

# 2023-2024 Illinois Hunter Harvest Report

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



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2023-2024  
ILLINOIS HUNTER HARVEST REPORT

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-33  
STUDY 101  
JOB NO. 101.1

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
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## **ABSTRACT**

A random sample of 5,000 Illinois resident hunters was selected from adult 2022 Illinois resident Habitat Stamp and hunting license holders. Selected individuals were mailed an 8-page self-administered questionnaire designed to query hunters about their hunting activities and harvest in Illinois. We received 1,873 questionnaires, 1,726 of which were usable, for a 36% response rate. Illinois resident license sales increased from 2022-23 (235,564) to 239,050 for the 2023-24 seasons. Total days afield increased for rabbit, wild quail, wild pheasant, groundhog, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, turkey, deer, raccoon, red fox, and coyote. Harvest increased for 9 game species (wild pheasant, groundhog, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, turkey, deer, raccoon, red fox, and coyote) from 2022-23. Hunters were also asked questions regarding hunting activity and harvest in Illinois, proposed hunting regulations, and communication with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Estimates of wild quail and pheasant harvested beginning with the 2011-12 season were calculated differently than previous estimates to include harvest of captive-raised birds distinct from wild birds, so comparisons with seasons prior to 2011-12 are to be made with caution.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To survey resident hunters (18-24 game animal categories) annually to determine their activities and harvest in Illinois.

## **METHODS**

A random sample of 5,000 hunters was selected from the Illinois resident hunting license database to receive questionnaires regarding harvest(s) in Illinois during the 2023-24 hunting seasons. All Illinois resident license types were included in the sample frame except for Youth License holders ( $n = 10,738$ ). Methods for survey questionnaire mailings and follow-up reminders followed those of Miller et al. (1999). We mailed recipients a self-administered, 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and postage-paid return envelope (hereafter referred to as survey packet) 12 July 2024. This mailing was followed with a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) 12 August 2024. On 11 September 2024, a survey packet was mailed to non-respondents (Appendix D). A final survey packet was mailed 8 October 2024 (Appendix E). Data were

coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS 28.0 (SPSS Inc. 2021). Harvest estimates of game species included only those harvested by Illinois resident hunters; non-resident harvests were not included.

The formulas utilized are:

a. Number of hunters for a species:

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$$

Where: N = total hunting license sales

n = number licensees in sample

p = proportion of licensees in sample hunting a species

q = 1 - p

b. Mean season harvest per hunter for a species:

$$\pm \frac{1.96s}{\sqrt{n_1}}$$

Where s = standard deviation of mean harvest per hunter

n<sub>1</sub> = number of licensees in sample who hunted species

c. Total harvest:

$$\pm 2N \times \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \times \frac{N - n_1}{N}$$

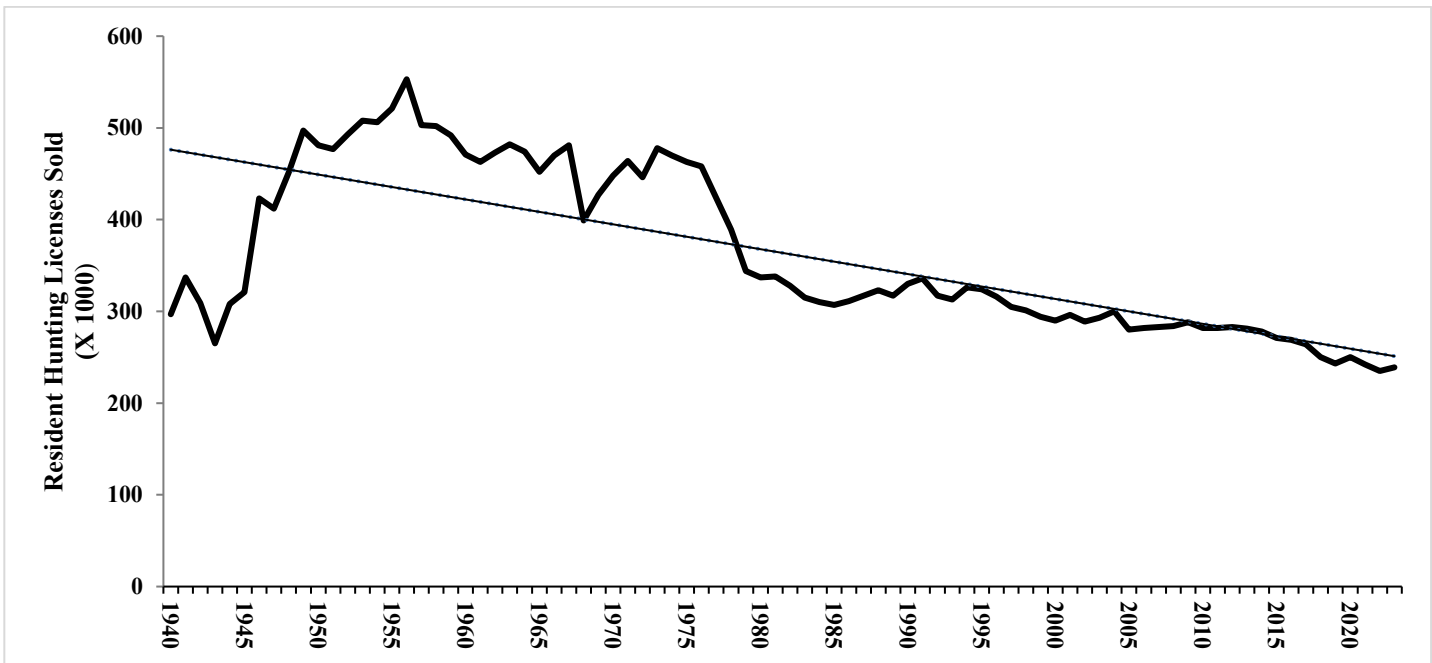
Prior to the 2011-12 license year, no effort was made to distinguish wild pheasant or wild quail from captive-raised birds harvested on put-and-take operations in harvest estimates and reporting. Beginning with the 2011-12 survey, hunters were provided options for separately reporting wild bird and captive bird days afield and harvest. For the 2012-13 season harvest estimates, a different method of reporting was used, and respondents were asked to provide harvest and effort for birds with no prompt as to whether they were wild or captive. In a follow up section, hunters were asked to provide their effort and harvest for shooting preserves. For that year only estimates for wild effort and harvest were made by subtracting the reported shooting preserve numbers from the total reported. Questionnaires from 2013-14 to present use the 2011-12 line of inquiry, wherein hunters are asked to separately provide wild and non-wild harvest and effort. Therefore, comparisons to those years prior to 2011 are to be made with caution.

## RESULTS

### Section 1 – Hunter Harvest

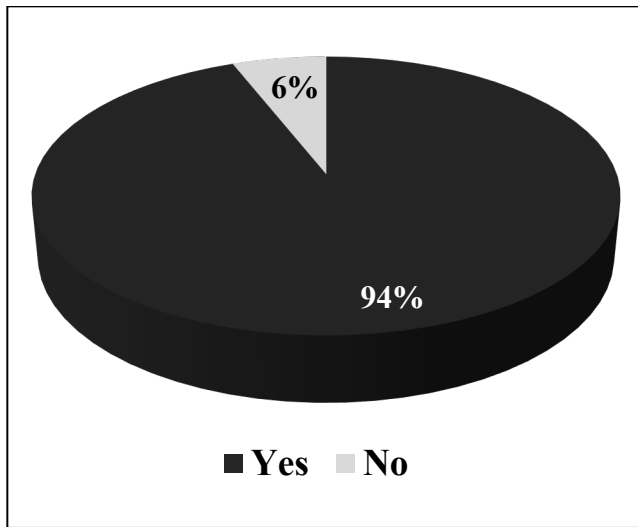
#### *License Sales*

We sampled 5,000 Illinois resident hunters and received 1,726 usable questionnaires for a 36% response rate. A total of 239,050 (including youth) Illinois residents purchased hunting licenses during 2023-24 hunting seasons, a 1.5% increase from 2022-23 (235,564; Fig. 1.1, Table 1.1).

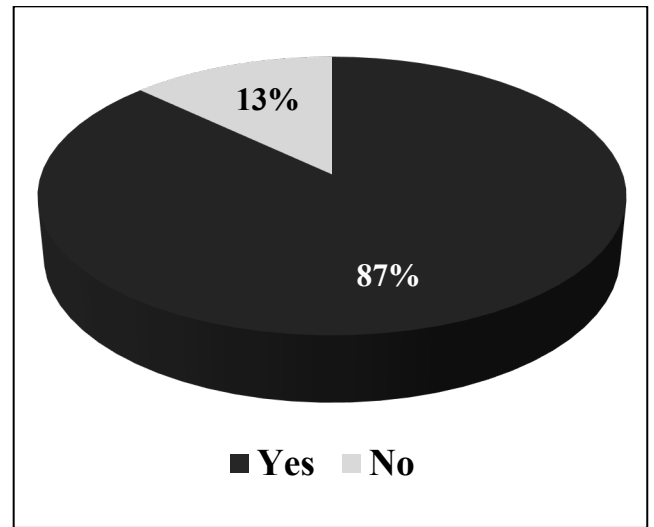


**Figure 1.1.** Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1940-2023.

Most respondents (94%) purchased a hunting license during 2023 (Fig. 1.2) and 87% hunted in Illinois during the 2023-24 hunting seasons (March 2023 – February 2024; Fig. 1.3). Thirty-eight percent of hunting license holders purchased their hunting license online and 56% of online license purchasers saved their license as a PDF.



**Figure 1.2.** Percentage of hunters who purchased a hunting license in 2023 ( $n = 1,726$ ).



**Figure 1.3.** Percentage of license purchasers who hunted any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2023 and February 2024 ( $n = 1,627$ ).

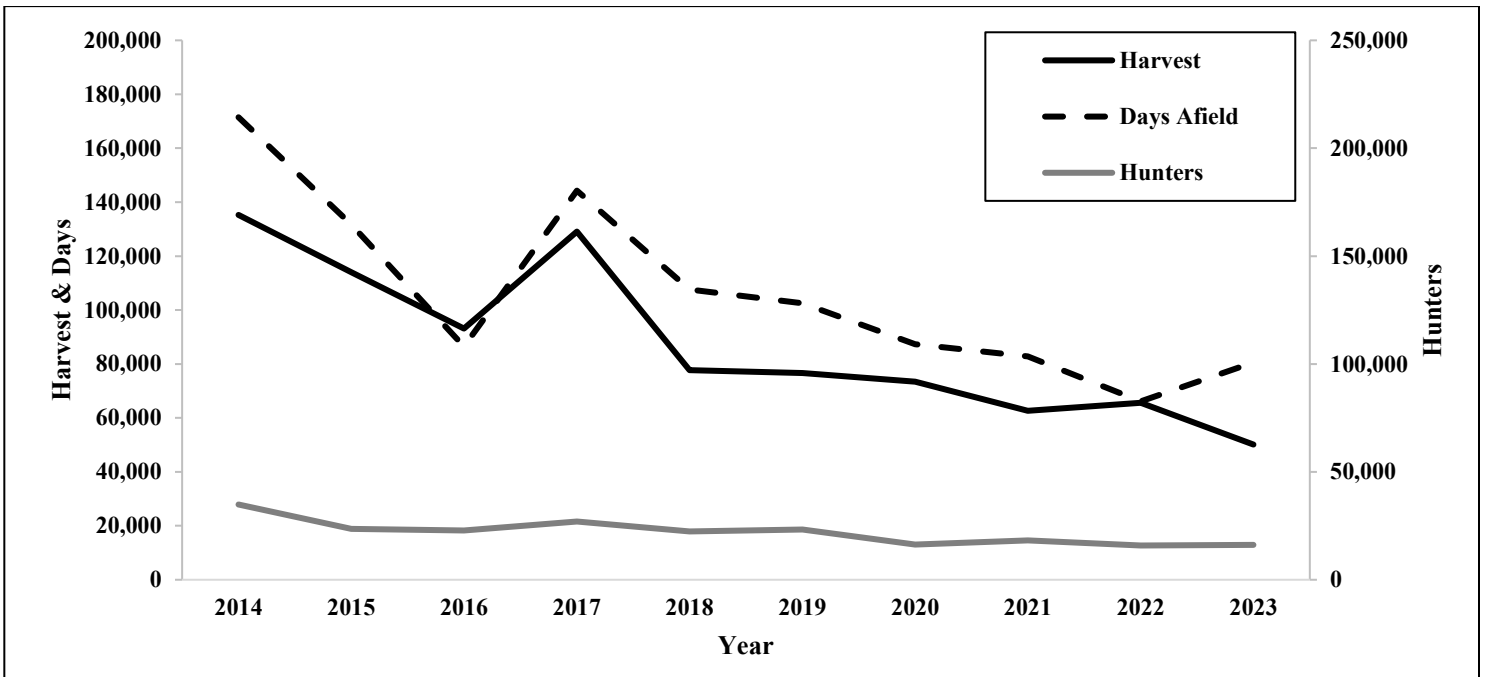
### *Harvest*

Harvest estimates for large and small game are presented in Table 1.2; 95% confidence intervals (CI) for all species are provided in Table 1.3. Harvest estimates for the 14 species excluding deer and turkey are presented by wildlife management units (WMUs) and administrative regions in Tables 1.4 - 1.38. Maps of WMUs and administrative regions are provided in Appendices F and G. Special care should be given when examining these estimates as low responses ( $n$ ) produce large confidence intervals.

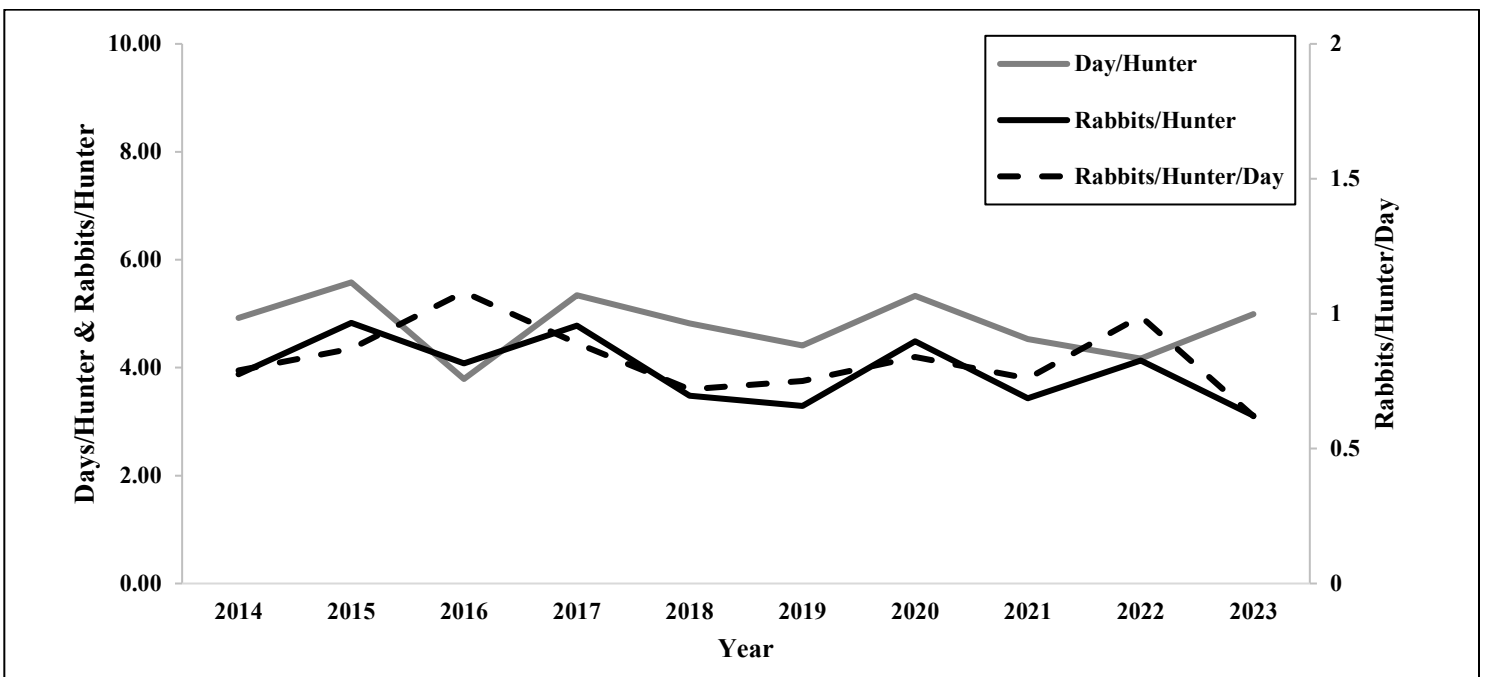
A total of 21 Illinois hunters reported harvesting a total of 57 Eurasian Collared-Doves and 12 were unsure whether they harvested this species during the 2023-24 hunting season. Fifty-six Illinois hunters reported downing but not retrieving a total of 201 mourning doves in Illinois during the 2023-24 season and an additional 11 hunters were unsure. Harvest estimates for all species from 2013-2023 are presented in Table 1.39 and percent change in harvest is provided in Table 1.40. Season dates and bag limits for species hunted are in Appendix H.

Estimates from 2023-24 suggest an increased harvest over the previous year for 9 game species: wild pheasant, groundhog, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, turkey, deer, raccoon, red fox, and coyote. Decreases in harvest estimates occurred for 5 species: wild quail, dove, woodcock, crow, and opossum. Total days afield increased for rabbit, wild quail, wild pheasant, groundhog, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, turkey, deer, raccoon, red fox, and coyote. Rabbit hunting trends (i.e., total days afield and total harvest) from 2002-2013 and 2014 to

current year are not directly comparable due to changes in length of the 2014-15 season (Fig. 1.4); however, standardizing harvest for all years by the total estimated days hunted per season and harvest/hunter/day made comparisons possible (Fig. 1.5). Rabbit hunter effort and harvest reveal that hunter days afield per hunter have remained relatively consistent since 2009. Trends in estimated number of hunters, harvest, and days afield for dove, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and coyote from 2012-22 are provided in Figures 1.6-1.9.



**Figure 1.4.** Illinois RABBIT harvest and hunter activity (2014-2023).



**Figure 1.5.** Number of days per hunter, harvest per hunter, and harvest per day per hunter from 2014-2023 for RABBIT hunting in Illinois.

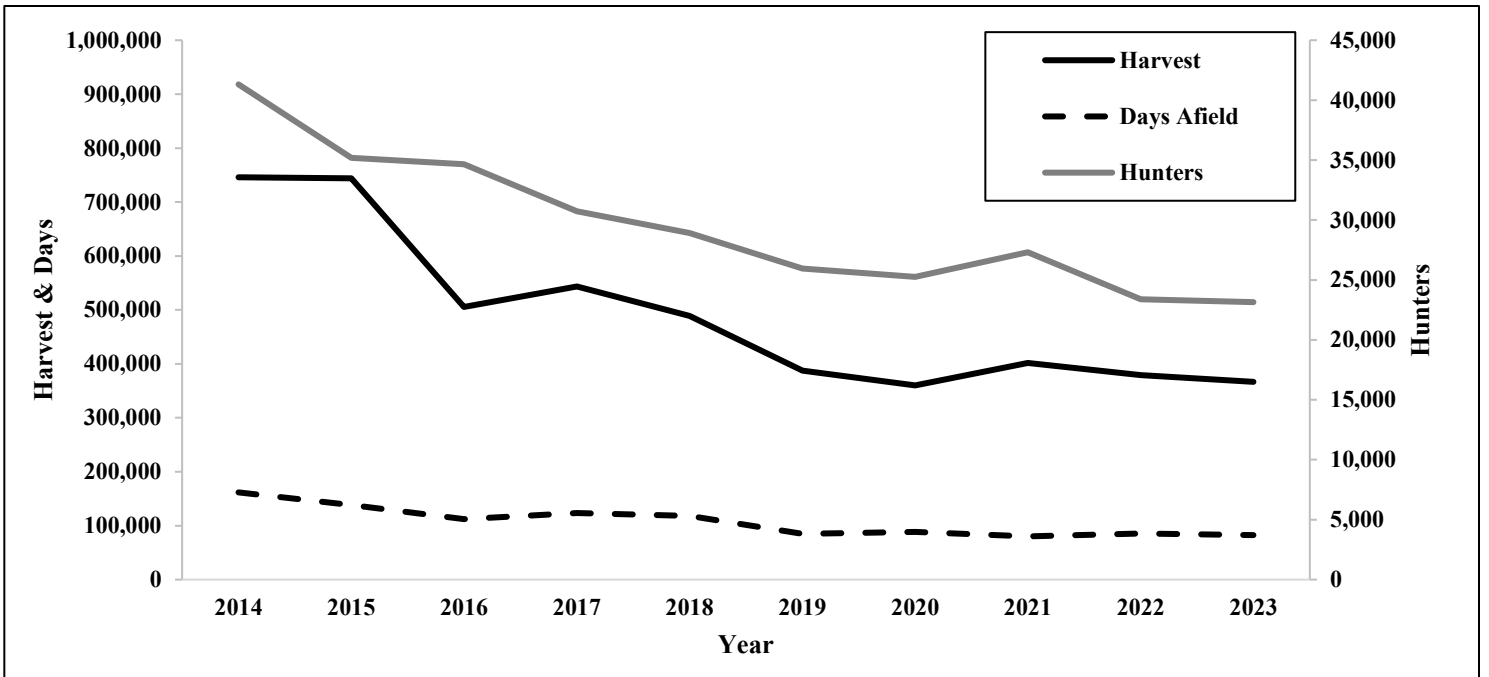


Figure 1.6. Illinois DOVE harvest and hunter activity (2014-2023).

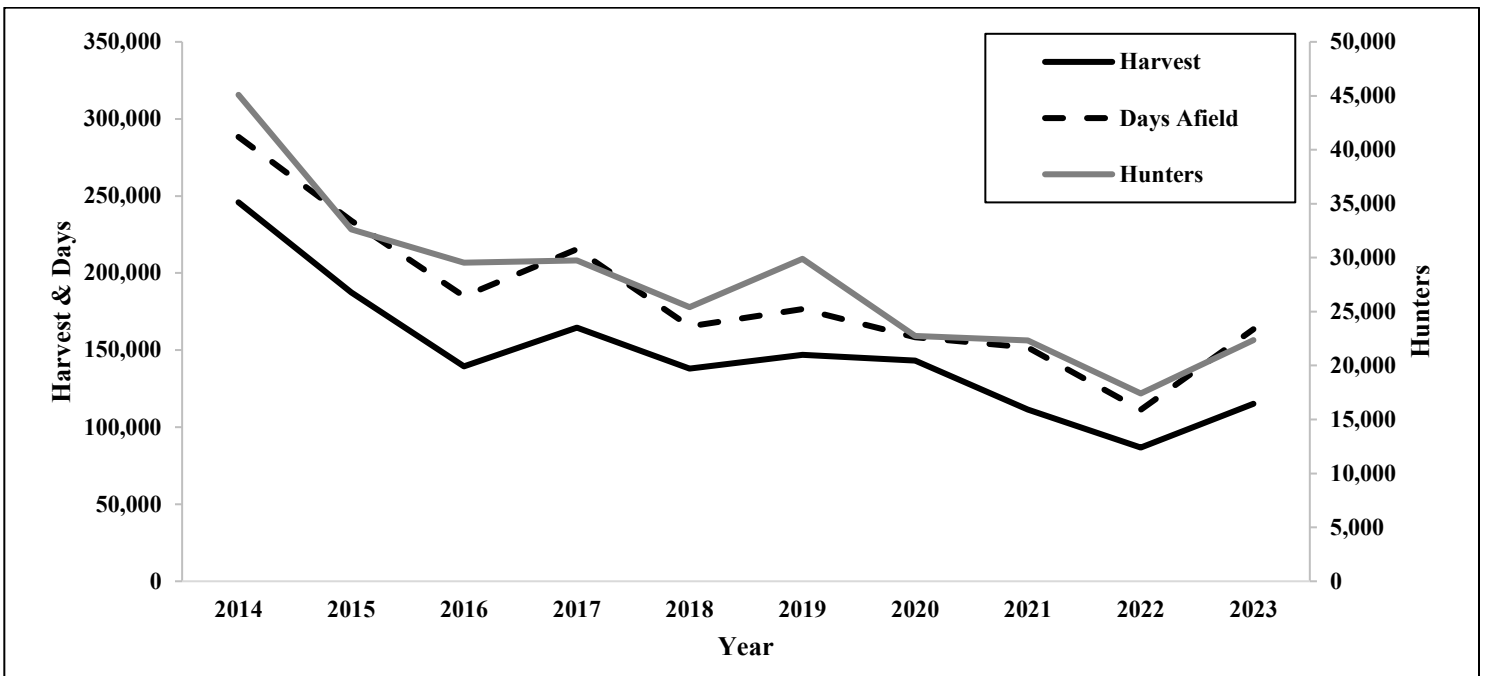


Figure 1.7. Illinois FOX SQUIRREL harvest and hunter activity (2014-2023).

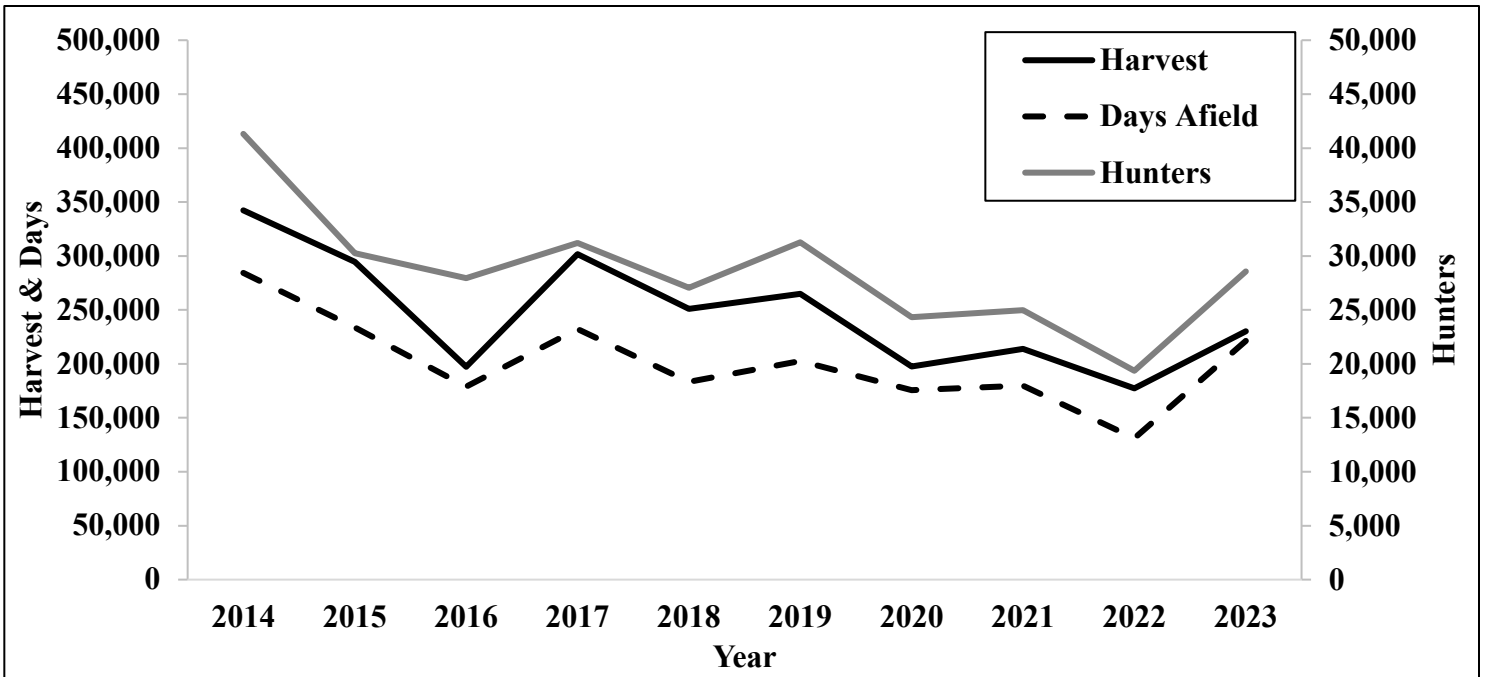


Figure 1.8. Illinois GRAY SQUIRREL harvest and hunter activity (2014-2023).

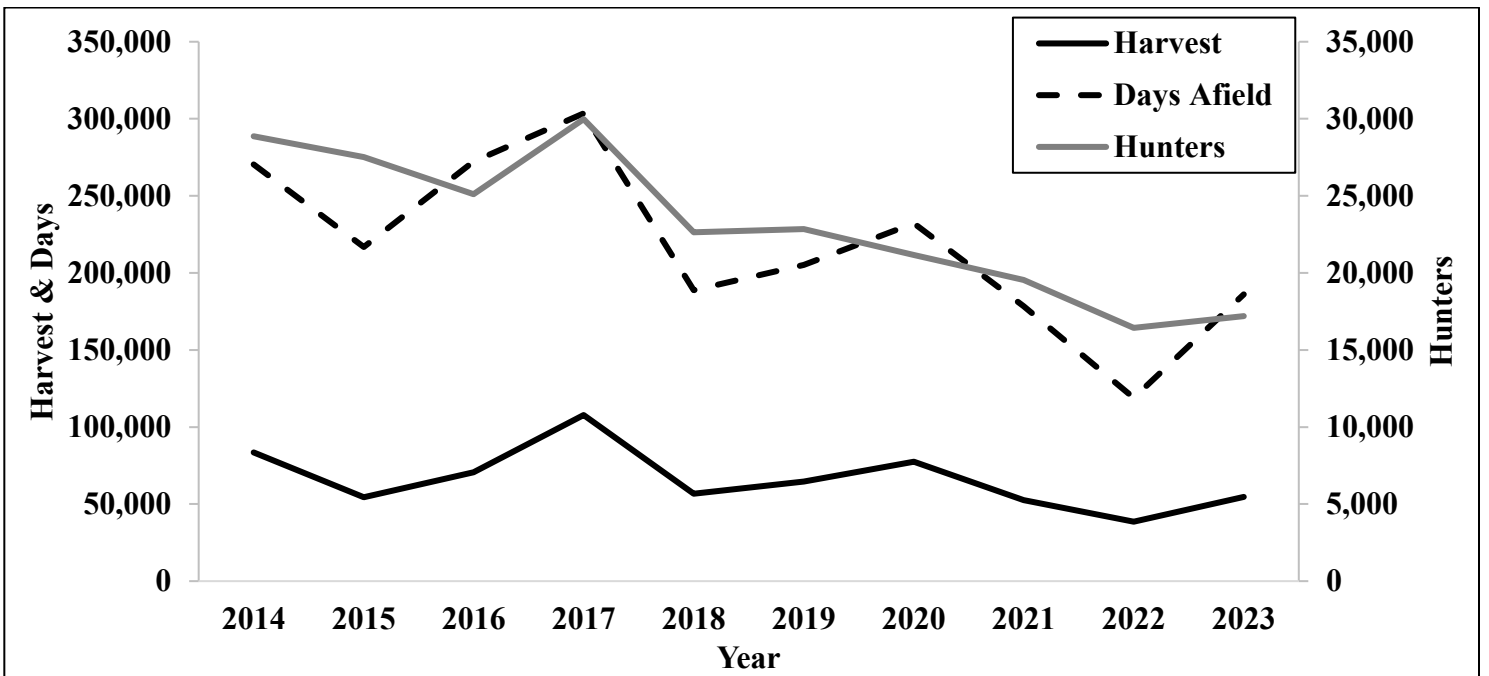


Figure 1.9. Illinois COYOTE harvest and hunter activity (2014-2023).

**Table 1.1.** Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1938-2023.

Year	Licenses (x 1,000)	Year	Licenses (x 1,000)
2023	239	1980	337
2022	235	1979	344 <sup>a</sup>
2021	242	1978	389
2020	250	1977	424
2019	243	1976	458
2018	250	1975	463
2017	264	1974	470
2016	269	1973	478
2015	271	1972	446
2014	278	1971	464
2013	281	1970	448
2012	283	1969	427
2011	282	1968	399
2010	282	1967	481
2009	288	1966	470
2008	284	1965	452
2007	283	1964	474
2006	282 <sup>d</sup>	1963	482
2005	280	1962	473
2004	300	1961	463
2003	293	1960	471
2002	289	1959	492
2001	296	1958	502
2000	290	1957	503
1999	294 <sup>c</sup>	1956	553
1998	301	1955	521
1997	305	1954	506
1996	316	1953	508
1995	324	1952	493
1994	326 <sup>b</sup>	1951	477
1993	313	1950	481
1992	317	1949	497
1991	336	1948	451
1990	330	1947	412
1989	317	1946	423
1988	323	1945	321
1987	317	1944	308
1986	311	1943	265
1985	307	1942	309
1984	310	1941	337
1983	315	1940	297
1982	328	1939	322
1981	338	1938	294

<sup>a</sup> Includes Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1979.

<sup>b</sup> Includes senior citizen ( $\geq 65$  years) hunting licenses beginning in 1994.

<sup>c</sup> Includes senior citizen ( $\geq 65$  years) Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1999.

<sup>d</sup> Includes apprentice hunting licenses beginning in 2006 (Apprentice license sales include non-residents).

**Table 1.2.** Summary of statewide data from the 2023-24 Hunter Harvest Survey ( $n = 1,726$ ).

Species	Total Hunters	Percent of License Sales	Average Bag		Total Harvest	Days Hunting	
			Daily	Season		Average /Hunter	Total Hunter Days
Rabbit	16,138	7.07%	0.62	3.11	50,133	4.99	80,557
Non-Wild Quail	3,836	1.68%	2.39	10.07	38,625	4.21	16,138
Wild Quail	3,704	1.62%	0.15	1.04	3,836	6.79	25,133
Non-Wild Pheasant	16,932	7.42%	1.93	12.09	204,634	6.27	106,219
Wild Pheasant	8,995	3.94%	0.65	3.32	29,895	5.09	45,768
Dove	23,149	10.14%	4.45	15.85	366,939	3.56	82,409
Woodcock	265	0.12%	0.25	0.50	132	2.00	529
Crow	1,058	0.46%	0.95	2.38	2,513	2.50	2,646
Groundhog	3,175	1.39%	0.48	4.67	14,815	9.75	30,953
Gray Squirrel	28,572	12.51%	1.04	8.06	230,164	7.75	221,434
Fox Squirrel	22,355	9.79%	0.70	5.15	115,082	7.31	163,496
Turkey-Spring	41,535	18.19%	0.10	0.42	17,593	4.35	180,824
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	4,762	2.09%	0.04	0.11	529	2.47	11,773
Turkey-Fall Archery*	14,683	6.43%	0.01	0.14	1,984	13.72	201,460
Turkey-Compound/Recurve	7,540	3.30%	0.01	0.09	661	14.96	112,833
Turkey-Crossbow	7,672	3.36%	0.01	0.17	1,323	11.55	88,626
Deer-Regular Firearm	128,177	56.14%	0.15	0.64	81,748	4.35	557,288
Deer-Muzzleloader	20,900	9.15%	0.09	0.22	4,497	2.46	51,456
Deer-Archery*	99,209	43.45%	0.04	0.62	61,642	17.57	1,743,558
Deer-Compound/Recurve	52,118	22.83%	0.03	0.55	28,704	17.54	914,042
Deer-Crossbow	53,308	23.35%	0.04	0.62	32,937	15.56	829,516
Deer-LWF	15,344	6.72%	0.11	0.25	3,836	2.34	35,847
Deer-CWD	5,159	2.26%	0.08	0.18	926	2.33	12,037
Raccoon	4,762	2.09%	1.34	15.83	75,399	11.83	56,350
Red Fox	529	0.23%	0.11	0.50	265	4.75	2,513
Gray Fox	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Coyote	17,196	7.53%	0.29	3.18	54,631	10.82	186,115
Opossum	926	0.41%	0.47	3.86	3,572	8.14	7,540

\* Total archery hunters are less than the sum of hunters by type because some used both Compound/Recurve and Crossbow.

**Table 1.3.** Estimated number ( $\pm$  95% confidence interval) of resident licensed hunters and harvest in Illinois, 2023-24 season ( $n = 1,726$ ).

Species	$n$	Total Estimated Hunters		Estimated Average Season Bag			Total Estimated Harvest		
Rabbit	122	16,138	$\pm$ 2,817	3.11	$\pm$ 0.79	50,133	$\pm$ 15,665		
Non-Wild Quail	29	3,836	$\pm$ 1,413	10.07	$\pm$ 4.40	38,625	$\pm$ 22,100		
Wild Quail	28	3,704	$\pm$ 1,388	1.04	$\pm$ 0.69	3,836	$\pm$ 2,901		
Non-Wild Pheasant	128	16,932	$\pm$ 2,880	12.09	$\pm$ 2.97	204,634	$\pm$ 61,691		
Wild Pheasant	68	8,995	$\pm$ 2,138	3.32	$\pm$ 1.53	29,895	$\pm$ 15,636		
Dove	175	23,149	$\pm$ 3,318	15.85	$\pm$ 3.23	366,939	$\pm$ 92,342		
Woodcock	2	265	$\pm$ 374	0.50	$\pm$ 0.98	132	$\pm$ 264		
Crow	8	1,058	$\pm$ 747	2.38	$\pm$ 0.90	2,513	$\pm$ 1,989		
Groundhog	24	3,175	$\pm$ 1,287	4.67	$\pm$ 2.01	14,815	$\pm$ 8,770		
Gray Squirrel	216	28,572	$\pm$ 3,637	8.06	$\pm$ 1.35	230,164	$\pm$ 49,018		
Fox Squirrel	169	22,355	$\pm$ 3,267	5.15	$\pm$ 1.19	115,082	$\pm$ 31,752		
Raccoon	36	4,762	$\pm$ 1,571	15.83	$\pm$ 8.29	75,399	$\pm$ 46,858		
Red Fox	4	529	$\pm$ 528	0.50	$\pm$ 0.57	265	$\pm$ 374		
Gray Fox	0	0	$\pm$ 0	0	$\pm$ 0	0	$\pm$ 0		
Coyote	130	17,196	$\pm$ 2,901	3.18	$\pm$ 1.45	54,631	$\pm$ 26,990		
Opossum	7	926	$\pm$ 699	3.86	$\pm$ 2.82	3,572	$\pm$ 3,649		

**Table 1.4.** Summary of 2023-24 RABBIT hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Rabbit ( <i>n</i> = 122)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	926	5.74	1.00	4.29	3,968	3,968
Northeast Moraine	397	2.46	0.16	3.33	1,323	8,466
Mississippi Border-North	926	5.74	0.52	2.29	2,116	4,101
Mississippi Border-South	2,381	14.75	0.89	2.78	6,614	7,408
Western Prairie/Forest	1,058	6.56	0.42	1.00	1,058	2,513
Central Sand Prairie	794	4.92	0.84	2.67	2,116	2,513
Grand Prairie	3,968	24.59	0.58	3.83	15,212	26,191
Southern Plain	4,497	27.87	0.69	3.47	15,609	22,620
Wabash Border	529	3.28	0.83	1.25	661	794
Shawnee Hills	661	4.10	0.73	2.20	1,455	1,984
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>16,138</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>50,133</b>	<b>80,557</b>

**Table 1.5.** Summary of 2023-24 NON-WILD QUAIL hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Non-Wild Quail ( <i>n</i> = 29)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	265	6.90	3.82	21.00	5,556	1,455
Northeast Moraine	529	13.79	2.40	9.00	4,762	1,984
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	529	13.79	2.50	7.50	3,968	1,587
Western Prairie/Forest	132	3.45	5.25	21.00	2,778	529
Central Sand Prairie	132	3.45	0.00	0.00	-	265
Grand Prairie	1,058	27.59	1.42	8.50	8,995	6,349
Southern Plain	1,191	31.03	3.17	10.56	12,566	3,968
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>10.07</b>	<b>38,625</b>	<b>16,138</b>

**Table 1.6.** Summary of 2023-24 WILD QUAIL hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Wild Quail ( <i>n</i> = 28)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	265	7.14	0.09	0.50	132	1,455
Mississippi Border-South	397	10.71	0.50	1.67	661	1,323
Western Prairie/Forest	132	3.57	0.00	0.00	-	132
Central Sand Prairie	794	21.43	0.59	2.17	1,720	2,910
Grand Prairie	794	21.43	0.08	1.17	926	11,640
Southern Plain	794	21.43	0.17	0.33	265	1,587
Wabash Border	265	7.14	-	-	-	5,688
Shawnee Hills	265	7.14	0.33	0.50	132	397
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,704</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>25,133</b>

**Table 1.7.** Summary of 2023-24 NON-WILD PHEASANT hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Non-Wild Pheasant ( <i>n</i> = 128)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,984	11.72	2.57	16.47	32,673	12,699
Northeast Moraine	2,513	14.84	3.19	17.79	44,710	14,021
Mississippi Border-North	265	1.56	0.75	3.00	794	1,058
Mississippi Border-South	794	4.69	2.14	10.33	8,201	3,836
Western Prairie/Forest	1,191	7.03	2.50	10.00	11,905	4,762
Central Sand Prairie	1,587	9.38	1.85	9.08	14,418	7,804
Grand Prairie	6,085	35.94	1.38	12.30	74,869	54,102
Southern Plain	2,381	14.06	2.19	7.17	17,064	7,804
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	132	0.78	-	-	-	132
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>16,932</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>12.09</b>	<b>204,634</b>	<b>106,219</b>

**Table 1.8.** Summary of 2023-24 WILD PHEASANT hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Wild Pheasant ( <i>n</i> = 68)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,191	13.24	0.77	1.89	2,249	2,910
Northeast Moraine	265	2.94	1.50	3.00	794	529
Mississippi Border-North	265	2.94	0.30	1.50	397	1,323
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	132	1.47	-	-	-	132
Central Sand Prairie	1,058	11.76	0.47	1.75	1,852	3,968
Grand Prairie	5,688	63.24	0.66	4.26	24,207	36,509
Southern Plain	265	2.94	1.50	1.50	397	265
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	132	1.47	-	-	-	132
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>8,995</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>29,895</b>	<b>45,768</b>

**Table 1.9.** Summary of 2023-24 DOVE hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Dove ( <i>n</i> = 175)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	794	3.43	2.43	19.83	15,741	6,482
Northeast Moraine	1,191	5.14	6.72	18.67	22,223	3,307
Mississippi Border-North	529	2.29	4.00	16.00	8,466	2,116
Mississippi Border-South	3,439	14.86	4.68	20.35	69,975	14,947
Western Prairie/Forest	1,587	6.86	4.06	10.83	17,196	4,233
Central Sand Prairie	2,116	9.14	6.18	18.94	40,080	6,482
Grand Prairie	6,349	27.43	4.04	13.54	85,981	21,297
Southern Plain	6,085	6.29	5.15	14.22	86,510	16,799
Wabash Border	661	2.86	4.00	28.80	19,048	4,762
Shawnee Hills	397	1.71	0.87	4.33	1,720	1,984
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>23,149</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>366,939</b>	<b>82,409</b>

**Table 1.10.** Summary of 2023-24 WOODCOCK hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Woodcock ( <i>n</i> = 2)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	265	100.00	0.25	0.50	132	529
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>529</b>

**Table 1.11.** Summary of 2023-24 CROW hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Crow ( <i>n</i> = 8)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	132	12.50	1.00	1.00	132	132
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	132	12.50	1.00	2.00	265	265
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	132	12.50	1.50	3.00	397	265
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	661	62.50	0.87	2.60	1,720	1,984
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,646</b>

**Table 1.12.** Summary of 2023-24 GROUNDHOG hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

WMU	Groundhog ( <i>n</i> = 24)					
	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	265	8.33	0.12	1.00	265	2,249
Mississippi Border-South	265	8.33	0.33	5.50	1,455	4,365
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	397	12.50	0.46	10.67	4,233	9,259
Southern Plain	1,852	58.33	0.57	4.50	8,334	14,683
Wabash Border	265	8.33	1.50	1.50	397	265
Shawnee Hills	132	4.17	1.00	1.00	132	132
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>4.67</b>	<b>14,815</b>	<b>30,953</b>

**Table 1.13.** Summary of 2023-24 GRAY SQUIRREL hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

WMU	Gray Squirrel ( <i>n</i> = 216)					
	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,852	6.48	0.67	5.36	9,921	14,815
Northeast Moraine	529	1.85	0.16	0.75	397	2,513
Mississippi Border-North	1,587	5.56	1.83	9.00	14,286	7,804
Mississippi Border-South	5,688	19.91	1.27	11.33	64,419	50,795
Western Prairie/Forest	1,852	6.48	0.90	6.07	11,244	12,434
Central Sand Prairie	265	0.93	0.33	1.50	397	1,191
Grand Prairie	3,836	13.43	0.89	8.86	33,995	38,096
Southern Plain	10,053	35.19	1.12	7.34	73,811	66,139
Wabash Border	1,720	6.02	0.67	4.85	8,334	12,434
Shawnee Hills	1,191	4.17	0.88	11.22	13,360	15,212
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>28,572</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>230,164</b>	<b>221,434</b>

**Table 1.14.** Summary of 2023-24 FOX SQUIRREL hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Fox Squirrel ( <i>n</i> = 169)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,984	8.88	0.85	3.67	7,275	8,598
Northeast Moraine	265	1.18	-	-	-	1,587
Mississippi Border-North	1,455	6.51	0.67	3.27	4,762	7,143
Mississippi Border-South	3,307	14.79	0.55	5.36	17,725	32,276
Western Prairie/Forest	2,116	9.47	0.90	6.88	14,551	16,138
Central Sand Prairie	661	2.96	0.81	8.80	5,820	7,143
Grand Prairie	4,630	20.71	0.80	8.11	37,567	46,694
Southern Plain	6,746	30.18	0.61	3.57	24,075	39,683
Wabash Border	926	4.14	1.10	3.14	2,910	2,646
Shawnee Hills	265	1.18	0.25	1.50	397	1,587
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>22,355</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>115,082</b>	<b>163,496</b>

**Table 1.15.** Summary of 2023-24 RACCOON hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Raccoon ( <i>n</i> = 36)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	794	16.67	0.58	13.33	10,582	18,122
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	661	13.89	2.42	20.80	13,757	5,688
Mississippi Border-South	661	13.89	0.85	3.40	2,249	2,646
Western Prairie/Forest	794	16.67	1.96	25.83	20,503	10,450
Central Sand Prairie	132	2.78	-	-	-	265
Grand Prairie	397	8.33	0.29	1.33	529	1,852
Southern Plain	1,191	25.00	1.79	21.33	25,397	14,154
Wabash Border	132	2.78	0.75	18.00	2,381	3,175
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>15.83</b>	<b>75,399</b>	<b>56,350</b>

**Table 1.16.** Summary of 2023-24 RED FOX hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

WMU	Red Fox ( <i>n</i> = 4)					
	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	265	50.00	0.08	0.50	132	1,720
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	132	25.00	0.25	1.00	132	529
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	132	25.00	-	-	-	265
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>2,513</b>

**Table 1.17.** Summary of 2023-24 GRAY FOX hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

WMU	Gray Fox ( <i>n</i> = 0)					
	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 1.18.** Summary of 2023-24 COYOTE hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Coyote ( <i>n</i> = 130)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,852	10.77	0.35	3.93	7,275	20,900
Northeast Moraine	265	1.54	0.09	0.50	132	1,455
Mississippi Border-North	1,720	10.00	0.21	1.23	2,116	10,053
Mississippi Border-South	2,249	13.08	0.11	1.12	2,513	22,355
Western Prairie/Forest	1,323	7.69	0.33	8.60	11,376	34,789
Central Sand Prairie	794	4.62	0.08	1.00	794	9,789
Grand Prairie	5,159	30.00	0.30	3.00	15,477	51,456
Southern Plain	3,175	18.46	0.50	3.88	12,302	24,736
Wabash Border	265	1.54	0.32	7.50	1,984	6,217
Shawnee Hills	397	2.31	0.15	1.67	661	4,365
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>17,196</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>54,631</b>	<b>186,115</b>

**Table 1.19.** Summary of 2023-24 OPOSSUM hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Illinois.

Opossum ( <i>n</i> = 7)						
WMU	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	529	57.14	0.80	5.00	2,646	3,307
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	132	14.29	0.50	1.00	132	265
Grand Prairie	132	14.29	0.40	4.00	529	1,323
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	132	14.29	0.10	2.00	265	2,646
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>7,540</b>

**Table 1.20.** Percent change in harvest from 2022-23 to 2023-24 in Wildlife Management Units for selected species.

Wildlife Management Unit	Rabbit	Non-Wild Quail	Wild Quail	Non-Wild Pheasant	Wild Pheasant	Dove	Gray Squirrel	Fox Squirrel	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northwest Hills	137%	14%	-100%	278%	8%	-35%	48%	161%	533%	---	---	127%
Northeast Moraine	-41%	---	---	77%	42%	-15%	-78%	-100%	---	---	---	-53%
Mississippi Border-North	69%	-100%	---	-37%	-29%	134%	633%	388%	229%	---	---	-54%
Mississippi Border-South	-17%	---	-32%	---	-100%	15%	20%	-19%	-44%	---	---	-36%
Western Prairie Forest	-80%	-76%	-100%	151%	-100%	-34%	-33%	-2%	14%	---	---	330%
Central Sand Prairie	280%	---	311%	418%	---	66%	-89%	132%	---	---	---	-5%
Grand Prairie	65%	-72%	-34%	3%	51%	-17%	270%	135%	-97%	---	---	85%
Southern Plain	-52%	-63%	-95%	48%	-91%	55%	12%	4%	168%	---	---	40%
Wabash Border	-78%	---	-100%	-100%	---	9%	20%	-20%	-74%	---	---	-59%
Shawnee Hills	---	---	---	-100%	---	-63%	55%	185%	---	---	---	---

<sup>a</sup> Percentage change could not be calculated in certain WMU's due to no harvest in those units.

**Table 1.21.** Summary of 2023-24 RABBIT hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Rabbit ( <i>n</i> = 122)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	3,307	20.49	0.83	3.48	11,508	13,889
Region 2	926	5.74	0.30	3.57	3,307	10,847
Region 3	2,910	18.03	0.43	3.14	9,127	21,429
Region 4	4,497	27.87	0.95	3.18	14,286	15,080
Region 5	4,497	27.87	0.62	2.65	11,905	19,313
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>6,138</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>50,133</b>	<b>80,557</b>

**Table 1.22.** Summary of 2023-24 NON-WILD QUAIL hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Non-Wild Quail ( <i>n</i> = 29)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	661	17.24	3.71	12.60	8,334	2,249
Region 2	529	13.79	2.53	9.50	5,027	1,984
Region 3	661	17.24	1.07	9.00	5,953	5,556
Region 4	1,455	37.93	3.63	11.55	16,799	4,630
Region 5	529	13.79	1.46	4.75	2,513	1,720
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>10.07</b>	<b>38,625</b>	<b>16,138</b>

**Table 1.23.** Summary of 2023-24 WILD QUAIL hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Wild Quail ( <i>n</i> = 28)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	397	10.71	-	-	-	926
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	661	17.86	0.08	1.40	926	11,508
Region 4	1,455	39.29	0.49	1.73	2,513	5,159
Region 5	1,191	32.14	0.05	0.33	397	7,540
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,704</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>25,133</b>

**Table 1.24.** Summary of 2023-24 NON-WILD PHEASANT hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Non-Wild Pheasant ( <i>n</i> = 128)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	4,894	28.91	1.99	15.89	77,780	39,022
Region 2	5,027	29.69	1.78	11.63	58,467	32,937
Region 3	1,191	7.03	1.77	16.33	19,445	10,979
Region 4	3,968	23.44	2.08	9.10	36,112	17,328
Region 5	1,852	10.94	2.16	6.93	12,831	5,953
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>16,932</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>12.09</b>	<b>204,634</b>	<b>106,219</b>

**Table 1.25.** Summary of 2023-24 WILD PHEASANT hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Wild Pheasant ( <i>n</i> = 68)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	3,042	33.82	0.64	1.57	4,762	7,408
Region 2	529	5.88	1.10	5.75	3,042	2,778
Region 3	3,968	44.12	0.64	4.93	19,577	30,556
Region 4	1,323	14.71	0.51	1.90	2,513	4,894
Region 5	132	1.47	-	-	-	132
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>8,995</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>29,895</b>	<b>45,768</b>

**Table 1.26.** Summary of 2023-24 DOVE hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Dove ( <i>n</i> = 175)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	4,762	20.57	2.74	10.97	52,250	19,048
Region 2	2,513	10.86	5.20	17.53	44,049	8,466
Region 3	2,778	12.00	4.44	13.33	37,038	8,334
Region 4	8,995	38.86	5.82	20.28	182,411	31,350
Region 5	4,101	17.71	3.37	12.48	51,192	15,212
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>23,149</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>366,939</b>	<b>82,409</b>

**Table 1.27.** Summary of 2023-24 WOODCOCK hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Woodcock ( <i>n</i> = 2)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	132	50.00	-	-	-	132
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	132	50.00	0.33	1.00	132	397
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>529</b>

**Table 1.28.** Summary of 2023-24 CROW hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Crow ( <i>n</i> = 8)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	265	25.00	1.33	2.00	529	397
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	265	25.00	1.25	2.50	661	529
Region 5	529	50.00	0.77	2.50	1,323	1,720
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,646</b>

**Table 1.29.** Summary of 2023-24 GROUNDHOG hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Groundhog ( <i>n</i> = 24)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	397	12.50	0.34	5.33	2,116	6,217
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	265	8.33	0.45	9.00	2,381	5,291
Region 4	926	29.17	0.58	6.43	5,953	10,318
Region 5	1,587	50.00	0.48	2.75	4,365	9,127
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>4.67</b>	<b>14,815</b>	<b>30,953</b>

**Table 1.30.** Summary of 2023-2024 GRAY SQUIRREL hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Gray Squirrel ( <i>n</i> = 216)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	4,894	17.13	0.91	6.92	33,863	37,302
Region 2	529	1.85	0.60	3.00	1,587	2,646
Region 3	2,910	10.19	0.95	9.64	28,043	29,498
Region 4	9,789	34.26	1.38	9.68	94,711	68,520
Region 5	10,450	36.57	0.86	6.89	71,959	83,467
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>28,572</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>230,164</b>	<b>221,434</b>

**Table 1.31.** Summary of 2023-24 FOX SQUIRREL hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Fox Squirrel ( <i>n</i> = 169)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	5,688	25.44	0.89	5.98	33,995	38,361
Region 2	397	1.78	0.85	5.67	2,249	2,646
Region 3	2,910	13.02	0.66	7.00	20,371	30,953
Region 4	8,201	36.69	0.63	5.08	41,668	65,742
Region 5	5,159	23.08	0.65	3.26	16,799	25,794
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>22,355</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>115,082</b>	<b>163,496</b>

**Table 1.32.** Summary of 2023-24 RACCOON hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Raccoon ( <i>n</i> = 36)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	1,587	33.33	1.11	15.50	24,604	22,223
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	265	5.56	0.31	2.00	529	1,720
Region 4	1,852	38.89	1.45	12.93	23,942	16,535
Region 5	1,058	22.22	1.66	24.88	26,323	15,873
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>15.83</b>	<b>75,399</b>	<b>56,350</b>

**Table 1.33.** Summary of 2023-24 RED FOX hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Red Fox ( <i>n</i> = 4)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	397	8.33	0.07	0.33	132	1,984
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	132	2.78	0.25	1.00	132	529
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>11.11</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>2,513</b>

**Table 1.34.** Summary of 2023-24 GRAY FOX hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Gray Fox ( <i>n</i> = 0)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 1.35.** Summary of 2023-24 COYOTE hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Region in Illinois.

Coyote ( <i>n</i> = 130)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	5,159	30.00	0.31	4.13	21,297	69,314
Region 2	1,323	7.69	0.16	2.10	2,778	17,593
Region 3	2,778	16.15	0.35	3.38	9,392	26,588
Region 4	5,027	29.23	0.24	2.00	10,053	42,197
Region 5	2,910	16.92	0.37	3.82	11,111	30,424
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>17,196</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>3.18</b>	<b>54,631</b>	<b>186,115</b>

**Table 1.36.** Summary of 2023-24 OPOSSUM hunting effort and harvest in Administrative Regions in Illinois.

Opossum ( <i>n</i> = 7)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	132	14.29	0.50	1.00	132	265
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	132	14.29	0.40	4.00	529	1,323
Region 4	529	57.14	0.80	5.00	2,646	3,307
Region 5	132	14.29	0.10	2.00	265	2,646
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>7,540</b>

**Table 1.37.** Percent change in harvest from 2022-23 to 2023-24 in Administrative Regions for selected species.

Administrative Regions	Rabbit	Non-Wild Quail	Wild Quail	Non-Wild Pheasant	Wild Pheasant	Gray Squirrel	Fox Squirrel	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Region 1	42%	-17%	-100%	99%	80%	167%	135%	-30%	86%	---	---	178%
Region 2	8%	201%	---	29%	-36%	-46%	-5%	-16%	---	---	---	565%
Region 3	368%	-24%	33%	-35%	78%	430%	536%	-20%	-96%	---	---	61%
Region 4	-31%	-71%	-65%	355%	-75%	3%	-17%	66%	20%	---	---	-29%
Region 5	-60%	-51%	-43%	109%	---	16%	5%	-19%	78%	---	---	17%

<sup>a</sup> Percentage change could not be calculated in certain regions due to no harvest in those regions.

**Table 1.38.** Distribution of hunting effort and harvest among resident Illinois hunters in 2023, from the 2023-24 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
RABBIT	---	---	0	34.4%
	1-5	79.5%	1-5	46.7%
	6-10	9.8%	6-10	13.9%
	11-14	3.3%	11-14	0.8%
	15-19	4.1%	15-19	1.6%
	20-24	1.6%	20-24	1.6%
	25+	1.6%	25+	0.8%
NON-WILD QUAIL	---	---	0	10.3%
	1-5	75.9%	1-5	37.9%
	6-10	17.2%	6-10	27.6%
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	3.4%	15-19	6.9%
	20-24	3.4%	20-24	6.9%
	25+	---	25+	10.3%
WILD QUAIL	---	---	0	64.3%
	1-5	71.4%	1-5	32.1%
	6-10	14.3%	6-10	3.6%
	11-14	3.6%	11-14	---
	15-19	3.6%	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	7.1%	25+	---
NON-WILD PHEASANT	---	---	0	10.2%
	1-5	71.9%	1-5	37.5%
	6-10	14.8%	6-10	20.3%
	11-14	1.6%	11-14	3.9%
	15-19	2.3%	15-19	7.0%
	20-24	6.2%	20-24	7.0%
	25+	3.1%	25+	14.1%
WILD PHEASANT	---	---	0	39.7%
	1-5	75.0%	1-5	41.2%
	6-10	14.7%	6-10	13.2%
	11-14	2.9%	11-14	1.5%
	15-19	2.9%	15-19	2.9%
	20-24	1.5%	20-24	---
	25+	2.9%	25+	1.5%
DOVE	---	---	0	13.1%
	1-5	87.4%	1-5	18.9%
	6-10	9.7%	6-10	24.6%
	11-14	---	11-14	8.0%
	15-19	1.1%	15-19	8.0%
	20-24	1.1%	20-24	9.1%
	25+	0.6%	25+	18.3%

**Table 1.38 - continued.**

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
WOODCOCK	---	---	0	50.0%
	1-5	100.0%	1-5	50.0%
	6-10	---	6-10	---
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---
CROW	---	---	0	---
	1-5	100.0%	1-5	100.0%
	6-10	---	6-10	---
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---
GROUNDHOG	---	---	0	8.3%
	1-5	62.5%	1-5	58.3%
	6-10	4.2%	6-10	16.7%
	11-14	---	11-14	12.5%
	15-19	8.3%	15-19	4.2%
	20-24	8.3%	20-24	---
	25+	16.7%	25+	---
GRAY SQUIRREL	---	---	0	15.3%
	1-5	57.9%	1-5	42.6%
	6-10	28.2%	6-10	20.8%
	11-14	1.4%	11-14	6.0%
	15-19	3.2%	15-19	3.2%
	20-24	3.2%	20-24	5.1%
	25+	6.0%	25+	6.9%
FOX SQUIRREL	---	---	0	20.7%
	1-5	60.4%	1-5	53.8%
	6-10	26.6%	6-10	13.6%
	11-14	1.8%	11-14	3.0%
	15-19	3.0%	15-19	4.1%
	20-24	2.4%	20-24	2.4%
	25+	5.9%	25+	2.4%
TURKEY – SPRING	---	---	0	64.0%
	1-5	76.4%	1	29.6%
	6-10	16.9%	2	6.4%
	11-14	3.5%	3	---
	15-19	1.9%	---	---
	20-24	1.3%	---	---
	25+	---	---	---

**Table 1.38 - continued.**

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
TURKEY – FALL SHOTGUN	---	---	0	88.9%
	1-5	94.4%	1	11.1%
	6-10	5.6%	2	---
	11-14	---	---	---
	15-19	---	---	---
	20-24	---	---	---
	25+	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---
TURKEY – FALL ARCHERY (RECURVE & COMPOUND)	---	---	0	93.0%
	1-5	29.8%	1	5.3%
	6-10	24.6%	2	1.8%
	11-14	7.0%	3	---
	15-19	8.8%	---	---
	20-24	10.5%	---	---
	25+	19.3%	---	---
	---	---	---	---
TURKEY – FALL ARCHERY (CROSSBOW)	---	---	0	86.2%
	1-5	34.5%	1	10.3%
	6-10	37.9%	2	3.4%
	11-14	1.7%	3	---
	15-19	3.4%	---	---
	20-24	8.6%	---	---
	25+	13.8%	---	---
	---	---	---	---
TURKEY – FALL ARCHERY (ALL COMBINED)	---	---	0	89.2%
	1-5	32.4%	1	8.1%
	6-10	27.9%	2	2.7%
	11-14	4.5%	3	---
	15-19	6.3%	---	---
	20-24	11.7%	---	---
	25+	17.1%	---	---
	---	---	---	---
DEER – ARCHERY SEASON (RECURVE & COMPOUND)	---	---	0	62.2%
	1-5	22.3%	1	25.4%
	6-10	22.8%	2	8.9%
	11-14	7.6%	3	2.5%
	15-19	8.6%	4	0.8%
	20-24	10.7%	5	0.3%
	25+	27.9%	6+	---
	---	---	---	---
DEER – ARCHERY SEASON (CROSSBOW)	---	---	0	58.1%
	1-5	26.1%	1	26.8%
	6-10	27.5%	2	11.2%
	11-14	6.7%	3	3.2%
	15-19	8.2%	4	0.7%
	20-24	11.4%	5	---
	25+	20.1%	6+	---
	---	---	---	---

**Table 1.38 - continued.**

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
DEER – ARCHERY SEASON (ALL COMBINED)	---	---	0	58.3%
	1-5	21.3%	1	26.8%
	6-10	24.8%	2	10.5%
	11-14	7.7%	3	3.5%
	15-19	8.9%	4	0.8%
	20-24	11.6%	5	0.1%
	25+	25.6%	6+	---
DEER REGULAR FIREARM SEASON	1	9.3%	0	49.3%
	2	11.5%	1	38.7%
	3	19.3%	2	10.8%
	4	13.8%	3	1.1%
	5	10.8%	4	---
	6	11.9%	5	---
	7	23.4%	6+	---
DEER – MUZZLELOADER-ONLY SEASON	1	9.5%	0	79.7%
	2	34.8%	1	19.0%
	3	55.7%	2	1.3%
	4	---	3	---
	5	---	4	---
	6	---	5	---
	7	---	6+	---
DEER – LATE WINTER ANTLERLESS SEASON	1	22.4%	0	77.6%
	2	44.0%	1	19.8%
	3	22.4%	2	2.6%
	4	5.2%	3	---
	5	2.6%	4	---
	6	1.7%	5	---
	7	1.7%	6+	---
DEER – SPECIAL CWD SEASON	1	28.2%	0	84.6%
	2	35.9%	1	12.8%
	3	23.1%	2	2.6%
	4	5.1%	3	---
	5	2.6%	4	---
	6	5.1%	5	---
	7	---	6+	---
RED FOX	---	---	0	50.0%
	1-5	75.0%	1-5	50.0%
	6-10	---	6-10	---
	11-14	25.0%	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---

**Table 1.38 - continued.**

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
GRAY FOX	---	---	0	---
	1-5	---	1-5	---
	6-10	---	6-10	---
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---
RACCOON	---	---	0	16.7%
	1-5	41.7%	1-5	38.9%
	6-10	33.3%	6-10	11.1%
	11-14	---	11-14	2.8%
	15-19	5.6%	15-19	5.6%
	20-24	8.3%	20-24	8.3%
	25+	11.1%	25+	16.7%
COYOTE	---	---	0	45.4%
	1-5	53.1%	1-5	43.8%
	6-10	23.1%	6-10	4.6%
	11-14	5.4%	11-14	---
	15-19	4.6%	15-19	2.3%
	20-24	5.4%	20-24	---
	25+	8.5%	25+	3.8%
OPOSSUM	---	---	0	---
	1-5	42.9%	1-5	85.7%
	6-10	42.9%	6-10	14.3%
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	14.3%	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---

**Table 1.39.** Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 2013-2023.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>RABBIT</b>						
2013	37,066 <sup>a</sup>	0.73	3.84 <sup>a</sup>	142,401 <sup>a</sup>	5.23 <sup>a</sup>	194,029 <sup>a</sup>
2014	34,874	0.79	3.88	135,275	4.92	171,482
2015	23,586	0.87	4.83	113,999	5.58	131,689
2016	22,842	1.08	4.08	93,188	3.79	86,483
2017	27,005	0.89	4.78	129,080	5.34	144,317
2018	22,322	0.72	3.48	77,769	4.82	107,601
2019	23,258	0.75	3.29	76,627	4.41	102,481
2020	16,377	0.84	4.49	73,467	5.33	87,342
2021	18,278	0.76	3.43	62,700	4.53	82,829
2022	15,877	0.99	4.13	65,596	4.17	66,154
2023	16,138	0.62	3.11	50,133	4.99	80,557
<b>WILD QUAIL</b>						
2013 <sup>b</sup>	10,779	0.72	4.79	51,628	6.61	71,295
2014 <sup>b</sup>	11,328	0.84	4.78	54,199	5.71	64,639
2015 <sup>b</sup>	7,665	0.52	3.79	29,089	7.28	55,820
2016	7,728	1.06	4.65	35,912	4.37	33,752
2017	8,548	0.67	3.46	29,607	5.16	44,100
2018	6,995	0.86	5.07	35,490	5.90	41,250
2019	6,749	1.15	6.71	45,270	5.82	39,248
2020	4,435	1.05	7.51	33,322	7.13	31,616
2021	5,437	0.56	3.06	16,658	5.45	29,615
2022	4,457	0.87	2.31	10,306	2.66	11,838
2023	3,704	0.15	1.04	3,836	6.79	25,133
<b>WILD PHEASANT</b>						
2013 <sup>b</sup>	14,940	0.33	1.38	20,613	4.22	62,974
2014 <sup>b</sup>	15,549	0.60	2.66	41,316	4.40	68,415
2015 <sup>b</sup>	13,955	0.55	1.77	24,765	3.24	45,207
2016	10,001	0.52	1.47	14,660	2.82	28,184
2017	12,264	0.54	1.95	23,908	3.59	43,977
2018	12,241	0.54	2.54	31,066	4.68	57,298
2019	13,706	0.52	1.72	23,570	3.33	45,582
2020	8,529	0.68	3.17	27,067	4.68	39,918
2021	10,990	0.83	3.95	43,381	4.78	52,520
2022	8,913	0.75	3.28	29,247	4.38	38,996
2023	8,995	0.65	3.32	29,895	5.09	45,768
<b>DOVE</b>						
2013	40,281	4.62	19.94	803,159	4.31	173,794
2014	41,316	4.61	18.05	745,902	3.91	161,708
2015	35,183	5.38	21.27	744,140	3.96	138,371
2016	34,661	4.51	14.58	505,375	3.23	112,053
2017	30,722	4.39	17.68	543,203	4.02	123,630
2018	28,906	4.14	16.91	488,832	4.09	118,093
2019	25,958	4.58	14.92	387,185	3.26	84,622
2020	25,247	4.07	14.26	360,057	3.50	88,479
2021	27,301	5.01	14.72	401,884	2.94	80,169
2022	23,397	4.45	16.21	379,373	3.64	85,234
2023	23,149	4.45	15.85	366,939	3.56	82,409

**Table 1.39 - continued.**

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>WOODCOCK</b>						
2013	189	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	189
2014	444	0.33	0.50	222	1.50	666
2015	590	0.14	2.00	1,179	14.0	8,255
2016	909	1.82	3.88	3,523	2.13	1,932
2017	1,239	0.37	1.00	1,239	2.70	3,345
2018	720	0.22	1.57	1,132	7.14	5,143
2019	415	0.71	1.25	519	1.75	727
2020	341	0.33	0.33	114	1.00	341
2021	810	1.08	2.00	1,620	1.86	1,504
2022	975	1.39	3.57	3,482	2.57	2,507
2023	265	0.25	0.50	132	2.00	529
<b>CROW</b>						
2013	2,458	1.05	4.62	11,347	4.38	10,779
2014	3,998	0.87	2.17	8,663	2.50	9,996
2015	1,179	1.77	3.83	4,521	2.17	2,555
2016	2,387	1.60	7.14	17,047	4.48	10,683
2017	1,610	1.28	8.38	13,503	6.54	10,530
2018	2,057	1.35	4.45	9,155	3.30	6,789
2019	1,350	5.71	14.92	20,143	2.62	3,530
2020	1,706	0.49	2.20	3,753	4.53	7,733
2021	1,851	0.73	4.38	8,098	6.00	11,106
2022	836	1.18	4.33	3,621	3.67	3,064
2023	1,058	0.95	2.38	2,513	2.50	2,646
<b>GROUNDHOG</b>						
2013	4,160	0.91	3.73	15,507	4.09	17,020
2014	4,443	0.92	8.95	39,761	9.75	43,315
2015	2,359	0.55	3.50	8,255	6.33	14,938
2016	1,818	0.38	2.69	4,887	7.06	12,842
2017	3,097	0.67	2.72	8,424	4.04	12,512
2018	2,983	0.62	4.90	14,607	7.90	23,557
2019	2,180	0.39	2.48	5,399	6.43	14,017
2020	2,957	0.72	3.92	11,600	5.42	16,035
2021	4,280	0.41	1.97	8,445	4.81	20,592
2022	1,950	0.62	2.93	5,710	4.71	9,192
2023	3,175	0.48	4.67	14,815	9.75	30,953
<b>GRAY SQUIRREL</b>						
2013	38,579	1.22	8.72	336,430	7.17	276,671
2014	41,316	1.20	8.28	342,297	6.88	284,322
2015	30,269	1.26	9.73	294,629	7.72	233,698
2016	27,956	0.75	7.05	197,172	6.40	178,989
2017	31,217	1.30	9.67	301,766	7.44	232,394
2018	27,054	1.37	9.28	251,000	6.78	183,415
2019	31,253	1.31	8.48	264,976	6.48	202,470
2020	24,337	1.12	8.12	197,542	7.22	175,707
2021	24,988	1.19	8.56	214,014	7.19	179,772
2022	19,359	1.35	9.16	177,292	6.77	131,054
2023	28,572	1.04	8.06	230,164	7.75	221,434

**Table 1.39 - continued.**

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>FOX SQUIRREL</b>						
2013	41,416	0.82	5.38	222,963	6.56	271,754
2014	45,092	0.85	5.45	245,894	6.39	288,321
2015	32,627	0.80	5.75	187,509	7.17	233,895
2016	29,547	1.10	11.27	139,555	6.26	184,899
2017	29,731	0.76	5.54	164,633	7.25	215,547
2018	25,409	0.84	5.43	138,050	6.51	165,310
2019	29,903	0.83	4.92	147,024	5.91	176,616
2020	22,745	0.90	6.30	143,181	6.97	158,420
2021	22,327	0.73	4.99	111,519	6.80	151,777
2022	17,409	0.78	4.98	86,766	6.39	111,277
2023	22,355	0.70	5.15	115,082	7.31	163,496
<b>TURKEY-SPRING</b>						
2013	49,358	0.11	0.43	21,181	3.94	194,596
2014	42,204	0.10	0.43	17,992	4.39	185,254
2015	42,651	0.14	0.58	24,569	4.23	180,433
2016	39,321	0.11	0.48	18,865	4.24	166,716
2017	42,986	0.10	0.39	16,600	3.86	165,748
2018	38,987	0.09	0.40	15,739	4.46	174,054
2019	40,183	0.10	0.46	18,482	4.56	183,365
2020	37,643	0.10	0.42	15,694	4.23	159,103
2021	40,489	0.09	0.43	17,468	4.84	196,083
2022	39,831	0.09	0.41	16,434	4.45	177,152
2023	41,535	0.10	0.42	17,593	4.35	180,824
<b>TURKEY-FALL SHOTGUN</b>						
2013	6,619	0.17	0.49	3,215	2.80	18,533
2014	3,776	0.07	0.24	889	3.41	12,883
2015	4,128	0.11	0.33	1,376	2.90	11,990
2016	4,205	0.08	0.27	1,136	3.35	14,092
2017	4,707	0.10	0.29	1,363	2.97	13,998
2018	5,041	0.03	0.12	617	3.61	18,208
2019	3,530	0.06	0.18	623	2.82	9,968
2020	3,526	0.02	0.06	227	3.16	11,145
2021	4,049	0.07	0.23	925	3.23	13,072
2022	5,014	0.10	0.28	1,393	2.92	14,623
2023	4,762	0.04	0.11	529	2.47	11,773
<b>TURKEY-FALL ARCHERY</b>						
2013	18,344	0.01	0.18	3,215	15.78	289,530
2014	13,550	0.00	0.07	889	17.64	239,008
2015	14,348	0.01	0.22	3,145	16.40	235,271
2016	10,342	0.02	0.22	2,273	12.80	132,395
2017 <sup>d</sup>	14,494	0.01	0.18	2,601	14.46	209,601
2018 <sup>d</sup>	14,196	0.02	0.21	2,983	11.08	157,286
2019 <sup>d</sup>	12,252	0.01	0.12	1,454	14.61	179,004
2020 <sup>d</sup>	10,690	0.01	0.10	1,024	12.61	134,765
2021 <sup>d</sup>	15,386	0.01	0.17	2,545	12.05	185,325
2022 <sup>d</sup>	12,813	0.01	0.11	1,393	13.95	178,684
2023 <sup>d</sup>	14,683	0.01	0.14	1,984	13.72	201,460

**Table 1.39 - continued.**

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>DEER-REGULAR FIREARM SEASON</b>						
2013	163,771	0.11	0.49	80,373	4.45	729,216
2014	158,821	0.12	0.53	83,520	4.26	675,932
2015	144,661	0.14	0.60	86,875	4.28	618,741
2016	138,873	0.14	0.59	82,392	4.31	597,995
2017	135,398	0.13	0.57	76,804	4.33	586,189
2018	127,043	0.15	0.63	80,546	4.16	529,053
2019	132,073	0.14	0.60	79,846	4.31	569,719
2020	124,871	0.13	0.57	71,306	4.56	568,858
2021	126,558	0.14	0.59	74,731	4.35	549,959
2022	122,558	0.13	0.57	70,053	4.37	535,635
2023	128,177	0.15	0.64	81,748	4.35	557,288
<b>DEER-MUZZLELOADER-ONLY SEASON</b>						
2013	29,123	0.11	0.27	7,943	2.57	74,888
2014	28,432	0.08	0.23	6,442	2.83	80,410
2015	27,714	0.09	0.23	6,489	2.75	76,262
2016	22,842	0.08	0.22	5,000	2.62	59,777
2017	23,041	0.13	0.34	7,804	2.67	61,567
2018	21,191	0.13	0.34	7,304	2.63	55,652
2019	22,116	0.09	0.24	5,295	2.69	59,599
2020	24,224	0.12	0.29	7,051	2.35	56,863
2021	21,864	0.11	0.26	5,784	2.33	50,901
2022	22,562	0.12	0.27	6,128	2.33	52,644
2023	20,900	0.09	0.22	4,497	2.46	51,456
<b>DEER-ARCHERY SEASON</b>						
2013	104,390	0.03	0.45	46,711	17.40	1,816,799
2014	95,737	0.03	0.50	47,757	17.88	1,712,153
2015	96,899	0.03	0.58	56,410	18.80	1,822,022
2016	90,233	0.03	0.48	43,185	16.69	1,506,352
2017 <sup>d</sup>	101,208	0.03	0.50	50,790	16.67	1,686,842
2018 <sup>d</sup>	89,187	0.04	0.62	54,932	15.21	1,356,940
2019 <sup>d</sup>	96,666	0.04	0.63	60,949	17.18	1,660,565
2020 <sup>d</sup>	99,397	0.04	0.71	70,169	16.72	1,662,335
2021 <sup>d</sup>	100,182	0.03	0.59	58,999	17.27	1,730,623
2022 <sup>d</sup>	87,462	0.03	0.54	47,352	16.06	1,404,963
2023 <sup>d</sup>	99,209	0.04	0.62	61,642	17.57	1,743,558
<b>DEER-LATE WINTER ANTLERLESS SEASON</b>						
2013	38,768	0.08	0.18	6,997	2.35	90,963
2014	23,323	0.09	0.23	5,331	2.58	60,196
2015	21,817	0.11	0.27	5,897	2.46	53,658
2016	17,728	0.09	0.20	3,523	2.33	41,366
2017	18,706	0.06	0.14	2,601	2.38	44,472
2018	15,019	0.09	0.21	3,086	2.32	34,770
2019	15,159	0.07	0.16	2,492	2.23	33,745
2020	15,353	0.11	0.28	4,322	2.51	38,553
2021	15,270	0.09	0.22	3,355	2.49	38,060
2022	17,827	0.11	0.26	4,596	2.43	43,313
2023	15,344	0.11	0.25	3,836	2.34	35,847

**Table 1.39 - continued.**

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>DEER-SPECIAL CWD SEASON</b>						
2013	7,754	0.08	0.15	1,135	1.95	15,129
2014	7,108	0.20	0.53	3,776	2.63	18,659
2015	6,486	0.03	0.06	393	2.03	13,169
2016	4,887	0.07	0.19	909	2.49	12,160
2017	7,185	0.06	0.14	991	2.34	16,847
2018	5,246	0.05	0.14	720	2.65	13,887
2019	4,569	0.07	0.16	727	2.30	10,487
2020	5,459	0.12	0.23	1,251	1.92	10,463
2021	5,668	0.08	0.20	1,157	2.59	14,692
2022	6,546	0.08	0.19	1,253	2.38	15,598
2023	5,159	0.08	0.18	926	2.33	12,037
<b>RACCOON</b>						
2013	9,077	1.12	15.50	140,699	13.85	125,759
2014	7,552	1.17	11.24	84,852	9.62	72,635
2015	7,665	1.05	10.62	81,372	10.15	77,834
2016	5,796	0.87	11.27	65,345	12.96	75,119
2017	7,061	1.15	13.32	94,023	11.60	81,883
2018	5,041	0.97	16.06	80,958	16.59	83,632
2019	7,164	1.10	9.64	69,047	8.74	62,610
2020	4,776	0.87	14.60	69,714	16.76	80,063
2021	5,437	0.72	8.02	43,613	11.13	60,502
2022	4,596	1.18	13.39	61,558	11.33	52,087
2023	4,762	1.34	15.83	75,399	11.83	56,350
<b>RED FOX</b>						
2013	1,324	0.09	1.29	1,702	14.57	19,289
2014	1,555	0.20	0.86	1,333	4.29	6,664
2015	1,179	0.28	1.33	1,572	4.83	5,700
2016	909	0.15	1.13	1,023	7.63	6,932
2017	1,239	0.12	1.50	1,858	12.30	15,237
2018	617	0.27	5.67	3,498	21.00	12,961
2019	519	0.00	0.00	0	9.40	4,880
2020	455	0.07	0.25	114	3.75	1,706
2021	694	0.11	1.33	925	11.83	8,214
2022	557	0.00	0.00	0	4.00	2,228
2023	529	0.11	0.50	265	4.75	2,513
<b>GRAY FOX</b>						
2013	1,135	0.15	3.00	3,404	20.17	22,883
2014	889	0.04	0.25	222	6.50	5,775
2015	393	0.00	0.00	0	3.50	1,376
2016	227	0.00	0.00	0	5.50	1,250
2017	743	0.07	1.00	743	14.50	10,777
2018	617	0.02	0.17	103	11.00	6,789
2019	623	0.02	0.17	104	9.50	5,918
2020	341	0.10	0.67	227	7.00	2,388
2021	231	0.00	0.00	0	2.50	578
2022	696	0.00	0.00	0	4.20	2,925
2023	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0

**Table 1.39 - continued.**

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
<b>COYOTE</b>						
2013	31,582	0.37	3.35	105,903	9.14	288,774
2014	28,876	0.31	2.89	83,520	9.36	270,328
2015	27,517	0.25	1.98	54,444	7.88	216,795
2016	25,115	0.26	2.81	70,687	10.84	272,291
2017	29,978	0.36	3.60	107,774	10.12	303,500
2018	22,631	0.30	2.50	56,681	8.34	188,764
2019	22,843	0.31	2.83	64,583	8.98	205,170
2020	21,153	0.33	3.67	77,561	10.98	232,229
2021	19,550	0.29	2.69	52,520	9.13	178,499
2022	16,434	0.32	2.35	38,578	7.24	118,937
2023	17,196	0.29	3.18	54,631	10.82	186,115
<b>OPOSSUM</b>						
2013	1,702	0.82	8.11	13,805	9.89	16,831
2014	1,999	0.71	5.67	11,328	8.00	15,993
2015	786	0.56	2.25	1,769	4.00	3,145
2016	1,818	0.37	3.56	6,478	9.63	17,501
2017	1,982	0.50	4.50	8,919	8.94	17,715
2018	617	1.00	6.17	3,806	6.17	3,806
2019	1,661	0.47	4.38	7,268	9.31	15,471
2020	796	1.08	4.00	3,184	3.71	2,957
2021	1,388	0.57	2.67	3,702	4.67	6,478
2022	696	0.38	8.20	5,710	21.40	14,902
2023	926	0.47	3.86	3,572	8.14	7,540

<sup>a</sup> 2016-17 figures, other than the standardized average daily bag, are not directly comparable to previous years due to increased season length in 2017-18 season.

<sup>b</sup> 2013-14 to present not directly comparable to previous years due to changes in harvest reporting on the questionnaire; hunters distinguished between wild and non-wild pheasant, quail, and partridge from 2012-2016.

<sup>c</sup> 2012-13 is not directly comparable to current or previous year estimates.

<sup>d</sup> Hunters were asked to report Compound/Recurve activity separately from Crossbow this year. Archery effort was created by combining all archery activity. Number of hunters are not summative because some hunters used multiple archery methods.

**Table 1.40.** Percent change in statewide harvest by species for 1-, 5- and 10-year time periods, from the 2023-24 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

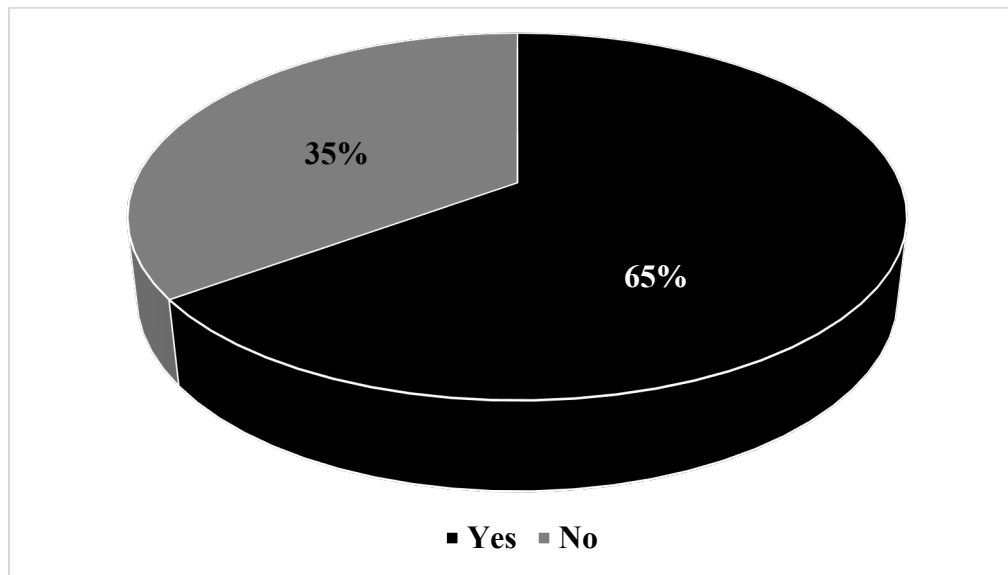
Species	2023 Estimated Harvest	% Change 1 Year <sup>a</sup>	% Change 5 Years <sup>a</sup>	% Change 10 Years <sup>a</sup>
Rabbit	50,133	-24	-36	-65
Wild Quail	3,836	-63	-89	-93
Wild Pheasant	29,895	2	-4	45
Dove	366,939	-3	-25	-54
Woodcock	132	-96	-88	---
Crow	2,513	-31	-73	-78
Groundhog	14,815	159	1	-4
Gray Squirrel	230,164	30	-8	-32
Fox Squirrel	115,082	33	-17	-48
Turkey-Spring	17,593	7	12	-17
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	529	-62	-14	-84
Turkey-Fall Archery	1,984	42	-33	-38
Deer-Regular Firearm	81,748	17	1	2
Deer-Muzzleloader	4,497	-27	-38	-43
Deer-Archery	61,642	30	12	32
Deer-Late winter antlerless	3,836	-17	24	-45
Deer-Special CWD season	926	-26	29	-18
Raccoon	75,399	22	-7	-46
Red Fox	265	---	-92	-84
Gray Fox	0	---	-100	-100
Coyote	54,631	42	-4	-48
Opossum	3,572	-37	-6	-74

<sup>a</sup> Compared to 2022-23, 2018-19, and 2013-14 seasons, respectively; see also Table 1.39.

## Section 2 – Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

### *Hunter Recruitment and Retention*

Respondents were, on average, 16.7 years old when they first hunted. The species most frequently hunted by respondents during their first year of hunting were: (1) rabbits (49%), (2) squirrels (49%), (3) deer (shotgun; 49%), (4) pheasants (30%), and (5) deer (archery; 27%). Most respondents (64%) have mentored a new hunter, and have mentored 4.0 hunters on average. Most hunters mentored were youth hunters (87%; <17 years old), 29% were adult hunters 17-30 years of age, and 11% were adult hunters over 30 years of age. Most respondents (65%) have taken someone on their first hunt (Fig. 2.1) with 9% taking someone on their first hunt as part of an organized Youth Hunt in Illinois. The species most frequently hunted by respondents when mentoring a first-time hunter were: (1) deer (shotgun; 58%), (2) squirrels (32%), (3) deer (archery; 30%), (4) rabbits (23%), and (5) pheasants (18%). Most respondents (68%) were supportive of having a special season for new hunters (mentored hunting season), 18% were neither supportive nor unsupportive, and 14% were unsupportive.



**Figure 2.1.** Respondents that have mentored a new hunter ( $n = 1,726$ )

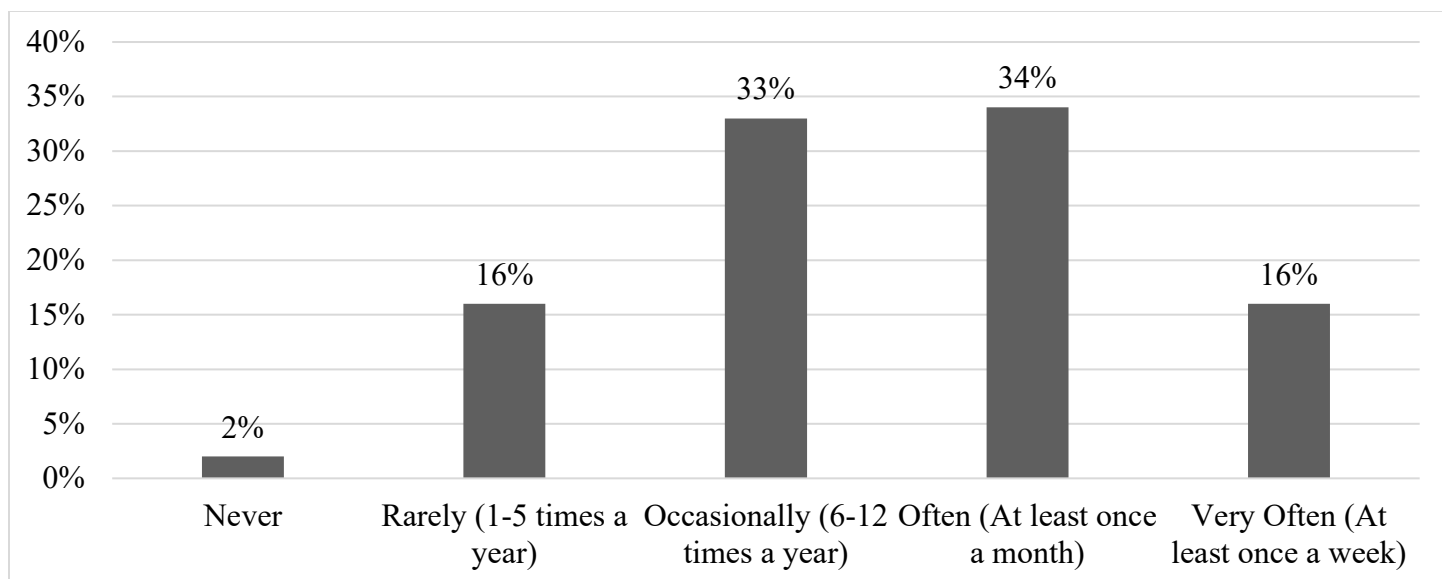
### *Wild Game*

Most respondents “occasionally” (6-12 times a year; 33%) or “often” (at least once a month; 34%) eat wild game in a typical year with 16% eating wild game “very often” (at least once a week), 16% “rarely” eating

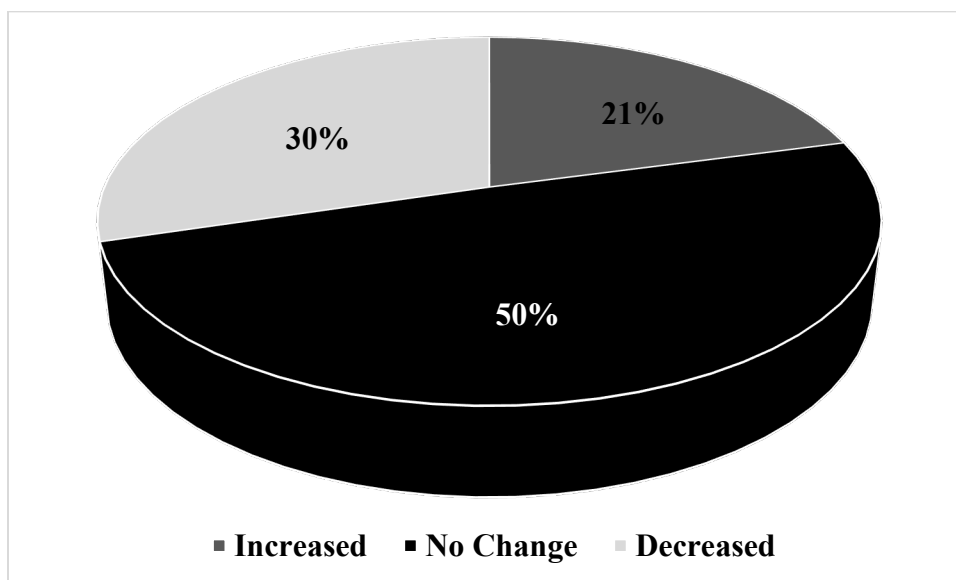
wild game (1-5 times a year), and 2% “never” eating wild game (Fig. 2.2). The wild game most often eaten by respondents in a typical year were: (1) deer (93%), (2) turkey (27%), (3) squirrel (26%), (4) pheasant (20%), and (5) rabbit (19%). Half of respondents (50%) indicated that there was “no change” in their wild game consumption in 2023 compared to 5 years ago, 21% increased their wild game consumption, and 30% decreased their wild game consumption (Fig. 2.3). Respondents were asked eight statements about the importance of wild game. Most respondents indicated wild game was important (“important” or “extremely important” responses) to them for “cooking wild game” (65%), “sharing much of my harvest with friends/family” (64%), or “getting wild game for food for my household” (58%; Table 2.1). “Donating my harvest to foodbanks” (22%) and “donating my harvest to Hunters for the Hungry” (27%) were least important to respondents. Respondents were asked their disagreement or agreement with six statements about wild game. Most respondents agreed that “wild game meat has fewer chemicals than store bought meat” (80%), “wild game meat is safer to eat than store bought meat” (62%), and “wild game meat tastes better than store bought meat” (60%; Table 2.2). Most respondents disagree that “becoming ill from a parasite after eating wild game is a concern (Trichinosis, etc.)” (55%) and “fragmentation of lead ammunition in wild game meat is a concern” (53%). Most respondents agreed with the statements “I trust IDNR to provide truthful information about human safety issues related to eating wild game” (73%), “I trust IDNR to provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding eating wild game” (73%), and “I trust IDNR to provide the best available information on eating wild game in Illinois” (72%).

Most respondents that have harvested deer either processed the deer themselves (33%) or have used both commercial processors and processed the deer themselves (40%), whereas 26% only used a commercial processor, 5% donated the deer whole, and 0.7% had a guide service process the deer. Twenty-four percent of respondents live in a county where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found in deer, 33% do not live in a county with CWD, and 43% were not sure. Twenty-two percent of respondents hunt deer in a county in which CWD has been found in deer, 37% do not hunt deer in a county with CWD, and 41% were not sure (Fig. 2.4). Ten percent of respondents have donated any processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.). Only 4% of respondents know a hunter who harvested a deer in Illinois that tested positive for CWD since the disease

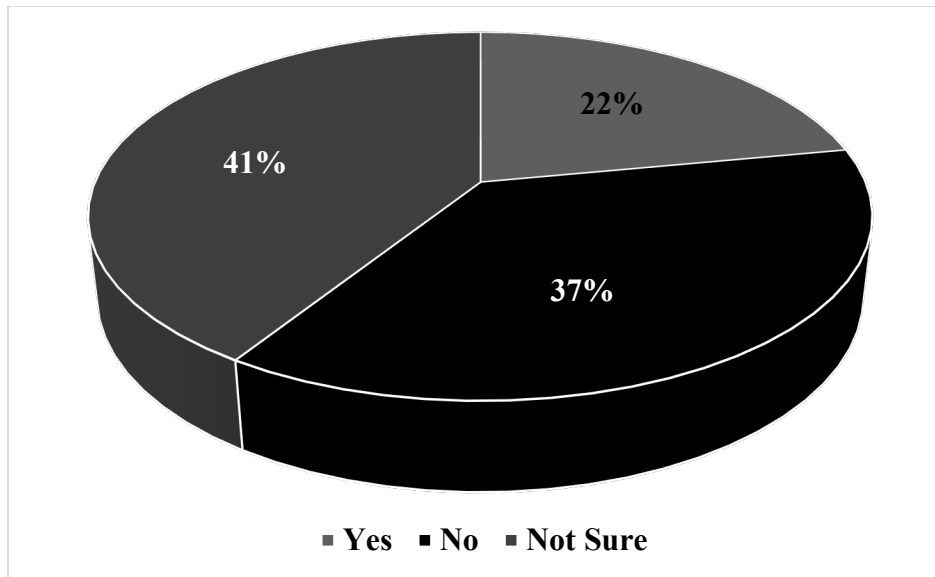
was discovered in Illinois (2002). Most respondents (87%) who have harvested a deer never test their deer for CWD, 9% test some deer for CWD, and 4% test every deer for CWD. Eight percent of respondents ( $n = 16$ ) who test their deer for CWD have received a positive CWD test for a deer that they harvested in Illinois. Half of respondents (50%) who have received a positive CWD test for a deer that they harvested in Illinois indicated “my family and I ate it,” 19% indicated “I ate it, but my family did not,” 13% reported “IDNR picked up and disposed of meat,” 13% indicated “I threw it out,” and 6% indicated “I donated it to a food pantry.”



**Table 2.2.** Frequency of consuming wild game among respondents ( $n = 1,726$ ).



**Figure 2.3.** Change in respondents' consumption of wild game in 2023 compared to 5 years ago ( $n = 1,726$ ).



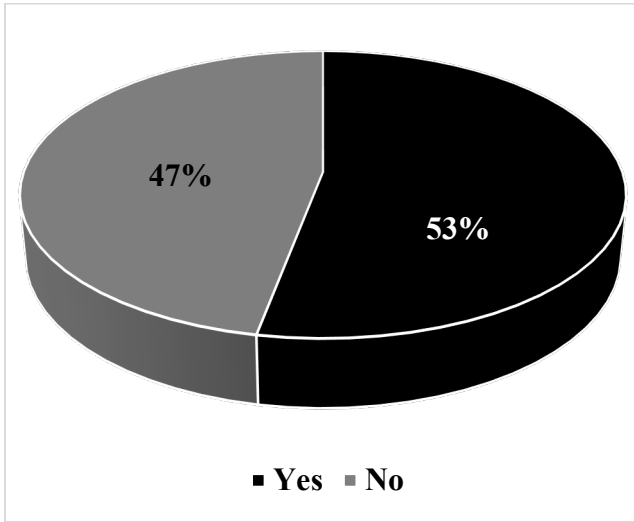
**Figure 2.4.** Percentage of respondents that hunt deer in a county in which Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found in deer ( $n = 1,557$ ).

### ***Communication with IDNR***

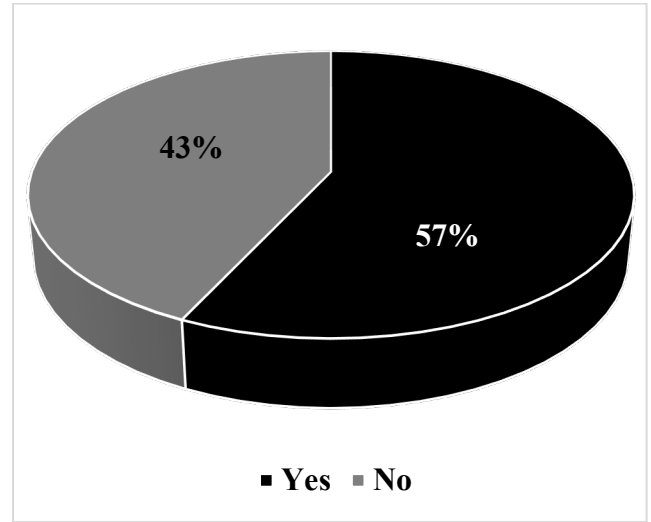
Over half of respondents (53%) would like reminders to renew their hunting license every year (Fig. 2.5). Of hunters willing to receive reminders, the most preferred method of contact was email (79%), followed by text (50%), and 11% wanted social media reminders (Table 2.3). Sixty-four percent of respondents would like reminders about permit due dates and the most preferred methods of contact were email (75%), text (52%), and social media (12%; Table 2.4). Forty-three percent of respondents have missed a permit application deadline because they did not know it was due. Eighteen percent of respondents received announcements from IDNR in their email, 16% used to get them, and 66% did not receive email announcements from IDNR. Twenty-four percent have signed up for email announcements from IDNR.

Most respondents (57%) would use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy (PDF) of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy (Fig. 2.6). Most respondents (79%) would use a smart phone application to report harvests if it were available (Fig. 2.7). Over half of respondents (53%) purchased any Illinois hunting licenses/permits online for the 2023-24 hunting season and most respondents (74%) were satisfied with the overall experience of purchasing Illinois hunting licenses/permits online, 11% were unsatisfied, and 15% were neither satisfied nor unsatisfied. Most respondents (92%) have Internet access in their home, including 86% who have high-speed Internet access (Fig. 2.8).

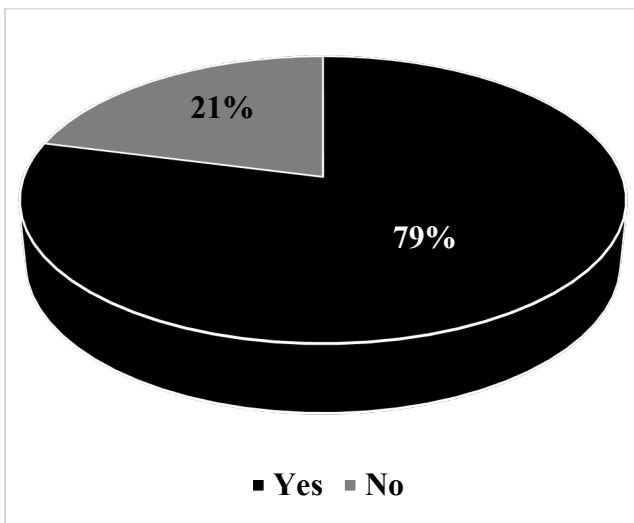
One-third of respondents (33%) have posted a picture of themselves with harvested game species on social media (Fig. 2.9). Respondents most frequently posed with (1) deer (92%), (2) turkey (26%), (3) pheasants (16%), (4) ducks (16%), and (5) geese (14%). Most respondents (76%) rarely (0-2 posts/year) post pictures of themselves with harvested game species on social media, 20% occasionally (3-5 posts/year) post pictures, 3% often (6-10 posts/year) post pictures, and 1% frequently (10+ posts/year) post pictures.



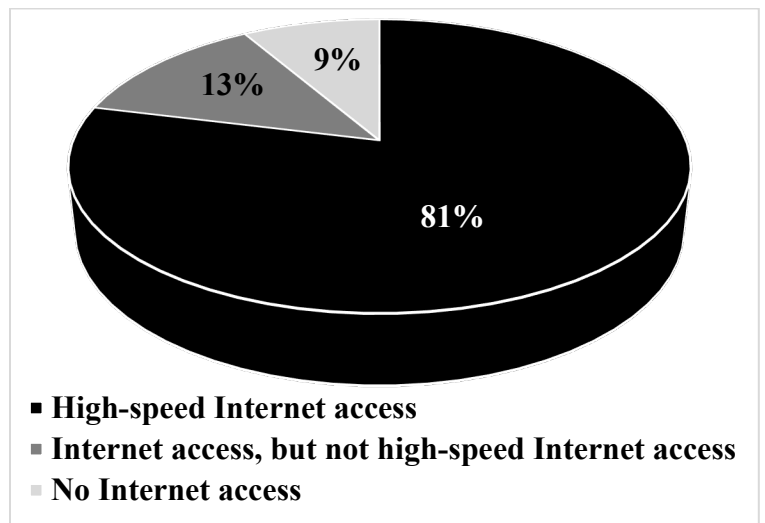
**Figure 2.5.** Respondents who would like reminders about permit due dates ( $n = 1,726$ ).



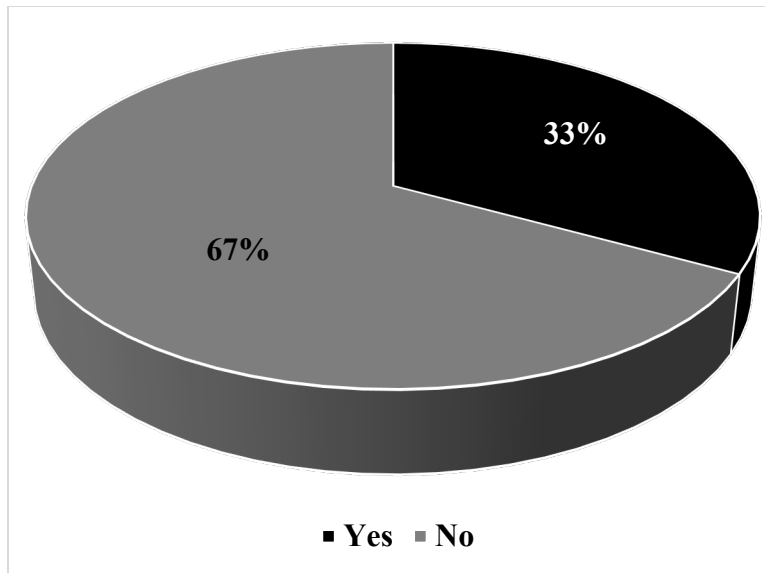
**Figure 2.6.** Respondents who would use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy (PDF) of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy ( $n = 1,726$ ).



**Figure 2.7.** Respondents who would use a smart phone application to report harvests if it were available ( $n = 1,726$ ).



**Figure 2.8.** Internet access among respondents ( $n = 1,726$ ).

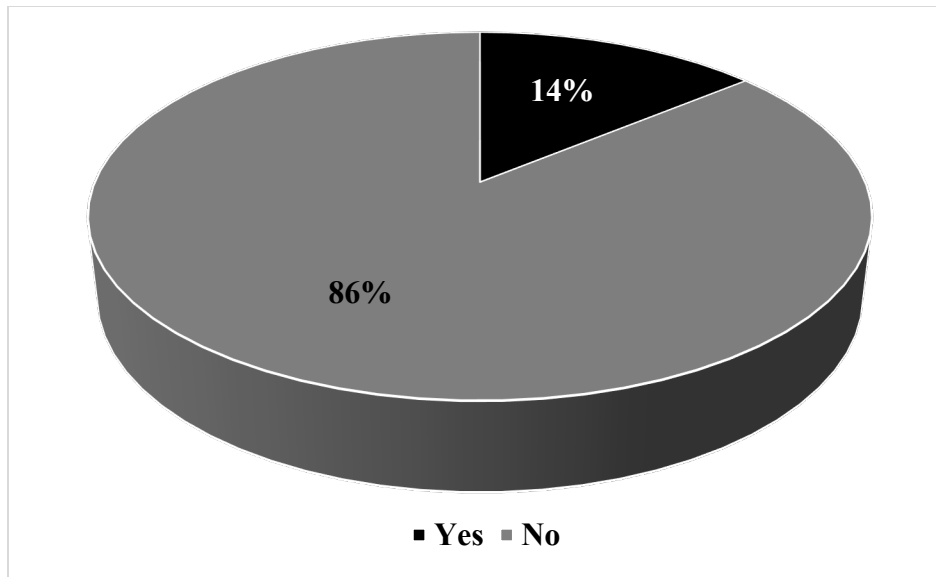


**Figure 2.9.** Respondents who have posted a picture of themselves with harvested game species on social media ( $n = 1,726$ ).

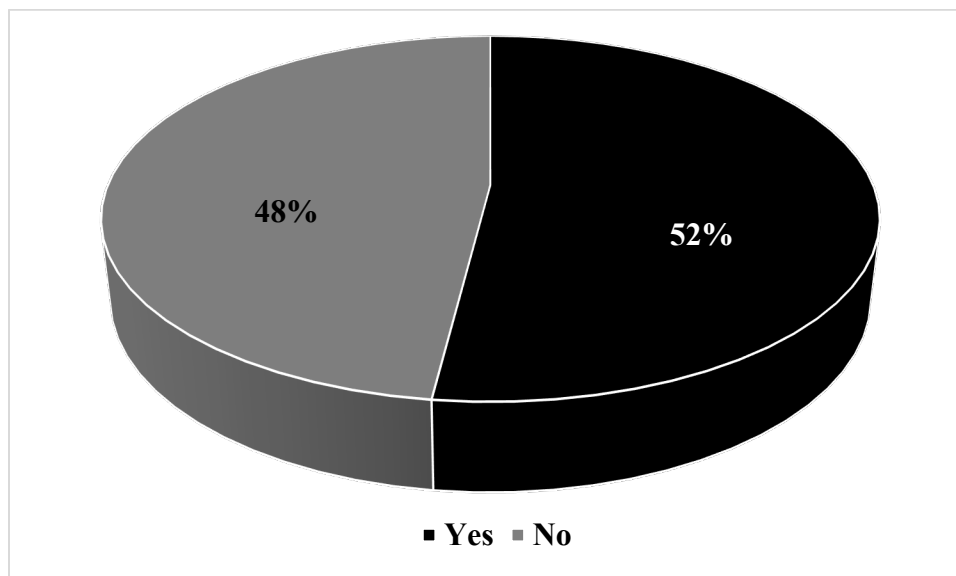
### ***Background Information***

Respondents to the 2023-24 Hunter Harvest Survey had a mean age of 55.3 years old and had been hunting for an average of 34.7 years. Most respondents (95.7%) indicated their race/ethnicity is White, 0.9% are Latino or Hispanic, 0.7% are Native American (American Indian), 0.2% are Asian American, and 0.2% Black. Most frequently listed counties of residence were Madison ( $n = 87$ ), Cook ( $n = 66$ ), Will ( $n = 54$ ), Sangamon ( $n = 49$ ), and Tazewell counties ( $n = 49$ ).

Fourteen percent of respondents used a rifle to hunt deer during the 2023-24 regular firearm deer hunting season in Illinois, and 21% plan to use a rifle during the 2024-25 regular firearm deer hunting season in Illinois. The IDNR currently allows agricultural producers to plant crops on some Illinois state land sites for a fee. Most respondents (52%) would support hunters paying a fee to hunt those lands instead of allowing agricultural producers to plant crops on Illinois state lands.



**Figure 2.10.** Respondents that used a rifle to hunt during the 2023-24 regular firearm deer hunting season in Illinois ( $n = 1,409$ ).



**Figure 2.11.** Support for paying a fee to hunt Illinois state land sites instead of allowing agricultural producers to plant crops on state lands ( $n = 1,726$ ).

## References

- Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. 1993. Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey, 1992. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R, Job 1, Job Completion Report 65pg.
- IBM SPSS Inc. 2021. SPSS Statistics 28.0. IBM Corporation, 1 New Orchard Road, Armonk NY, U.S.A.
- Miller, C.A., L.K. Campbell and K.D. Caldwell. 1999. 1998-99 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey Report. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R 8, Job 1, Job Completion Report 77pg.

**Table 2.1.** Importance of wild game to respondents (*n* = 1,726).

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Important	Extremely Important
Getting wild game for food for my household	13.9%	9.6%	18.8%	23.8%	34.0%
Cooking wild game	7.9%	6.1%	21.4%	33.5%	31.1%
Getting wild game to save money on food	25.3%	11.8%	18.1%	17.8%	27.1%
Sharing much of my harvest with friends/family	6.4%	8.2%	21.3%	37.5%	26.7%
Trying new recipes for wild game	15.4%	10.8%	26.1%	26.1%	21.6%
Smoking wild game	25.2%	11.2%	22.6%	22.0%	18.9%
Donating my harvest to “Hunters for the Hungry”	30.4%	15.4%	26.9%	18.2%	9.2%
Donating my harvest to foodbanks	35.5%	18.0%	24.8%	14.6%	7.2%

**Table 2.2.** Respondent disagreement or agreement with statements about wild game (*n* = 1,726).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Wild game meat has fewer chemicals than store bought meat.	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	14.9%	10.3%	33.7%	35.9%
Wild game meat is safer to eat than store bought meat.	2.0%	4.1%	4.9%	26.6%	16.4%	24.0%	22.0%
Wild game meat tastes better than store bought meat.	2.8%	7.1%	12.6%	17.1%	19.6%	24.9%	15.9%
Becoming ill from a disease in wild game meat is a concern (Chronic Wasting Disease, Avian Influenza, etc.).	16.3%	21.1%	11.6%	20.6%	13.6%	11.4%	5.3%
Fragmentation of lead ammunition in wild game meat is a concern.	19.0%	24.2%	10.2%	21.4%	10.6%	10.6%	4.0%
Becoming ill from a parasite after eating wild game is a concern (Trichinosis, etc.).	17.7%	26.0%	11.1%	22.0%	11.8%	7.9%	3.5%

**Table 2.3.** Respondents preferred method of receiving reminders to renew their hunting license each year.

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents (%)
Email	718	79.1%
Text	457	50.3%
Social Media	99	10.9%

\*Respondents who want a reminder to renew their hunting license each year.

**Table 2.4.** Respondents preferred method of receiving reminders about permit due dates.

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents (%)
Email	823	75.0%
Text	575	52.4%
Social Media	136	12.4%

\*Respondents who want a reminder about permit due dates.

# Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey 2023-24 Seasons



Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
&  
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 hunting arms and ammunition.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

All your responses will be kept confidential.  
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

**Section 1. Hunting Activity and Harvest in Illinois.** Please provide the following information to allow IDNR biologists to monitor game species harvest and conserve wildlife populations in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase a hunting license during 2023?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 8**)
2. Did you purchase your hunting license online?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 3**)
- 2a. Did you save your license as a PDF?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No
3. Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2023 and February 2024?  
 \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 8**)

4. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species between March 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024. Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; **do not count animals you were not able to retrieve or animals that were trapped.** Count any part of a day hunted as 1 day.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Days Hunted</b>	<b>Number Harvested</b>	<b>County Hunted Most Often</b>
Rabbit			
Quail (shooting preserve, club, etc.)			
Quail (wild)			
Pheasant (shooting preserve, club, etc.)			
Pheasant (wild)			
Dove			
Woodcock			
Crow			
Groundhog (Woodchuck)			
Gray Squirrel			
Squirrel Fox			
Turkey – Spring			
Turkey – Fall Shotgun			
Turkey – Fall Archery (compound & recurve only)			
Turkey – Fall Archery (crossbow only)			
Deer – Regular Firearm Season			
Deer – Muzzleloader-Only Season			
Deer – Archery Season (compound & recurve only)			
Deer – Archery Season (crossbow only)			
Deer – Late Winter Firearm Season			
Deer – Special CWD season			
Raccoon			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Opossum			

5. Did you harvest any Eurasian collared-doves in Illinois during the 2023 season?  
 Yes    If "Yes," how many?  \_\_\_\_\_     No     Not sure
6. Did you have any mourning doves downed but not retrieved in Illinois during the 2023 season?  
 Yes    If "Yes," how many?  \_\_\_\_\_     No     Not sure
7. Did you use a rifle to hunt during the 2023-24 regular firearm deer hunting season in Illinois?  
 Yes     No
8. Do you plan to use a rifle during the 2024-25 regular firearm deer hunting season in Illinois?  
 Yes     No
9. The IDNR currently allows agricultural producers to plant crops on some Illinois state land sites for a fee. Would you support hunters paying a fee to hunt those lands instead of allowing agricultural producers to plant crops on Illinois state lands?  
 Yes     No

**Section 2. Hunter Recruitment and Retention.** Efforts are underway in Illinois and other states to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters. Please help us in these efforts by answering the questions below.

1. In your **first year of hunting**, which specie(s) did you hunt? (Please check **all** that apply)
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Shotgun) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Archery)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Muzzleloader)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doves          | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey (Spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey (Fall)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks          | <input type="checkbox"/> Geese           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify):<br>_____ |
2. How old were you during your first year of hunting?     \_\_\_\_\_ Years
3. Have you ever mentored a new hunter?     Yes     No (If "No," please go to **Question 6**)
4. About how many new hunters have you mentored in your hunting career?     \_\_\_\_\_ New hunters
5. Which of the following best describes the age range of the hunter(s) you mentored? (Please check **all** that apply)
- Youth hunter age 16 and below
- Adult hunter 17-30 years of age
- Adult hunter over 30 years of age
6. Have you ever taken someone on their first hunt?
- Yes    What was their ages?     \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_
- No (If "No," please go to **Question 7**)
- 6a. Was it an organized Youth Hunt in Illinois?     Yes     No

6b. Which specie(s) did you hunt? (Please check **all** that apply)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Shotgun) | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Archery)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer (Muzzleloader)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doves          | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey (Spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey (Fall)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks          | <input type="checkbox"/> Geese           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify): _____ |

7. How supportive would you be of having a special season for new hunters (mentored hunting season)?

Extremely Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsupportive	Neither	Supportive	Very Supportive	Extremely Supportive
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Section 3. Wild Game.** Please answer the following questions about eating wild game.

1. In a typical year, how **often do you eat wild game?** (Please circle **one** number that matches your response)

Never	Rarely (1-5 times a year)	Occasionally (6-12 times a year)	Often (At least once a month)	Very Often (At least once a week)
1	2	3	4	5

1a. If you eat wild game, which of the following specie(s) do you eat in a typical year? (Please check **all** that apply)

- |                                   |   |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dove     | <input type="checkbox"/> Quail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant | <input type="checkbox"/> Duck  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goose    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify): _____ |                                   |                                |

2. How does your wild game consumption in 2023 compare to 5 years ago? (Please circle **one** number that matches your response)

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5

3. Please state how **important wild game is to you** by circling the number that matches your response.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Important	Extremely Important
Donating my harvest to "Hunters for the Hungry"	1	2	3	4	5
Sharing much of my harvest with friends/family	1	2	3	4	5
Donating my harvest to foodbanks	1	2	3	4	5
Cooking wild game	1	2	3	4	5
Smoking wild game	1	2	3	4	5
Getting wild game for food for my household	1	2	3	4	5
Trying new recipes for wild game	1	2	3	4	5
Getting wild game to save money on food	1	2	3	4	5

4. Please state if you disagree or agree with each of the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Wild game meat tastes better than store bought meat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fragmentation of lead ammunition in wild game meat is a concern.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wild game meat is safer to eat than store bought meat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Becoming ill from a parasite after eating wild game is a concern (Trichinosis, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wild game meat has fewer chemicals than store bought meat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Becoming ill from a disease in wild game meat is a concern (Chronic Wasting Disease, Avian Influenza, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5. Please give your opinions about the IDNR by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I trust IDNR to provide truthful information about human safety issues related to eating wild game.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I trust IDNR to provide me with enough information to decide what actions I should take regarding eating wild game.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I trust IDNR to provide the best available information on eating wild game in Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

6. Which of the following describes how you process the deer you harvested? (Please check **all** that apply)

I use a commercial processor

I do my own processing

I use both a commercial processor and my own processing

I use a guide service and they processed it

I donate it whole (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)

I have never harvested a deer (If "Never harvested," please go to **Section 4**)

7. Do you live in a county in which Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found in deer?

Yes

No

Not sure

8. Do you usually hunt deer in a county in which CWD has been found in deer?  
 Yes                       No                       Not sure
9. Did you donate any processed venison (food bank, Hunters for the Hungry, etc.)?                       Yes                       No
10. Do you know a hunter who harvested a deer **in Illinois** that tested positive for CWD?                       Yes                       No
11. Have you ever had a deer you harvested tested for CWD?  
 Yes, every deer                       No, none of my deer  
 Yes, some deer                       No, because I have not harvested a deer
- 11a. If “Yes,” did any deer you harvested **in Illinois** test positive for CWD?                       Yes                       No
- 11b. If “Yes,” which of the following **best** describes what you did with the meat?  
 My family and I ate it                       I threw it out  
 I ate it, but my family did not                       I donated it to a food pantry  
 IDNR picked up and disposed of meat                       Other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4. Communication.** Please answer the following questions about IDNR communication efforts.

1. Do you have Internet access in your home?                       Yes                       No
- 1a. If “Yes,” do you have high-speed Internet access?                       Yes                       No
2. Would you like reminders to renew your hunting license each year?                       Yes                       No
- 2a. If “Yes,” how would you like to be reminded? (Please check **all** that apply)  
 Text                       Email                       Social media
3. Would you like reminders about permit due dates?                       Yes                       No
- 3a. If “Yes,” how would you like to be reminded? (Please check **all** that apply)  
 Text                       Email                       Social media
4. Have you missed a permit application deadline because you did not know it was due?  
 Yes                       No
5. Do you receive announcements from IDNR in your email?  
 Yes                       Not now, but I used to get them                       No
6. Did you sign up for email announcements from IDNR?                       Yes                       No
7. Would you use a free mobile-phone application provided by the IDNR to store an electronic copy (PDF) of permits and licenses instead of being required to have a paper copy?  
 Yes                       No

8. Would you use a smart phone application to report harvests if it were available?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

9. Did you purchase any Illinois hunting licenses/permits online for the 2023-24 hunting season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (If “No,” please go to **Question 10**)

9a. Please indicate your satisfaction with the overall experience of purchasing Illinois hunting licenses/permits online? (Please circle **one** number that matches your response)

Very Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

10. Have you ever posted a picture of yourself with harvested game species on social media?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (If “No,” please go to **Section 5**)

10a. With which of the following specie(s) have you posted pictures? (Please check **all** that apply)

- |                                      |                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Deer                           | _____ Turkey                         | _____ Dove      |
| _____ Squirrels                      | _____ Rabbits                        | _____ Pheasants |
| _____ Ducks                          | _____ Geese                          | _____ Quail     |
| _____ Other (Please identify): _____ | _____ Other (Please identify): _____ |                 |

10b. How often do you post pictures of yourself with harvested game species on social media?

Rarely (0-2 posts/year)	Occasionally (3-5 posts/year)	Often (6-10 posts/year)	Frequently (10+ posts/year)
1	2	3	4

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

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ Years

2. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County

3. Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ Years

4. Please give your race/ethnicity. (Please check **all** that apply)

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| _____ White                             | _____ Black                |
| _____ Asian-American                    | _____ Latino or Hispanic   |
| _____ Native American (American Indian) | _____ Prefer not to answer |
| _____ Other (Please identify): _____    |                            |

## Comments



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

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.



## ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Dear Illinois Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2023 Illinois hunting license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your activities during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2023-2024 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.** A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

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

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.

Sincerely,

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

Craig A. Miller  
Human Dimensions Research Program



1816 South Oak Street,  
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix C

Dear Illinois Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your 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 time and cooperation.



## ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Dear Illinois Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2023 Illinois hunting license purchasers. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons. 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 you.** The information you and other selected hunters provide will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' wildlife populations. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.**

**Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2023-2024 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.** A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

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 (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

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

Craig A. Miller  
Human Dimensions Research Program





## ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

---

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We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

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

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

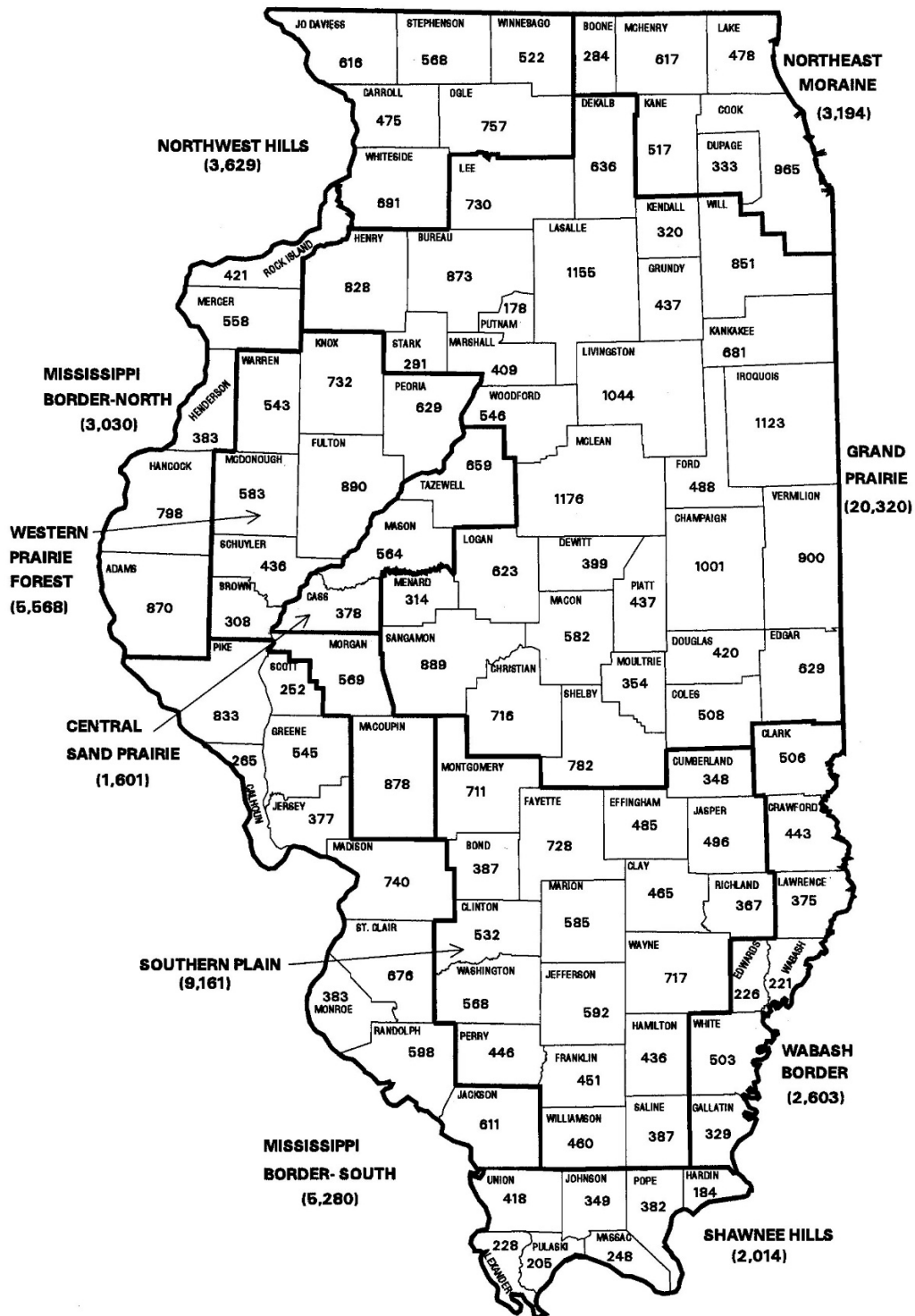
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Miller".

Craig A. Miller  
Human Dimensions Research Program



# Appendix F

Wildlife management units in Illinois (square miles in parentheses).





Appendix H

DEER SEASON DATES AND LIMITS				
SEASON	DATES <i>(inclusive)</i>	HOURS	LIMITS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
<b>Archery</b> <i>(Counties with a firearm season and west of Route 47 in Kane County)</i>	1 Oct-16 Nov and 20-29 Nov and 4 Dec 2023-14 Jan 2024	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	One deer per archery permit	<b>**See footnote below</b>
<b>Archery</b> <i>(Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane [east of route 47] Counties)</i>	1 Oct 2023-14 Jan 2024		One deer per archery permit	<b>**See footnote below</b>
<b>Firearm</b> <i>(Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Handgun and Single Shot Centerfire Rifle)</i>	17-19 Nov and 30 Nov - 3 Dec 2023		One deer per firearm permit	<b>**See footnote below</b>
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	8-10 Dec 2023		One deer per muzzleloader permit	<b>**See footnote below</b>
<b>Special CWD</b>	28-31 Dec 2023 and 12-14 Jan 2024		One deer per valid permit	<b>Antlered deer limit in footnote below does not apply to this season. See Special CWD Deer Hunting section for open counties.</b>
<b>Late Winter Antlerless</b> <i>(Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Handgun and Single Shot Centerfire Rifle)</i>	28-31 Dec 2023 and 12-14 Jan 2024		One antlerless deer per permit	Counties open during this season will be posted online in October.
<b>Youth Firearm</b>	7-9 Oct 2023		One deer	<b>**See footnote below</b>

**DEER HUNTING**

## FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SPECIES	ZONE	DATES	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS		
<b>Raccoon</b>	Statewide	10 Nov 2023 - 15 Feb 2024	None			
<b>Opossum</b>						
<b>Striped Skunk</b>						
<b>Weasel</b> (Least and Long-tailed)						
<b>Mink</b>						
<b>Muskrat</b>						
<b>Fox</b> (Red and Gray)						
<b>Coyote</b>						
<b>Badger</b>				North	2 per person per season	
				South	1 per person per season	
<b>Bobcat</b>	See Bobcat Zone map	One by permit only	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit <b>BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat</b> . Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of taking a bobcat. Taking bobcats in closed zone is prohibited.			
<b>Beaver</b>	Statewide	10 Nov 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	None			
<b>River Otter</b>	Statewide	10 Nov 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	5 per person per season			
<b>Woodchuck</b> (Groundhog)	Statewide	<b>1 Jun - 30 Sep 2023</b>	None			

## FURBEARER HUNTING SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
<b>Raccoon</b> <b>Opossum</b> <b>Fox</b> (Red and Gray) <b>Bobcat</b>	10 Nov 2023 - 15 Feb 2024	Open 24 hours and season begins ½ hour before sunrise on opening day and closes ½ hour after sunset on closing day. <b>See Archery Restrictions</b>	<b>During Archery Deer Season, bow hunting hours for raccoon, opossum, fox, coyote, and striped skunk will be ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.</b>
<b>Woodchuck</b>	<b>1 Jun 2023 - 31 Mar 2024</b> <b>Closed during first and second firearm deer seasons in counties open to firearm deer hunting.</b>	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Must possess a Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit <b>BEFORE attempting to harvest a bobcat</b> . Limit one bobcat per person per season. Must purchase Bobcat Registration Permit within 48 hours of harvesting a bobcat. Taking bobcats in a closed zone is prohibited.
<b>Coyote</b> <b>Striped Skunk</b>	Year round <b>Closed during the first and second firearm deer seasons in counties open to firearm deer hunting.</b>	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. No time restriction 10 Nov 2023 - 15 Mar 2024	<b>Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may harvest coyotes during firearm deer seasons with weapons legal for deer hunting ½ before sunrise to ½ after sunset.</b>  There is no limit on foxes, coyote, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and woodchuck.

## TURKEY SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SEASON	DATES (inclusive)	HOURS	LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS		
<b>Spring</b> <i>(shotgun and archery)</i>	<b>Season 2024</b>		<b>½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.</b>	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3 Spring permits	See map of turkey hunting <b>zones for specific season</b> segments in each zone	
	<b>Segment</b>	<b>North</b>				<b>South</b>
	1	15-19 Apr				8-12 Apr
	2	20-25 Apr				13-18 Apr
	3	26 Apr-1 May				19-24 Apr
	4	2-8 May				25 Apr-1 May
5	9-16 May	2-9 May				
<b>Youth Spring</b> <i>(1 permit per year)</i>	30-31 Mar and 6-7 Apr 2024	<b>½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.</b>	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, counts toward maximum of 3 Spring permits	Permit is valid to hunt individual counties or IDNR sites during season dates		
<b>Fall</b> <i>(shotgun)</i>	21-29 Oct 2023	<b>½ hour before sunrise to sunset</b>	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 Fall Turkey Shotgun permits	<b>See map of fall firearm</b> turkey hunting		
<b>Fall</b> <i>(archery)</i>	1 Oct 2023–14 Jan 2024	<b>½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset</b>	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum <b>of 2 Fall Turkey Archery</b> permits	Season open in all counties, statewide. Closed <b>during firearm deer</b> season in counties open to <b>firearm deer hunting</b>		

## UPLAND AND SMALL GAME SEASON DATES AND LIMITS

SPECIES	ZONE	DATES (inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS	
<b>Doves</b> (mourning and white-winged)	Statewide	1 Sep – 14 Nov 2023 and 26 Dec 2023 – 9 Jan 2024	Sunrise to Sunset	15	45	<b>No limits on Eurasian-collared doves</b> and ringed turtle doves, but they may be harvested only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning/white-winged doves. <b>Hunters may not remain in the field for taking Eurasian-collared doves</b> or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily limit for mourning/white-winged doves.	
<b>Pheasants</b> (roosters only)	See zones map	4 Nov 2023 - 8 Jan 2024 (North Zone) 4 Nov 2023 - 15 Jan 2024 (South Zone)		2	6	Until the 3rd day of the hunting season, you may not possess more than twice the daily limit. Hen pheasants are illegal to harvest or possess, except as specified on controlled hunting areas.	
<b>Quail</b> (Bobwhite)	See zones map	4 Nov 2023 - 8 Jan 2024 (North Zone) 4 Nov 2023 - 15 Jan 2024 (South Zone)		8	20	Until the 3rd day of the hunting season, you may not possess more than twice the daily limit.	
<b>Hungarian Partridge</b>	See zones map	4 Nov 2023 - 8 Jan 2024 (North Zone) 4 Nov 2023 - 15 Jan 2024 (South Zone)		2	6	Until the 3rd day of the hunting season, you may not possess more than twice the daily limit.	
<b>Rabbits</b> (cottontail and swamp)	Statewide	4 Nov 2023 - 15 Feb 2024		4	10	Until the 3rd day of the hunting season, you may not possess more than twice the daily limit.	
<b>Woodcock</b>	Statewide	21 Oct - 4 Dec 2023		3	9		
<b>Squirrels</b> (gray and fox)	Statewide	1 Aug 2023 - 15 Feb 2024		½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	10	Closed 17-19 Nov and 30 Nov - 3 Dec 2023 in counties open for firearm deer hunting. Bag limits are for both species combined.
<b>Crow</b>	Statewide	28 Oct 2023 - 28 Feb 2024		½ hour before sunrise to sunset	No limit	No limit	