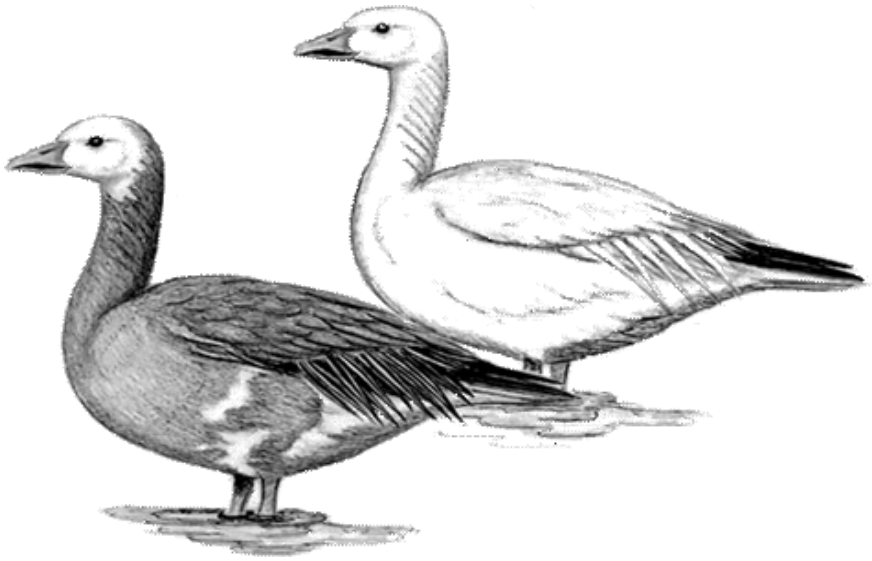
*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Hunter Participation, Harvest, and Hunting Behavior During the 2020 Illinois Conservation Order

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



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HUNTER PARTICIPATION, HARVEST, AND HUNTING BEHAVIOR DURING THE 2020 ILLINOIS CONSERVATION ORDER

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-29
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.4

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November 30, 2020

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-29

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

Harvest of light geese (*Anser caerulescens*, *Chen rossii*) during the 2020 Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order was estimated at 138,954. An estimated 3,272 hunters participated in the 2020 Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order. Hunters spent an estimated 41,621 days afield during 2020, and the majority (61%) of the light goose harvest occurred during the month of February. Due to changes in sampling of addresses and calculation of estimates, comparisons should not be made to years prior to 2014. Hunters were sampled from Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants who reported they hunted snow and other light geese (including Ross' and Blue geese) during the 2019 Light Goose Conservation Order. About forty-one percent of active light goose hunters indicated an increase in effort over the past five years, and 17.2% of hunters had increased harvest of light goose over the previous 5 years. Approximately fifteen percent of active light goose hunters used a guide or outfitter while hunting light geese during the 2020 order.

OBJECTIVE

To survey hunters participating in the Light Goose Conservation Order to determine their activities and harvests in Illinois, as well as their opinions toward specific waterfowl management issues.

METHODS

The sample frame for this survey changed in 2014 and we recommend closely examining confidence intervals when making any comparisons of results between results prior to 2014. The 2014 Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration was the first year in which hunters were asked if they hunted light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order the previous year. Addition of this question allowed for more precise sampling of likely participants since the 2015 Light Goose Illinois Conservation Order than did a random sample of Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp purchasers, the sampling method used in previous light goose hunter surveys in Illinois (Williams et al. 2013). A total of 3,000 waterfowl hunters were randomly selected from 2020 HIP registrants who reported they hunted light geese during the 2019 Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois and purchased a state waterfowl stamp. Hunters sampled were mailed an 8-page mail-back questionnaire (Appendix A) and cover letter (Appendix B) 17 April 2020. Non-respondents

were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) 15 May 2020, a second copy of the questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) 04 June 2020, and another thank you/reminder postcard 26 June 2020. A third copy of the questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) was mailed 22 July 2020. The number of light goose hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days afield ($Days_{sp}$), birds crippled but not retrieved ($Crip_{sp}$) and harvest ($Harv_{sp}$) were calculated as follows:

$$Hunt_{sp} = Hunt_r \frac{L_t}{n}, \qquad Days_{sp} = Days_r \frac{L_t}{n},$$

$$Crip_{sp} = Crip_r \frac{L_t}{n}, \qquad Harv_{sp} = Harv_r \frac{L_t}{n}$$

Where:

$Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to the 2020 Illinois Spring Light goose Hunter Survey who reported hunting light geese (adjustment for non-hunters is inherent),

L_t = total number of Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants who indicated they hunted light geese in Illinois during 2019-20 waterfowl hunting Light Goose Conservation Order,

n = number of respondents to the 2020 Illinois Spring Light Goose Hunter Survey,

$Days_r$ = 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.

The 2020 estimates for number of hunters, days hunted, and light geese harvested were based on 5,040 HIP registrants who reported they hunted during the 2019 Light Goose Conservation Order. Estimated light goose harvest was not adjusted for reporting bias using 0.478 as has been done in previous years (for discussion of this estimator related to waterfowl harvest, see Anderson et al. 1996). Ninety-five percent confidence intervals were calculated for number of hunters, days hunted, and geese harvested, as described in Lischka et al. (2006). We entered and analyzed data using SPSS 27.0 (IBM SPSS Inc. 2020). Due to changes

in number of hunters sampled and calculation of estimates, comparisons to previous years' figures must be done with caution.

ORDER DATES AND BAG LIMITS

The 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order took place 17 January to 31 March in the North Zone and 1 February to 31 March in the Central, South Central, and South Zones. The order began in each zone the day after regular Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season closed. Hunters during the spring light goose order were required to have a state waterfowl stamp and hunting license, but were exempt from daily bag and possession limits, and needing a federal waterfowl stamp. Hunters were permitted to use unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, and to hunt from one half-hour before sunrise to half-hour after sunset; these liberalized regulations were not permitted during waterfowl seasons.

RESULTS

Harvest Results

The questionnaire was undeliverable to 55 addresses, reducing the mailing list to 2,945 individuals. A total of 1,160 questionnaires were returned, of which 670 were considered usable, for a 23% response rate. Approximately three-quarters (73.9%) of respondents reported that they hunt waterfowl other than light geese every year (Figure 1). Almost nine out of ten respondents (84%) reported that they hunted waterfowl (ducks and/or geese during the 2019-20 regular waterfowl seasons (Figure 2). A majority (71.8%) of respondents participated in the regular duck seasons, 68.9% participated in the regular goose season 37.3% participated in the September Canada goose season, and 35.6% in the September teal season during the 2019-20 hunting season (Figure 3). When asked about which species they hunted most often, 46.3% of respondents hunted ducks most often, 17.2% hunted geese most often, and 36.4% hunted ducks and geese equally (Figure 4). Of those who hunted during the regular goose season, 30.3% harvested light geese (Figure 5), and harvested an average of 18.3 (S.D. 85.4) light geese. The majority (53.9%) hunted in the Central zone most often (Figure 6).

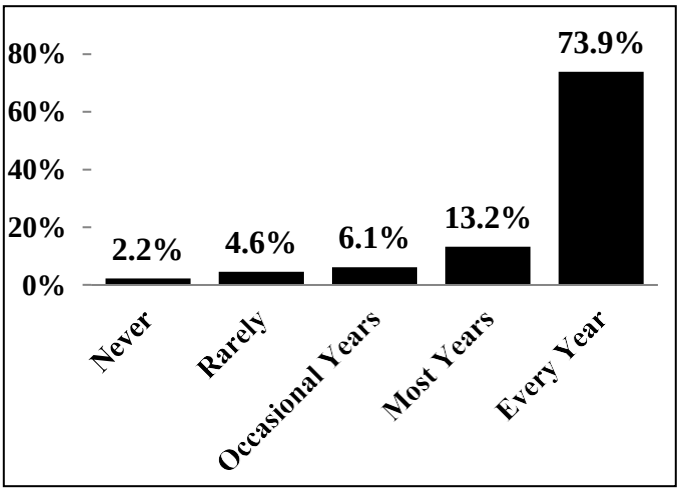

Figure 1. How often survey respondents hunt waterfowl other than light geese in Illinois (n = 591).

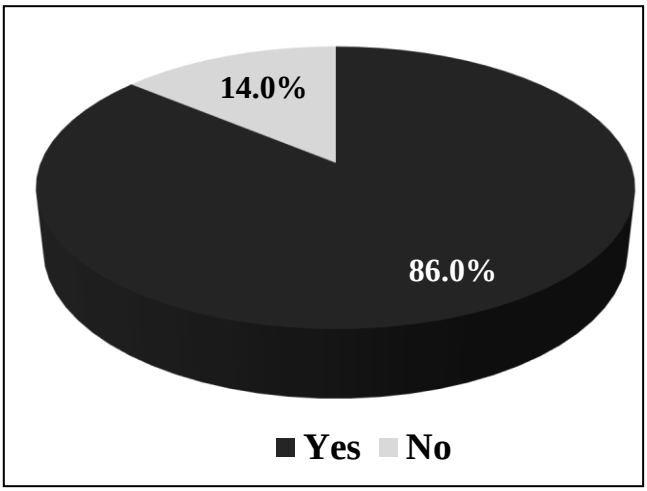

Figure 2. Percentage of survey respondents who hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season (n = 593).

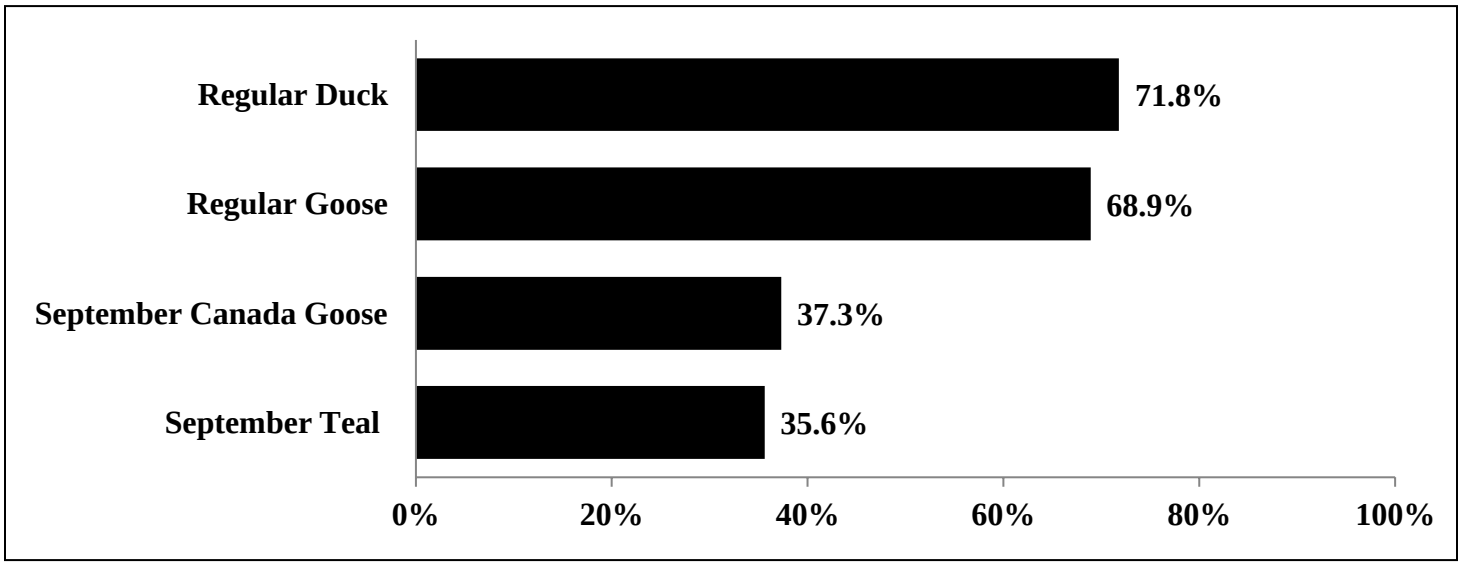

Figure 3. The seasons in which survey respondents participated during the 2019-20 license year (n = 670).

*Percentages do not add up to 100 because some hunters indicated they hunted multiple Light Goose Conservation Orders.

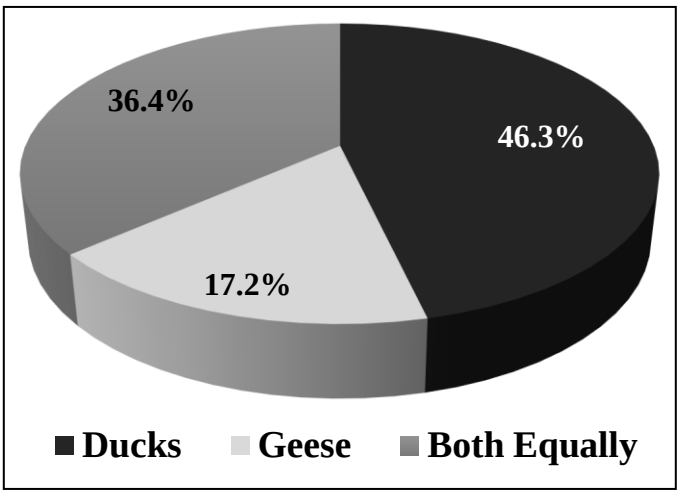

Figure 4. Species hunted most often in Illinois during the 2019-20 waterfowl season (n = 516).

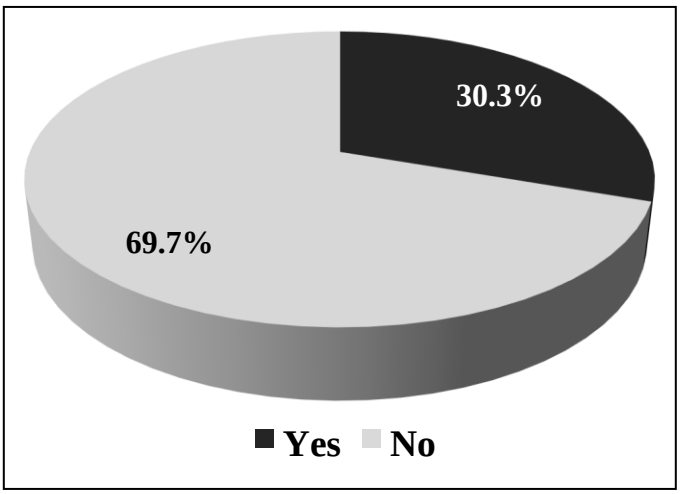

Figure 5. Percentage of survey respondents who harvested light geese during the 2019-20 *regular* goose season (n = 456).

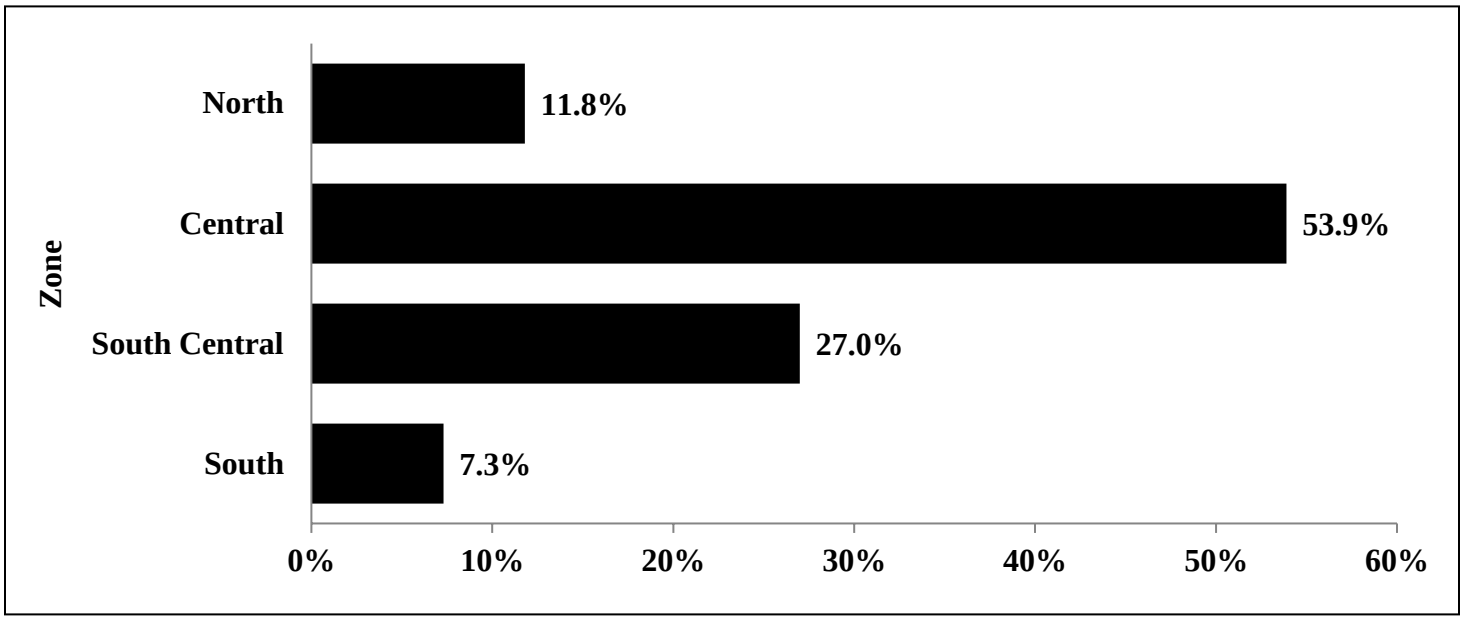

Figure 6. Zone hunted most often during the 2019-20 regular waterfowl seasons (n = 519).

Almost two-thirds (64.9%) of respondents reported hunting light geese during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order (Figure 7). Most (92.5%) light goose hunters also hunted during the regular waterfowl season (Figure 8). Approximately two-thirds (67.4%) of active hunters reported they hunted light geese every year (Figure 9). More than half (54.5%) of active hunters reported hunting the Central Zone most often for light geese (Figure 10).

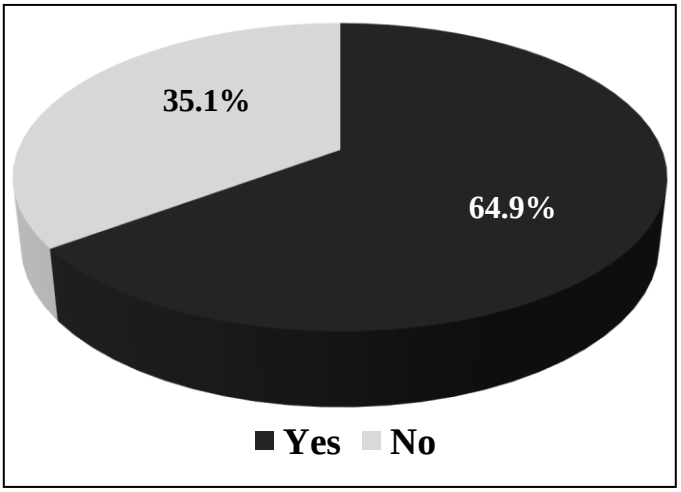

Figure 7. Percentage of survey respondents who hunted light geese in Illinois during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order (*n* = 670).

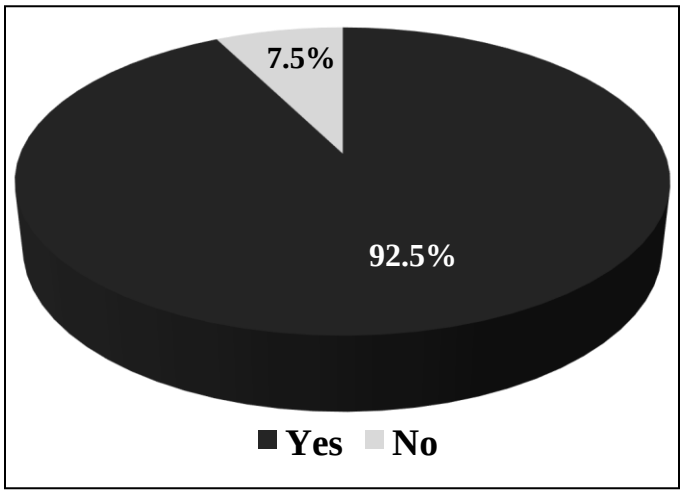

Figure 8. Percentage of light goose hunters* who hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 2019-20 regular waterfowl season (*n* = 427).

*Hunters who reported they hunted light geese 1 day or more in Illinois during the 2020 Conservation Order.

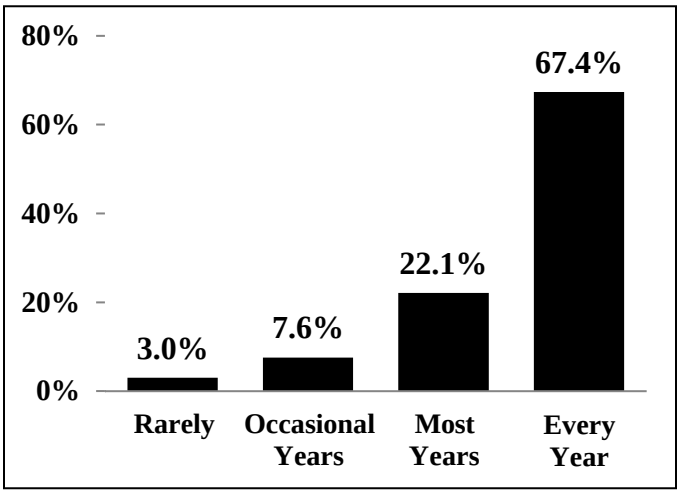

Figure 9. How often light goose hunters* hunt the Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois (*n* = 435).

*Hunters who reported they hunted light geese 1 day or more in Illinois during the 2020 Conservation Order.

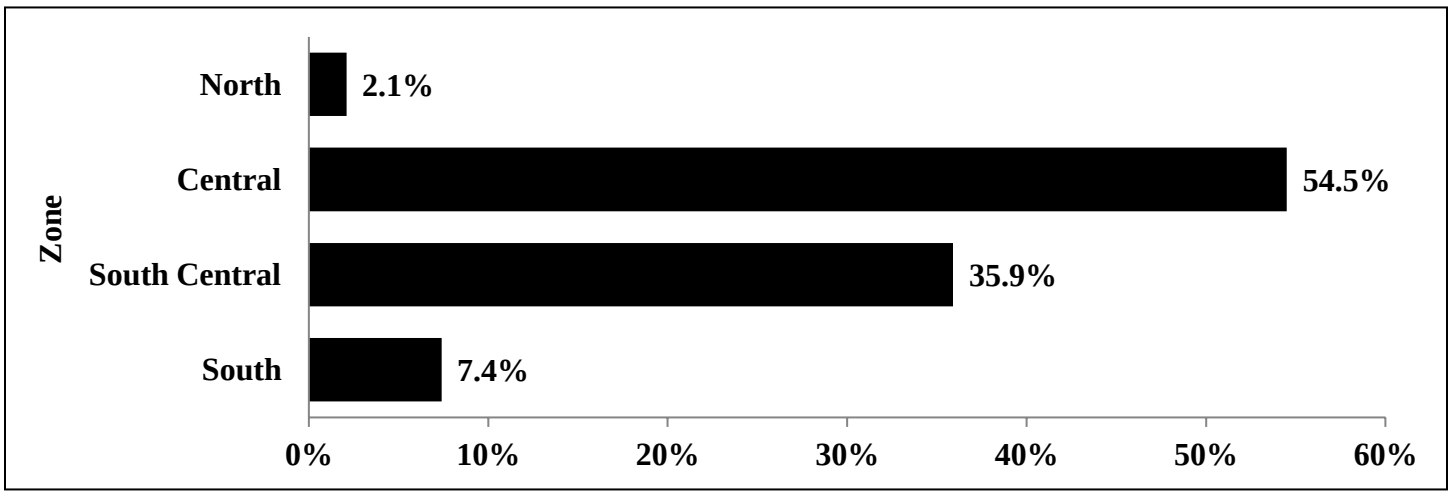

Figure 10. Zone hunted* most often during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order (*n* = 434).

*Hunters who reported they hunted light geese 1 day or more in Illinois during the 2020 Conservation Order.

During the 2020 Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order, an estimated 3,272 light goose participants hunted for 41,621 days and harvested 138,954 light geese (Table 1). In comparison to the 2019 order, hunter participation rose by 21.5% and light goose harvest increased 60.3% (Figure 11). Of respondents who indicated hunting light geese ≥ 1 day, 61.3% hunted 10 days or less (Figure 12), and 16.0% of hunters reported not harvesting any light geese, whereas 11.4% harvested ≥ 100 light geese (Figure 12). The fewest number geese were harvested in January (<1%), 61.4% of the harvest occurred during February, and 38.5% percent occurred in March (Table 2).

Mean harvest per hunter was 43 geese per hunter, and 52 geese per hunter when unsuccessful hunters are excluded. When hunters who harvested >100 geese are also excluded, mean geese harvested dropped to 25 geese per successful hunter. A total of 7,395 light geese were estimated to be downed but not retrieved by hunters this order.

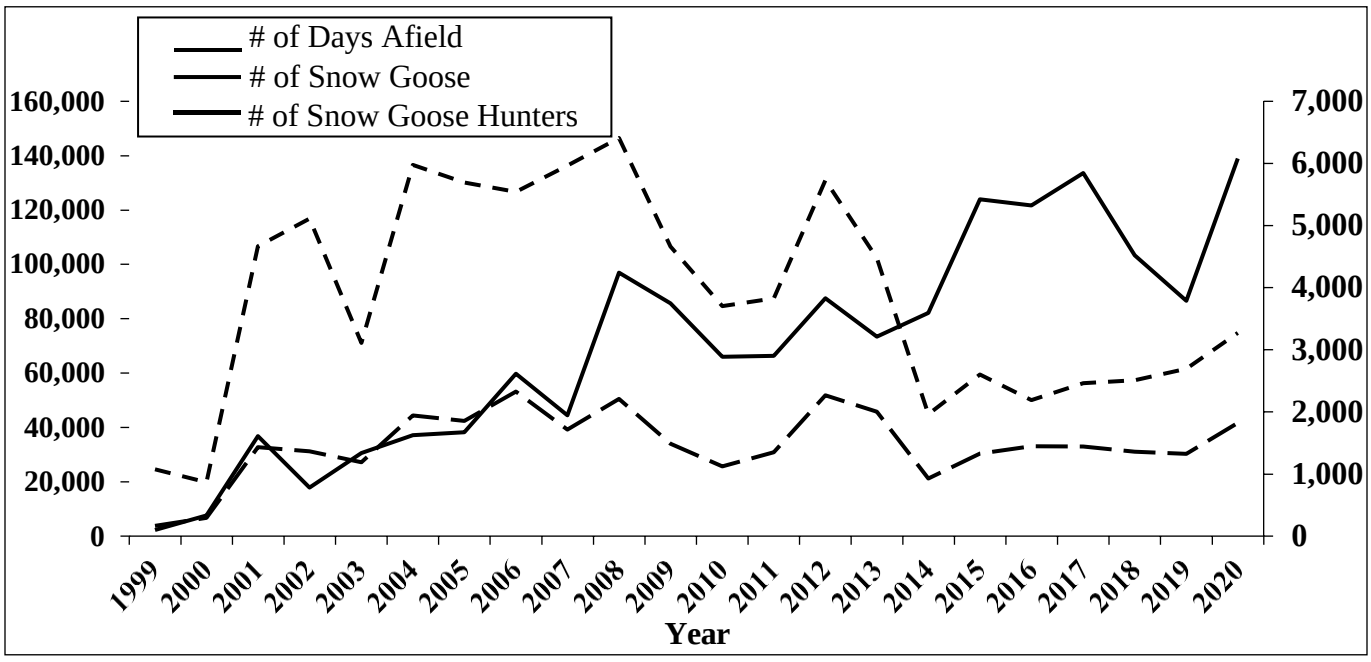

Figure 11. Estimated Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order hunter participation and harvest across time.*
Due to changes in number of hunters sampled and calculation of estimates, comparisons to previous years' figures must be done with caution.

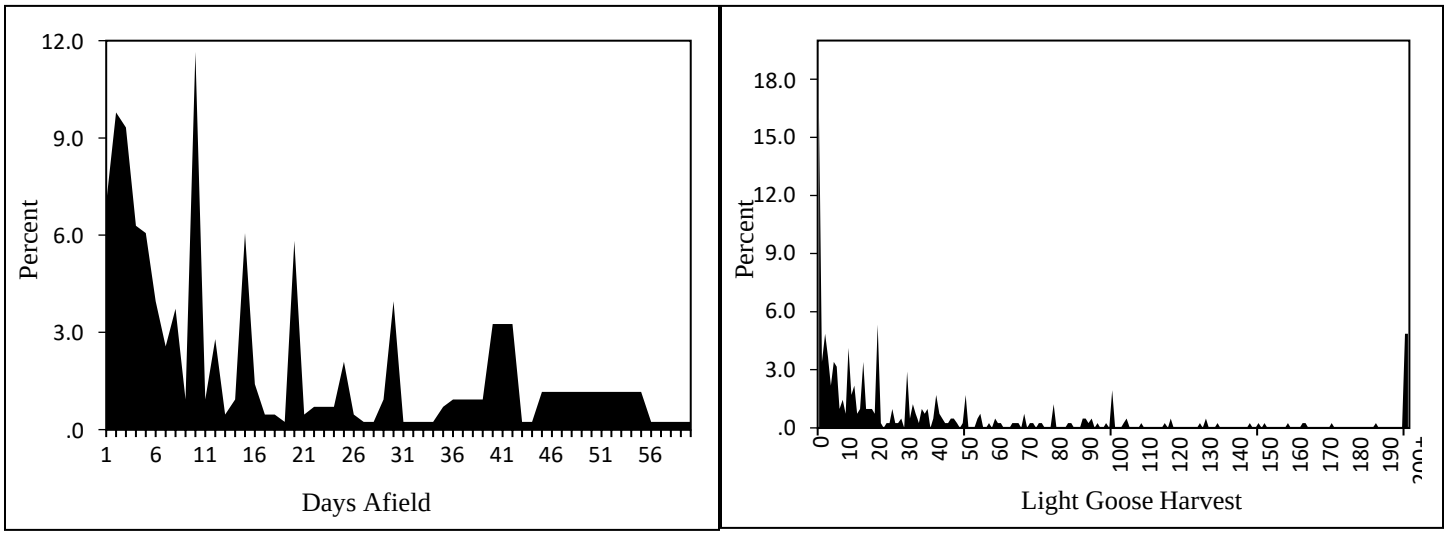

Figure 12. Distribution of days afield and light geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order.

*Hunters who reported they hunted light geese 1 day or more in Illinois during the 2020 spring order.

Light goose hunters hunted most frequently on private land with permission (65.5%), followed by private land for a fee (27.1%) (Figure 13). Hunters spent an average .94 days hunting public land and 12.5 days hunting private lands.

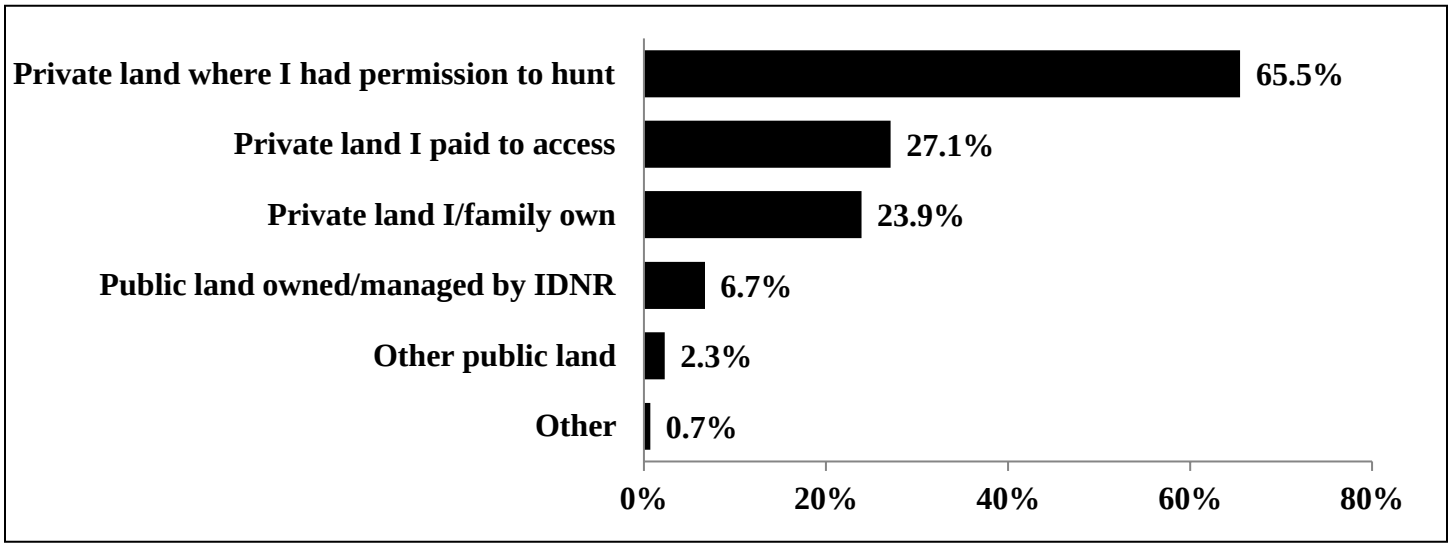

Figure 13. Type of land hunters* hunt most often for light geese (n = 435).

*Hunters who reported they hunted light geese 1 day or more in Illinois during the 2020 spring order.

**Percentages do not add up to 100 because some hunters indicated they hunted multiple types of land.

Satisfaction with the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order

Three in ten (29.9%) hunters perceived an increase in the number of light geese seen during the Light Goose Conservation Order over the past 5 years (Table 3). Approximately 17 percent of hunters stated that the

number of light geese they harvested increased over the past 5 years (Table 4). Over half (62.5%) of active hunters reported that harvesting light geese was important, very important, or extremely important to their hunting experience (Table 5). Whereas among those who did not hunt this year 41.2% felt it was not at all important or slightly important. When asked about the dates of the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order, most active hunters (67.1%) felt that the dates were about right, whereas those who did not hunt during 2020 were split between "not sure" and about right. (Figure 14). About 56% of active light goose hunters were satisfied with the number of light geese they saw during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order and 51.3% were satisfied with the number of light geese that migrated through their hunting areas (Table 6). Active hunters were least satisfied with the amount of shooting they got in (48.1%) and the number of light geese they harvested (48.3%). Whereas, those who did not hunt light geese in 2020 were dissatisfied with "number of geese harvested," "the amount of shooting," and "amount of time you spent light goose hunting."

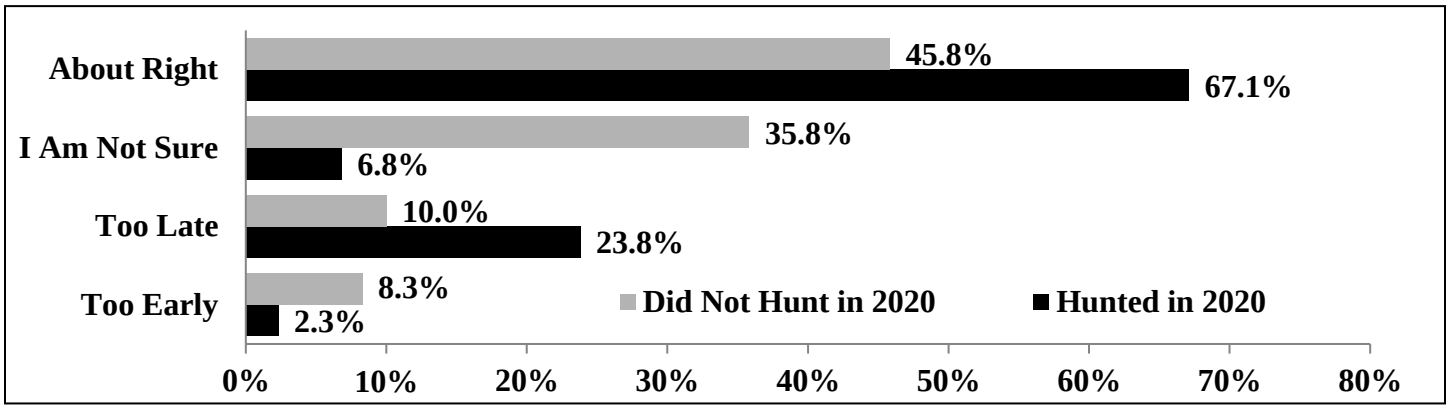

Figure 14. How survey respondents feel about the dates of the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order for the area they hunted.

Approximately two out of five of hunters (40.2%) active during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order had increased their light goose hunting efforts over the past 5 years, whereas 34.0% reported no change in effort (Table 7). Whereas, those who did not hunt were more likely to indicate there was no change in their effort (32.1%) or their effort had decreased (53.7%). Active hunters' top reasons why they were interested in light goose hunting were to "be outdoors" (58.1%) "share quality time with family/friends" (57.8%), and "do

something with family/friends" (54.1%). (Table 8). Those who did not hunt during 2020 indicated that to "be outdoors" and "share quality time with family/friends" were the most important reasons. The most common reason that prevented all hunters from participating during the spring light goose order was "not enough time" followed by "equipment is too expensive" (Table 9).

When asked to compare their hunting skills with other hunters, most of those who did not hunt during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order labeled their "overall skill as a light goose hunter" as novice or less than intermediate (58.1%), whereas the majority of those who did hunt labeled their skills as intermediate (36.6%) or greater (23.5%) (Table 10). Active hunters were more likely to agree with every measured attitude regarding Light goose conservation. Active hunters had the highest level of agreement with "I feel light geese are an overabundant species" (79.0%), "I feel light geese populations are too high" (76.3%), and "I feel light geese compete with Canada geese for food" (61.0%) (Table 11). Similarly, active light goose hunters had more positive attitudes toward light goose hunting and agree that it is an important aspect of their lives (Table 12).

Use of guides and outfitters

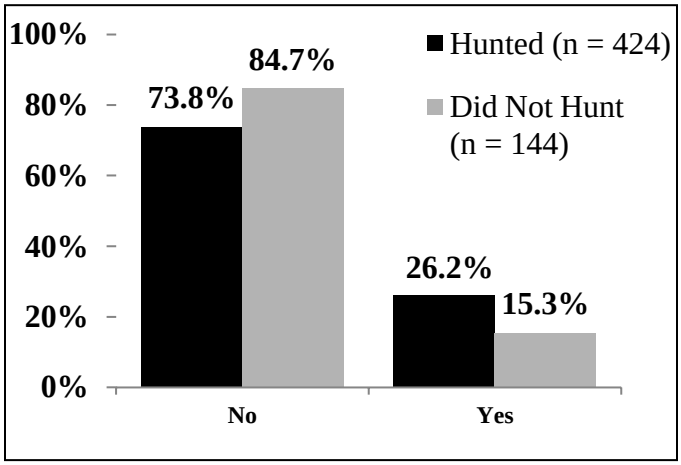

Figure 15. Percent of light goose hunters who have ever used a guide/outfitter for light goose hunting.

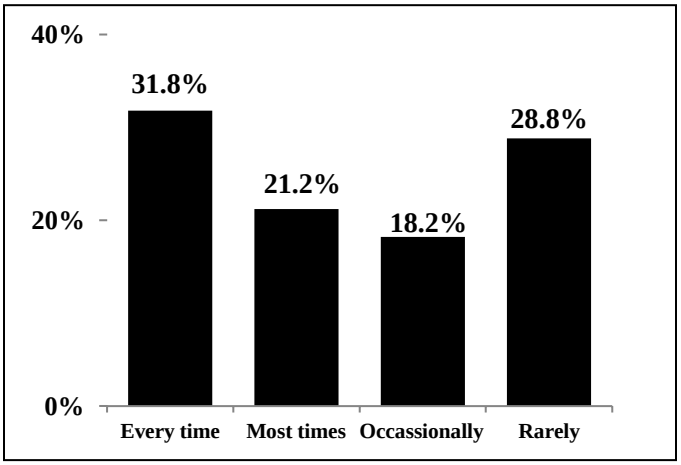

Figure 16. How frequently a guide/outfitter is used for light goose hunting (n = 132).

Most hunters regardless of participation have never used an outfitter to hunt light geese (Figure 15), those who hunted this year were more likely to indicate they have use an outfitter than those who did not hunt. Of those who use an outfitter almost a third use a guide/outfitter every time (31.8) and 28.8% use one rarely (Figure 16). Differences in frequency of use among those who were active hunters and those who did not hunt

were not reported due to small sub-sample size. Among those who hunted this year and had ever used an outfitter/guide 60.4% used an outfitter in 2020, and 15.4% of all the 2020 hunters used a guide. Fifty-seven percent of hunters felt their expenses were typical of past Light Goose Conservation Orders and almost a quarter (22.3%) felt they were lower. Six percent thought they were higher due to gas and thirteen percent felt they were higher due to typical light goose hunting expenses. Hunters spent the most on decoys $2,616 ± $7,408 (*M* ± S.D.) boats $2,094 ± $5,902, and guns $891 ±$839. Hunters spent an average $21 towards boat gas/oil and $30 toward entertainment (Table 13).

Hunter characteristics

Active Light Goose Conservation Order hunters were younger (*M* = 44 years old) than non-hunters (*M* = 47 years old), and almost all (98.4%) were male (Figure 17). Active hunters have been hunting light geese during the spring in Illinois for an average of 8.8 years compared to 5.3 among those who did not and have been hunting regular waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 26.9 years as compared to 24.3. The majority (71.3%) of respondents have introduced someone to light goose hunting (Figure 18) and 55.1% had introduced someone to light goose hunting in 2020. Over half (54.5%) had taken a youth light goose hunting and 7.0% had allowed a youth to accompany them but the youth did not hunt. The counties with the most respondents were St. Clair (7.0%), Madison (6.9%), Adams (3.1%), Clinton (3.1%), and Tazewell (3.1%). The general locations in Illinois in which light goose hunters live and concentrated their efforts is presented in Appendix E.

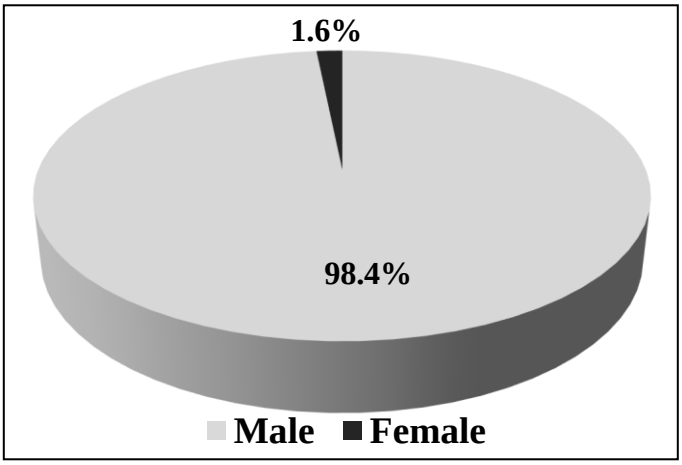

Figure 17. Gender of light goose hunters (*n* = 670).

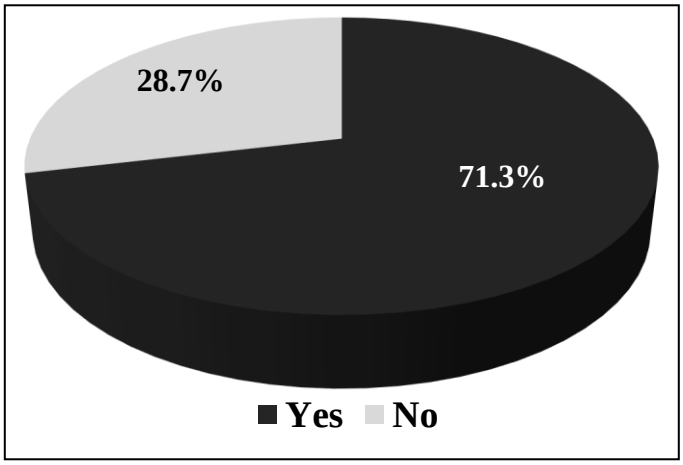

Figure 18. Hunters who have introduced someone to light goose hunting (*n* = 582).

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Table 1. Estimates of the number of hunters, days afield, and harvest of light geese from 1999-2020 during the Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order.

	Hunters	Days Afield	Harvest
1999	1,076	3,756	2,254
2000	865	6,643	7,612
2001	4,665	32,634	36,830
2002	5,107	31,204	17,875
2003	3,111	27,177	30,564
2004	5,976	44,306	37,189
2005	5,689	42,349	38,183[a]
2006	5,543	53,154	59,799[a]
2007	5,962 ± 1,147[b]	39,170 ± 15,221	44,514 ± 25,794
2008	6,409 ± 1,046[b]	50,471 ± 10,331	97,021 ± 40,811
2009	4,663 ± 950[b]	33,947 ± 8,403	85,635 ± 36,479
2010	3,702 ± 820[b]	25,581 ± 6,297	65,987 ± 42,519
2011	3,825 ± 826[b]	30,753 ± 8,902	66,406 ± 30,962
2012	5,726 ± 943[b]	51,763 ± 11,376	87,558 ± 41,316
2013	4,477 ± 1,192[b]	45,724 ± 16,642	73,495 ± 52,191
2014	1,962 ± 188[b]	21,170 ± 3,151	82,161[c] ± 22,291
2015	2,599 ± 206[b]	30,360 ± 3,213	123,944[c] ± 29,265
2016	2,187 ± 81[b]	33,048 ± 1,822	121,689[c] ± 9,716
2017	2,459 ± 145[b]	32,931 ± 2,403	133,629[c] ± 24,576
2018	2,505 ± 141[b]	30,989 ± 2,400	103,322[c] ± 33,481
2019	2,694 ± 205 [b]	30,206 ± 3,138	86,683[c] ± 34,461
2020	3,272 ± 186 [b]	41,621 ± 3,911	138,954[c] ± 30,202

[a] Harvest data estimates differ from the original estimates and were restricted to Conservation Order only.
[b] 95% confidence intervals
[c] Reporting bias of .487 was not used for these years.

Table 2. Estimated light goose harvest by month during the Illinois Light Goose Conservation Order from 2004-2020.

	January[b,c]	February	March
2004 [a]	-	26,404	10,785
2005	824	29,008	8,351
2006	67	43,815	15,917
2007	2,006	32,564	9,944
2008	295	61,376	35,351
2009	77	58,761	26,797
2010	249	44,755	20,983
2011	-	48,323	18,082
2012	55	60,625	26,878
2013	476[d]	45,080	22,233
2014	97	39,969	42,094
2015	20	65,454	58,470
2016	402	74,269	47,018
2017	678	84,153	48,798
2018	180	62,584	40,558
2019	82	55,167	31,434
2020	196	85,326	53,432

[a] Monthly harvest data before 2004 are not available.
[b] January estimates include only North Zone harvest unless otherwise noted.
[c] Harvest data are estimates for Conservation Order only.
[d] Revised from reported 2013-14 harvest.

Table 3. Hunter comparison between the number of light geese seen during 2020 to the last 5 years (n = 431).

	Hunted in 2020	
	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	40	9.3
Decreased Moderately	58	13.5
Decreased Slightly	92	21.
No Change	112	26.0
Increased Slightly	69	16.0
Increased Moderately	39	9.0
Increased Considerably	21	4.9

Table 4. Hunter comparison between the number of light geese harvested during 2020 to the last 5 years (n = 431).

	Hunted in 2020	
	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	89	20.6
Decreased Moderately	89	20.6
Decreased Slightly	105	24.4
No Change	74	17.2
Increased Slightly	56	13.0
Increased Moderately	11	2.6
Increased Considerably	7	1.6

Table 5. The importance of harvesting light geese to your hunting experience (n = 554).

	Hunted in 2020		Did Not Hunt in 2020	
	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)
Not at all important	16	3.8	22	19.0
Slightly important	46	11.0	24	20.7
Moderately important	95	22.7	26	22.4
Important	140	33.4	27	23.3
Very important	83	19.8	8	6.9
Extremely important	39	9.3	9	7.8

Table 6. Satisfaction with the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois.

	Hunted in 2020				Did Not Hunt in 2020			
	n	Dissatisfied %	Neither %	Satisfied %	*n*	Dissatisfied %	Neither %	Satisfied %
Number of light geese you saw.	420	22.6	21.0	56.4	74	33.8	33.8	32.4
Mid-Light Goose Conservation Order matched peak of light goose migration.	418	27.8	37.1	35.2	72	37.5	45.8	16.7
Amount of shooting you got in.	420	48.1	22.6	29.3	69	65.2	33.3	1.4
Amount of time you spent light goose hunting.	418	38.3	24.4	37.3	69	68.1	29.0	2.9
Number of light geese you harvested.	420	48.3	27.1	24.5	67	65.7	32.8	1.5
The weather during the Conservation Order Light Goose Conservation Order.	420	26.7	34.5	38.8	69	31.9	50.7	17.4
Number of light geese that migrated through areas you hunted.	419	28.4	20.3	51.3	70	37.1	34.3	28.6

Table 7. Change in Illinois hunters' Light Goose Conservation Order hunting effort over the past 5 years (*n* = 559).

	Hunted in 2020		Did Not Hunt in 2020	
	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)	Number of Hunters	Percentage of Hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	17	3.9	30	22.4
Decreased Moderately	30	6.9	22	16.4
Decreased Slightly	60	13.8	20	14.9
No Change	143	32.9	43	32.1
Increased Slightly	73	16.8	16	11.9
Increased Moderately	64	14.7	3	2.2
Increased Considerably	38	8.7	-	-

Table 8. Reasons for wanting to hunt light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order.

	Hunted in 2020						Did Not Hunt in 2020					
	n	Not at all Important %	Slightly Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %	*n*	Not at all Important %	Slightly Important %	Moderately Important %	Very Important %	Extremely Important %
Experience harvesting a lot of geese.	422	9.2	25.4	38.6	19.4	7.3	133	17.3	25.6	34.6	14.3	8.3
Enjoy nature.	424	0.5	3.1	16.0	35.6	44.8	134	3.0	0.0	14.2	37.3	45.5
Reduce populations in the nesting grounds.	425	7.8	11.3	28.2	28.7	24.0	131	15.3	15.3	26.7	20.6	22.1
Be outdoors.	427	0.9	1.6	8.2	31.1	58.1	134	2.2	0.0	9.0	35.8	53.0
Harvest geese for food.	426	15.7	24.9	30.8	16.2	12.4	132	24.2	21.2	22.7	18.2	13.6
Contribute to managing goose populations.	427	3.5	8.0	25.1	32.6	30.9	131	6.9	9.2	32.1	23.7	28.2
Experience natural surroundings.	425	0.9	2.8	13.6	38.4	44.2	130	4.6	2.3	15.4	38.5	39.2
Test my abilities.	424	9.2	9.0	23.3	31.8	26.7	131	12.2	13.7	24.4	26.7	22.9
Decrease populations of overabundant species.	425	6.4	10.1	24.7	28.5	30.4	133	12.0	12.8	24.8	21.1	29.3
Share quality time with family/friends.	427	1.2	0.5	7.7	32.8	57.8	130	2.3	2.3	9.2	30.0	56.2
Develop my skills and abilities.	427	5.2	12.2	25.8	27.2	29.7	130	11.5	8.5	26.2	28.5	25.4
Challenge my hunting abilities.	426	6.3	10.8	25.1	26.8	31.0	131	10.7	9.9	27.5	27.5	24.4
Do something with family/friends.	427	0.9	0.9	8.9	35.1	54.1	131	3.1	1.5	15.3	29.0	51.1
Contribute to conservation efforts.	427	2.3	6.6	22.0	30.2	38.9	132	4.5	9.1	25.0	28.8	32.6
For a unique hunting experience.	426	3.1	6.6	24.6	34.3	31.5	130	6.2	13.8	26.2	26.2	27.7
Bring family/friends closer together .	425	1.6	3.1	17.2	31.8	46.4	132	3.8	7.6	11.4	30.3	47.0

Table 9. Reasons that prevent you from hunting during the Light Goose Conservation Order.

	Hunted in 2020 (n = 435)		Did Not Hunt in 2020 (n = 235)	
	Number of hunters	Percentage	Number of hunters	Percentage
Not enough time	208	47.8%	86	36.6%
Equipment is too expensive	122	28.0%	48	20.4%
No place to hunt light geese	70	16.1%	40	17.0%
Other	66	15.2%	20	8.5%
No light geese where I live/hunt	65	14.9%	28	11.9%
They're too hard to hunt	43	9.9%	24	10.2%
Not enough people to hunt with	39	9.0%	16	6.8%
Hunting techniques conflict with my ethics	4	0.9%	1	0.4%
Don't know how to hunt them	3	0.7%	7	3.0%

Table 10. Ratings of skills compared to other hunters during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois.

	Hunted in 2019						Did Not Hunt in 2019					
	n	Novice %	Between %	Interm. %	Between %	Expert %	n	Novice %	Between %	Interm. %	Between %	Expert %
Skill calling in light geese	421	24.2	15.7	36.6	16.6	6.9	117	41.9	16.2	29.9	10.3	1.7
Light geese harvested per shots taken	416	5.8	6.3	42.1	35.8	10.1	111	20.7	12.6	41.4	20.7	4.5
Overall skill as a light goose hunter	418	5.7	12.4	47.6	27.8	6.5	113	23.9	16.8	44.2	13.3	1.8

Table 11. Hunters' attitudes toward light goose conservation.

"I feel light geese…"	Hunted in 2020				Did Not Hunt in 2020			
	n	Disagree %	Neither %	Agree %	*n*	Disagree %	Neither %	Agree %
…compete with Canada geese for nest sites.	422	32.0	25.8	42.2	142	23.9	35.9	40.1
…contribute to a balanced ecosystem.	422	38.4	28.9	32.7	140	30.7	38.6	30.7
…populations are too high.	422	8.3	15.4	76.3	142	7.7	28.2	64.1
…are a conservation success story.	421	21.4	38.5	40.1	139	19.4	50.4	30.2
…threaten biodiversity.	417	7.7	35.0	57.3	137	12.4	46.0	41.6
…populations have rebounded due to conservation efforts.	420	22.1	38.8	39.0	139	18.0	46.0	36.0
…compete with Canada geese for food.	421	21.6	17.3	61.0	142	12.7	31.7	55.6
…are harming habitat in the Hudson Bay region.	419	3.3	39.1	57.5	139	5.8	53.2	41.0
…are an overabundant species.	424	8.5	12.5	79.0	143	7.7	28.0	64.3

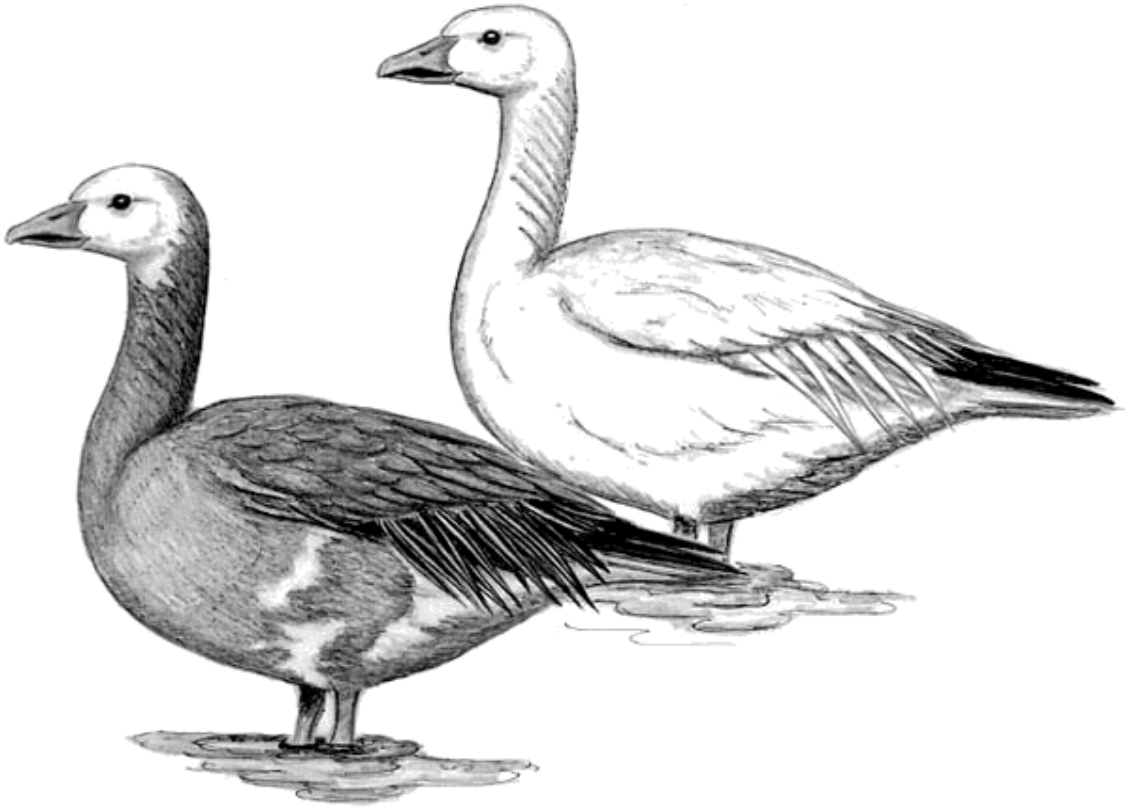
Table 12. Hunters' attitudes toward light goose hunting.

	Hunted in 2020				Did Not Hunt in 2020			
	n	Disagree %	Neither %	Agree %	*n*	Disagree %	Neither %	Agree %
Light goose hunting is one of the most important activities in my life	419	47.5	11.2	41.3	131	75.6	11.5	13
I spend a lot of time in the off-Light Goose Conservation Order planning for light goose hunting.	415	49.2	7.2	43.6	130	76.2	9.2	14.6
I am disappointed when I have no light geese to show for my efforts.	415	30.1	6.7	63.1	130	45.4	13.1	41.5
I plan vacation time around light goose Light Goose Conservation Order.	413	47.2	7	45.8	128	74.2	13.3	12.5
Some of my best days of light goose hunting have been when I come home empty-handed.	418	55	12.9	32.1	129	55	18.6	26.4
Hunting with friends and family is an important part of my hunting.	419	2.4	2.4	95.2	130	8.5	6.9	84.6
Light goose hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	416	60.8	15.1	24	130	80.8	11.5	7.7
Light goose hunting is a test of skill.	420	12.6	6.7	80.7	129	25.6	17.1	57.4
My closest friends are light goose hunters.	418	21.3	5.5	73.2	131	48.1	12.2	39.7
I spend a lot of time before the Light Goose Conservation Order scouting the area I will hunt.	416	52.9	8.2	38.9	131	70.2	13.7	16
I enjoy introducing new people to light goose hunting.	417	12.5	13.7	73.9	128	31.3	27.3	41.4
Seeing light geese is important for a satisfying hunt.	419	7.2	2.6	90.2	131	22.1	9.9	67.9
I would rather go light goose hunting than do any other recreation.	420	59.8	13.3	26.9	131	78.6	13	8.4
I am disappointed if I do not get any shots at light geese while hunting.	417	27.1	6	66.9	131	37.4	14.5	48.1
I hunt light goose for the challenge.	418	13.2	12.2	74.6	130	33.1	20	46.9
It takes skill to consistently harvest light geese.	418	8.9	3.3	87.8	131	19.8	9.9	70.2

Table 13. Light goose hunters' reported expenditures for items purchased during 2020 hunt outings.

Expenditure	*n*	$\bar{x}$	S.D.
Automobile gas/oil	453	$ 219.91	$ 325.36
Boat gas/oil	233	$ 21.24	$ 53.06
Lodging (hotel, hunting lodge, etc.)	243	$ 90.90	$ 235.17
Groceries/ice/beverages	420	$ 128.08	$ 226.55
Restaurant or take-out meals	333	$ 79.04	$ 131.30
Daily use fees	231	$ 51.19	$ 235.74
Entertainment	221	$ 29.95	$ 124.87
Game processing	231	$ 43.01	$ 119.45
Hunting guide/outfitter fees	239	$ 149.10	$ 413.13
Hunting package fees	211	$ 45.07	$ 240.35
Shells	447	$ 195.36	$ 228.81
Clothing	361	$ 268.99	$ 363.94
Decoys	361	$ 2,616.51	$ 7,408.24
Calls	332	$ 369.57	$ 661.22
Gun	321	$ 891.77	$ 839.16
Dog	241	$ 547.30	$ 1,294.00
Lease	226	$ 432.72	$ 1,205.97
Boat/motor	216	$ 2,094.44	$ 5,902.14
Other	163	$ 32.09	$ 216.85

Illinois Spring Light Goose Hunter Expenditures Survey 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Division of Wildlife Resources

and

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. Conservation Order (Spring) Light Goose Hunting Effort and Harvest. Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire to help us evaluate the 2020 **Spring Conservation Order light goose hunting Light Goose Conservation Order even if you did not hunt light geese. All questions pertain to Illinois hunting. Please note: "Light geese" also includes Ross' and Blue geese.**

1. Did you hunt light geese in Illinois during the **2020 Light Goose Conservation Order (spring light goose)** (North Zone**: Jan. 17-March 31, 2020;** Central, South Central, and South Zones**: Feb. 1- March 31, 2020)**?
Do not include hunting light geese during the regular Canada goose Light Goose Conservation Order. (Please check **one**.)

_____ Yes _____ No

2. Which of the following best describes how often you hunt **spring light geese** in Illinois?

_____ Every year _____Most years _____ Occassional years _____ Rarely

3. In which zone did you **hunt light geese most often** during the 2020 **Light Goose Conservation Order**? (Please check **one**.)

_____North Zone _____Central Zone _____ South Central Zone _____ South Zone

4. On which of the following types of land did you hunt light geese during the 2020 **Light Goose Conservation Order**? (Please check **all that apply**.)

_____Public land owned/managed by IDNR _____Other public land

_____ Private land I/family own _____Private land where I had permission to hunt

_____ Private land I paid to access _____ Other (Please identify): _____

4a. How many days did you hunt light geese on Illlinois state public land and/or private land during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order? Please indicate number of days.

Public: _____ Days **Private: _____** Days

5. Please indicate **your personal** effort- not your hunting party's effort- and harvest in the following table. **Include only harvest that occurred during the Light Goose Conservation Order; do not include light goose harvest during the regular Canada goose seasons.** Report the counties in which you hunted, number of days you hunted, and geese harvested for the time period in which you hunted light geese. Include only geese you harvested and days you hunted in Illinois. Count part of 1 day as 1 day. **Please refer to the county/zone map on the inside cover to answer this question. Please note, during January only the North zone is open to hunts.**

	County hunted	**Days hunted**	**Geese harvested**	**Geese hit, but not retrieved**
January (**North only**):				
February:				
March:				

6. How does the number of light geese you **saw** during the **Light Goose Conservation Order** compare to the **last 5 years**? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

7. How does the number of light geese you **harvested** during the **Light Goose Conservation Order** compare to the l**ast 5 years**? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

8. About how far, on average, did you travel to hunt light geese in Illinois during 2020? _____ Miles

9. Have you **ever** used a guide or outfitter while hunting light geese during the **Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois**?

_____ Yes _____ No (**Skip to question 10**)

9a. If "Yes," on average for all years you have hunted light geese, how often do you use a guide or outfitter while hunting light geese in Illinois during the **Light Goose Conservation Order**?

____ Every time ____ Most times ____ Occasionally ____ Rarely

9b. Did you use a guide or outfitter while hunting light geese in Illinois **during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order**?

_____ Yes _____ No

10. How has your spring light goose hunting **effort changed over the past 5 years**? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

11. How did you feel about the dates of the 2020 Conservation light goose Light Goose Conservation Order for the area where you hunted most often? (Please circle **one**.)

Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure
1	2	3	4

12. Have you ever introduce someone to light goose hunting? _____ Yes _____ No

12a. If yes, have you taken a youth light goose hunting in Illinois?

_____Yes (If "Yes," what was the last year you did so_____)

_____No

_____A youth has accompanied me hunting, but they did not hunt

13. Please rate the following statements as your **reasons for Light Goose Hunting.**

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Experience harvesting a lot of geese	1	2	3	4	5
Enjoy nature	1	2	3	4	5
Reduce populations in the nesting grounds	1	2	3	4	5
Be outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
Harvest geese for food	1	2	3	4	5
Contribute to managing goose populations	1	2	3	4	5
Experience natural surroundings	1	2	3	4	5
Test my abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Decrease populations of overabundant species	1	2	3	4	5
Share quality time with family/friends	1	2	3	4	5
Develop my skills and abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Challenge my hunting abilities	1	2	3	4	5
Do something with family/friends	1	2	3	4	5
Contribute to conservation efforts	1	2	3	4	5
For a unique hunting experience	1	2	3	4	5
Bring family/friends closer together	1	2	3	4	5

14. Please check which of the following prevents you from hunting during the **Light Goose Conservation Order**. (Please check **all that apply**).

_____ No place to hunt light geese

_____ No light geese where I live/hunt

_____ Not enough time

_____ They're too hard to hunt

_____ Equipment is too expensive

_____ Don't know how to hunt them

_____ Not enough people to hunt with

_____ Hunting techniques conflict with my ethics

_____ Other (please indicate:_____)

15. Please show how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about light goose conservation by circling the number that matches your response.

"I feel light geese…"	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
…compete with Canada geese for nest sites.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
...contribute to a balanced ecosystem.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…populations are too high.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…are a conservation success story.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…threaten biodiversity.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…populations have rebounded due to conservation efforts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…compete with Canada geese for food.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…are harming habitat in the Hudson Bay region.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
…are an overabundant species.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

16. Which of the following best describes how often you hunt **waterfowl other than** light geese in Illinois?

_____ Every year _____ Most years _____ Occassional years _____ Rarely _____ Never

17. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in Illinois during the **2019-20 regular waterfowl seasons**?

_____ Yes _____ No (Please skip to **Section 2**)

18. Which of the following Light Goose Conservation Orders did you participate in? (Please check **all that apply**.)

_____ September Teal season

_____ September Canada Goose season

_____ Regular Duck season

_____ Regular Goose season

19. In which zone did you **hunt waterfowl most often during the 2019-20 regular waterfowl seasons**? (Please check **one**.)

_____ North Zone _____ Central Zone _____ South Central Zone _____ South Zone

20. Which did you hunt most often? (Please check **one**.)

_____ Ducks _____ Geese _____ Both ducks and geese equally

21. Did you harvest any light geese during the **regular goose season** in Illinois during the 2019-20 goose Light Goose Conservation Order?

_____ Yes (How many?_____) _____ No

22. Please rate **your skills** as compared to other light goose hunters.

	Novice	Between novice and intermediate	Intermediate	Between intermediate and expert	Expert
Skill calling in light geese	1	2	3	4	5
Light geese harvested per shots taken	1	2	3	4	5
Overall skill as a light goose hunter	1	2	3	4	5

23. Please rate how important harvesting light geese is to your hunting experience by circling the number that matches your response.

Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
1	2	3	4	5	6

24. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied or Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of light geese you saw.	1	2	3	4	5
Mid-season matched peak of light goose migration.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of shooting you got in.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent light goose hunting.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of light geese you harvested.	1	2	3	4	5
Weather during the season.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of light geese that migrated through areas you hunted.	1	2	3	4	5

25. How many years have you been **waterfowl hunting in Illinois**? _____ Years

26. How many years have you been hunting during the **Light Goose Conservation Order** in Illinois? _____ Years

27. Please give your age. _____ Years

28. What is your gender? _____ Male _____ Female

29. What is your county of residence?_____County

Section 2. Light Goose Hunting Expenditures. Please help us understand the economic contributions in Illinois by providing your expenses below.

1. Please use the log of light goose hunting expenditures you recorded on the 2020 Illinois Light Goose Hunting Record you received before the season to answer the items below. Please indicate whether you purchased durable equipment (e.g., clothing, guns) on the Internet or at a store within or outside Illinois.

Items Purchased during light goose hunting outing	**Estimated TOTAL Season Expenditures**
Transportation	
1. Automobile gas/oil	**$_____.00**
2. Boat gas/oil	**$_____.00**
3. Lodging (hotel, hunting lodge, etc.)	**$_____.00**
Food & Beverages	
4. Groceries/ice/beverages	**$_____.00**
5. Restaurant or take-out meals	**$_____.00**
Other shopping, services, and entertainment	
6. Daily use fees	**$_____.00**
7. Entertainment	**$_____.00**
8. Game processing	**$_____.00**
9. Hunting guide/outfitter fees	**$_____.00**
10. Hunting package fees	**$_____.00**

Durable Equipment (Used one or more Light Goose Conservation Orders)		**Location purchased** (Please check one response for each category) **Online**	**Store in Illinois**	**Store outside Illinois**
11. Shells	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
12. Clothing	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
13. Decoys	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
14. Calls	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
15. Gun	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
16. Dog	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
17. Lease	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
18. Boat/motor	**$_____.00**	____	____	____
19. Other (Please list):	**$_____.00**	____	____	____

2. Were your expenses in Illinois during the 2020 Conservation Order (spring light geese) season typical of past years?

____ Yes, due to light goose hunting expenses

____ No, they were higher than past years due to gas prices

____ No, they were higher than past years due to expenses from light goose hunting

____ No, they were lower than past years

Section 3. Attitudes Toward Light Goose Hunting. Please state if you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Light goose hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time in the off-season planning for light goose hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am disappointed when I have no light geese to show for my efforts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I plan vacation time around light goose season.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Some of my best days of light goose hunting have been when I come home empty-handed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunting with friends and family is an important part of my hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Light goose hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Light goose hunting is a test of skill.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My closest friends are light goose hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area I will hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I enjoy introducing new people to light goose hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Seeing light geese is important for a satisfying hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I would rather go light goose hunting than do any other recreation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am disappointed if I do not get any shots at light geese while hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I hunt light goose for the challenge.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It takes skill to consistently harvest light geese.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Comments

WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase of hunting equipment

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.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Light Goose Hunter,

You have been chosen as one of a select group of Illinois light goose hunters to provide information about your light goose hunting activities. Enclosed is a survey questionnaire regarding your light goose hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order. We ask you to please take a few moments to complete this questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided **even if you were not successful or *did not hunt* light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order.**

The information you and other selected hunters provide our biologists is vital for proper light goose management and allows us to safeguard light goose populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided.

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

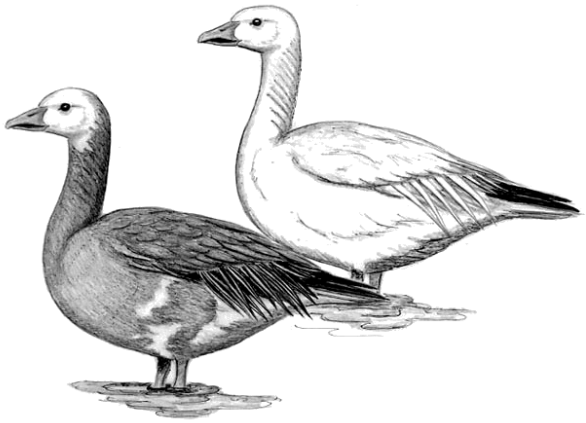
You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/ or like us on Facebook at the Human Dimensions Research Program - Illinois Natural History Survey page to be notified when results are available. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

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

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



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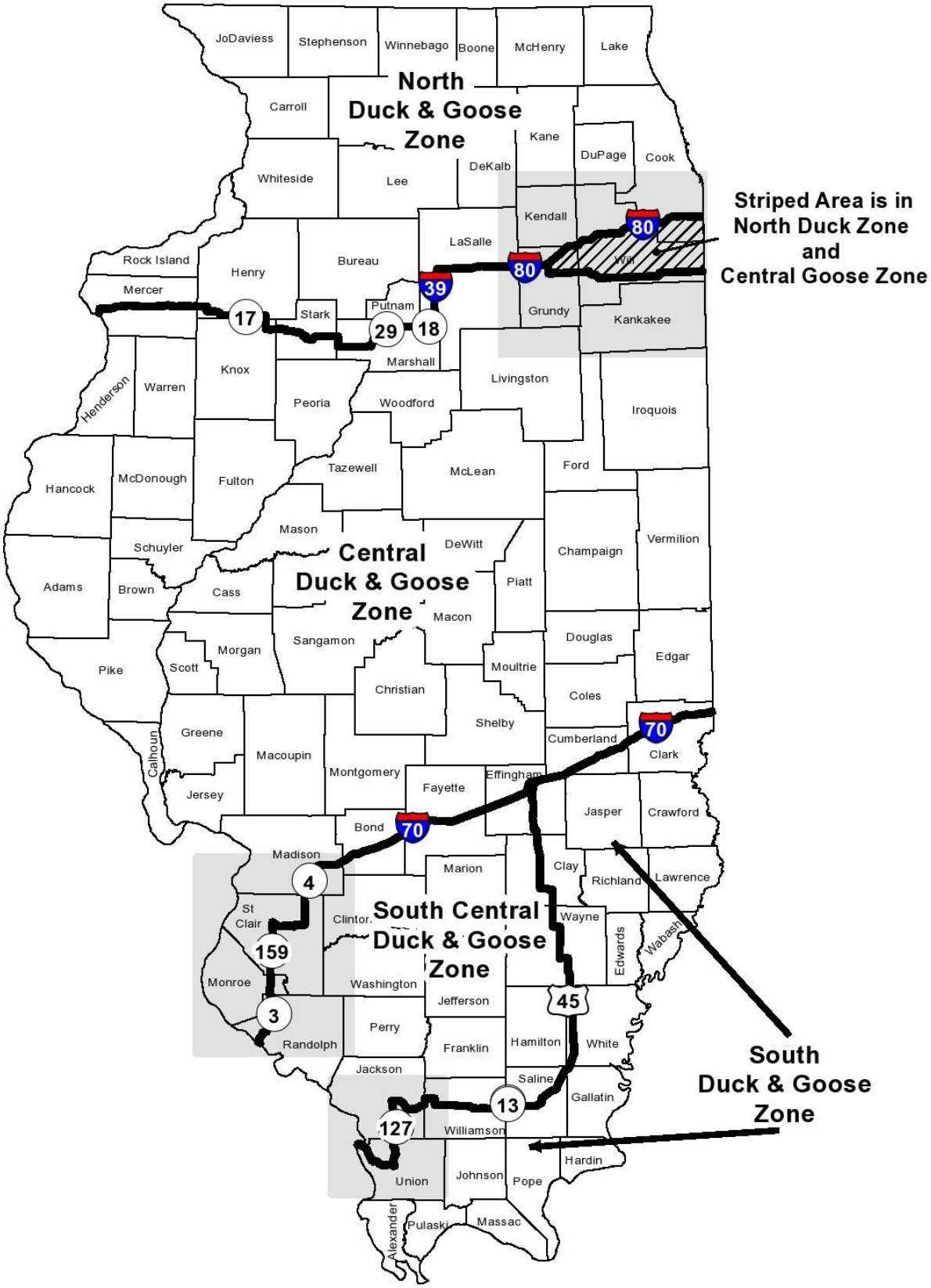
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA


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
Will
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Putnam
Stark
Grundy
Kankakee
Marshall
Knox
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Livingston
Iroquois
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Mason
Schuyler
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Piatt
Macon
Sangamon
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Cumberland
Clark
Greene
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Effingham
Fayette
Jasper
Crawford
Jersey
Bond
Madison
Marion
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
St
Clair
Clinton
Wayne
Edwards
Wabash
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Perry
Franklin
Hamilton
White
Randolph
Jackson
Saline
Gallatin
Williamson
Hardin
Union
Johnson
Pope
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac
17
29
18
39
80
80
4
159
3
45
13
127
70
70

Appendix C

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about light goose hunting during the Light Goose Conservation Order. 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 Light Goose Hunter,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about light goose hunting activities during the 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you. If not, please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided **even if you were not successful or *did not hunt* light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order.**

The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper waterfowl management and allows us to safeguard waterfowl populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

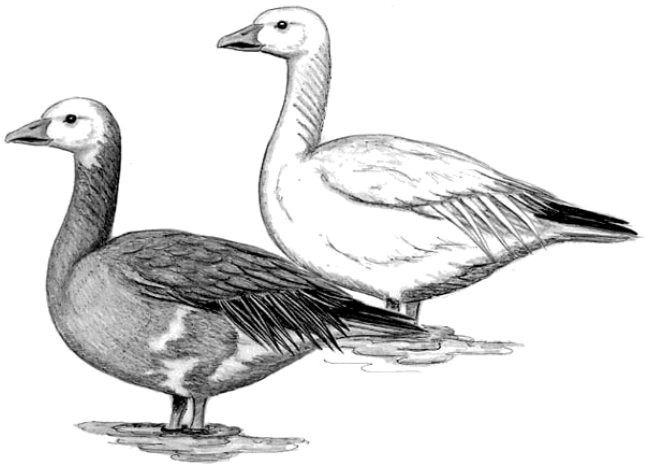
If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove your name from our mailing list.

Please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you and return it in the envelope provided. If you have any questions please call 217-244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



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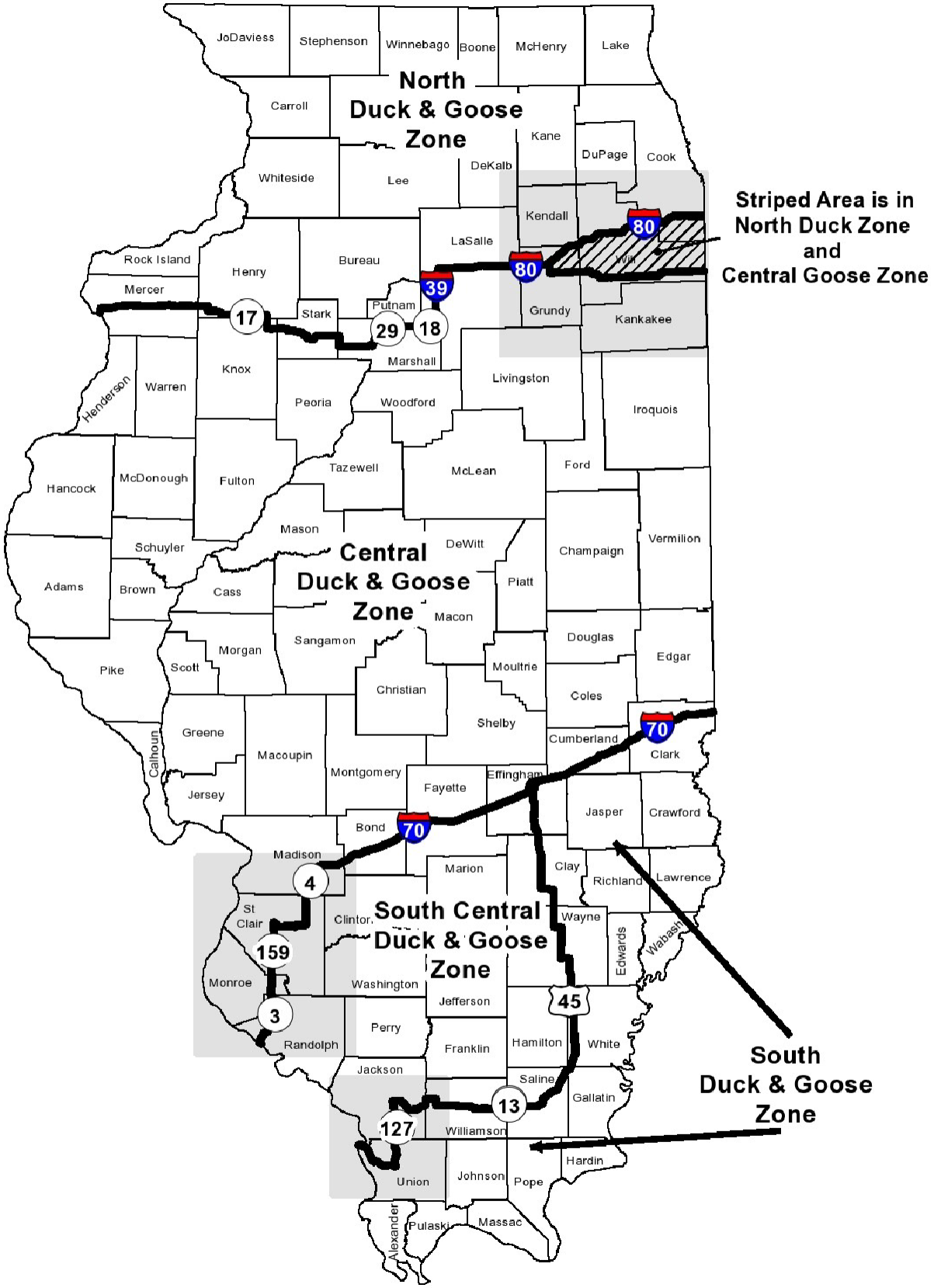
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA


North
Duck & Goose
Zone
Striped Area is in
North Duck Zone
and
Central Goose Zone
Central
Duck & Goose
Zone
South Central
Duck & Goose
Zone
South
Duck & Goose
Zone
JoDaviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Kendall
Will
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
LaSalle
Mercer
Putnam
Stark
Grundy
Kankakee
Knox
Marshall
Livingston
Henderson
Warren
Peoria
Woodford
Iroquois
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Mason
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Schuyler
Adams
Brown
Cass
Piatt
Macon
Sangamon
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Cumberland
Clark
Greene
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Effingham
Fayette
Jersey
Jasper
Crawford
Bond
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
39
80
80
4
159
3
45
13
127
70
70

Appendix E

Table E-1. Distribution of survey respondents by county of residence (n = 670).

County	*n*	County	*n*	County	*n*
Adams	21	Hardin	0	Morgan	7
Alexander	3	Henderson	3	Moultrie	5
Bond	8	Henry	7	Ogle	6
Boone	1	Iroquois	2	Peoria	15
Brown	2	Jackson	14	Perry	3
Bureau	5	Jasper	4	Piatt	2
Calhoun	16	Jefferson	13	Pike	8
Carroll	3	Jersey	4	Pope	1
Cass	6	Jo Daviess	1	Pulaski	3
Champaign	9	Johnson	4	Putnam	8
Christian	8	Kane	6	Randolph	12
Clark	1	Kankakee	3	Richland	1
Clay	1	Kendall	1	Rock Island	7
Clinton	21	Knox	10	St. Clair	47
Coles	1	Lake	7	Saline	2
Cook	13	LaSalle	13	Sangamon	18
Crawford	1	Lawrence	2	Schuyler	7
Cumberland	0	Lee	0	Scott	2
De Kalb	3	Livingston	3	Shelby	2
DeWitt	3	Logan	5	Stark	0
Douglas	1	McDonough	1	Stephenson	1
Du Page	9	McHenry	5	Tazewell	21
Edgar	1	McLean	7	Union	3
Edwards	3	Macon	12	Vermillion	2
Effingham	1	Macoupin	10	Wabash	3
Fayette	6	Madison	46	Warren	4
Ford	1	Marion	6	Washington	11
Franklin	16	Marshall	5	Wayne	2
Fulton	10	Mason	14	White	1
Gallatin	0	Massac	2	Whiteside	5
Greene	4	Menard	2	Will	15
Grundy	2	Mercer	3	Williamson	13
Hamilton	0	Monroe	12	Winnebago	1
Hancock	8	Montgomery	12	Woodford	5

Table E-2. Distribution of light geese harvested per county (n = 429).

County	Light geese	County	Light geese	County	Light geese
Adams	319	Hardin	0	Morgan	45
Alexander	110	Henderson	26	Moultrie	4
Bond	201	Henry	0	Ogle	0
Boone	40	Iroquois	0	Peoria	111
Brown	112	Jackson	113	Perry	750
Bureau	10	Jasper	33	Piatt	0
Calhoun	1,448	Jefferson	710	Pike	1,647
Carroll	0	Jersey	590	Pope	0
Cass	172	Jo Daviess	0	Pulaski	56
Champaign	89	Johnson	0	Putnam	0
Christian	255	Kane	0	Randolph	677
Clark	9	Kankakee	0	Richland	0
Clay	5	Kendall	0	Rock Island	0
Clinton	2,513	Knox	136	St. Clair	381
Coles	0	Lake	4	Saline	0
Cook	0	LaSalle	48	Sangamon	130
Crawford	0	Lawrence	15	Schuyler	271
Cumberland	0	Lee	0	Scott	4
De Kalb	2	Livingston	40	Shelby	157
DeWitt	0	Logan	5	Stark	0
Douglas	0	McDonough	95	Stephenson	0
Du Page	0	McHenry	100	Tazewell	99
Edgar	4	McLean	17	Union	92
Edwards	0	Macon	43	Vermillion	32
Effingham	12	Macoupin	371	Wabash	3
Fayette	2,327	Madison	48	Warren	16
Ford	0	Marion	99	Washington	639
Franklin	225	Marshall	98	Wayne	50
Fulton	708	Mason	885	White	16
Gallatin	0	Massac	12	Whiteside	4
Greene	186	Menard	9	Will	142
Grundy	1	Mercer	0	Williamson	2
Hamilton	0	Monroe	126	Winnebago	0
Hancock	130	Montgomery	351	Woodford	0

Table E-3. Distribution of days hunted per county by county of residence (n = 429).

County	Days	County	Days	County	Days
Adams	158	Hardin	0	Morgan	51
Alexander	52	Henderson	20	Moultrie	16
Bond	55	Henry	6	Ogle	0
Boone	15	Iroquois	0	Peoria	56
Brown	17	Jackson	62	Perry	139
Bureau	18	Jasper	9	Piatt	0
Calhoun	318	Jefferson	173	Pike	242
Carroll	0	Jersey	140	Pope	0
Cass	59	Jo Daviess	0	Pulaski	35
Champaign	4	Johnson	1	Putnam	6
Christian	73	Kane	0	Randolph	154
Clark	4	Kankakee	0	Richland	0
Clay	1	Kendall	0	Rock Island	4
Clinton	468	Knox	111	St. Clair	181
Coles	0	Lake	4	Saline	0
Cook	1	LaSalle	26	Sangamon	49
Crawford	0	Lawrence	8	Schuyler	154
Cumberland	0	Lee	0	Scott	6
De Kalb	6	Livingston	17	Shelby	6
DeWitt	0	Logan	13	Stark	0
Douglas	5	McDonough	50	Stephenson	4
Du Page	0	McHenry	20	Tazewell	106
Edgar	6	McLean	15	Union	51
Edwards	0	Macon	18	Vermillion	20
Effingham	3	Macoupin	136	Wabash	3
Fayette	449	Madison	47	Warren	9
Ford	0	Marion	41	Washington	143
Franklin	109	Marshall	10	Wayne	10
Fulton	369	Mason	360	White	4
Gallatin	0	Massac	6	Whiteside	4
Greene	104	Menard	11	Will	35
Grundy	22	Mercer	4	Williamson	26
Hamilton	1	Monroe	56	Winnebago	0
Hancock	111	Montgomery	178	Woodford	0

Table E-4. Distribution of hunters* per county (*n* = 429).

County	*n*	County	*n*	County	*n*
Adams	24	Hardin	0	Morgan	6
Alexander	9	Henderson	7	Moultrie	5
Bond	13	Henry	1	Ogle	0
Boone	1	Iroquois	0	Peoria	8
Brown	4	Jackson	7	Perry	15
Bureau	6	Jasper	3	Piatt	0
Calhoun	19	Jefferson	14	Pike	22
Carroll	0	Jersey	9	Pope	0
Cass	15	Jo Daviess	0	Pulaski	5
Champaign	1	Johnson	1	Putnam	1
Christian	8	Kane	0	Randolph	17
Clark	2	Kankakee	0	Richland	0
Clay	1	Kendall	0	Rock Island	2
Clinton	77	Knox	19	St. Clair	24
Coles	0	Lake	2	Saline	0
Cook	1	LaSalle	3	Sangamon	11
Crawford	0	Lawrence	2	Schuyler	9
Cumberland	0	Lee	0	Scott	1
De Kalb	2	Livingston	2	Shelby	2
DeWitt	0	Logan	3	Stark	0
Douglas	1	McDonough	3	Stephenson	1
Du Page	0	McHenry	1	Tazewell	12
Edgar	1	McLean	3	Union	10
Edwards	0	Macon	3	Vermillion	2
Effingham	1	Macoupin	14	Wabash	2
Fayette	45	Madison	7	Warren	2
Ford	0	Marion	6	Washington	14
Franklin	10	Marshall	1	Wayne	1
Fulton	41	Mason	54	White	4
Gallatin	0	Massac	2	Whiteside	1
Greene	14	Menard	2	Will	4
Grundy	1	Mercer	1	Williamson	5
Hamilton	1	Monroe	9	Winnebago	0
Hancock	15	Montgomery	16	Woodford	0

*Sum is greater than *n* because some hunters participated in multiple counties.