

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



Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-31
Job Number 101.3
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022

Natalie Phelps Finnie,
Director, Illinois Department
of Natural Resources

Jennifer Wellman,
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mike Wefer,
Chief, Division of Wildlife
Resources



2021-2022 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences



Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Prepared by
Eric M. Walberg, Craig A. Miller,
Lauren J. Stephens, and Brent D. Williams

INHS Technical Report 2023 (33)
November 28, 2022

Key words: Waterfowl, harvest, youth hunts, satisfaction, season preferences

Suggested Citation:

Walberg, E.M, C.A. Miller, L.J. Stephens, and B.D. Williams. 2022. 2021-22 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-31. Human Dimensions Research Program Report HR-21-03/INHS Technical Report 2023 (33). Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 70pp.

2021-22 ILLINOIS
WATERFOWL HUNTER REPORT:
Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-31
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois

Prepared by
Eric M. Walberg, Craig A. Miller,
Lauren J. Stephens, and Brent D. Williams

Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 28, 2022

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-31
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Mike Wefer, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785/0067; TTY 217/782/9175.

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1Percent of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2021-22 seasons	5
Figure 2Percentage of license purchasers who hunted waterfowl in Illinois during 2021-22 season	5
Figure 3Percentage of hunters who purchased a Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during waterfowl season	5
Figure 4Frequency of purchasing a Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois	5
Figure 5Reason for purchasing an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season	6
Figure 6Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois	6
Figure 7Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both in 2021-22 Illinois waterfowl season	7
Figure 8Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season	8
Figure 9Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season	8
Figure 10Percentage of hunters who took a youth hunting during 2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	9
Figure 11Percentage of hunters who took at least one youth hunting for the first time	9
Figure 12 Percentage of hunters for whom it was their first time taking a youth hunting	10
Figure 13Zones hunted in most often during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons	11
Figure 14Proportion of mallards, wood, & other ducks harvested during the 2021-22 regular duck season	11
Figure 15Illinois regular duck season harvest, 2002-2021	12
Figure 16Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter during the 2021-22 regular duck season	13
Figure 17Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2002-2021	13
Figure 18Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2021	14
Figure 19Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2002-2021	14
Figure 202021-22 Illinois' regular goose season harvest	15
Figure 21Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' regular goose season	15
Figure 22Percentage of hunters who hunted on Illinois state public lands during 2021-22	16
Figure 23Zone in which public land hunted was located	17
Figure 24Percentage of waterfowl hunters whose public land use was in a blind awarded by lottery	17
Figure 25Duck and goose hunter* opinions about the timing of the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.	19
Figure 26Respondents' preferred zoning option for Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030	19
Figure 27Preferred splits for the duck hunting season in Illinois for zone hunted most often by respondent	20
Figure 28Respondents' preference for zones to combine if a three duck zone configuration for the period of 2026 through 2030	20
Figure 29Percentage of respondents who have internet access in their home	21
Figure 30Percentage of respondents who have high-speed internet access in their home	21
Figure 31Percentage of respondents who would like reminders to renew their hunting license each year.	22
Figure 32Percentage of respondents who have a preference in how they receive reminders	22
Figure 33Percentage of respondents who would like reminders about permit due dates	22
Figure 34Percentage of respondents who have a preference on how they are reminded about permit due dates	22
Figure 35Percentage of respondents who have missed a permit application deadline because they did not know it was due	23
Figure 36Percentage of respondents who receive announcements from DNR via email	23
Figure 37Percentage of respondents who have signed up for announcements from DNR via email	23
Figure 38Percentage of respondents who would use a free mobile-phone app from DNR to store electronic permits	23
Figure 39Gender distribution of respondents who hunted waterfowl during one of the waterfowl seasons	24
Figure 40Number of hunters whose first time hunting in Illinois was during the 2021-22 season	24
Figure 41Percentage of how often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois	25
Figure 42Comparison between the number of days hunted during 2021-22 waterfowl season compared to last 5 years	25
Figure 43Percentage of respondents who belong to waterfowl hunting organizations	25

LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES

Page

Table 1.....	Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest.....	27
Table 2.....	Percentage of hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese	27
Table 3	Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during September teal season	28
Table 4	Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September teal season.....	28
Table 5	Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during September teal season.....	29
Table 6	Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2009-2021	30
Table 7.....	Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season, 2009-2021.....	31
Table 8.....	Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season.....	31
Table 9.....	Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season.....	32
Table 10.....	Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested	32
Table 11.....	Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season.....	33
Table 12.....	Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season	34
Table 13.....	Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested	34
Table 14.....	Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season	35
Table 15.....	Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (3-year trend).....	35
Table 16.....	Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled.....	36
Table 17.....	Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2021-22 duck seasons	37
Table 18.....	Importance of factors to respondents' waterfowl hunting experience in Illinois	38
Table 19.....	Satisfaction with aspects of respondents' most recent waterfowl hunting season in Illinois	38
Table 20.....	Hunter opinions of the timing of the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.....	39
Table 21.....	Respondents' preferred zoning option for Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030	39
Table 22.....	Preferred splits for the duck hunting season in Illinois for zone hunted most often by respondent	40
Table 23.....	Respondents' preference for zones to combine if a three duck zone configuration was used in Illinois	40
Appendix A.....	Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey: 2021-22 Season	41
Appendix B	Cover letter sent with first mailing of the 2021-22 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey	49
Appendix C	Thank you/reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings.....	51
Appendix D.....	Cover letter sent with second mailing of the 2021-22 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey	52
Appendix E	Cover letter sent with third mailing of the 2021-22 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey	54
Appendix F.....	Historic Data: Harvest, Days Afield, and Hunter numbers 1981-2021	56
Appendix G.....	Map of Illinois waterfowl zone boundaries	68
Appendix H.....	Waterfowl season dates and bag limits.....	69

OBJECTIVE

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

ABSTRACT

A total of 1,880 (38% response rate) Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires to the 2021-22 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. An estimated 42,839 adult waterfowl hunters spent ≥ 1 day afield during 2021-22, an increase of 8.4% from 39,525 hunters during the 2020-21 seasons. Waterfowl hunters spent 1,000,494 days afield, an increase of 19.4% from the 837,609 days devoted during the 2020-21 license year. Total estimated waterfowl harvest increased 33.9%, from 406,259 during 2020-21 seasons to 543,858 during 2021-22. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 175,565 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 42,851 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 138,017 other ducks. A total of 28,913 teal (*Spatula discors* and *Anas crecca*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 99,276 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 5.0% increase from the 94,510 Canada geese harvested during the 2020-21 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 22,258 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, a 32.4% increase from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 5,410 adults took 6,859 youths waterfowl hunting, a 7.6% increase in adult participation and a 1.3% decrease in youth participation from the 2020-21 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 2021-22 license year. On 13 June 2022, 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 4,897 due to 103 being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder postcard

(Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 11 July 2022. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 1 August 2022, followed by a second postcard mailing on 31 August 2022. A third and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 30 September 2022, followed by a third postcard on 2 November 2022. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 28.0 (SPSS Inc. 2021). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

Statewide Estimates

Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 54,044 adult resident Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2020-21 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 (Williams et al. 2018). 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. 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:

$$Hunt_{sp} = Hunt_r \frac{L_t}{n}$$

$$Days_{sp} = Days_r \frac{L_t}{n}$$

$$Crip_{sp} = Crip_r \frac{L_t}{n}$$

$$Harv_{sp} = Harv_r \frac{L_t A}{n}$$

Where:

$Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to the 2021-22 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 2021-22,

n = number of respondents to 2021-22 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, Miller et al. 2018).

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

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

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 (*Spatula discors* and *Anas crecca*) season length was 16 days with a daily bag of 6 teal. Early (September) Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season length and start date (1 September) were the same for all four 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) during 2021-22. Basic daily bag limits were 6 ducks, 5 mergansers, and 15 coots; individual species limits are in Appendix H. Regular Canada goose season length in the South Central and South zone was 80 days and 66 days,

respectively. Daily bag limit was 3 for Canada geese, 2 for White-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), and 1 for Brant geese (*Branta bernicla*). All species listed above had a possession limit of 3 times the daily bag limit. Light geese (*Anser caerulescens* and *Anser rossii*) had a daily limit of 20 and no possession limit.

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

We received 1,880 usable questionnaires (i.e., respondent completed at least a portion of the questionnaire), for an overall response rate of 38%. Ninety-seven percent of respondents indicated they had purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2021-22 season (Figure 1) and 1,449 (79.3%) of license purchasers reported hunting 1 day or more for waterfowl (Figure 2). Only 14.2% of respondents have ever purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois (Figure 3). Forty percent of respondents (39.7%) who purchased a waterfowl stamp without intending to hunt do so every year, 15.4% purchase stamps most years, 21.7% purchase stamps on occasional years, and 23.2% rarely purchase stamps for this purpose (Figure 4). The most common reasons for purchasing an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt were: (1) support wildlife conservation (76.4%), (2) support wetland and grassland conservation (61.8%), (3) support birding, nature photography and other recreation (18.7%), (4) collect waterfowl stamps (18.7%), and (5) other reasons (12.7%; Figure 5).

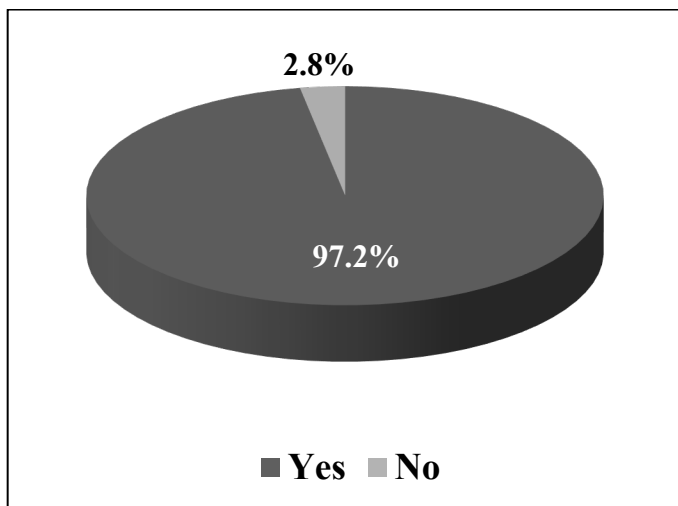


Figure 1. Percentage of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2021-22 seasons ($n = 1,880$).

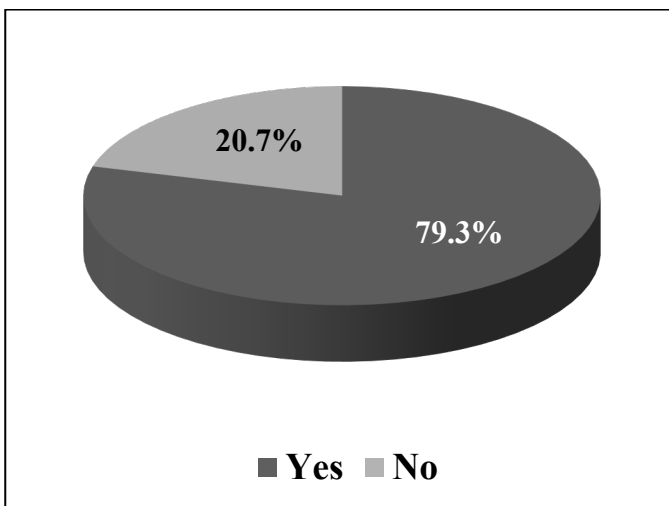


Figure 2. Percentage of license purchasers who hunted waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during 2021-22 season ($n = 1,828$).

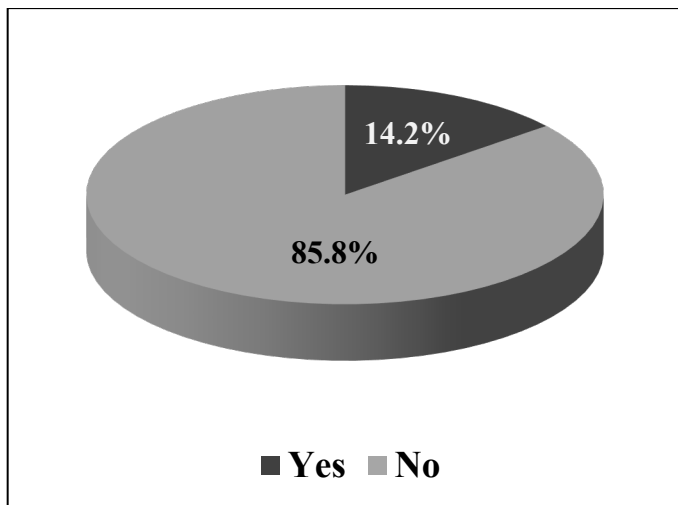


Figure 3. Percentage of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during waterfowl season ($n = 1,879$).

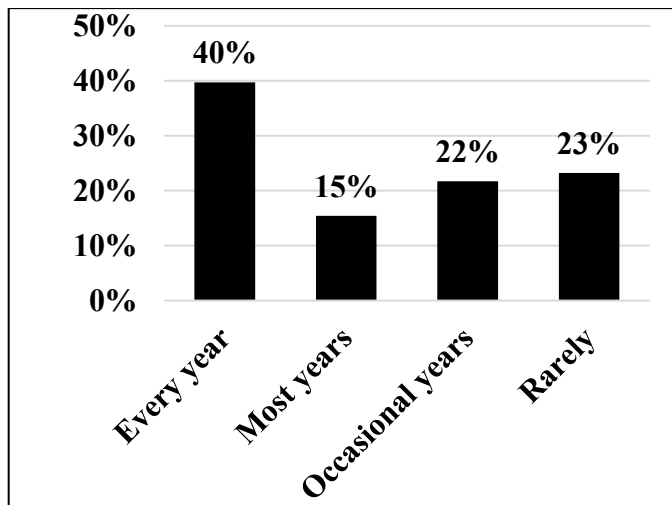


Figure 4. Frequency of purchasing an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois ($n = 267$).

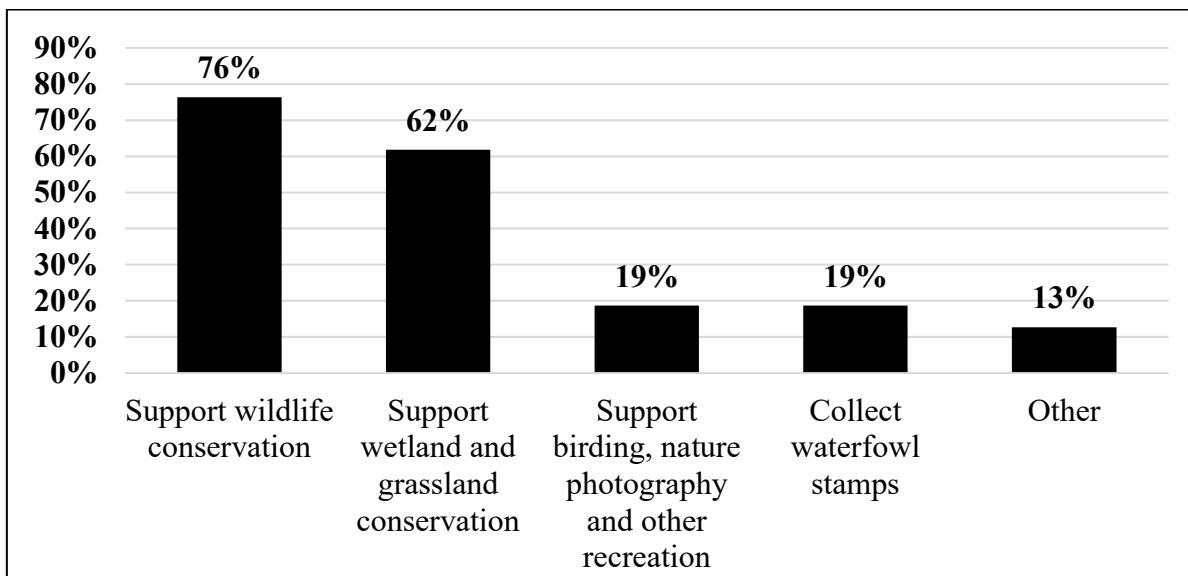


Figure 5. Reason for purchasing an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season ($n = 267$).

The number of active waterfowl hunters (hunted ≥ 1 day(s) during waterfowl season) increased from 39,525 during the 2020-21 season to 42,839 during the 2021-22 season, an 8.4% increase in the number of hunters (Figure 6, Table 1). Hunters reported spending 1,000,494 days afield, an increase of 19.4% from the 837,609 days devoted during the 2020-21 license year. Total waterfowl harvest increased 33.9%, from 406,259 during 2020-21 to 543,858 during the 2021-22 season (Table 1). Thirty percent of hunters targeted ducks only, 10.2% targeted geese only, and 59.9% targeted both ducks and geese (Figure 7, Table 2).

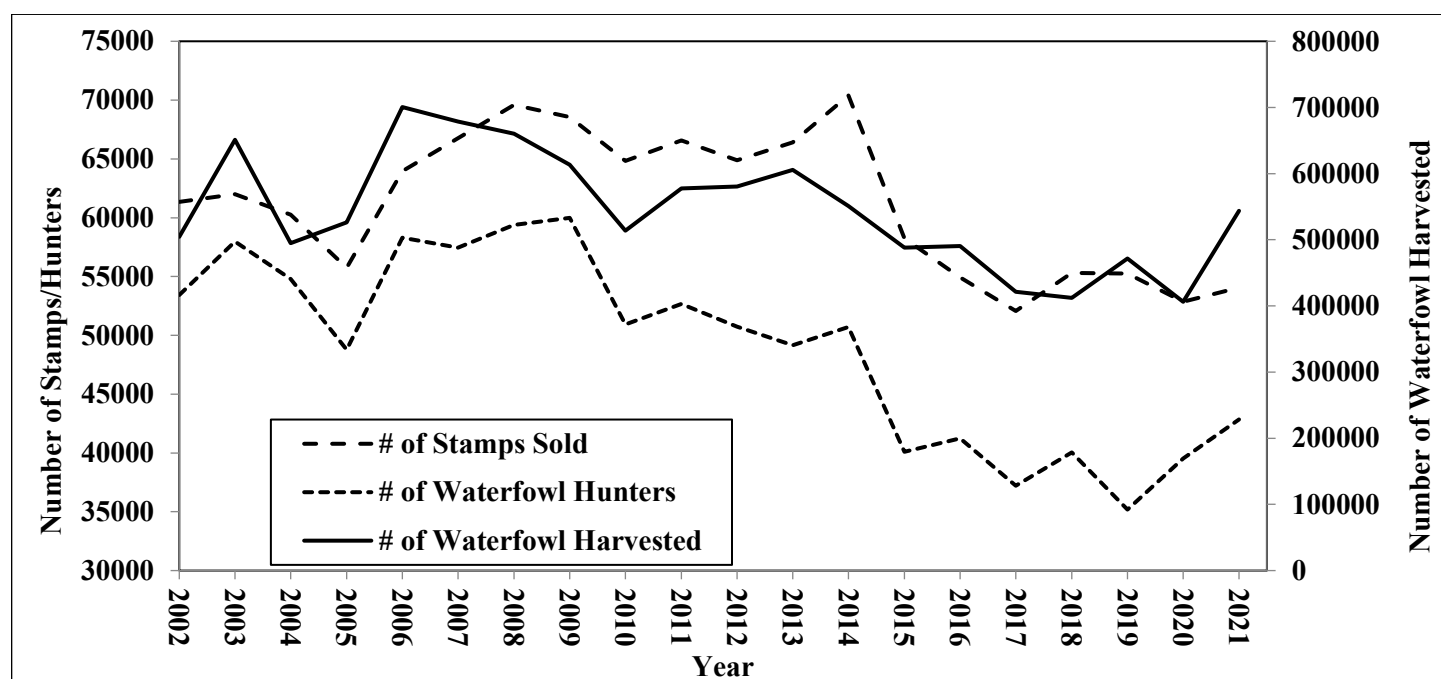


Figure 6. Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2002-2021.

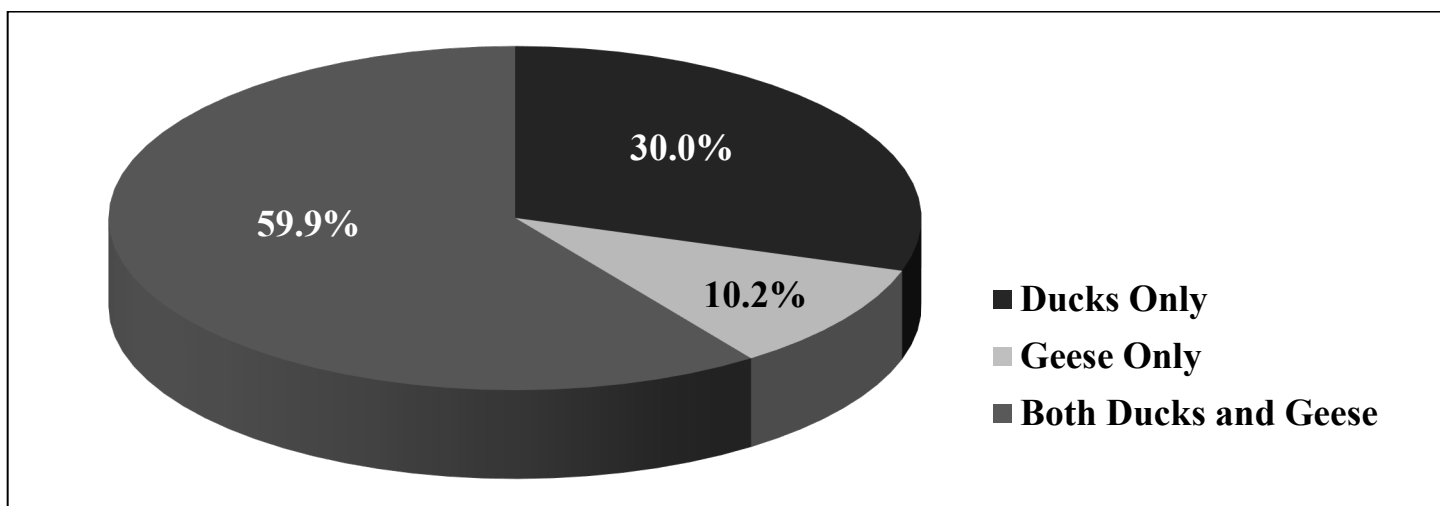


Figure 7. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2021-22 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal season hunters increased from 7,975 during 2020 to 11,382 during 2021 (Figure 8, Table 3). Days afield increased 80.9% from 27,962 during 2020 to 50,585 during 2021. Increased days afield coincided with an increased teal harvest of $28,913 \pm 10,142$ during the 2021 September teal season, a 52.4% increase from the 2020 harvest (18,967). The Central zone accounted for over one-half of teal hunters (53.2%), teal harvested (52.7%), and teal hunter days afield (58.6%; Table 4). The North zone recorded the second-most days afield, hunters, and total teal harvested. September season teal hunters averaged 4.44 days afield statewide, and harvested an average of 0.57 teal per hunter per day and 2.54 teal per hunter for the season (Figure 9, Table 5).

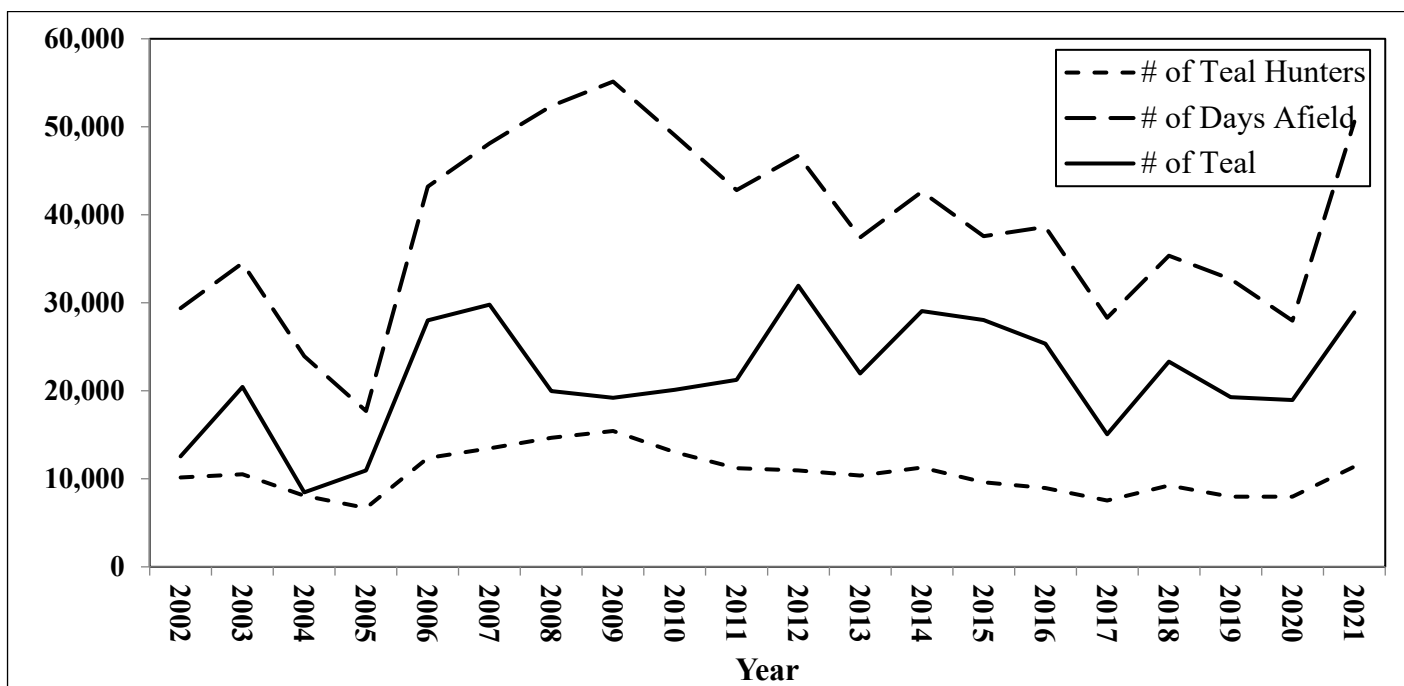


Figure 8. Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2002-2021.

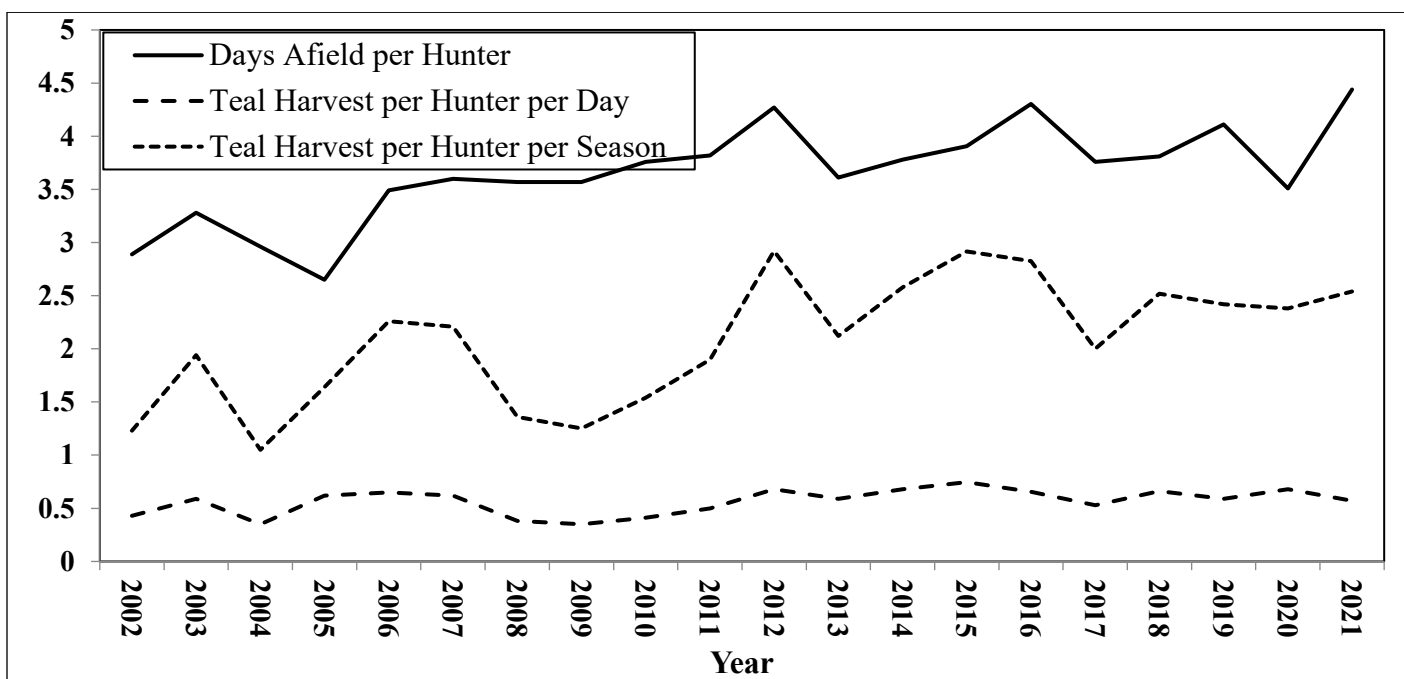


Figure 9. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2002-2021.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting

The Youth Waterfowl Season dates changed in all 4 zones; number of days to hunt remained unchanged between the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Youth aged 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

two weeks earlier in the South zone. Eighteen percent (17.6%) of those who purchased an Illinois waterfowl stamp took a youth hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (Figure 10). The number of adults who participated in the 2021 youth hunt increased 7.6% from 5,029 to 5,410 participants and the number of youth participants decreased 1.3% from 6,950 during 2020 to 6,859 youths during the 2021 youth hunt (Table 6). Forty-one percent (41.4%) of hunting groups who participated in the 2021 youth waterfowl season had at least one youth who had never hunted ducks or geese before (Figure 11), and 18.2% of hunters indicated this was their first time accompanying a youth during the hunt (Figure 12). Forty-eight percent of respondents (47.6%) take a youth hunting each year during the youth waterfowl season, 30.0% take a youth hunting most but not every year, and 22.4% occasionally take a youth hunting. Harvest of ducks during the youth season increased 25.9%, from 7,799 during 2020 to 9,820 during 2021, and geese increased 55.5% from 1,118 to 1,738 from the 2020 to 2021 seasons.

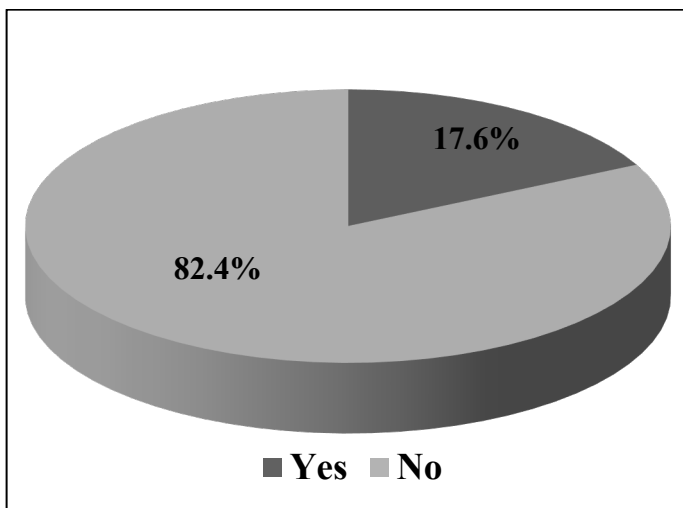


Figure 10. Percentage of hunters* who took a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting during the 2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days ($n = 1,088$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they purchased a stamp for the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.

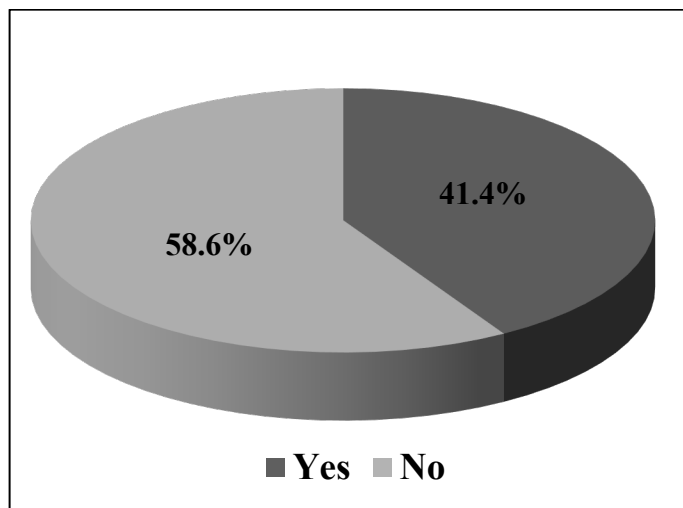


Figure 11. Percentage of hunters* who took at least one youth (17 years old or younger) hunting for the first time ($n = 191$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

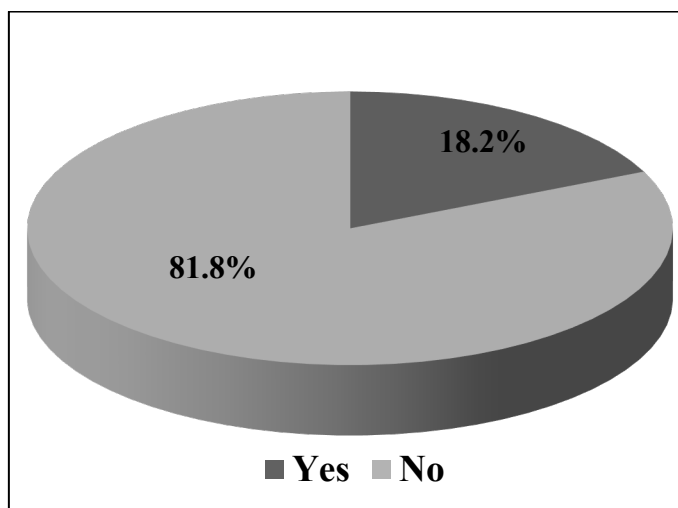


Figure 12. Percentage of hunters* for whom it was their first time taking a youth (17 years old or younger) hunting ($n = 192$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

Regular Duck Season

Number of duck hunters increased by 2,967 (8.6%) from 34,432 during the 2020-21 season to 37,399 in the 2021-22 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 532,635 days afield ($\bar{X} = 14.24$) during the 2021-22 season, an increase of 15.2% from the 462,541 days reported during the 2020-21 season. Almost half of respondents (47.7%) hunted waterfowl in the Central zone most often, followed by the North, South Central, and South zones (Figure 13).

Total duck harvest during 2021-22 was 360,698, an increase of 41.6% from the duck harvest reported for 2020-21 (254,680; Table 7). Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 48.7% of the total regular season duck harvest, whereas wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 11.9% and 39.4%, respectively (Figure 14). Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois increased by 48,040 birds (37.7%) from 127,525 during the 2020-21 season to 175,565 during the 2021-22 season (Figure 15, Table 7). Wood duck harvest increased (21.3%) from 35,335 ducks during 2020-21 to 42,851 during 2021-22. The harvest of other ducks increased 50,463 (55.0%) from 91,820 during 2020-21 to 142,283 during 2021-22, and statewide coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased from 1,701 during 2020-21 to 3,688 coots during 2021-22.

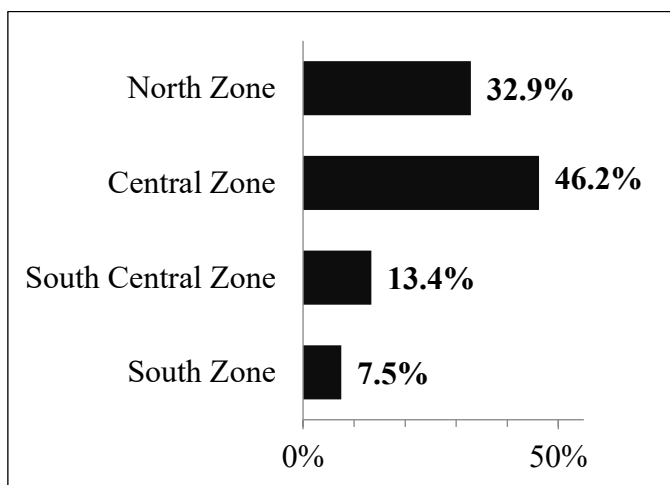


Figure 13. Zones hunters* hunted in most often during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons ($n = 1,530$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.

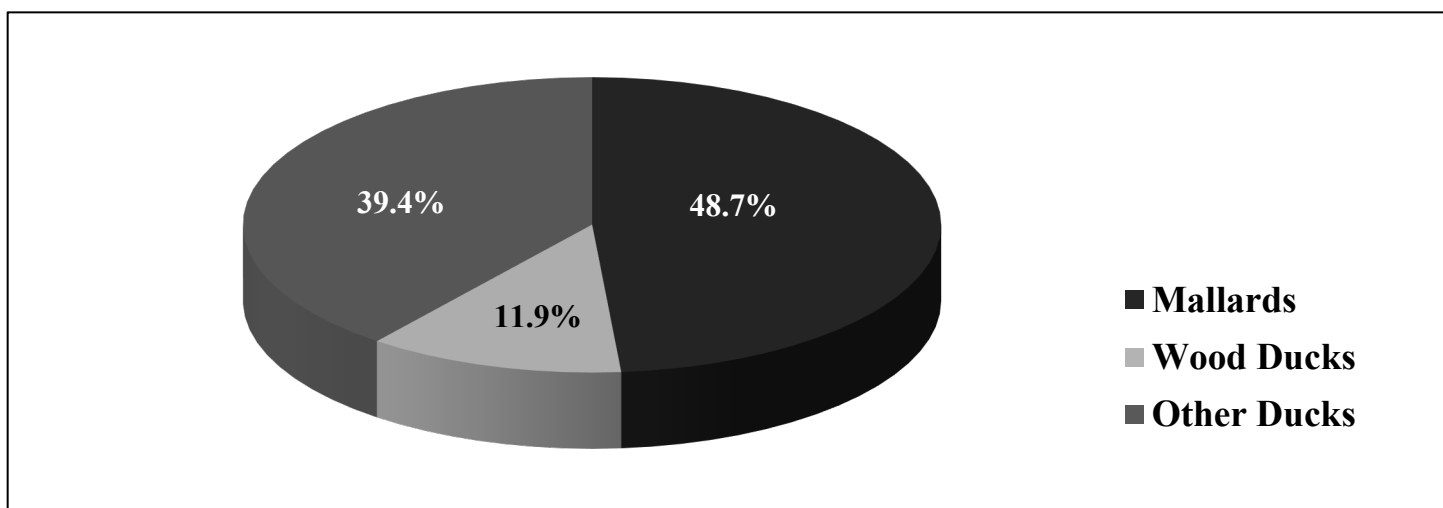


Figure 14. Proportion of mallards, wood ducks, & other ducks harvested during the 2021-22 regular duck season. Proportions are by mallard, wood duck, and other ducks due to how hunters are asked to report their harvest. This order (mallard, wood duck, and other ducks) is not necessarily the order of the most-often harvested ducks in Illinois.

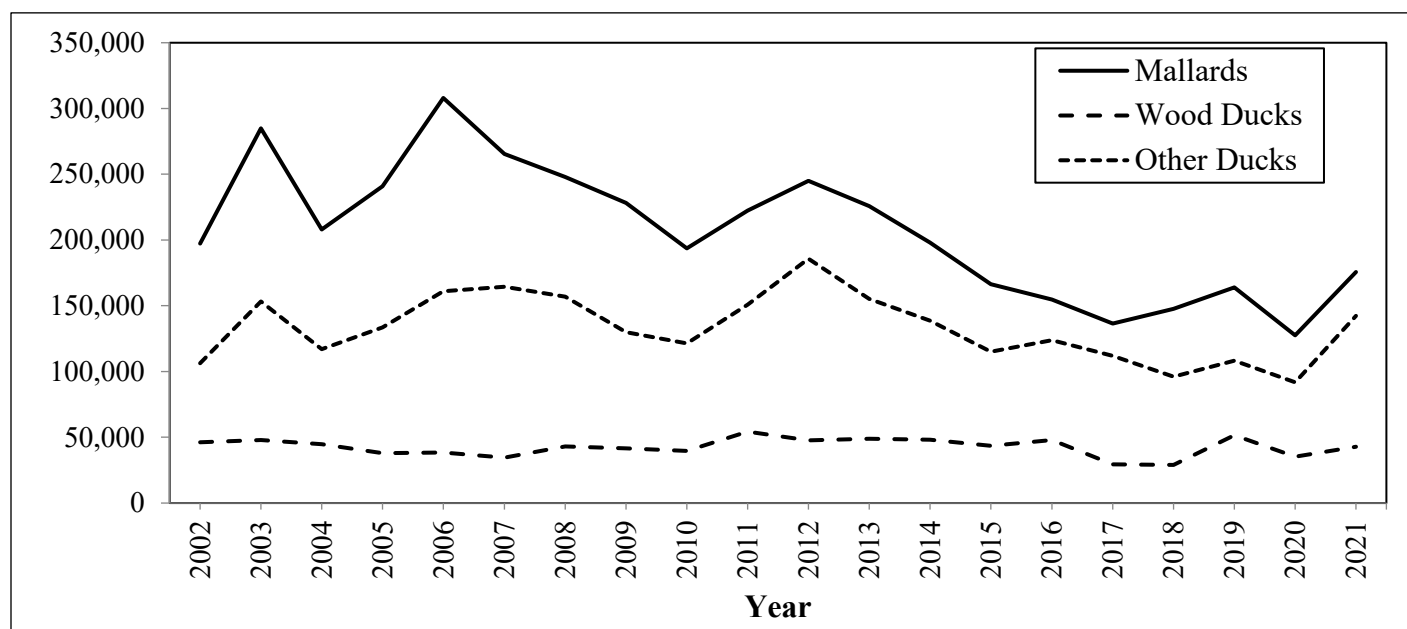


Figure 15. Illinois regular duck season harvest, 2002-2021.

The 2021-22 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 0.85 ducks per day and the Central zone had the highest season success rate (harvest/hunter/season) at 10.39 ducks per season. Duck hunter daily success statewide increased from 0.55 ducks/day for the 2020-21 season to 0.68 ducks/day during 2021-22 and hunter season success increased from 7.40 ducks/hunter/season for the 2020-21 season to 9.64 during 2021-22 (Table 9). Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day ($n = 1,265$), 33.6% hunted 5 days or less; 15.9% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks, whereas 20.7% harvested more than 30 ducks (Figure 16, Table 10).

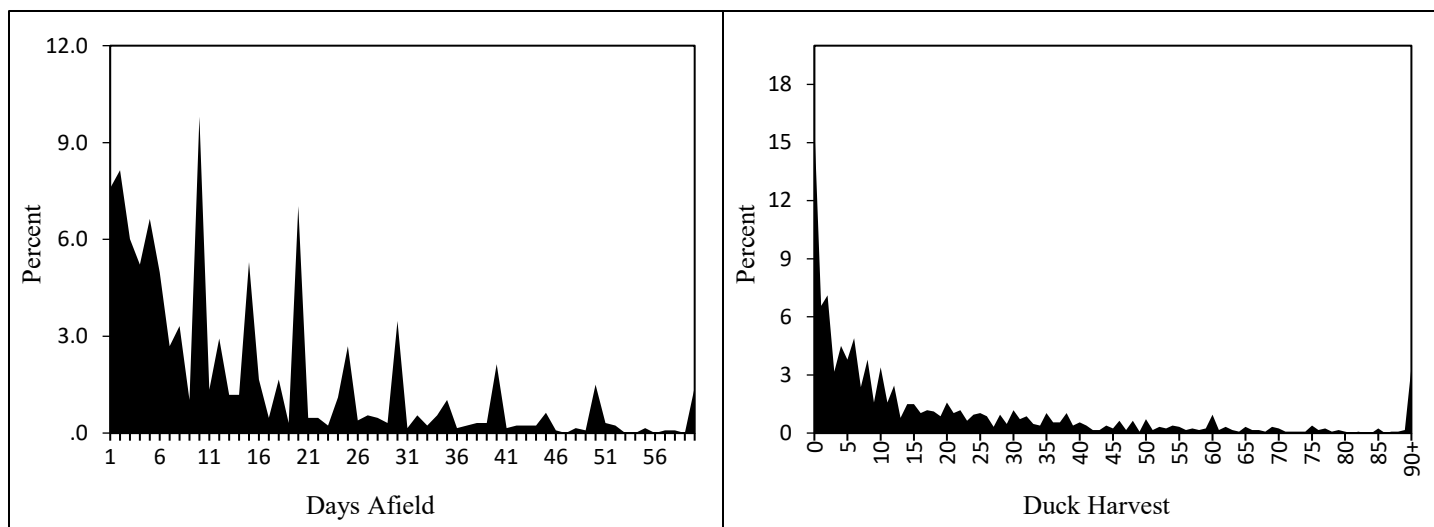


Figure 16. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' during the 2021-22 regular duck season.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 11,855 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2021 season, an increase of 30.8% from the 9,064 who participated during 2020 (Figure 17, Table 11). Statewide, early goose season hunters spent 50,585 days afield in 2021, 47.6% more than 2020 (34,272), and harvested approximately 22,258 Canada geese, an increase from the 2020 (16,811) harvest by 32.4%. The Central zone accounted for the most hunters (50.4%), days afield (50.0%) and harvested Canada geese (51.7%; Figure 18, Table 11).

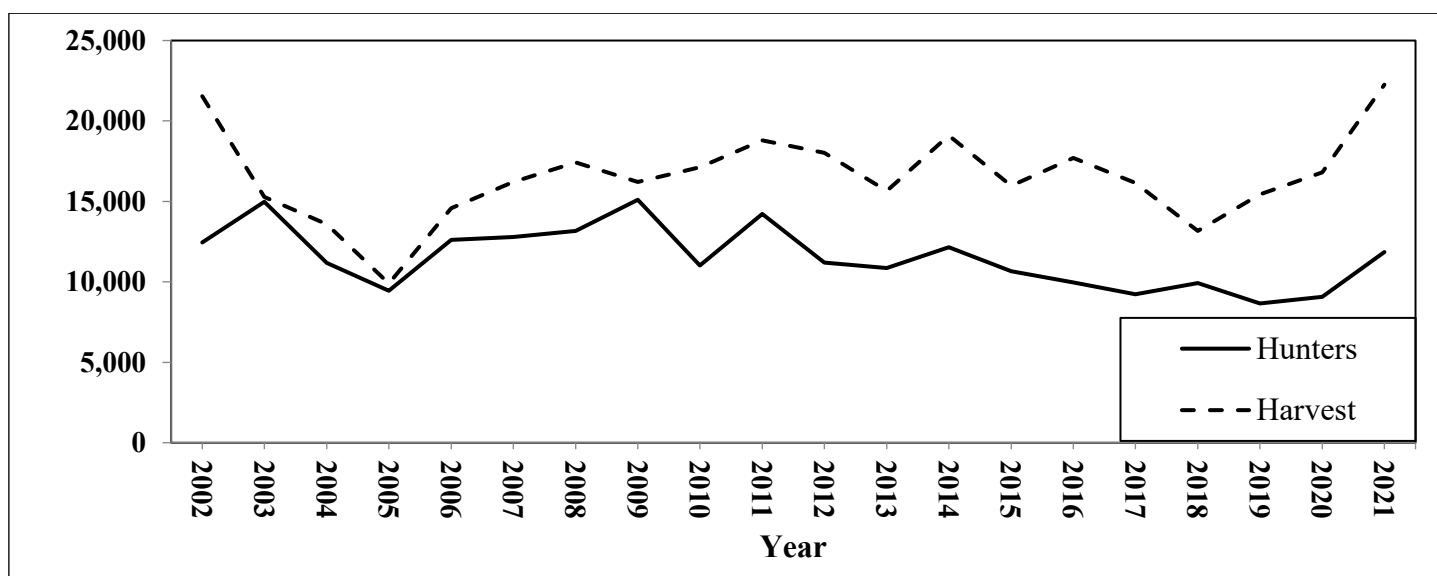


Figure 17. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2002-2021.

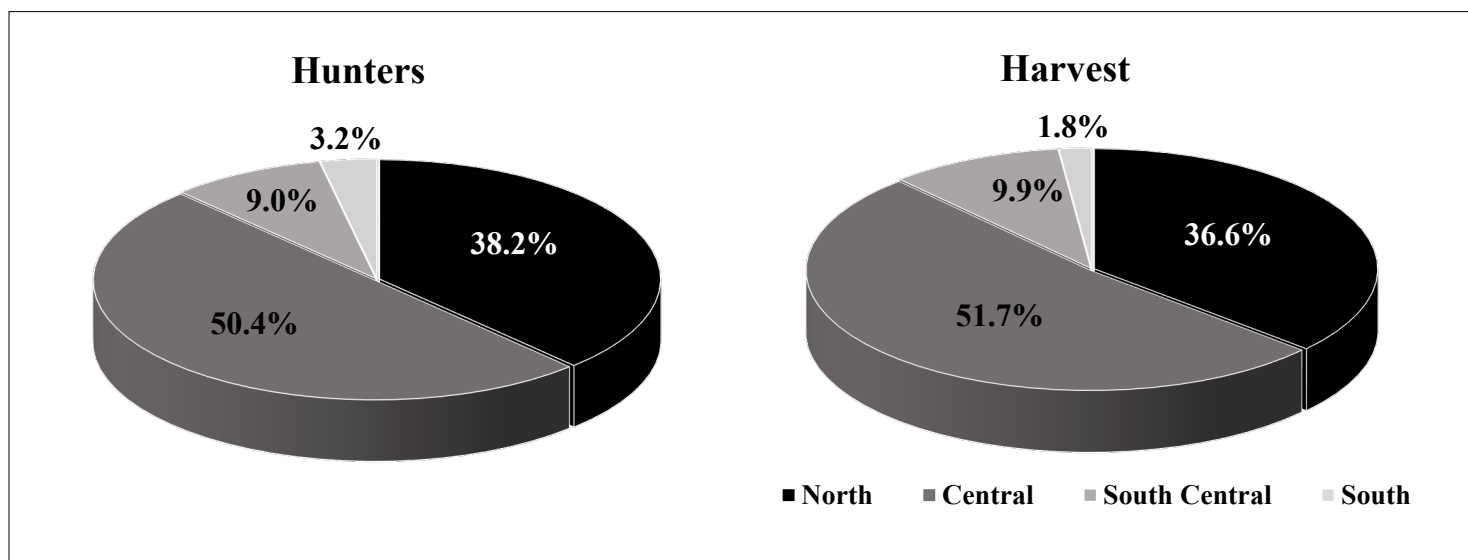


Figure 18. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2021.

Regular Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2021-22 regular goose season increased 5.0% from 2020-21 (Table 12, Figure 19). An estimated 29,180 hunters spent 366,689 days afield and harvested 99,276 Canada geese during 2021-22. Number of goose hunters in Illinois increased 12.2% during 2021-22 compared to 2020-21, and number of days afield increased 17.2%. Hunters also harvested 17,467 other geese, of which 8,705 were light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese) (*Anser caerulescens* and *Anser rossii*) and 8,762 were White-fronted (speckle-bellied) geese (*Anser albifrons*), for a total combined harvest of 116,743 geese (Table 12, Figure 20).

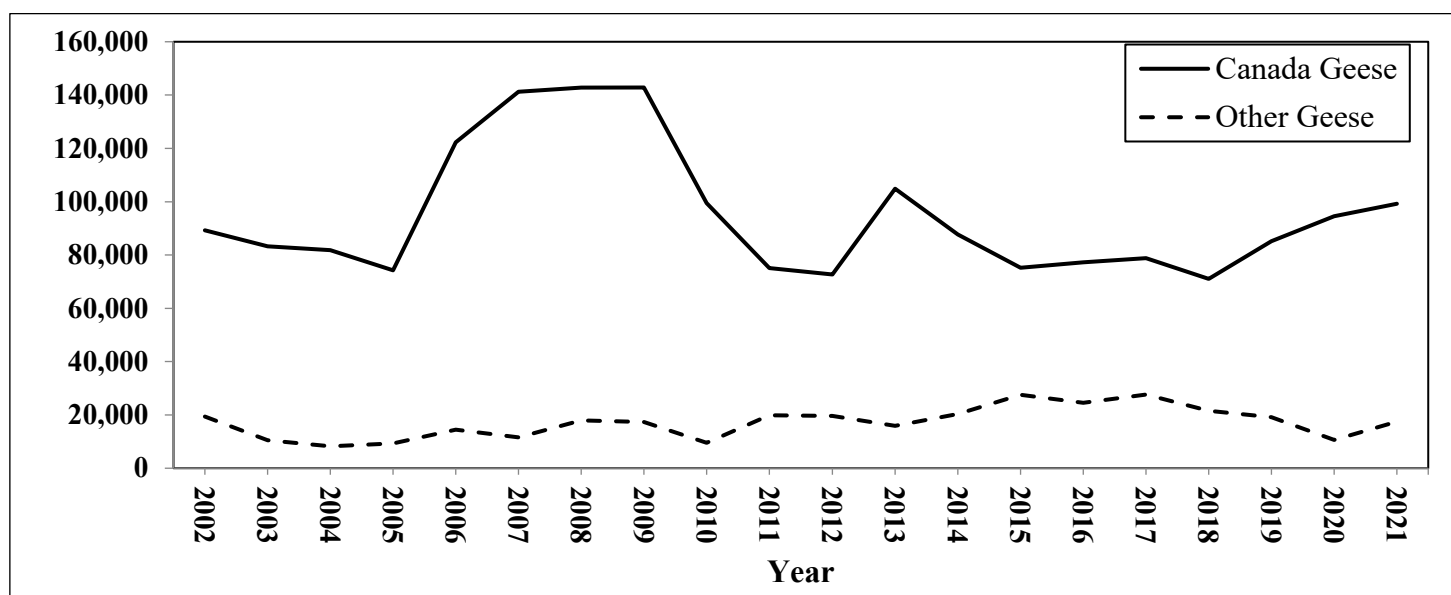


Figure 19. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2002-2021.

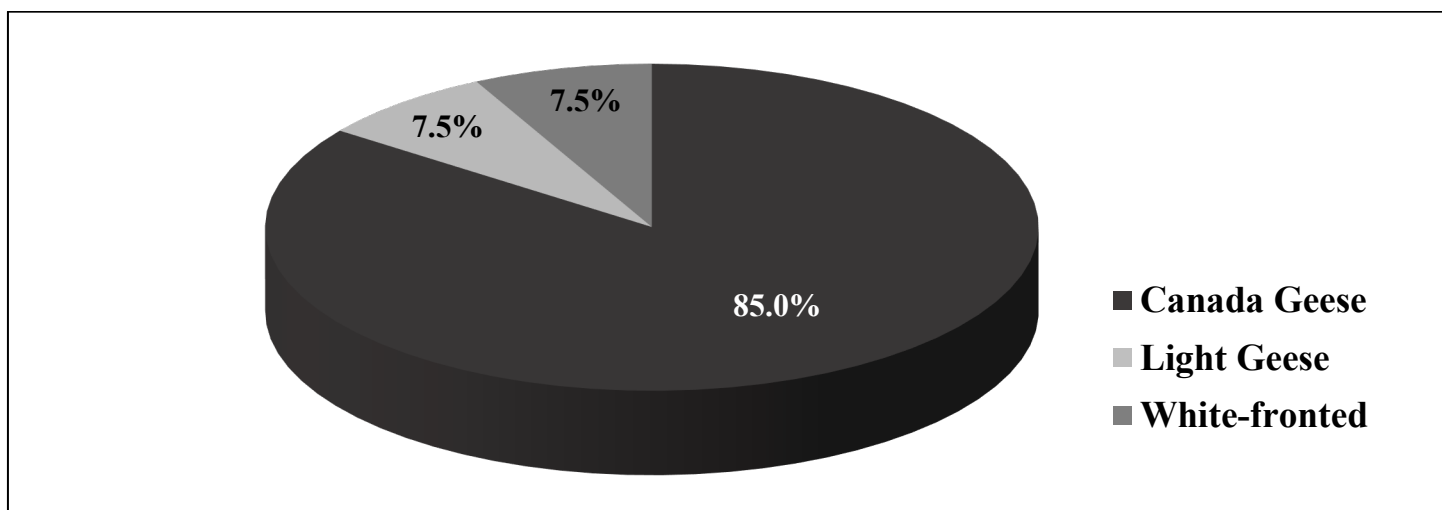


Figure 20. 2021-22 Illinois' regular goose season harvest.

Goose hunters reported a mean of 12.57 days afield and mean harvest of 4.00 geese per season and 0.32 geese per hunter per day; 47.0% of goose hunters harvested ≥ 5 geese (Figure 21, Tables 13 and 14). The Central zone led the state in the number of goose hunters (48.9%) and days afield (48.5%; Table 14). The Central zone harvested the most Canada geese (47.9%), White-fronted (71.3%) and light geese (48.4%; Table 14). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2019-20 through 2021-22) in Table 15.

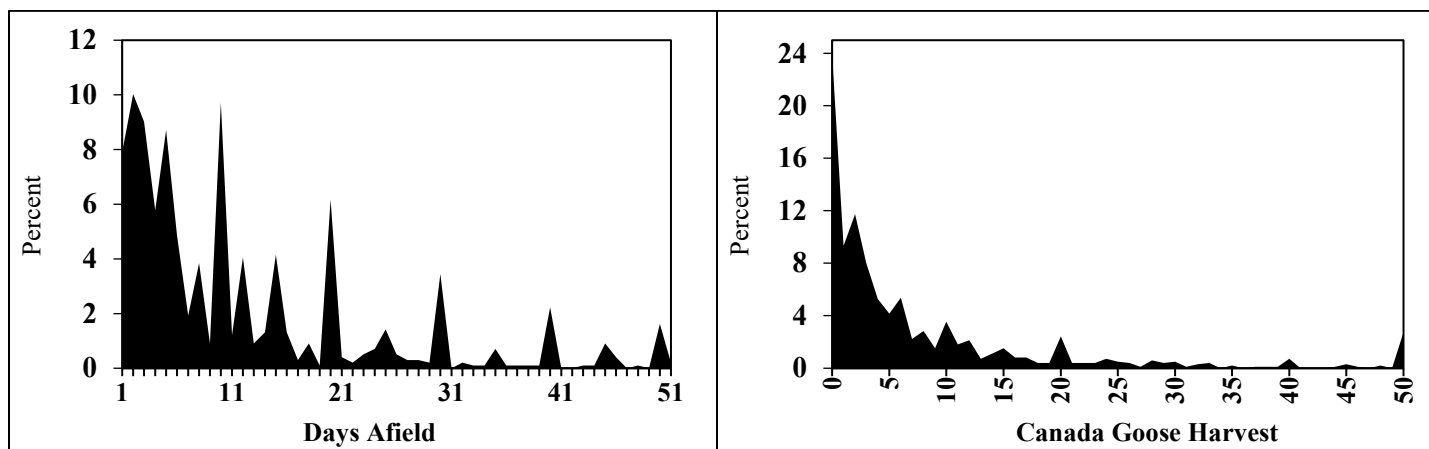


Figure 21. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2021-22 regular goose season.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) during the 2021-22 regular season were estimated at 44,731 ducks and 6,859 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 12.4 ducks and 5.9 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Public and Private Land Use

Over forty percent (42.6%) of hunters hunted on Illinois public lands during 2021-22 (Figure 22). Among those who used public lands, sites in the Central zone were most popular (Figure 23). Over half (51.1%) of hunters who used public lands had ≥ 1 hunt in a blind awarded through a lottery (Figure 24).

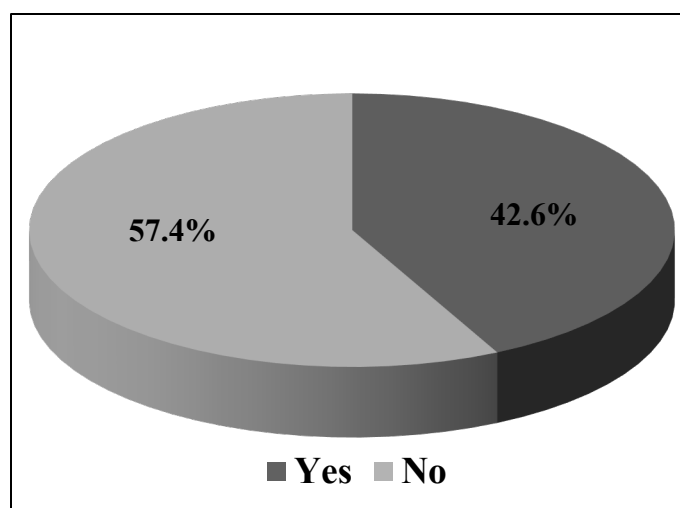


Figure 22. Percentage of hunters* who hunted on Illinois state public lands during 2021-22 ($n = 1,446$)

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least 1 day during 2021-22.

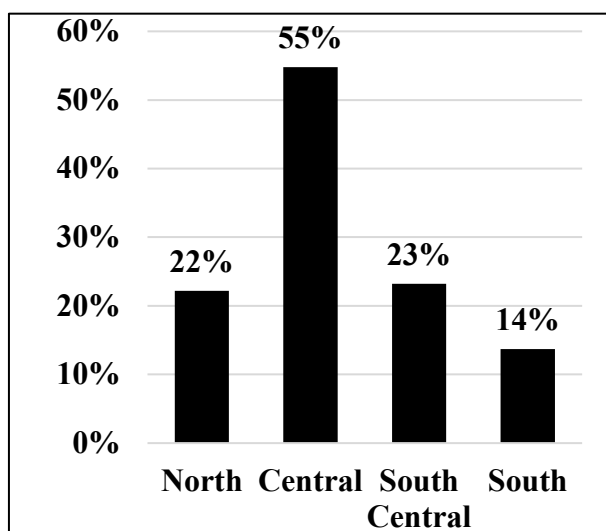


Figure 23. Zone in which public land hunted was located ($n = 652$).

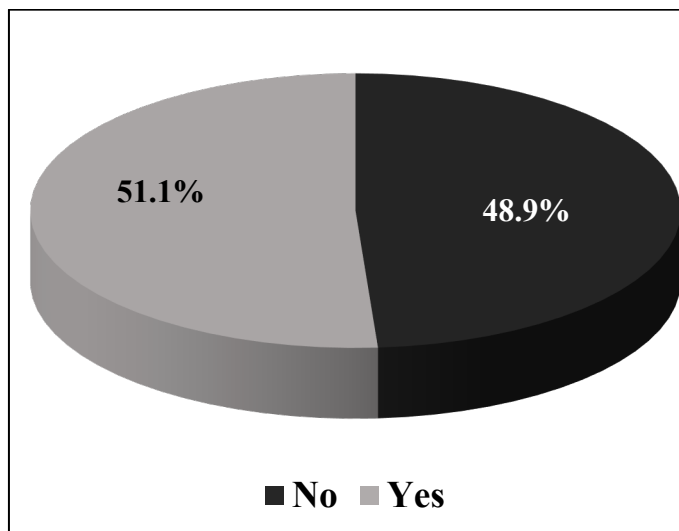


Figure 24. Percentage of waterfowl hunters whose public land use was in a blind awarded by lottery ($n = 652$).

Satisfaction with Season Timing and Zone Configuration

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. Central zone duck hunters harvested the highest average number of ducks per hunter per season ($\bar{X} = 10.39$), an average of 1.06 more than South Central zone hunters and 1.34 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the South zone, and 4.60 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the North zone. South zone duck hunters had the highest level of satisfaction for all aspects of the most recent duck season(s) in Illinois (Table 17). South Central zone hunters were the least satisfied zone with all aspects, except “amount of time you spent duck hunting.”

The most important factors contributing to respondents’ waterfowl hunting experience in Illinois were: (1) seeing ducks in the field, (2) bagging ≥ 1 duck during a day in the field, (3) bagging mallards, and (4) bagging drakes (Table 18). The least important factors were: (1) bagging diving ducks, (2) bagging my daily limit, and (3) bagging a lot of ducks over the season. Satisfaction was low for each aspect of respondents’ most recent waterfowl hunting season in Illinois, though respondents were most satisfied with: (1) bagging drakes, (2) bagging ≥ 1 duck during a day in the field, (3) bagging mallards, and (4) seeing ducks in the field (Table 19).

Respondents were least satisfied with: (1) bagging my daily limit, (2) bagging a lot of ducks over the season, (3) bagging diving ducks, and (4) bagging teal and wood ducks.

When asked about season timing, hunters' opinions varied between regions with most hunters in the South Central zone indicating that the 2021-22 regular duck season was "too early" (57.7%) and South zone hunters believing the season timing was "about right" (52.3%) (Figure 25, Table 20). Most teal hunters and September goose hunters in each zone reported those seasons were timed "about right." At least 50% of goose hunters in the North, Central, and South zones reported timing for the 2021-22 regular goose season was "about right" (64.1%, 53.9%, and 62.7%, respectively). The most important considerations to respondents when deciding on their preferred 2021-22 duck season dates for the zone that they intend to hunt most often during the 2021-22 duck season were: (1) peak of duck migration (39.2%), (2) timing of mallard migration (24.2%), and (3) maximize number of January hunting days (10.7%).

Respondents' most preferred zone options for the duck season in Illinois for 2026 through 2030 were: (1) no preference (38.6%), (2) three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones (22.9%), and (3) two zones with one or two splits and up to 3 season segments in each zone (9.6%; Figure 26). Respondents in the South Central zone most preferred having three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones (39.7%), though respondents in the North, Central, and South zones most frequently had no preference (40.7%, 35.7%, and 28.7%, respectively) and their second preferred zone option was three duck zones with 2 season segments (19.8%, 24.6%, and 26.1%, respectively; Table 21). If a single split season were used for the duck season in Illinois for 2026 through 2030, then respondents' preferred splits were: (1) open and close later using a split to extend season (Option F; 34.6%), (2) open at the current time but close later using a split to give ducks a rest and provide a "second opening day" (Option B; 20.7%), and (3) open earlier and close later using a large split to extend season (Option A; 19.8%) (Figure 27). If a single split season were used, then respondents in each zone most frequently preferred to open and close later using a split to extend the season (North: 25.1%, Central: 35.9%, South Central: 44.3%, South: 42.6%; Table 22). If a three duck zones configuration were used for 2026 through 2030, then respondents in the Central, South Central, and South zones most frequently preferred to combine the South Central and South zones, and no changes to North

and Central zones (28.6%, 53.7%, and 40.0%, respectively), though respondents in the North zone would prefer to combine the North and Central zones, and no changes to South Central and South zones (43.6%; Table 23, Figure 28).

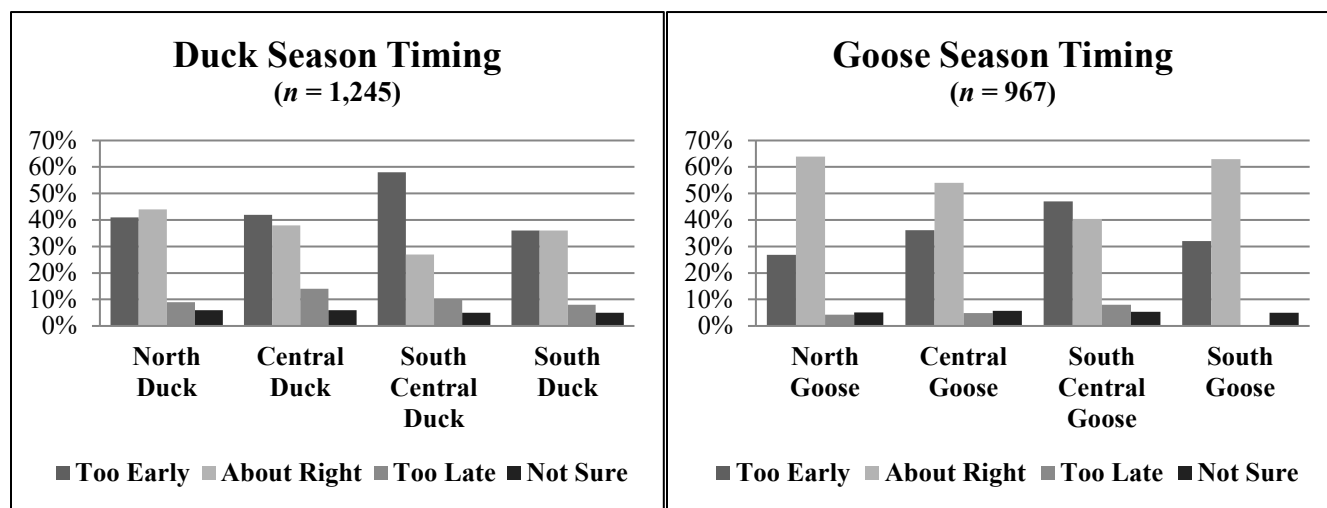


Figure 25. Duck and goose hunter* opinions about the timing of the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.

*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day in the corresponding season zone.

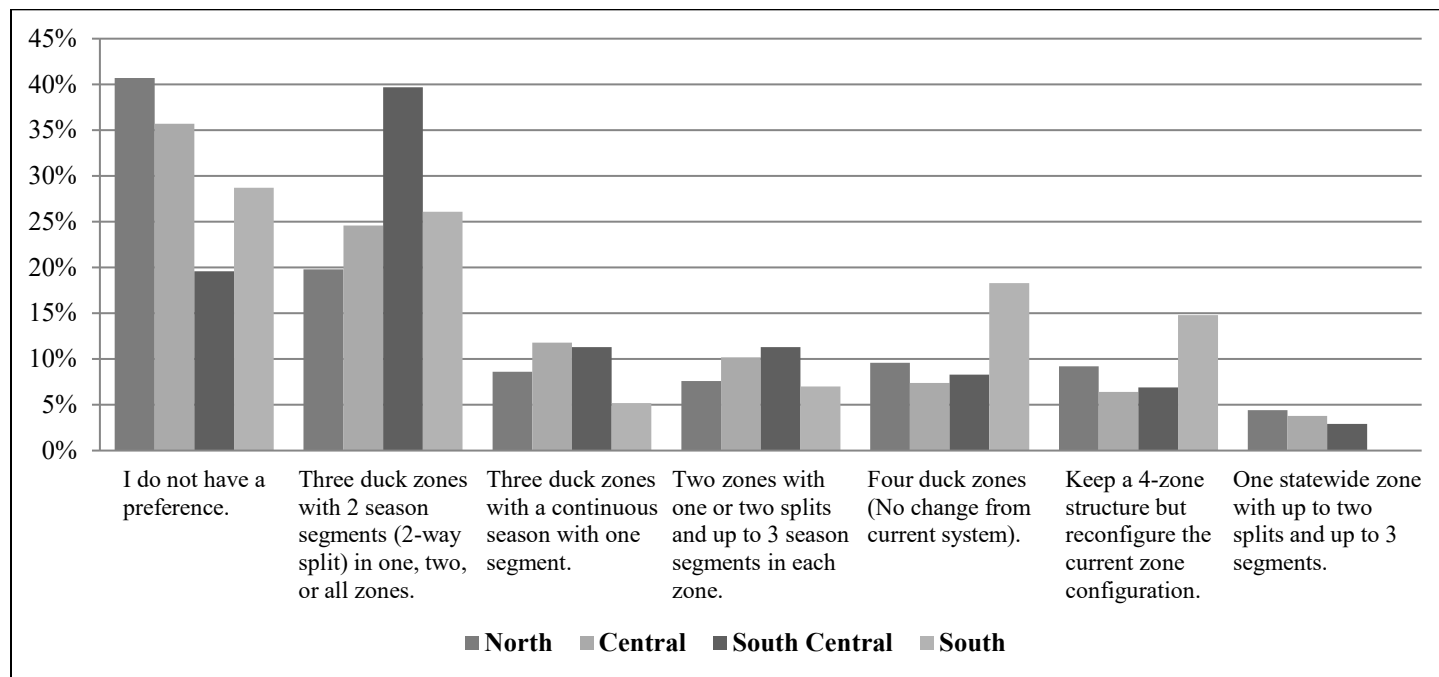


Figure 26. Respondents' preferred zoning option for Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030 (n = 1,848).

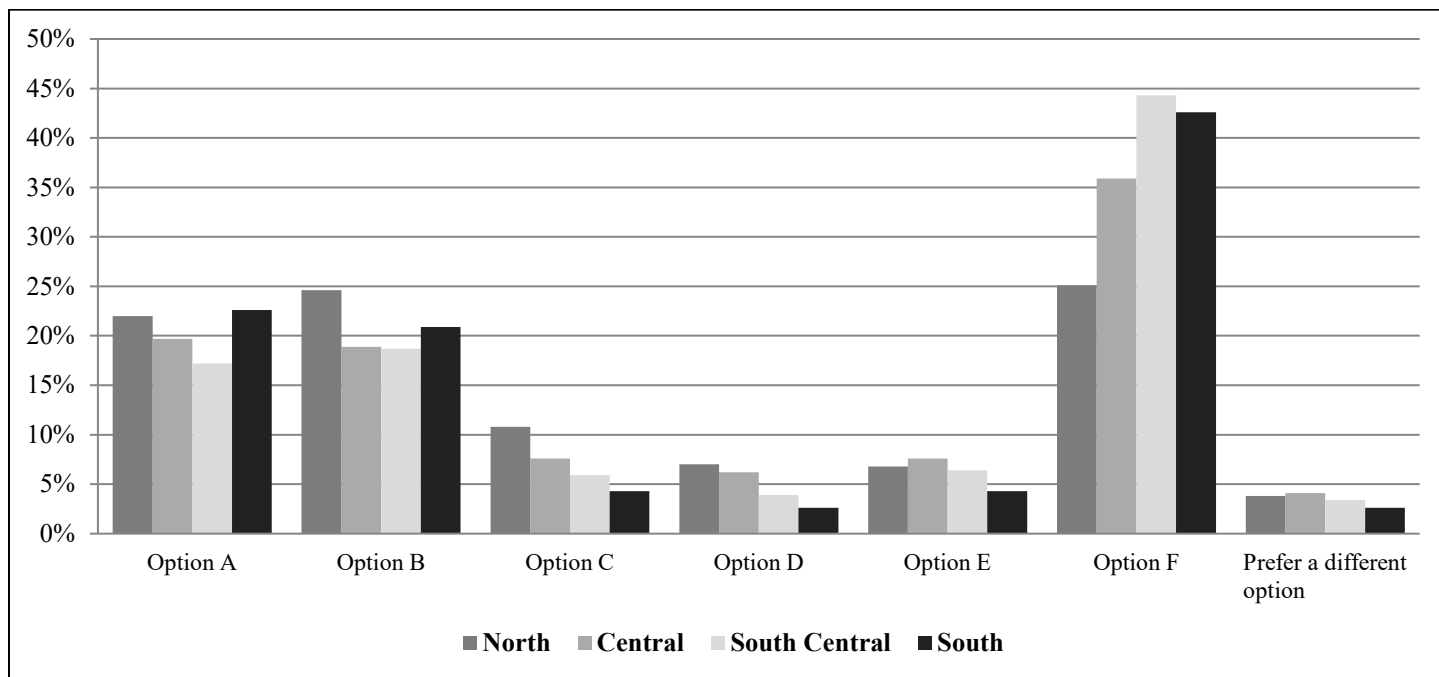


Figure 27. Preferred splits* for the duck hunting season in Illinois for zone hunted most often by respondent ($n = 1,845$).

*Option A – Open earlier and close later using a large split to extend season. Option B – Open at the current time but close later using a split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.” Option C – Open earlier and close at the current time using a small split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.” Option D – Use a split to create a short segment well before the current opening day to target early migrants. Option E – Use a split to create short segment well after the current closing date to target late migrants. Option F – Open and close later using a split to extend season.

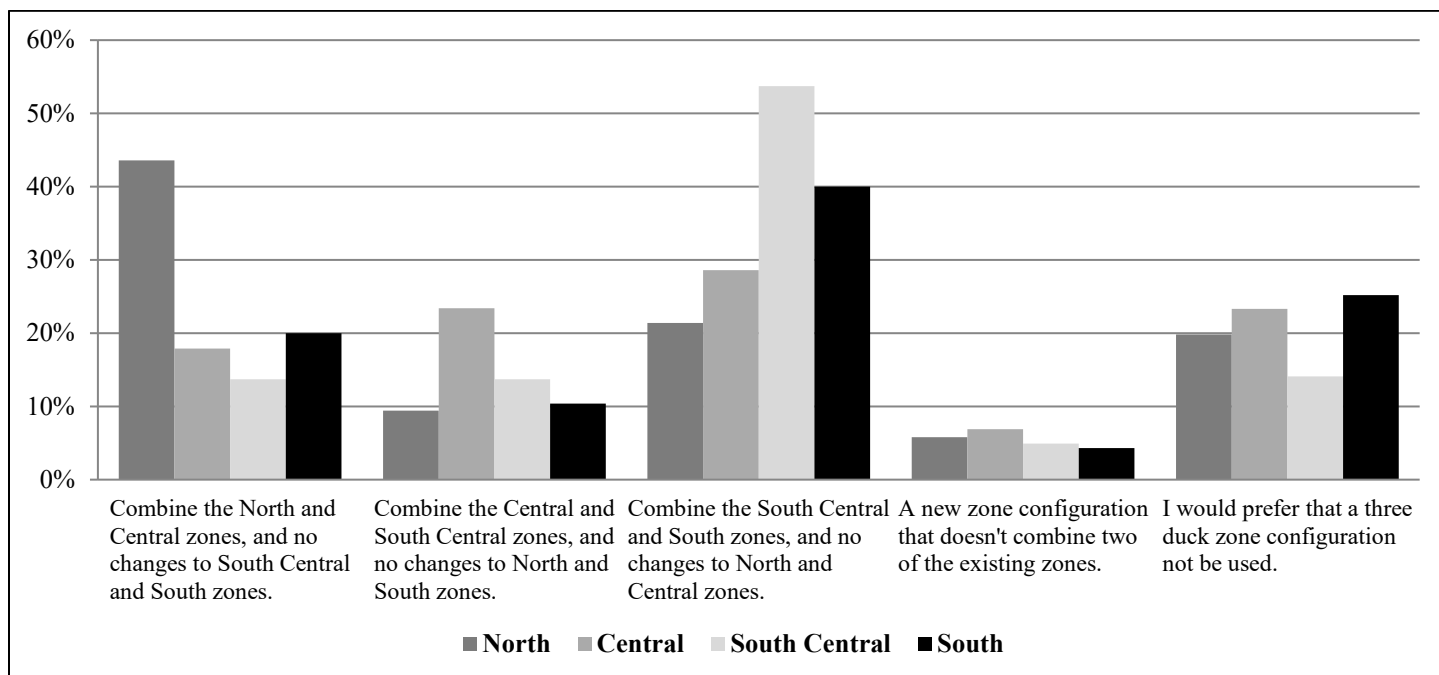


Figure 28. Respondents' preference for zones to combine if a three duck zone configuration was used in Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030 ($n = 1,847$).

Communication with IDNR

Most respondents (90.7%) had Internet access at home (Figure 29) with 83.6% also having high-speed internet access at home (Figure 30). Thirty-nine percent of respondents' (39.4%) would like reminders to renew their hunting license each year (Figure 31) and the preferred method to receive reminders were: (1) email (73.1%), (2) text (48.6%), and (3) social media (12.5%; Figure 32). Most respondents (57.1%) would like reminders about permit due dates (Figure 33) and the preferred method to receive reminders were: (1) email (69.4%), (2) text (47.8%), and (3) social media (13.1%; Figure 34). Thirty-nine percent of respondents (39.5%) have missed a permit application deadline because they did not know it was due (Figure 35). Twenty-three percent of respondents (22.9%) receive announcements from the IDNR in their email (Figure 36) and 31.5% have signed up for email announcements from the IDNR (Figure 37). Most respondents (62.8%) would use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy (Figure 38).

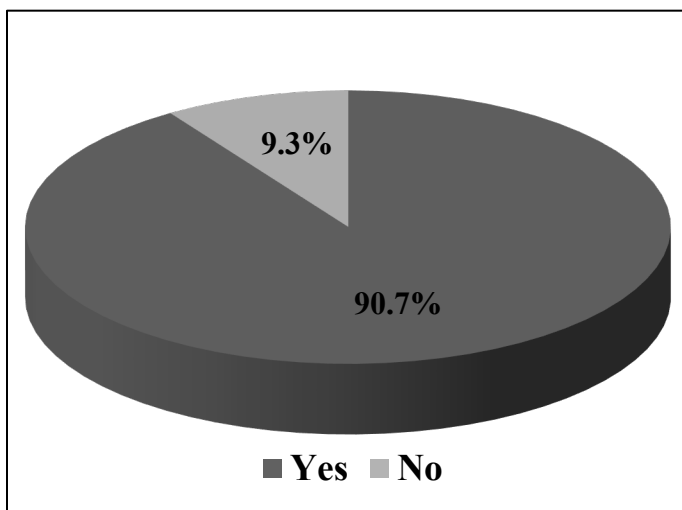


Figure 29. Percentage of respondents who have internet access in their home ($n = 1,874$).

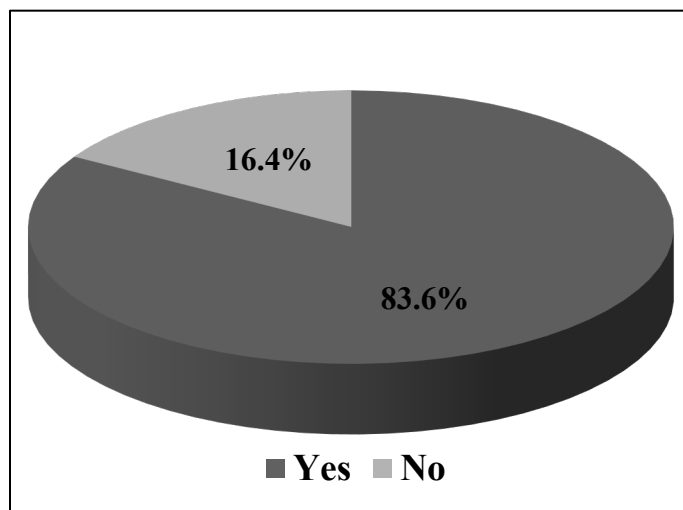


Figure 30. Percentage of respondents who have high-speed internet access in their home ($n = 1,699$).

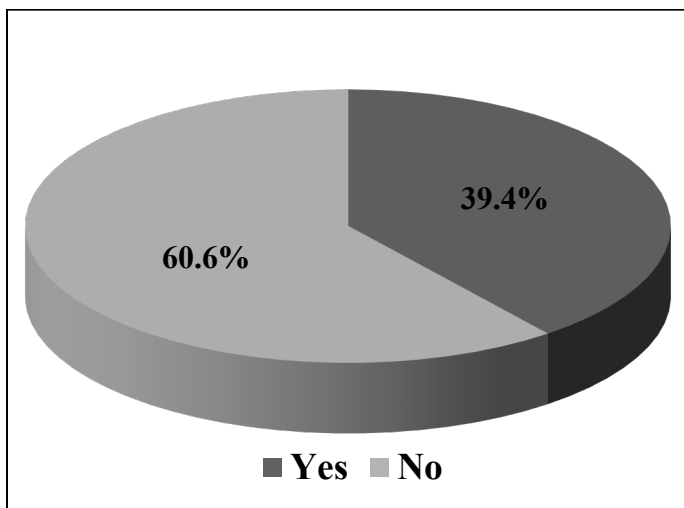


Figure 31. Whether respondent would like reminders to renew hunting license each year ($n = 1,870$).

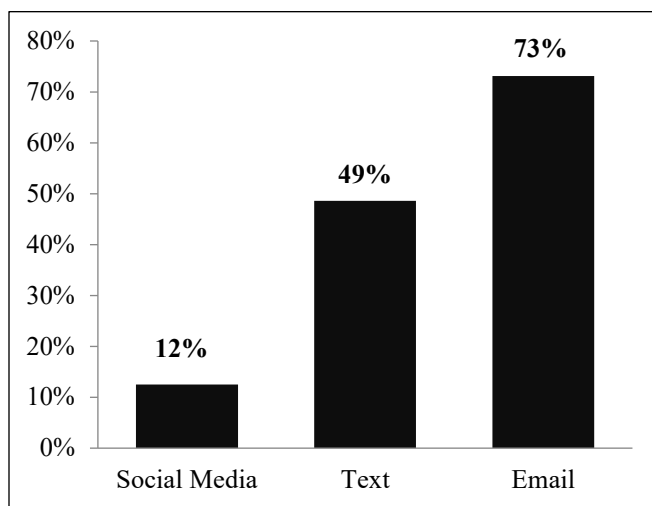


Figure 32. Percentage of respondents who have a preference in how they receive reminders ($n = 737$).

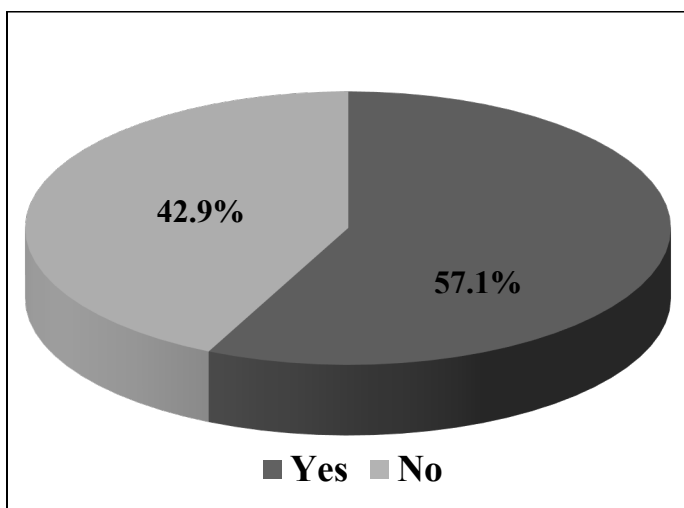


Figure 33. Percentage of respondent who would like reminders about permit due dates ($n = 1,871$).

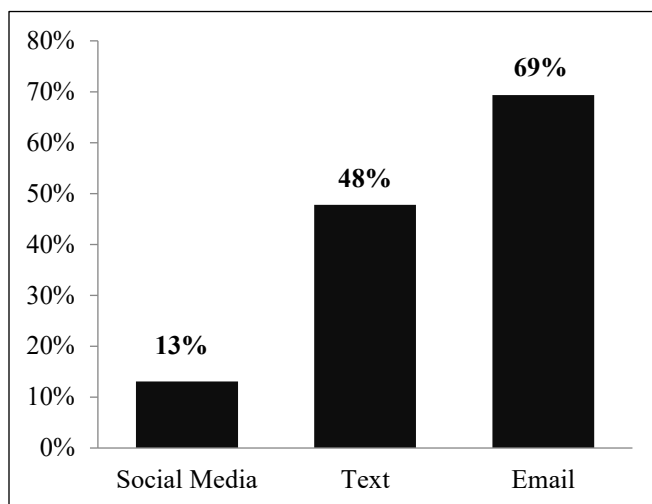


Figure 34. Percentage of respondents who have a preference on how they are reminded about permit due dates ($n = 1,068$).

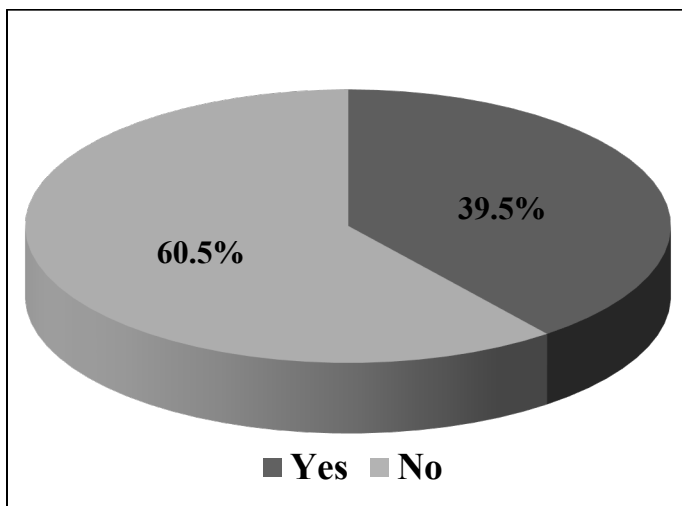


Figure 35. Percentage of respondents who have missed a permit application deadline because they did not know it was due ($n = 1,868$).

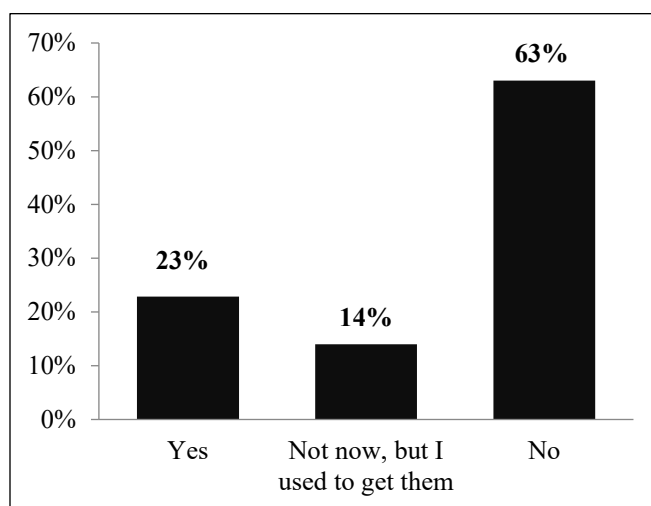


Figure 36. Percentage of respondents who receive announcements from IDNR via email ($n = 1,873$).

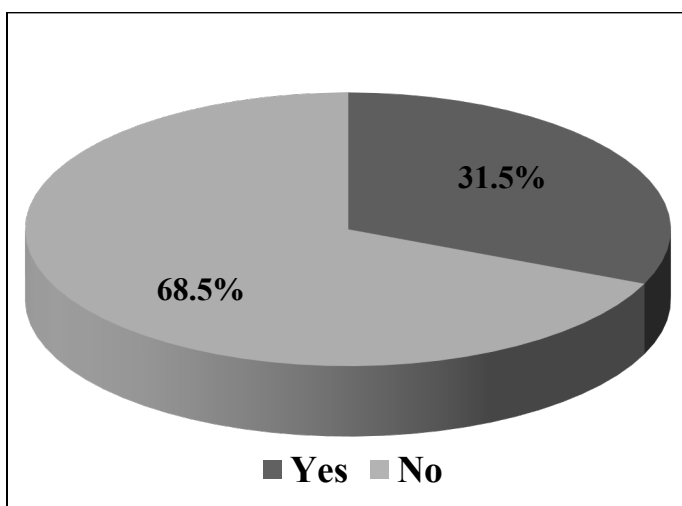


Figure 37. Percentage of respondents who have signed up for announcements from IDNR via email ($n = 1,868$).

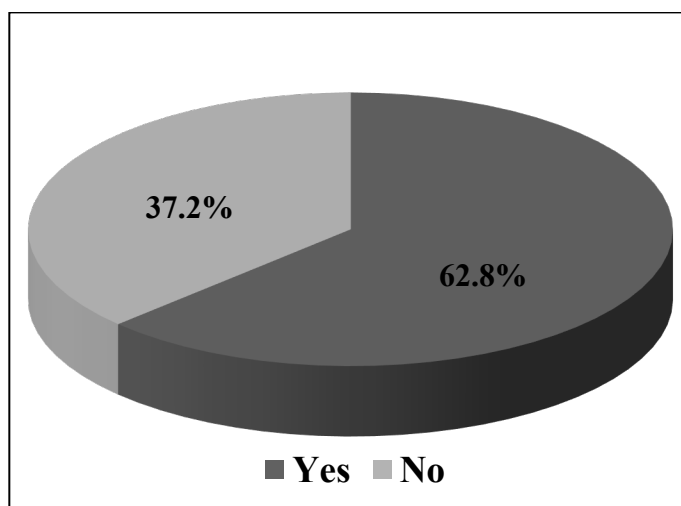


Figure 38. Whether respondent would use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy ($n = 1,866$).

Hunter Characteristics

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2021-22 waterfowl season have hunted waterfowl in Illinois for a mean of 27.7 years. These hunters averaged 51.0 years of age and started at the age of 20.0 years of age. The counties with most respondents were Cook, Madison, Will, St. Clair, and McHenry. Females comprised 2.6% of survey respondents and 2.3% of those who hunted during the 2021-22 waterfowl hunting seasons (Figure 39). Most respondents (97.8%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois before this season (Figure 40).

Most respondents (65.9%) reported they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois, whereas 1.1% reported they never hunted waterfowl in Illinois (Figure 41). Over forty percent of respondents (41.7%) hunted fewer days during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons compared to the 5 years prior to the 2021-22 seasons. (Figure 42). The main reasons for hunting fewer days were: (1) lack of waterfowl in areas(s) hunted (61.9%), (2) lack of access to hunting land (25.9%), (3) change in work schedule/location (19.1%), and (4) personal health (12.8%). The main reasons for hunting more days were: (1) increased access to hunting land (40.2%), (2) change in work schedule/location (39.2%), (3) more hunting partners available (35.9%), and (4) other reasons (21.1%). Less than half of respondents (45.2%) belong to a waterfowl hunting organization with 19.6% belonging to a local organization, 12.0% belonging to a state organization, and 34.5% belonging to a national organization (Figure 43).

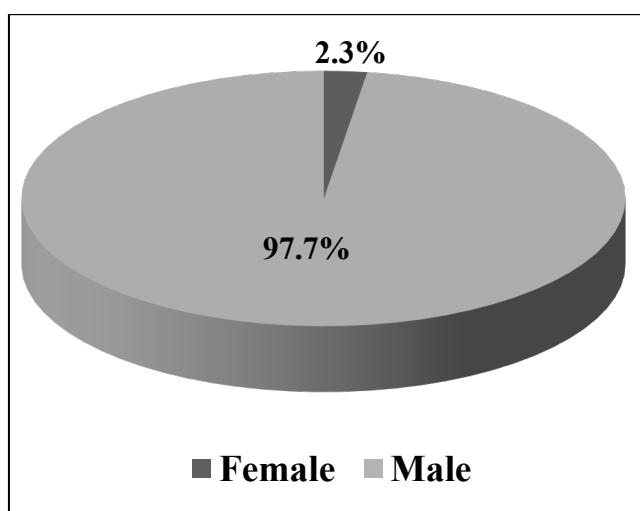


Figure 39. Gender distribution of respondents who hunted* waterfowl during one of the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons ($n = 1,446$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day or more during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.

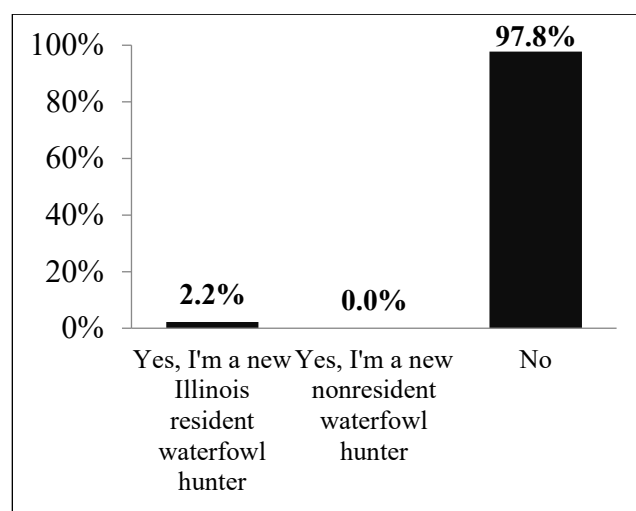


Figure 40. Number of hunters* whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was during one of the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons ($n = 1,536$).

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least one day during the 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.

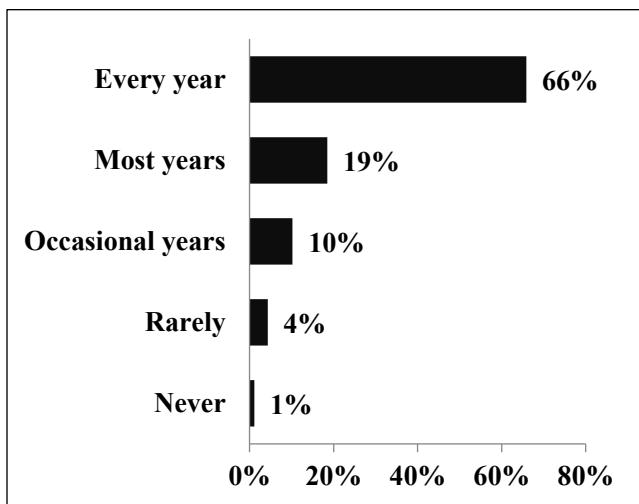


Figure 41. How often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois ($n = 1,880$).

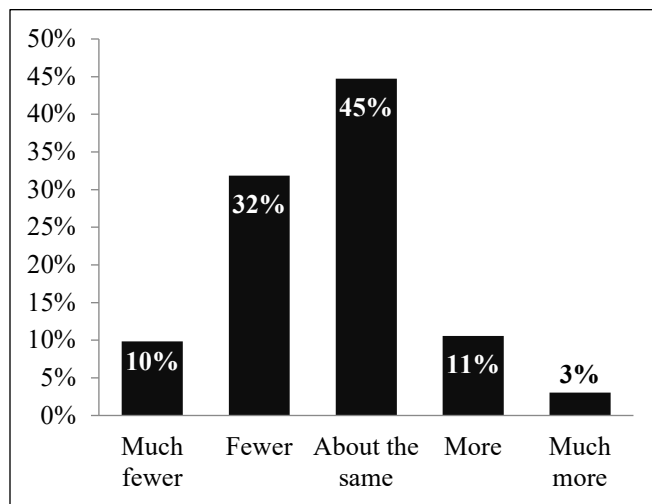


Figure 42. Comparison between the number of days hunted during the 2021-22 waterfowl season compared to the last 5 years ($n = 1,536$).

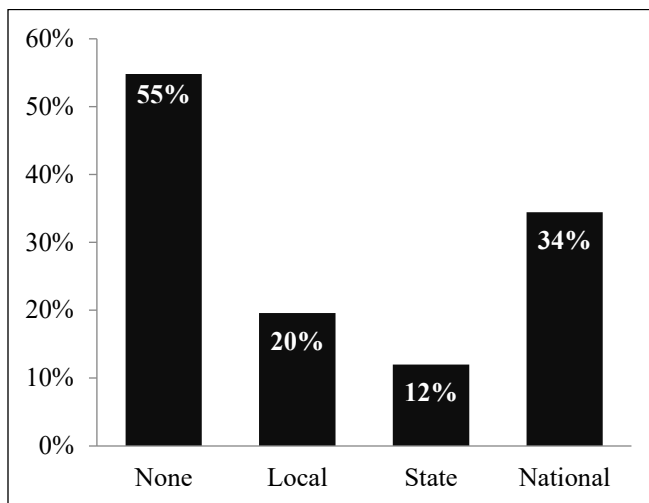


Figure 43. Percentage of respondents who belong to waterfowl hunting organizations ($n = 1,880$).

REFERENCES

- Anderson, W.L. 1985. Illinois waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward illegal kill during September teal season and goose hunting regulations in 1983. Illinois Department of Conservation, Waterfowl Program, Periodic Report 48. 31pp.
- _____. 1986. Illinois waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, zones for Carlyle Lake, and shotguns, ammunitions, and boats used in 1984. Illinois Department of Conservation, Waterfowl Program, Periodic Report 54. 32pp.
- _____, R.W. Marshalla, R.M. Whitton, and D.J. Holm. 1998. Illinois waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward youth waterfowl hunting day, quality hunting, and duck/goose regulations, plus sex/age of hunters, 1996-97 season. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Waterfowl Program, Periodic Report 95. 79pp.
- _____, D.D. Thornburg, and R.M. Whitton. 1996. Estimating Canada goose harvest in southern Illinois quota zones. Wildlife Society Bulletin 24:233-237.
- IBM SPSS Inc. 2021. SPSS Statistics 28.0. IBM Corporation, 1 New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY, U.S.A.
- Miller, C. A., & Alessi, M.G. (2012, February). *Assessment of Illinois Duck Hunter Expectations and Satisfaction for 2011-12 Season with Special Emphasis on the New Fourth Zone in Illinois*. Paper presented at the Mississippi Flyway Council Technical Session.
- Williams, B. D., Campbell, L. K., Conat, R. J., & Miller, C. A. 2018. 2016-17 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Zone Option Preferences. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-26. Human Dimensions Research Program Report HR-17-03/INHS Technical Report (12). Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 96pp.
- Vaske, J. J. 2008. Survey research and analysis: Applications in parks, recreation, and human dimensions. State College, PA: Venture Publishing, Inc.

Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 2009 through 2021 hunting seasons.

Season ^a (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest ^b
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
2020	52,849	39,525	837,609	406,259
2021	54,044	42,839	1,000,494	543,858

^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 2009 through 2021 seasons.

Season ^a (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
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%
2020	32.6%	10.7%	56.7%	87.1%	65.8%
2021	30.0%	10.2%	59.9%	87.3%	68.1%

^a 1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

^b 2009-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample.

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during September teal season (Illinois, 2009-21).

Season ^a (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
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
2020	7,975	27,962	18,967 ± 8,767
2021	11,382	50,585	28,913 ± 10,142

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September teal season (Illinois, 2021).

	<i>n</i>	Estimated Hunters ^a	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	102	3,016	14,102	6,147
Central Zone	205	6,061	26,638	16,930
South Central Zone	60	1,774	7,125	4,799
South Zone	20	591	2,276	963
Unknown	1	30	443	74

^aThe 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, 2009-2021).

Season ^a (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2020	16/6	3.51	0.68	2.38
2021	16/6	4.44	0.57	2.54

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2009-2021.

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
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
2020	5,029	6,950	14,926	1.38	7,799	1.04	48	0.01	1,118	0.16
2021	5,410	6,859	13,156	1.27	9,820	1.49	0	0.00	1,738	0.28

^a1996 - 2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

^bResults include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2-day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

^cResults 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 2009-2021).

Season (Year) ^a	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks					Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Canvasback	Other Ducks	Total	
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
2020	34,432	462,541	127,525	35,335	3,739	88,081	254,680 ± 26,546	1,701 ± 1,224
2021	37,399	532,635	175,565	42,851	4,266	138,017	360,698 ± 36,223	3,688 ± 3,718

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

^bHunters 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 2021-22).

Zone	<i>n</i>	Hunters ^a	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted/ Hunter	Ducks/ Hunter/ Day	Ducks/ Hunter/ Season
North	433	12,801	138,924	74,148	10.85	0.53	5.79
Central	603	17,827	263,243	185,296	14.77	0.70	10.39
South Central	215	6,356	79,972	59,321	12.58	0.74	9.33
South	154	4,553	48,663	41,221	10.69	0.85	9.05
Unknown	2	59	1,833	711	31.00	0.39	12.02
Statewide	1,265	37,399	532,635	360,698	14.24	0.68	9.64

^aThe 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 2009-2021).

Season ^a (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield/ Hunter	Duck Harvest/Hunter ^b	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2020	60/6(4,2)	13.43	0.55	7.40
2021	60/6(4,2)	14.24	0.68	9.64

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.^bExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

Table 10. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2021-22.

	Days Hunting Ducks (%)	Number of Ducks Harvested (%)
0	---	15.9%
1-5	33.6%	25.1%
6-10	21.8%	16.0%
11-15	11.9%	7.8%
16-20	11.1%	5.8%
21-25	5.0%	4.8%
26-30	5.2%	3.8%
>30	11.3%	20.7%

*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 2009-2021).

	Year ^a	Statewide	Waterfowl Zone				Unknown
			North	Central	South Central	South	
Hunters ^b	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
	2020	9,064	3,747	4,036	1,025	352	0
	2021	11,855	4,523	5,972	1,064	384	0
Days Afield	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
	2020	34,272	15,054	14,638	3,491	1,089	0
	2021	50,585	19,838	25,307	4,435	1,005	0
Canada Geese	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
	2020	16,811	8,421	7,165	750	475	0
	2021	22,258	8,140	11,503	2,205	410	0

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

^bLess 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 2009-2021).

Season ^a (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
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
2020	26,008	312,834	94,510 (0)	10,625 (0)	105,135 (0) ± 18,356
2021	29,180	366,689	99,276 (0)	17,467 (0)	116,743 (0) ± 18,853

Numbers in parentheses represent the number of geese harvested while duck hunting.

^a1981-2021 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	---	23.9%
1-5	41.4%	38.5%
6-10	21.3%	15.5%
11-15	11.7%	7.3%
16-20	8.8%	4.9%
21-25	3.2%	2.4%
26-30	4.8%	2.0%
>30	8.8%	5.5%

Table 14. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2021-22).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Estimated Goose Harvest				Total Days Hunted/ Hunter	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Day	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Season
			Canada Geese	White- Fronted Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese ^b	Total Geese			
North	11,294	133,720	44,445	170	382	44,996	11.84	0.34	3.98
Central	14,280	177,979	47,596	6,246	4,211	58,054	12.46	0.33	4.07
South Central	3,075	32,758	4,748	1,668	2,911	9,327	10.65	0.28	3.03
South	2,099	22,233	2,487	678	1,201	4,367	10.59	0.20	2.08
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	29,180	366,689	99,276	8,762	8,705	116,743	12.57	0.32	4.00

^aLess than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.

^bHarvest estimates include Ross' geese.

Table 15. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season, three-year trend (Illinois 2019-20 through 2021-22).

Zone	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	44,385	49,620	44,445	46,150	3,005
Central	36,868	40,450	47,596	41,638	5,462
South Central	1,887	2,985	4,748	3,207	1,443
South	2,047	1,454	2,487	1,996	518
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	85,188	94,510	99,276	92,991	7,166

Table 16. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2009-2021 regular seasons).

Season ^a (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
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
2020	33,984	13.3	7,495	7.1
2021	44,731	12.4	6,859	5.9

^a1981-2021 information can be located in Appendix F.

*Amended from 2012-13 report.

Table 17. Illinois duck hunters' satisfaction with various aspects of the 2021-22 duck seasons.

	Zone (<i>n</i> in parentheses)	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	\bar{x} (S.D.) ^a
Number of ducks you saw	North (398)	23.1%	32.9%	21.9%	19.6%	2.5%	2.5 (1.1)
	Central (565)	22.3%	34.9%	21.2%	17.5%	4.1%	2.5 (1.1)
	South Central (175)	34.9%	32.0%	21.7%	10.9%	0.6%	2.1 (1.0)
	South (105)	13.3%	30.5%	25.7%	25.7%	4.8%	2.8 (1.1)
Mid-season matched peak of duck migration	North (396)	22.7%	35.6%	31.6%	9.3%	0.8%	2.3 (0.9)
	Central (562)	27.9%	37.9%	23.7%	8.4%	2.1%	2.2 (1.0)
	South Central (176)	34.7%	33.0%	26.1%	6.3%	0.0%	2.0 (0.9)
	South (104)	18.3%	34.6%	33.7%	13.5%	0.0%	2.4 (0.9)
Amount of shooting you got in	North (398)	23.1%	30.4%	29.9%	13.3%	3.3%	2.4 (1.1)
	Central (561)	21.9%	29.6%	28.3%	17.3%	2.9%	2.5 (1.1)
	South Central (176)	30.7%	33.5%	23.9%	11.4%	0.6%	2.2 (1.0)
	South (105)	14.3%	32.4%	25.7%	24.8%	2.9%	2.7 (1.1)
Number of ducks migrating through areas you hunted	North (400)	25.8%	34.0%	26.0%	13.0%	1.3%	2.3 (1.0)
	Central (563)	25.4%	39.4%	19.4%	13.0%	2.8%	2.3 (1.1)
	South Central (178)	32.6%	43.8%	14.6%	8.4%	0.6%	2.0 (0.9)
	South (105)	18.1%	27.6%	30.5%	21.9%	1.9%	2.6 (1.1)
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North (402)	13.9%	23.6%	30.8%	25.9%	5.7%	2.9 (1.1)
	Central (563)	11.4%	19.9%	32.1%	29.7%	6.9%	3.0 (1.1)
	South Central (175)	18.9%	14.9%	31.4%	27.4%	7.4%	2.9 (1.2)
	South (105)	11.4%	22.9%	24.8%	32.4%	8.6%	3.0 (1.2)
Number of ducks you harvested	North (402)	23.6%	28.1%	31.1%	15.9%	1.2%	2.4 (1.1)
	Central (565)	21.2%	32.0%	26.9%	16.6%	3.2%	2.5 (1.1)
	South Central (176)	25.6%	35.8%	24.4%	13.1%	1.1%	2.3 (1.0)
	South (105)	19.0%	20.0%	35.2%	24.8%	1.0%	2.7 (1.1)
Season start date allowed the season to match migration	North (394)	22.8%	29.9%	34.3%	11.9%	1.0%	2.4 (1.0)
	Central (560)	29.1%	28.8%	28.6%	11.4%	2.1%	2.3 (1.1)
	South Central (176)	32.4%	34.1%	24.4%	8.5%	0.6%	2.1 (1.0)
	South (102)	19.6%	22.5%	31.4%	21.6%	4.9%	2.7 (1.2)
Weather during duck season	North (401)	10.2%	18.7%	44.9%	24.4%	1.7%	2.9 (0.9)
	Central (565)	12.4%	20.4%	44.6%	19.6%	3.0%	2.8 (1.0)
	South Central (178)	16.9%	23.6%	44.4%	14.0%	1.1%	2.6 (1.0)
	South (104)	8.7%	18.3%	43.3%	27.9%	1.9%	3.0 (0.9)

^a1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

*Cases selected for those who hunted at least 1 day during the 2021-22 regular duck season.

Table 18. Importance of factors to respondents' waterfowl hunting experience in Illinois.

	Not At All Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Seeing ducks in the field ($n = 1,824$)	2.0%	4.8%	29.0%	31.5%	32.8%
Bagging my daily limit ($n = 1,815$)	29.0%	38.2%	21.1%	7.8%	3.9%
Bagging at least 1 duck during a day in the field ($n = 1,809$)	10.7%	22.4%	33.6%	20.1%	13.3%
Bagging drakes ($n = 1,809$)	19.3%	24.4%	31.1%	16.6%	8.5%
Bagging a lot of ducks over the season ($n = 1,806$)	25.2%	32.4%	25.9%	10.7%	5.7%
Bagging a variety of different duck species ($n = 1,810$)	20.8%	29.6%	29.7%	14.1%	5.7%
Bagging diving ducks ($n = 1,810$)	50.3%	25.5%	15.4%	6.3%	2.5%
Bagging mallards ($n = 1,812$)	11.9%	21.5%	33.9%	21.5%	11.2%
Bagging teal and wood ducks ($n = 1,812$)	18.1%	29.1%	33.8%	13.4%	5.6%

Table 19. Satisfaction with aspects of respondents' most recent waterfowl hunting season in Illinois.

	Not at all Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
Seeing ducks in the field ($n = 1,806$)	31.6%	33.3%	24.4%	6.8%	3.9%
Bagging my daily limit ($n = 1,785$)	45.2%	30.8%	20.2%	2.5%	1.4%
Bagging at least 1 duck during a day in the field ($n = 1,784$)	32.1%	29.1%	28.6%	6.3%	3.9%
Bagging drakes ($n = 1,780$)	33.0%	24.7%	33.6%	5.6%	3.1%
Bagging a lot of ducks over the season ($n = 1,781$)	44.4%	28.5%	21.8%	3.6%	1.7%
Bagging a variety of different duck species ($n = 1,772$)	38.3%	27.1%	27.8%	5.4%	1.4%
Bagging diving ducks ($n = 1,772$)	48.1%	22.9%	25.5%	2.4%	1.2%
Bagging mallards ($n = 1,784$)	36.4%	26.1%	28.4%	6.5%	2.5%
Bagging teal and wood ducks ($n = 1,777$)	38.4%	28.5%	27.5%	4.2%	1.4%

Table 20. Hunter* opinions of the timing of 2021-22 waterfowl seasons.**

Season	<i>n</i>	Too Early (%)	About Right (%)	Too Late (%)	Not Sure (%)
North September Teal	95	13.7%	66.3%	12.6%	7.4%
Central September Teal	197	13.2%	65.5%	19.3%	2.0%
South Central September Teal	55	23.6%	65.5%	5.5%	5.5%
South September Teal	19	21.1%	52.6%	10.5%	15.8%
Combined September Teal	368	15.2%	65.2%	14.9%	4.6%
North September Goose	148	15.5%	76.4%	2.7%	5.4%
Central September Goose	186	16.7%	71.5%	2.7%	9.1%
South Central September Goose	32	21.9%	68.8%	3.1%	6.3%
South September Goose	14	21.4%	78.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Combined September Goose	383	17.0%	73.4%	2.6%	7.0%
North Regular Duck	395	41.0%	43.5%	9.4%	6.1%
Central Regular Duck	564	42.0%	38.1%	14.4%	5.5%
South Central Regular Duck	175	57.7%	26.9%	10.3%	5.1%
South Regular Duck	107	35.5%	52.3%	7.5%	4.7%
Combined Regular Duck	1,245	43.4%	39.5%	11.6%	5.5%
North Regular Goose	365	26.6%	64.1%	4.4%	4.9%
Central Regular Goose	438	35.8%	53.9%	4.6%	5.7%
South Central Regular Goose	102	47.1%	40.2%	7.8%	4.9%
South Regular Goose	59	32.2%	62.7%	0.0%	5.1%
Combined Regular Goose	967	33.2%	57.0%	4.6%	5.3%

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least 1 day during the corresponding zone/season in 2021-22.

**Zone determined by zone hunted in most often for species in 2021-22 season.

Table 21. Respondents' preferred zoning option for Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030.

	Zones			
	North (<i>n</i> = 499)	Central (<i>n</i> = 703)	South Central (<i>n</i> = 204)	South (<i>n</i> = 115)
I do not have a preference.	40.7%	35.7%	19.6%	28.7%
Three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones.	19.8%	24.6%	39.7%	26.1%
Three duck zones with a continuous season with one segment.	8.6%	11.8%	11.3%	5.2%
Two zones with one or two splits and up to 3 season segments in each zone.	7.6%	10.2%	11.3%	7.0%
Four duck zones (No change from current system).	9.6%	7.4%	8.3%	18.3%
Keep a 4-zone structure but reconfigure the current zone configuration.	9.2%	6.4%	6.9%	14.8%
One statewide zone with up to two splits and up to 3 segments.	4.4%	3.8%	2.9%	0.0%

Table 22. Preferred splits for the duck hunting season in Illinois for zone hunted most often by respondent.

	Zones			
	North (n = 501)	Central (n = 699)	South Central (n = 203)	South (n = 115)
Option A Open earlier and close later using a large split to extend season.	22.0%	19.7%	17.2%	22.6%
Option B Open at the current time but close later using a split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.”	24.6%	18.9%	18.7%	20.9%
Option C Open earlier and close at the current time using a small split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.”	10.8%	7.6%	5.9%	4.3%
Option D Use a split to create a short segment well before the current opening day to target early migrants.	7.0%	6.2%	3.9%	2.6%
Option E Use a split to create a short segment well after the current closing date to target late migrants.	6.8%	7.6%	6.4%	4.3%
Option F Open and close later using a split to extend season.	25.1%	35.9%	44.3%	42.6%
If a single split were used, I would prefer one different from these.	3.8%	4.1%	3.4%	2.6%

Table 23. Respondents’ preference for zones to combine if a three duck zone configuration was used in Illinois for the period of 2026 through 2030.

	Zones			
	North (n = 500)	Central (n = 700)	South Central (n = 205)	South (n = 115)
Combine the North and Central zones, and no changes to South Central and South zones.	43.6%	17.9%	13.7%	20.0%
Combine the Central and South Central zones, and no changes to North and South zones.	9.4%	23.4%	13.7%	10.4%
Combine the South Central and South zones, and no changes to North and Central zones.	21.4%	28.6%	53.7%	40.0%
A new zone configuration that doesn’t combine two of the existing zones.	5.8%	6.9%	4.9%	4.3%
I would prefer that a three duck zone configuration not be used.	19.8%	23.3%	14.1%	25.2%

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 2021-22 Season



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

I ILLINOIS
Illinois Natural History Survey
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE


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 2021-22 season? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 2. Do you **ever** purchase an Illinois migratory waterfowl stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No," please go to **Question 5**)
 3. If "Yes," which of the following best describes how often you purchase an Illinois migratory waterfowl stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois?
☐ Every year ☐ Most years ☐ Occassional years ☐ Rarely
 4. Please indicate the reason that you purchase an Illinois migratory waterfowl stamp without intending to hunt during the waterfowl season in Illinois? (Please check **all** that apply)
☐ Collect waterfowl stamps ☐ Support wildlife conservation
☐ Support wetland and grassland conservation ☐ Support birding, nature photography and other
☐ Other (Please identify): _____ other recreation
 5. 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 5. 
 6. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2021-22 waterfowl hunting season?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No," please go to **Section 4**)
 - 6a. Was the 2021-22 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 6b.
- 6b. In which of the following zones did you hunt **waterfowl MOST often**? (Please check **one** response)
☐ North Zone ☐ Central Zone ☐ South Central Zone ☐ South Zone
 7. Did you hunt waterfowl on Illinois state public land during the 2021-22 seasons?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No," please go to **Question 8**)
 - 7a. 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
 - 7b. Did any of your hunts on public lands use a blind awarded through a lottery? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 8. Did you hunt fewer or more days during the 2021-22 waterfowl season compared to the last 5 years?
☐ Much fewer ☐ Fewer ☐ About the same ☐ More ☐ Much more

8a. If you hunted **fewer days**, please indicate the main reason(s) that you hunted fewer days during the 2021-22 waterfowl season than compared to the last 5 years? (Please check **all** that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of access to hunting land | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of waterfowl in area(s) hunted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bad weather (e.g., snow, cold temperatures) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restrictions due to COVID-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of hunting partners available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in childcare and/or school obligations | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in work schedule/location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict with upland game season | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict with deer hunting season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify): _____ | |

8b. If you hunted **more days**, please indicate the main reason(s) that you hunted more days during the 2021-22 waterfowl season than compared to the last 5 years? (Please check **all** that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased access to hunting land | <input type="checkbox"/> More waterfowl in the area(s) I hunted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better weather (e.g., snow, cold temperatures) | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More time to hunt due to COVID-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> More hunting partners available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in childcare and/or school obligations | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in work schedule/location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify): _____ | |

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 2021-22 seasons, please go to Section 4.**

1. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 1st, 2021 and January 31st, 2022 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 **2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

_____ Yes _____ No (If "No," please go to **Question 2**)

1a. 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 (If "Yes," please go to **Question 2**) _____ No

1c. How often do you accompany a youth during the **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

_____ Every year _____ Most but not every year _____ Occasionally

2. Please report information for each youth that hunted during the **2021 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**.

(North Zone: **Oct. 16-17**, Central Zone: **Oct. 23-24**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 6-7**, South Zone: **Nov. 13-14**)

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								

Section 4. Satisfaction and zone timing. The following questions will tell us about your satisfaction with the **2021-2022 Illinois waterfowl season(s)**.

1. Do you feel the dates of the 2021-22 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 <u>did not</u> hunt this season
Teal season (<i>September only</i>)	1	2	3	4	5
September Canada Goose Season (<i>September only</i>)	1	2	3	4	5
Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate the importance of each item to **your waterfowl hunting experience in Illinois**. (Please circle **one** number that matches your response)

	Not at all Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Seeing ducks in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging my daily limit	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging at least 1 duck during a day in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging drakes	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging a lot of ducks over the season	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging a variety of different duck species	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging diving ducks	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging mallards	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging teal and wood ducks	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of **your most recent waterfowl hunting season in Illinois**. (Please circle **one** number that matches your response)

	Not at all Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
Seeing ducks in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging my daily limit	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging at least 1 duck during a day in the field	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging drakes	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging a lot of ducks over the season	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging a variety of different duck species	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging diving ducks	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging mallards	1	2	3	4	5
Bagging teal and wood ducks	1	2	3	4	5

4. 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 2021-22, please go to Question 5.**

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of ducks you saw	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Mid-season</u> 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
<u>Season start date</u> allowed the season to match migration	1	2	3	4	5
Weather during duck season	1	2	3	4	5

5. Please indicate the **most important** consideration when deciding on your preferred 2022-23 **duck season** dates for the zone that you intend to hunt **most often** during the 2022-23 duck season. (Please check **one** response)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timing of wood duck migration | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize impact on firearm deer hunting season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timing of mallard migration | <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid bad weather (e.g., snow, cold temperatures) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maximize number of January hunting days | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize impact on upland game season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice (I prefer hunting after freeze up) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice (I do not hunt once the water freezes) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peak of duck migration | <input type="checkbox"/> Overlap goose season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please identify): _____ | |

6. Currently Illinois has a continuous duck season with 4 duck hunting zones. The next opportunity to change zone options will be for the period **2026 through 2030**. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service likely will allow the following duck season zoning options. Which option do you prefer for Illinois for the period **2026 through 2030**?

Note that split seasons open for a segment, close for a period, and then reopen. (Please check ONE response)

- ☐ One statewide zone with up to two splits and up to 3 season segments.
- ☐ Two zones with one or two splits and up to 3 season segments in each zone.
- ☐ Three duck zones with a continuous season with one segment.
- ☐ Three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones.
- ☐ Four duck zones (Split season is prohibited by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, no change from current system)
- ☐ Keep a 4-zone structure but reconfigure the current zone configuration.
- ☐ I do not have a preference.

- 6a. If a **single split season** were used for the period of **2026 through 2030**, there are several possible options for when the seasons could be closed. Below is a diagram that illustrates how some states currently use splits. Please refer to the diagram and choose how you would prefer splits be used in Illinois for the zone you hunt most often. (**Please check ONE response**)

	Early	Mid-season	Late
Illinois Currently	Open		
Option A	Open	Closed	Open
Option B	Open	Closed	Open
Option C	Open	Closed	Open
Option D	Closed	Open	
Option E		Open	Closed
Option F		Open	Closed

- ___ **Option A** Open earlier and close later using a large split to extend season.
- ___ **Option B** Open at the current time but close later using a split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.”
- ___ **Option C** Open earlier and close at the current time using a small split to give ducks a rest and provide a “second opening day.”
- ___ **Option D** Use a split to create a short segment well before the current opening day to target early migrants.
- ___ **Option E** Use a split to create short segment well after the current closing date to target late migrants.
- ___ **Option F** Open and close later using a split to extend season.
- ___ If a single split were used, I would prefer one different from these.

- 6b. If a three duck zones configuration were used for the period of **2026 through 2030**, which two zones would you prefer to combine? Refer to the map on the back of the cover letter if necessary. (**Please check ONE response**)

- ___ Combine the North and Central zones, and no changes to South Central and South zones.
- ___ Combine the Central and South Central zones, and no changes to North and South zones.
- ___ Combine the South Central and South zones, and no changes to North and Central zones.
- ___ A new zone configuration that doesn't combine two of the existing zones.
- ___ I would prefer that a three duck zone configuration not be used.

Section 5. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

- How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? _____ Years
- At what age did you first hunt waterfowl? _____ Years old
- What is your county of residence? _____ County (If nonresident, please include state)
- Please give your age. _____ Years old
- What is your gender? _____ Male _____ Female

6. Do you have Internet access in your home? _____ Yes _____ No

6a. If “yes,” do you have high-speed Internet access? _____ Yes _____ No

7. Would you like reminders to renew your hunting license each year? _____ Yes _____ No

7a. If “yes,” how would you like to be reminded? Please check all that apply.

_____ Text _____ Email _____ Social media

8. Would you like reminders about permit due dates? _____ Yes _____ No

8a. If yes, how would you like to be reminded? Please check all that apply.

_____ Text _____ Email _____ Social media

9. Have you missed a permit application deadline because you did not know it was due?

_____ Yes _____ No

10. Do you receive announcements from IDNR in your email?

_____ Yes _____ Not now, but I used to get them _____ No

11. Did you sign up for email announcements from IDNR? _____ Yes _____ No

12. Would you use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy?

_____ Yes _____ No

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

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

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 2021 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 2021-22 waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2021-22 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

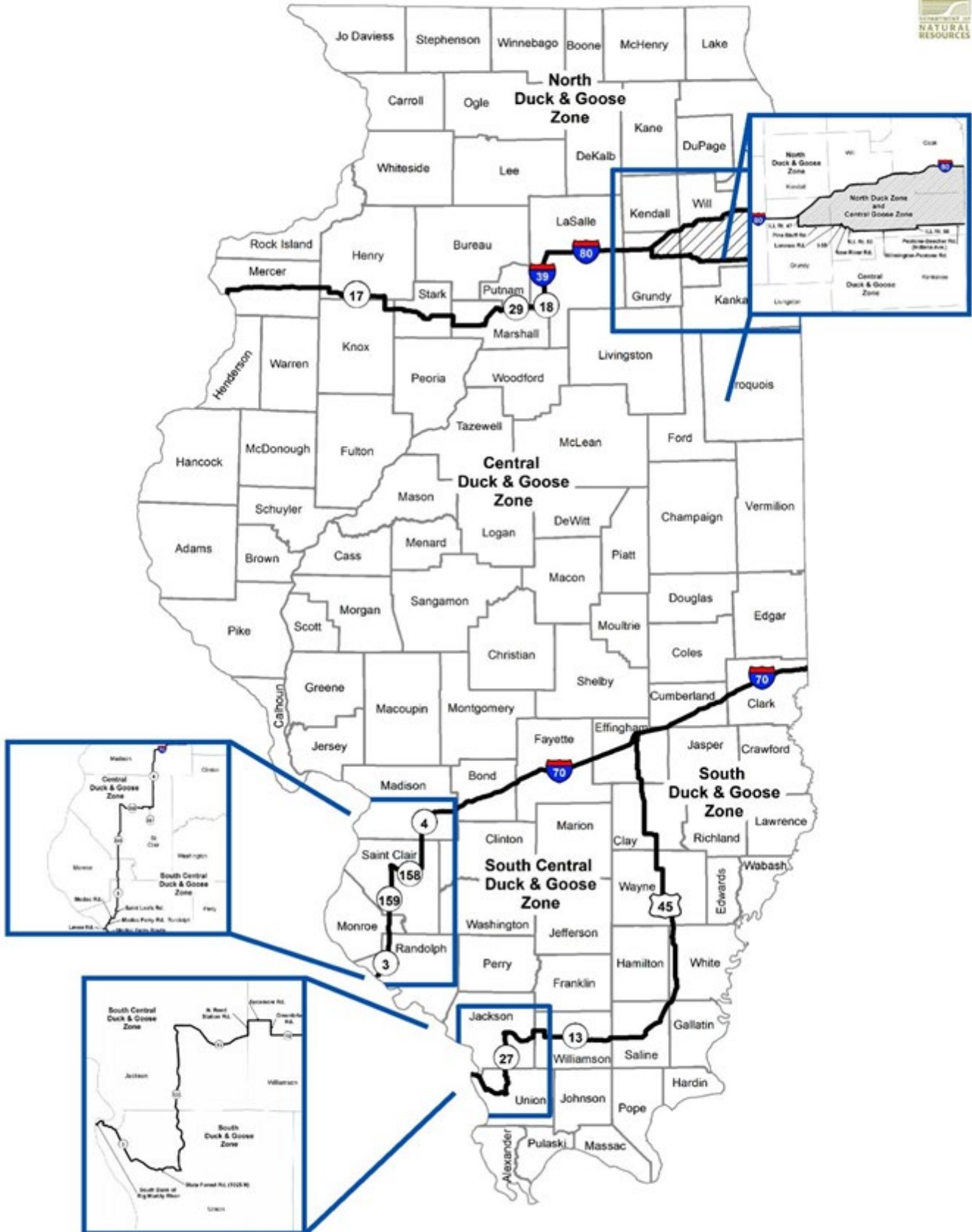
Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

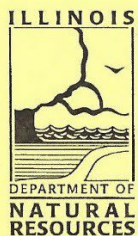


Paul B Johnson ©



Waterfowl Zone Lines



Appendix C

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 2021 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 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.

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 <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.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

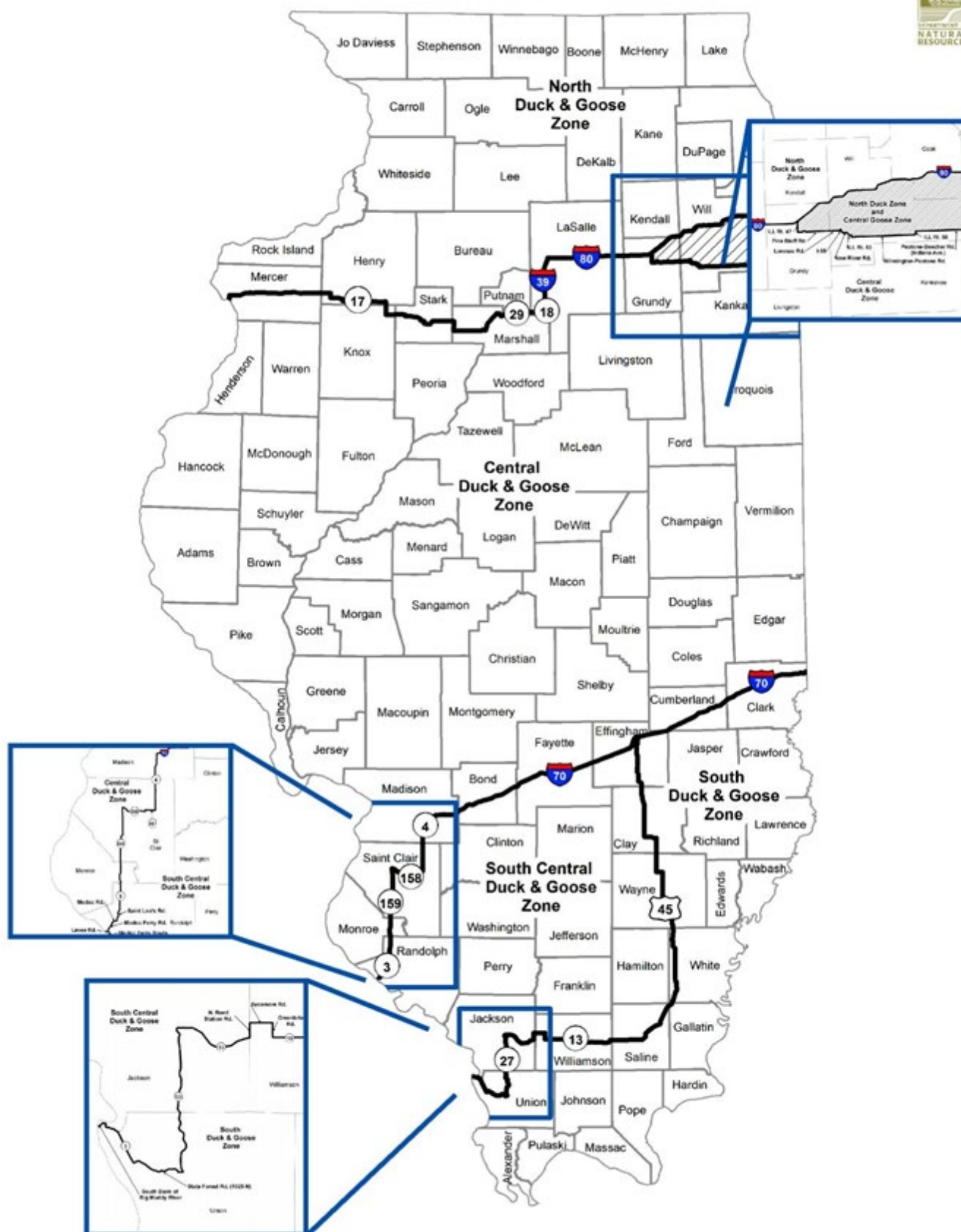
Sincerely,


Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



Paul B Johnson ©

Waterfowl Zone Lines



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 2021 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 2021-22 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. A postage paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.**

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

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. 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.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,


Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program



Paul B Johnson ©

Table F-1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2021 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Waterfowl Harvest ^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
2020	52,849	39,525	837,609	406,259
2021	54,044	42,839	1,000,494	543,858

^aTeal, 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.

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

^cEstimates 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 2021 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%
2020	32.6%	10.7%	56.7%	87.1%	65.8%
2021	30.0%	10.2%	59.9%	87.3%	68.1%

^a2008-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample.

Table F-3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during September teal season (Illinois, 1981-2021).

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
2020	7,975	27,962	18,967 ± 8,767
2021	11,382	50,585	28,913 ± 10,142

^aSeptember 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, 1981-2021).

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
2020	16/6	3.51	0.68	2.38
2021	16/6	4.44	0.57	2.54

^aSeptember 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, 1996-2021.

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
2020	5,029	6,950	14,926	1.38	7,799	1.04	48	0.01	1,118	0.16
2021	5,410	6,859	13,156	1.27	9,820	1.49	0	0.00	1,738	0.28

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

^aCould not hunt geese during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in 1996 and 1997.

^bResults include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2-day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

^cResults 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 1981-2021).

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	108,340 (4,798)	323,946 ± 31,987	2,238 ± 1,799
2020	34,432	462,541	127,525	35,335	91,820 (3,739)	254,680 ± 26,546	1,701 ± 1,224
2021	37,399	532,635	175,565	42,851	142,135 (4,118)	360,698 ± 36,223	3,688 ± 3,718

^aEstimates 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.

^bNumbers in parentheses represent harvest of Canvasback.

Table F-7. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2021).

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
2020	60/6(4,2)	13.43	0.55	7.40
2021	60/6(4,2)	14.24	0.68	9.64

^aExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

^bThe 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 1997-2021).

	Year	Statewide	Waterfowl Zone				Unknown
			North	Central	South Central	South	
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
	2020	9,064	3,747	4,036	1,025	352	0
	2021	11,855	4,523	5,972	1,064	384	0

^aLess 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 1997-2021).

	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
	2020	16,811	8,421	7,165	750	475	0
	2021	22,258	8,140	11,503	2,205	410	0

Table F-10. Number of days afield during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2021).

	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
	2020	34,272	15,054	14,638	3,491	1,089	0
	2021	50,585	19,838	25,307	4,435	1,005	0

Table F-11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 1981-2021).

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
2020	26,008	312,834	94,510 (0)	10,625 (0)	105,135 (0) ± 18,356
2021	29,180	366,689	99,276 (0)	17,467 (0)	116,743 (0) ± 18,853

^aThe 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).

^bReduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

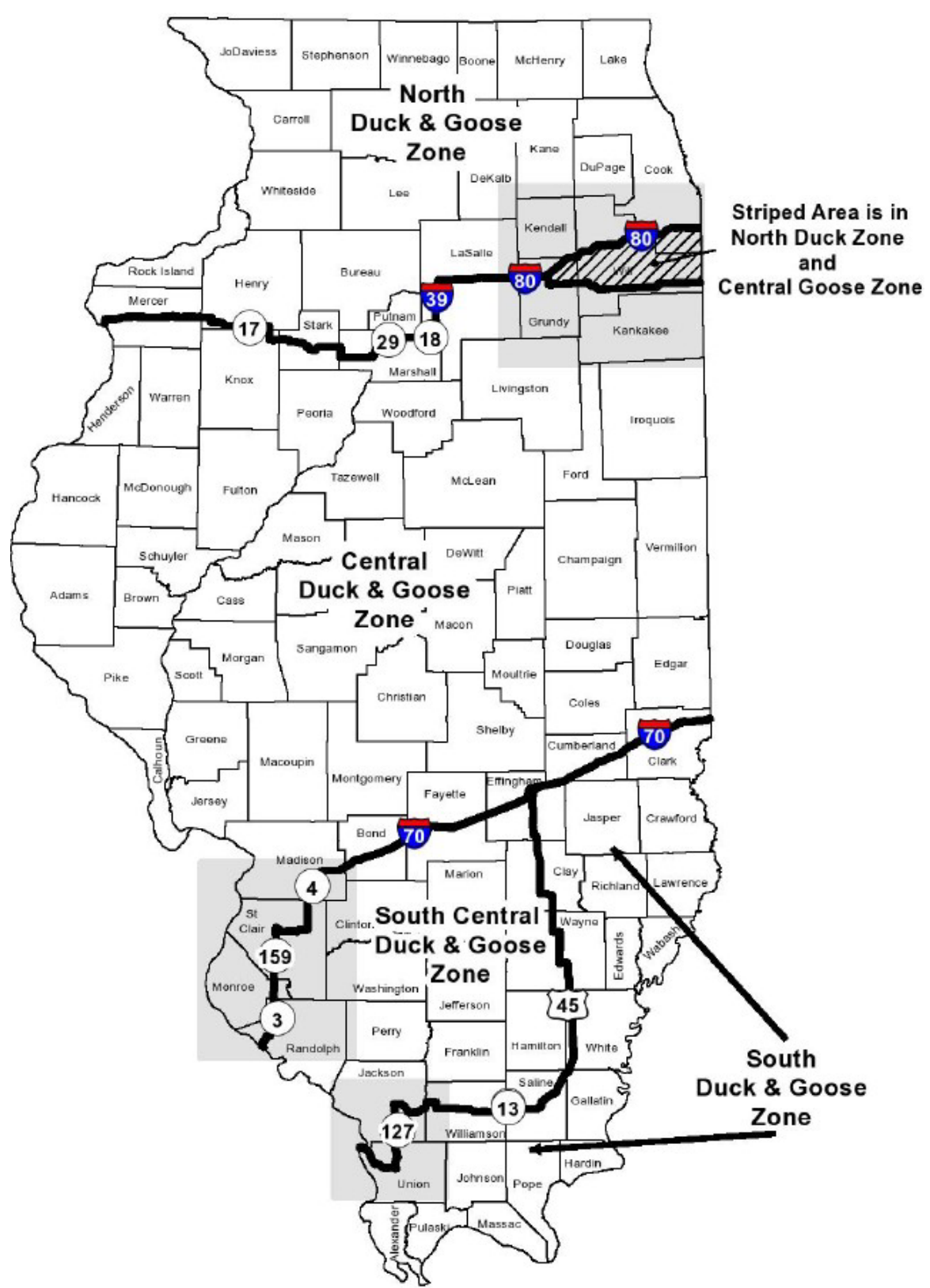
Table F-12. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1981-2021 seasons).

Season (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	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
2020	33,984	13.3	7,495	7.1
2021	44,731	12.4	6,859	5.9

^aThe 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



Appendix H

WATERFOWL SEASON DATES AND LIMITS						
SPECIES	ZONE	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Teal (early season)	Statewide	11-26 Sep 2021	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	11 Sep - 19 Nov 2021		25	75	Daily and possession limits are for both rail species combined (in the aggregate).
Snipe (Wilson's snipe)	Statewide	11 Sep - 26 Dec 2021		8	24	
Ducks (but see Scaup below)	North	23 Oct - 21 Dec 2021	½ 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, 2 Scaup for the first 45 days in each zone, 1 Scaup for the last 15 days in each zone, 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	30 Oct - 28 Dec 2021				
	South Central	13 Nov 2021 - 11 Jan 2022				
	South	27 Nov 2021 - 25 Jan 2022				
Mergansers	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	
Scaup (Bluebills)	North	23 Oct - 6 Dec 2021 & 7 Dec - 21 Dec 2021		2/day First 45 days	First 45 days 6	FWS regulations require 45 days with 2/day bag limit, 15 days with 1/day bag limit. Dates will be different in each zone.
	Central	30 Oct - 13 Dec 2021 & 14 Dec - 28 Dec 2021				
	South Central	13 Nov - 27 Dec 2021 & 28 Dec 2021 - 11 Jan 2022			1/day Last 15 days	
	South	27 Nov 2021 - 10 Jan 2022 & 11 Jan - 25 Jan 2022				

WATERFOWL SEASON DATES AND LIMITS						
SPECIES	ZONE	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Canada Geese (early season)	North and Central	1-15 Sep 2021		5	15	
	South Central and South			2	6	
Canada Geese	North	23 Oct 2021 - 20 Jan 2022		3	9	
	Central	30 Oct 2021 - 7 Nov 2021 & 12 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South Central	13 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South	27 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
Light Geese (Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese)	North	23 Oct 2021 - 20 Jan 2022	½ hour before sunrise to sunset	20	Unlimited	Daily bag limit is for both species combined (in the aggregate).
	Central	30 Oct 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South Central	13 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South	27 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
Brant	Same as light geese	Same as light geese		1	3	
White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies)	North	25 Oct 2021 - 20 Jan 2022		2	6	
	Central	5 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South Central	13 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
	South	27 Nov 2021 - 31 Jan 2022				
Conservation Order Light Geese (Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese)	North	21 Jan - 30 Apr 2022	½ hour before sunrise to ½ 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 - 30 Apr 2022				
Youth Waterfowl	North	16-17 Oct 2021	½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons	Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons	The following apply to the Youth season only: 1) youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property they reside; 2) No stamps are required for youth under age 16; 3) Federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older; 4) hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and/or coots during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.
	Central	23-24 Oct 2021				
	South Central	6-7 Nov 2021				
	South	13-14 Nov 2021				