sex.
	Central	26 Oct - 24 Dec 2019				
	South-central	9 Nov 2019 - 7 Jan 2020				
	South	28 Nov 2019 - 26 Jan 2020				
Mergansers	Same as ducks	Same as ducks		5	15	Mergansers do not count toward your daily limit of ducks, but only 2 can be hooded mergansers. Merganser possession limit is no more than three times their daily limit, including max of 6 hooded mergansers.
Coots	Same as ducks	Same as ducks		15	45	
Canada Geese *(early season)*	North and Central	1-15 Sep 2019		5	15	
	South-central and South			2	6	
Canada Geese	North	19 Oct 2019 - 16 Jan 2020		3	9	
	Central	26 Oct- 3 Nov 2019 and 12 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
	South-central	9 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
	South	28 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				

WATERFOWL SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SPECIES	Zone	DATES *(inclusive)*	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Light Geese *(Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese)*	North	19 Oct 2019 - 16 Jan 2020	**1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset**	20	Unlimited	Daily bag limit is for both species combined (in the aggregate).
	Central	26 Oct 2019- 31 Jan 2020				
	South-central	9 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
	South	28 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
Brant	Same as light geese	Same as light geese		1	3	
White-fronted Geese *(Specklebellies)*	North	21 Oct 2019 - 16 Jan 2020		2	6	
	Central	5 Nov 2019– 31 Jan 2020				
	South-central	9 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
	South	28 Nov 2019 - 31 Jan 2020				
Conservation Order Light Geese *(Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese)*	North	17 Jan - 31 Mar 2020	**1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset**	Unlimited	Unlimited	The following apply to the Conservation Order only: 1) unplugged shotguns may be used and there is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun, 2) electronic calling devices may be used, 3) federal duck stamp not required, 4) Illinois duck stamp and hunting license is required.
	Central, South-central, South	1 Feb– 31 Mar 2020				
Youth waterfowl	North	12-13 Oct 2019	**1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset**	Same as during regular duck, goose, coot and merganser seasons	Same as during regular duck, goose, coot and merganser seasons	The following apply to the Youth season only: 1) youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/ certification unless hunting on property where they reside, 2) no stamps are required for youths under 16, 3) state and federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older, even those hunting with a Youth License, unless exempt, 4) hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and coots during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.
	Central	19-20 Oct 2019				
	South-central	2-3 Nov 2019				
	South	16-17 Nov 2019				