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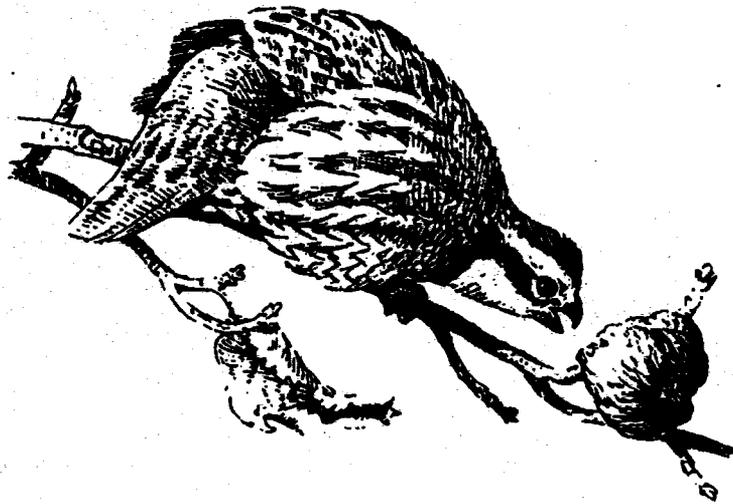
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**Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources**

Results of the 1995-96 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey

**Administrative Report
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June 11, 1997**



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Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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RESULTS OF THE 1995-96 ILLINOIS QUAIL HUNTER SURVEY

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Abstract: Purchasers of the 1994 Illinois Habitat Stamp who hunted bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) the previous year were surveyed (mail-questionnaire) to determine their quail hunting activities, harvest, attitudes, and opinion, for the 1995-96 season. The mailing list consisted of 2,830 residents, 1,848 (65%) of which returned usable questionnaires. Because 89 (4.8%) of the respondents had never hunted quail, the usable sample was reduced to 1,759. Of these respondents, 858 (49%) hunted quail in Illinois in 1995-96. Among these hunters, 829 (97%) had hunted wild quail (94% of days afield) and 111 (13%) had hunted game-farm released quail (6% of days afield). Hunters who pursued wild quail were afield an average of 8.3 days; 39% of the days afield occurred in November, 46% in December, and 15% in January. Hunters spent an average of 3.7 hours in the field per day, and 60% of them used dogs for all their hunts. An average of 14.3 wild quail were harvested per hunter for the season; 53% of the hunters took ≤ 5 quail. Hunting success was much higher in the South Zone (17.5 quail per hunter) than in the North Zone (5.3 quail per hunter). Of the hunters (39%) who hunted on CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land, 74% believed the program helped quail populations. The number of game-farm released quail harvested in Illinois increased from 63,300 in 1991-92 to 146,700 in 1995-96. Majorities ($\geq 50\%$) of the hunters thought the opening date for the wild quail season (first Saturday in November) was about right, the closing dates (8 January in North Zone and 15 January in South Zone) were about right, and that the bag limit should be reduced from 8 to 6 quail per day. The most important reasons quail hunters gave for enjoying their sport were "watching bird dogs work", "having a good time with friends", and "challenge and excitement of hunting". Although 88% of the quail hunters said they enjoyed their sport much or very much, enjoyment decreased slightly when no quail were bagged and greatly when no quail were seen. The quail hunters were 99.4% male, averaged 39 years of age, and 74% of them were married. They had hunted quail for an average of 21 years. Implications of these findings are discussed.

The northern bobwhite is the only species of quail that is native to Illinois. Usually referred to simply as "quail", these

sporty game birds occur throughout the state, though they are most abundant in the southern and western counties (Preno and Labisky 1971:25). During the 5 years from 1991-92 to 1995-96, an annual average of 74,300 hunters spent 505,500 days afield and harvested 799,000 wild quail in Illinois (Anderson et al. 1996). Many thousands of game-farm released quail are also harvested annually in Illinois--the estimate was 63,300 birds in 1991-92 (Anderson and David (1992).

To make prudent management decisions, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs information about the activities, attitudes, and opinions of the state's quail hunters. Such information helps the DNR in establishing quail hunting regulations that are biologically sound and sociologically acceptable. Sportsmen are the DNR's "eyes and ears" in the great outdoors. The information supplied by hunters improves the DNR's hunting programs, which in turn provides positive feedback to the sportsmen in the state. The process is truly a cooperative effort of mutual benefit between the DNR and the sportsmen it serves.

Current plans call for surveying each of the various groups of upland game hunters in Illinois at approximately 5-year intervals. Thus, the 1st survey of quail hunters was conducted following the 1991-92 season (Anderson and David 1992), the present survey was conducted following the 1995-96 season, and the next quail hunter survey is scheduled for the 2000-01 season.

METHODS AND MATERIALS.

A 4-page, 26-question questionnaire was developed specifically for the 1995-96 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Fig. 1). This questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Fig. 2) were mailed to 2,830 potential quail hunters on 12 January 1996. Non-respondents were sent 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 22 February and 4 April, respectively. As of 28 May 1996, 1,848 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 65%.

The mailing list for this survey was developed from information recorded on 1994 Illinois Habitat Stamp stubs. The stub was designed to capture the purchaser's name, mailing address, and game species (including quail) hunted during the previous year in Illinois (Fig. 5). License vendors were instructed to fill out the stubs and return them to the DNR Permit Office in Springfield. By systematically sampling the 216,474 stubs that were returned (total sales was 284,444), 2,932 purchasers were identified as quail hunters. These 2,932 people, all Illinois residents, were notified by a letter postmarked 2 November 1995 that they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the quail hunting season. The notice included a form for keeping records of hunting activity and quail harvested (Fig. 6).

Data were transferred from returned (filled-out) questionnaires to a computer file using a data management program (Ashton-Tate dBASE III+). The data were analyzed with a statistical program (SPSS Inc. SPSS 6.1). Results were tabulated

relative to the northern half of Illinois (North Zone), the southern half (South Zone), and the entire state.

HUNTING REGULATIONS IN 1995-96

For purposes of setting the 1995-96 hunting season dates for quail and other upland game, the state was divided into 2 zones: north and south. The line that separated these zones was route US-36 from the Indiana state line west to Springfield, route IL-29 north to Pekin, and route IL-9 west to the Iowa state line.

Illinois' 1995-96 quail hunting season began on 4 November in both the North and South Zones. The season extended through 8 January and 15 January, respectively, in the 2 zones. Legal shooting hours were from sunrise to sunset. The bag limit was 8 quail per day and 20 in possession.

FINDINGS

Because 89 (4.8%) of the 1,848 people who completed and returned questionnaires indicated they had never hunted quail, the usable sample was reduced to 1,759 for this study. For these 1,759 respondents, 94% purchased a resident Illinois hunting license, and 92% purchased an Illinois Habitat Stamp, for the 1995-96 season (Table 1). One-half (49%) of the respondents hunted wild and/or game-farm released quail in Illinois, and 4.4% hunted wild quail in another state, in 1995-96.

Of the respondents who did not hunt wild quail in 1995-96, one-third (35%) did not do so because there were "very few quail" (Table 2). Another 30% of the respondents were "too busy" to

hunt wild quail and 17% had "no place to hunt". Additional respondents said they did not hunt due to "age or health" (5.0%), "hunted other game species" (4.7%), or "friends don't hunt" (3.1%).

Hunting Activities

Among the 858 respondents who hunted quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season, 97% hunted wild quail and 13% hunted game-farm released quail (Table 3). There were 82 (9.5%) individuals in the sample who hunted both wild and game-farm quail. In the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey, 99% of the active hunters hunted wild quail and 8% pursued game-farm released quail (Anderson and David 1992).

The data in Table 3, in conjunction with findings of the annual Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey (Anderson et al. 1996), suggest there were 65,100 individuals who hunted wild quail only, 2,500 who hunted game-farm released quail only, and 7,100 who hunted both types of quail, in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. In the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey, the estimates were 78,800, 1,300, and 5,400, respectively (Anderson and David 1992).

The quail hunters spent 94% of their days afield pursuing wild birds and 6% of their days shooting game-farm released birds (Table 3). These findings, in conjunction with those from Anderson et al. (1996), indicate that hunters spent an estimated 538,900 days afield pursuing wild quail, and 33,400 days afield shooting game-farm released quail, in Illinois in 1995-96. In

the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey, the estimates were 564,900 and 24,800, respectively (Anderson and David 1992).

The respondents who hunted wild quail spent an average of 8.3 days afield during the 1995-96 season (Table 4). The number of days spent afield differed slightly between hunters in the North Zone (7.8 days) and those in the South Zone (8.5 days). Statewide, 50% of the hunters spent 1-5 days afield. These findings are virtually the same as those reported for the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Anderson and David 1992). The annual Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey indicated that (wild) quail hunters spent an average of 6.8 days afield, with 65% spending 1-5 days, in 1995-96 (Anderson et al. 1996).

The respondents who hunted wild quail expended 39% of their days afield during November, 46% during December, and 15% during January (Table 4). The "use rate" (mean days afield/number of days available to hunt) was greater in November (0.12) and in December (0.12) than in January (0.09). Use rates exhibited only slight differences between the North and South Zones.

Of the respondents who hunted game-farm released quail, 35% released their own birds, and 71% pursued their sport on private licensed preserves, during the 1995-96 season (Table 5). These hunters spent averages of 6.0 and 2.7 days afield, respectively, to hunt game-farm released quail. Of the total days afield devoted to hunting game-farm released quail, 52% involved hunters who released their own birds and 48% took place on private licensed preserves.

Respondents who hunted wild quail hunted an average of 3.7 hours per day afield in 1995-96 (Table 6). More than one-half (57%) of the hunters were in the field between 3 and 4 hours each day. The amount of time spent in the field per day did not differ between hunters in the North Zone and those in the South Zone.

Slightly fewer than two-thirds (60%) of the respondents who hunted wild quail used hunting dogs for all of their quail hunts in 1995-96 (Table 7). Another 13% of the hunters had hunting dogs with them on some of their quail hunts, whereas the remaining hunters (27%) never took advantage of the benefits afforded by canines.

Quail Harvest

Of the quail reported harvested in the present (1995-96) survey, 83% were wild birds and 17% were game-farm released birds (Table 3). In the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey, the percentages were 94% and 6%, respectively (Anderson and David 1992).

Hunters of wild quail harvested an average of 14.3 birds per hunter for the entire 1995-96 season (Table 8). The average quail harvest per hunter per season was much greater in the South Zone (17.5 quail) than in the North Zone (5.3 quail). Statewide, 24% of the hunters harvested no quail, and 29% took 1-5 quail, during the 1995-96 season. Generally speaking, these findings are similar to those reported for the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Anderson and David 1992). However, the disparity

between hunters in the North and South Zones was greater in 1995-96 than in 1991-92. The annual Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey indicated the wild quail harvest averaged 9.8 birds per hunter per season in 1995-96; 21% of the hunters took no birds and 40% took 1-5 birds (Anderson et al. 1996).

Forty percent of the harvest of wild quail occurred in November, and 44% took place in December, during the 1995-96 season (Table 8). The remaining birds, 16% of harvest, were taken in January. The harvest rate (number of quail harvested per hunter per day afield) was much greater in the South Zone (2.05) than in the North Zone (0.68). Except for the 2 zones having greater disparity in harvest rate, these findings are similar to those for the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Anderson and David 1992). Statewide, harvest rates were highest in January and lowest in December.

Respondents who hunted game-farm released quail harvested an average of 5.4 birds per hunter per day afield and 21.8 birds per hunter for the entire 1995-96 season (Table 5). Since 706,300 wild quail were harvested in Illinois in 1995-96 (Anderson et al. 1996), and this estimate represents 82.8% of all quail harvested (Table 3), the harvest of game-farm released quail equaled 146,700 birds. Further breakdown, based on data in Table 5, indicate that 60,100 of these birds were released by the hunters who shot them and the other 86,600 birds were associated with private licensed preserves. These estimates of the number of game-farm released quail harvested in Illinois are much higher than those derived from the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey:

26,800 released by hunters, 34,900 on private licensed preserves, 1,600 on state controlled areas, and 63,300 total (Anderson and David 1992).

Attitudes and Opinions

Difficulty in Finding a Place to Hunt. Thirty percent of the respondents who hunted wild quail indicated they had no difficulty in finding a place to hunt quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season (Table 9). At the other extreme, 21% of the hunters experienced much difficulty in their attempts to find a place to hunt. South-zone hunters were more apt to experience no difficulty, and less apt to experience much difficulty, than North-zone hunters in securing quail hunting places. These findings are similar to those obtained from the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Anderson and David 1992).

Utilization and Evaluation of CRP Land. Slightly more than one-third (39%) of the respondents who hunted wild quail knowingly pursued their sport on private farmland that was enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (Table 10). Of these hunters, 74% felt the CRP helped quail populations. This view prevailed among hunters in the North Zone, South Zone, and statewide. In 1991-92, 34% of Illinois' quail hunters knowingly hunted on CRP land, and 63% of these hunters felt the program helped quail populations (Anderson and David 1992). In 1994-95, 22% of Illinois' rabbit hunters knowingly hunted on CRP land, 74% of which believed the program helped rabbit populations (Anderson and David 1996).

Dates for Opening and Closing Quail Season. Majorities of (wild) quail hunters in the North Zone (74%), South Zone (68%), and statewide (70%) thought the first Saturday in November was about the right date for opening the quail season in Illinois (Table 11). Of those who disagreed, most in the North Zone (14%) thought the season was too late and most in the South Zone (18%) thought it was too early. When asked how they felt about opening the quail season on the same date (e.g., 1 November, 10 November, etc.) every year, a plurality (40%) responded negatively to this idea. North-zone hunters and South-zone hunters were in agreement on this issue.

Majorities (50-54%) of the (wild) quail hunters thought the closing dates of 8 January in the North Zone and 15 January in the South Zone were about right (Table 11). However, a plurality (40%) of the hunters statewide would rather have the season end on a weekend or holiday than on a standard date. Hunters in the 2 zones were split on this issue: a plurality (42%) of the South-zone hunters were supportive, whereas a plurality (36%) of the North-zone hunters were unsupportive.

Daily Bag Limit for Quail. A majority (55%) of the respondents who hunted wild quail believed the daily bag limit should be reduced to 6 birds per day (Table 12). One-third (32%) of the hunters thought the daily bag limit should remain at 8 quail per day (current bag limit), whereas only 5% thought the bag limit should be increased to 10 birds. The overall attitude of quail hunters toward the daily bag limit was consistent between the North and South Zones and between the present (1995-

96) and the 1991-92 quail hunter survey (Anderson and David 1992).

Importance of Quail Hunting to Hunters. The importance or worth of a recreational activity can be judged by the degree of satisfaction from, and level of commitment to, that activity (Filion and Parker 1984). Thus, the survey instrument contained a series of questions relating to satisfaction/commitment of quail hunting for Illinois hunters (Fig. 1).

The first question asked hunters to rate the 4 top reasons (from 9 options) they enjoy quail hunting (Table 13). On a relative scale (100=perfect), "watching bird dogs work" (47) was rated first and "having a good time with friends" (45) was a close second. Other important reasons included "challenge and excitement of hunting" (37), "fresh air, exercise, healthy living" (31), "nature, sunsets, animals, plants" (23), and "a good way to relax (22). "Shooting game" was at the bottom of the list.

Three additional questions asked (wild) quail hunters how much they enjoy their sport under various conditions or circumstances (Table 14). From a general perspective, the vast majority (88%) of the hunters indicated they enjoy quail hunting "much" or "very much". The percentage of hunters who fell into these categories dropped to 63% when no quail were bagged and to 32% when no quail were seen. Ardent hunters (those who spent ≥ 11 days afield) were more apt to say they enjoy quail hunting "very much" than a representative sample of all quail hunters (Table 14).

The 5th, and last, question about satisfaction/commitment of quail hunting dealt with how hunters would feel if they had to give up their sport (Table 14). Almost two-thirds (62%) of the hunters indicated they "would miss it but less than other recreational activities". Thirty-one percent of the hunters "would miss it more than any other recreational activity" and 7% "would probably not miss it very much". The percentages for a sample of rabbit hunters in 1994-95 were similar: 62%, 25%, and 13%, respectively (Anderson and David 1996).

Ardent quail hunters were much more apt to say they "would miss it [quail hunting] more than any other recreational activity" than quail hunters in general. In fact, a majority (54%) of the ardent hunters conveyed these sentiments (Table 14).

Characteristics of Quail Hunters

Respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season were 99.4% male and averaged 39 years of age (Table 15). Three-fourths (74%) of them were married, compared to 18% who had never married and 7% who were divorced. They had hunted quail for an average of 21 years. In comparison, rabbit hunters in 1994-95 were 98.9% male, averaged 38 years of age, were 70% married/22% never married, and had hunted rabbits an average of 24 years (Anderson and David 1996).

DISCUSSION

The mailing list for the present (1995-96) quail hunter survey was developed by systematically selecting purchasers of

the previous year's (1994) Illinois Habitat Stamp who (according to information on the stamp stub) had hunted quail the previous year (1993). Although this sampling approach is viewed as an improvement over the procedure used for the 1991-92 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (Anderson and David 1992), it is not without bias. People who participated in the present survey had to have hunted quail in Illinois in 1993-95 and again in 1995-96. Thus, the present survey favors--i.e., over represents--the more ardent, more dedicated quail hunters.

Conservation and hunting advocates have a concern about the recent trend involving hunters dropping out of the hunting sports (Decker et al. 1993). Although 94% of the respondents to our survey purchased a hunting license again in 1995-96, only 49% of them hunted quail again in that year (Table 1). The 3 top reasons the inactive quail hunters gave for not hunting were "very few quail", "too busy", and "no place to hunt". In comparison, the 3 top reasons that potential rabbit hunters gave for not hunting in 1994-95 were "too busy", "very few rabbits", and "no place to hunt" (Anderson and David 1996). In a recent national survey, the 5 top issues that strongly influenced inactive hunters in deciding not to hunt were "amount of free time", "lost interest", "work obligations", "family obligations", and "the perception of causing pain to animals" (Duda et al. 1995).

Although there were differences in sampling procedure, the 1991-92 and 1995-96 quail hunter surveys produced remarkably similar images of quail hunting activity in Illinois. In 1991-

92, 99% of the hunters pursued wild quail; these hunters spent an average of 8.3 days afield and harvested an average of 16.2 wild quail per hunter per season (Anderson and David 1992). In 1995-96, 97% of the hunters hunted wild quail; they were in the field an average of 8.3 days; and they harvested an average of 14.3 wild quail per hunter per season. Based on these similarities, we conclude that the findings of the 2 surveys can be compared without undue concern about bias or skewed data.

The findings suggest that hunting activity directed toward wild quail decreased, and corresponding activity associated with game-farm released quail increased, in Illinois from 1991-92 to 1995-96. Between these two time periods, the number of (wild) quail hunters decreased 14%, their days afield decreased 5%, and wild quail harvest decreased 24%. Conversely, for game-farm released quail, the number of hunters increased 37%, their days afield increased 35%, and harvest increased 132%.

Clearly, interest in game-farm released quail has increased in Illinois since 1991-92. This shift in hunting activity was probably motivated, at least in part, by decreases in wild quail populations and in places to hunt these game birds, especially in northern portions of the state. Hunting success in the North Zone decreased from 1.52 to 0.68 quail per hunter per day (-55%), and from 12.0 to 5.32 quail per hunter per season (-56%), from 1991-92 to 1995-96 (Table 8; Anderson and David 1992). Although hunting success also decreased in the South Zone, the decreases (-12% and -15%, respectively) were relatively modest.

Vast majorities of the hunters in the North (74%) and South (68%) Zones felt that the first Saturday in November was about the right date for opening the wild quail season in Illinois (Table 11). When presented with an alternative, pluralities (37-40%) of the hunters rejected the idea of opening the season on the same date (e.g., 1 November, 10 November, etc.) every year. Similarly, majorities of the hunters in the North (54%) and South (50%) Zones believed the closing dates (8 January and 15 January, respectively) were about right. However, a plurality (42%) of South-zone hunters would like for the season to end on a weekend or holiday, whereas a plurality (36%) of North-zone hunters responded negatively to this idea. Nothing in these findings constitutes strong rationale for changing the dates currently used for setting the wild quail season in Illinois. However, other factors, such as changes in habitat conditions or population trends, could require altering season dates at some point in the future.

In both the present and the 1991-92 quail hunter surveys, hunters expressed strong sentiment for changing the bag limit from 8 to 6 quail per day. This attitude was supported by margins of almost 2 to 1 in each survey (Table 12; Anderson and David 1992). Based on these findings, coupled with the fact that the average quail hunter rarely harvests 7-8 birds per day (Anderson and David 1992), we recommend changing the bag limit to 6 quail per day in Illinois.

Like rabbit hunters in the 1994-95 Illinois Rabbit Hunter Survey, quail hunters were asked 5 questions designed to shed

light on their satisfaction from and level of commitment to quail hunting. Quail hunters listed "watching bird dogs work" as the top reason they enjoy their sport (Table 13). Other important reasons for enjoying quail hunting included "having a good time with friends", "challenge and excitement of hunting", and "fresh air, exercise, healthy living". Although quail hunters gave "shooting game" a low rating as a source of satisfaction, overall enjoyment decreased slightly when no quail were bagged and greatly when no quail were seen (Table 14). These findings closely parallel the responses of rabbit hunters to the same types of questions in 1994-95 (Anderson and David 1996).

Many investigators have reported high levels of satisfaction among hunters with regards to their sport (Duda et al. 1995). For Illinois quail hunters, 62% would miss quail hunting if they had to give it up, and 31% would miss it more than any other recreational activity. Duda et al. (1995) reported that almost all active hunters are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their hunting activities.

It appears that quail hunters, like rabbit hunters, do not have to consistently take game to derive satisfaction from their sport. Nevertheless, the act of taking game on occasion is essential to the overall hunting experience. In the words of the Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gasset (1972:110-111), "...one does not hunt in order to kill; on the contrary, one kills in order to have hunted".

Most studies have found that killing game is not as important to hunter satisfaction as many other aspects of hunting

(Duda et al. 1995). Hunters derive multiple satisfactions from their sport. Under the multiple satisfaction approach to wildlife management, aspects of hunting other than game bagged and days spent afield are important to wildlife managers (Hendee 1974). The quality of the hunting experience found by the hunter depends on the extent to which he fulfills the desired mix of satisfactions he seeks. The job of the wildlife manager includes perceptive judgement of the experiences and satisfactions that hunters seek and managers can provide (Hendee 1974).

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Table 1. Percentage of respondents to the 1995-96 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey who purchased a resident hunting license, purchased a habitat stamp, hunted quail in Illinois, and hunted quail in another state, during the 1995-96 season (n=1,759 state residents).

Activity	Number	Percentage
Purchased resident Illinois hunting license	1,658	94.3
Purchased Illinois Habitat Stamp	1,722	92.2
Hunted quail in Illinois		
Wild quail	829	47.2
Game-farm released quail	111	6.3
Total	858 ^a	48.9
Hunted wild quail in another state	77 ^b	4.4 ^b

^aIncludes 747 respondents who hunted wild quail only, 29 respondents who hunted game-farm or hand-reared released quail only, and 82 respondents who hunted both types of quail.

^bOf the 829 respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois, 50 6.0% also hunted wild quail in another state.

Table 2. Reasons given by respondents to the 1995-96 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey for not hunting wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season (n=742).

Reason	Percentage
Very few quail	35.2
Too busy	30.3
No place to hunt	17.1
Age or health	5.0
Hunted other game species	4.7
Friends don't hunt	3.1
No dog	1.1
Unfavorable weather	0.9
Cost too much	0.8
Not interested	0.7
Too many hunters	0.3
Too dangerous	0.0
Others ^a	0.8

^aIncludes 5 miscellaneous reasons.

Table 3. Relative hunter activity and quail harvest for wild quail and for game-farm released quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Type of Quail Hunted	Percentage		
	Hunters	Days Afield	Quail Harvest
	(858)	(7,222)	(14,051)
Wild	96.6 ^a	93.8	82.8
Game-farm released	12.9 ^a	6.2	17.2

^a87.1% of the hunters hunted wild quail only, 3.4% hunted game-farm released quail only, and 9.5% hunted both types of quail.

Table 4. Number of days spent afield by respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. The season extended from November 4 to January 8 in the North Zone and from November 4 to January 15 in the South Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Parameter	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(214)	(598)	(814) ^a
	<u>November</u>		
Mean days	3.23	3.28	3.26
Percentage of days	41	38	39
Use rate ^b	0.12	0.12	0.12
	<u>December</u>		
Mean days	3.64	3.94	3.85
Percentage of days	47	46	46
Use rate	0.12	0.13	0.12
	<u>January</u>		
Mean days	0.91	1.32	1.21
Percentage of days	12	16	15
Use rate	0.11	0.09	0.09
	<u>Entire Season</u>		
Mean days	7.78	8.54	8.32 ^c
Percentage of days	100	100	100
Use rate	0.12	0.12	0.12

^aIncludes 2 hunters not identified as to zone.

^bMean days divided by number of days available to hunt.

^c50% of the hunters were afield 1-5 days, 23% were afield 6-10 days, 19% were afield 11-20 days, and 8% were afield 21-61 days.

Table 5. Type of area or condition, number of days afield, and number of quail harvested by respondents who hunted game-farm released quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Type of Area or Condition	<u>Hunters</u>	<u>Days Afield</u>		<u>Quail Harvested Per Hunter</u>		
	Percentage	Per Hunter	Percentage	Per Day	Per Season	Percentage
	(111)		(449)			(2,420)
Released own birds	35.1	6.0	52.1	4.2	25.5	41.0
Private licensed preserve	71.2	2.7	47.9	6.6	18.1	59.0
All areas/ conditions	100	4.1	100	5.4	21.8	100

Table 6. Number of hours spent afield per day by respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Number of Hours	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(211)	(585)	(798) ^a
<1	0.9	0.5	0.6
1-2	16.6	19.3	18.5
3-4	56.9	56.2	56.6
5-6	20.4	19.7	19.8
>6	5.2	4.3	4.5
Mean	3.7 hours	3.7 hours	3.7 hours

^aIncludes 2 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 7. The proportion of hunts for wild quail that involved the use of hunting dogs in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Proportion of Hunts	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(216)	(603)	(821) ^a
All	58.8	60.7	60.2
75-99%	1.9	3.8	3.3
50-74%	4.2	4.6	4.5
25-49%	3.2	2.3	2.6
1-24%	3.7	2.2	2.6
None	28.2	26.4	26.8

^aIncludes 2 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 8. Number of quail harvested by respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Parameter	North Zone (214)	South Zone (598)	Entire State (814) ^a
<u>November</u>			
Mean quail	2.03	6.96	5.65
Percentage of harvest	38	40	40
Harvest rate ^b	0.63	2.12	1.73
<u>December</u>			
Mean quail	2.66	7.62	6.30
Percentage of harvest	50	43	44
Harvest rate	0.73	1.93	1.64
<u>January</u>			
Mean quail	0.63	2.96	2.34
Percentage of harvest	12	17	16
Harvest rate	0.69	2.24	1.93
<u>Entire Season</u>			
Mean quail	5.32	17.54	14.29 ^c
Percentage of harvest	100	100	100
Harvest rate	0.68	2.05	1.72

^aIncludes 2 hunters not identified as to zone.

^bMean quail harvested divided by mean days hunted.

^c24% of the hunters harvested 0 quail, 29% harvested 1-5 quail, 15% harvested 6-10 quail, 13% harvested 11-20 quail, and 19% harvested 21-220 quail.

Table 9. The level of difficulty that respondents experienced in finding a place to hunt wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Level of Difficulty	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(215)	(604)	(821) ^a
None	19.5	33.4	29.7
Little	17.2	20.4	19.6
Moderate	28.8	30.5	30.1
Much	34.5	15.7	20.6

^aIncludes 2 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 10. Utilization and evaluation of CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land by respondents who hunted wild quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Subject	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Hunted quail on CRP land:	(216)	(603)	(821) ^a
Yes	37.5	39.3	38.9
No	43.1	47.4	46.2
Don't know	19.4	13.3	14.9
Effect of CRP land on quail populations:	(84)	(242)	(327) ^a
Helped	72.6	74.3	73.7
Hurt	13.1	5.0	3.7
None	14.3	8.7	9.8
Don't know	0.0	12.0	12.8

^aIncludes 1-2 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 11. Attitudes of quail hunters toward the dates used for opening and closing the wild quail hunting season (Illinois 1995-96 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question,

"For many years, the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season has opened on the first Saturday in November. In your opinion, is that opening date:"

	<u>North Zone</u>	<u>South Zone</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(215)	(597)	(821) ^a
About right	73.9%	68.3%	69.8%
Too early	9.3	18.1	15.7
Too late	13.5	9.9	11.0
No opinion	3.3	3.7	3.5

*Responses to the question,

"Would you prefer to have the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season open on the same date (e.g. Nov. 1 or Nov. 10, etc.) every year rather than on the first Saturday of November?"

	<u>North Zone</u>	<u>South Zone</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(212)	(595)	(816) ^a
Yes	31.1%	33.4%	32.6%
No	36.8	40.2	39.5
No opinion	32.1	26.4	27.9

*Responses to the question,

"In 1995-96, the Illinois wild bobwhite quail season ended on January 8 in the North Zone and on January 15 in the South Zone. In your opinion, are those closing dates:"

	<u>North Zone</u>	<u>South Zone</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(215)	(598)	(821) ^a
About right	53.6%	50.3%	51.6%
Too early	36.7	36.8	36.5
Too late	3.7	7.2	6.2
No opinion	6.0	5.7	5.7

*Responses to the question,

"Would you prefer to have the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season close on a weekend or holiday rather than on a standard date (e.g., Jan. 8 and Jan. 15)?"

	<u>North Zone</u>	<u>South Zone</u>	<u>Entire State</u>
	(213)	(598)	(819) ^a
Yes	33.8%	41.8%	39.6%
No	35.7	29.3	30.9
No opinion	30.5	28.9	29.5

^aIncludes 8-9 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 12. Attitudes of quail hunters toward the number of wild quail that should be allowed in the daily bag (Illinois 1995-96 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Number of Quail	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(212)	(595)	(816) ^a
6	60.4	53.4	55.2
8	22.6	35.0	31.9
10	5.7	5.4	5.4
No opinion	11.3	6.2	7.5

^aIncludes 9 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 13. In order of importance, reasons given by (wild) quail hunters for enjoying their sport (Illinois 1995-96 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Reason	Rating ^a		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Watching bird dogs work	(189) 42	(528) 49	(722) ^b 47
Having a good time with friends	43	46	45
Challenge and excitement of hunting	41	35	37
Fresh air, exercise, healthy living	37	29	31
Nature, sunsets, animals, plants	23	22	23
A good way to relax	16	24	22
Getting away from work and home	19	16	17
Eating the game	15	12	13
Shooting game	11	12	12
Others	1	1	1

^aOn a scale of 0 to 100 after transforming the original scoring so that 1=100, 2=75, 3=50, and 4=25 (see question #22 in Figure 1).

^bIncludes 5 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 14. Indicators of the importance of (wild) quail hunting to hunters (Illinois 1995-96 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question,
 "In general how much enjoyment do you get from bobwhite quail hunting?"

	North <u>Zone</u> (214)	South <u>Zone</u> (602)	Entire <u>State</u> (825) ^b	Ardent ^a <u>Hunters</u> (220)
Very much	55.1%	57.9%	56.8%	73.7%
Much	26.6	32.4	31.3	18.6
Some	15.0	8.5	10.2	5.0
Very little	3.3	1.2	1.7	2.7

*Responses to the question,
 "How much enjoyment do you get from a bobwhite quail hunting trip if you don't bag at least one quail?"

	North <u>Zone</u> (216)	South <u>Zone</u> (603)	Entire <u>State</u> (828) ^b	Ardent <u>Hunters</u> (220)
Very much	26.4%	24.5%	25.0%	31.8%
Much	39.8	37.8	38.3	35.9
Some	26.9	28.9	28.4	21.4
Very little	6.9	8.8	8.3	10.9

*Responses to the question,
 "How much enjoyment do you get from a bobwhite quail hunting trip if you don't see any quail?"

	North <u>Zone</u> (216)	South <u>Zone</u> (602)	Entire <u>State</u> (826) ^b	Ardent <u>Hunters</u> (220)
Very much	10.6%	9.5%	9.7%	13.2%
Much	25.5	20.9	22.0	18.2
Some	34.7	36.0	35.7	32.7
Very little	29.2	33.6	32.6	35.9

Table 14 - continued.

Table 14. Continued - Page 2.

*Responses to the question,
 "If you had to give up bobwhite quail hunting, how would you
 feel?"

	<u>North Zone</u> (215)	<u>South Zone</u> (602)	<u>Entire State</u> (825) ^b	<u>Ardent Hunters</u> (220)
Would miss it more than any other recreational activity	26.0%	32.6%	30.7%	53.6%
Would miss it but less than other recreational activities	62.4	62.3	62.5	43.2
Would probably not miss it very much	11.6	5.1	6.8	3.2

^aHunters who spent ≥ 11 days afield.

^bIncludes 8-9 hunters not identified as to zone.

Table 15. Some characteristics of (wild) quail hunters (Illinois 1995-96 season). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

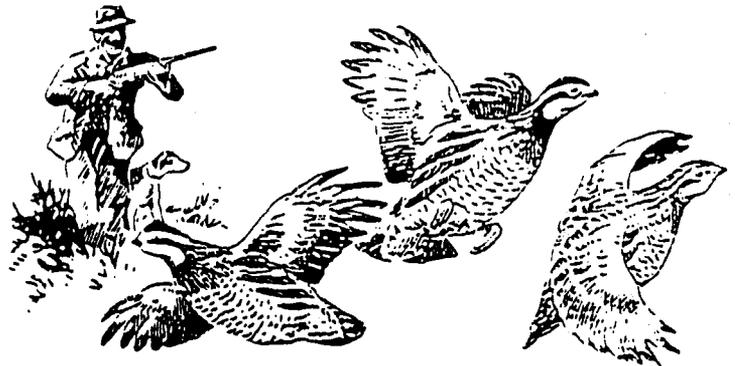
Characteristic	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Gender	(216)	(603)	(828) ^a
Male	99.1%	99.5%	99.4%
Female	0.9	0.5	0.6
Age in years	(216)	(599)	(824) ^a
Mean	38.8	39.0	39.0 ^b
Marital status	(216)	(601)	(826) ^a
Married	76.4%	73.4%	74.2%
Never married	16.7	19.1	18.4
Widowed	0.9	0.3	0.5
Divorced or separated	6.0	7.2	6.9
Years hunted quail	(214)	(601)	(824) ^a
Mean	19.8	21.1	20.7 ^c

^aIncludes 9 hunters not identified as to zone.

^b0.7% were ≤ 15 years of age, 6.9% were 16-20 years, 17.9% were 21-30 years, 34.0% were 31-40 years, 22.2% were 41-50 years, 11.4% were 51-60 years, 2.9% were 61-64 years, and 4.0% were ≥ 65 years.

^c13.1% had hunted 1-5 years, 16.1% had hunted 6-10 years, 30.0% had hunted 11-20 years, 22.5% had hunted 21-30 years, and 18.3% had hunted ≥ 30 years.

1995-96 ILLINOIS QUAIL HUNTER SURVEY



INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer the questions on the following pages for your bobwhite quail hunting activities in Illinois during the 1995-96 season.

If you did not hunt bobwhite quail in Illinois in 1995-96, answer only the questions that apply to you (PART I and PART IV). Your opinions are important even if you did not hunt.

Report only your kill. DO NOT report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted. Your responses are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name. Since you are a part of a small, randomly selected group, your participation is very important.

If you can't remember exact figures, give your best estimate. When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope and mail. Comments are welcome but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

PART I:

1. Did you purchase a resident Illinois hunting license for the 1995-96 season?
(circle number of appropriate answer)
Yes.....1 No.....2

2. Did you purchase a 1995 Illinois Habitat Stamp for your own personal use?
(circle number of appropriate answer)
Yes.....1 No.....2

3. Did you hunt wild bobwhite quail in another state during the 1995-96 season?
(circle number of appropriate answer)
Yes.....1 No.....2

4. Did you hunt wild bobwhite quail in Illinois during the 1995-96 season?
(circle number of appropriate answer)
Yes.....1 No.....2

- 4a. If "yes", go on to Part II.

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for conducting the 1995-96 Illinois Quail Hunter Survey (continued).

4b. If you answered "no" to question 4, why did you not hunt wild quail in Illinois in 1995-96?
(circle number of the one most appropriate answer)

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Age or health.....1 | No place to hunt.....2 | Cost too much...3 |
| Unfavorable weather..4 | Friends didn't hunt...5 | Too dangerous...6 |
| Very few quail.....7 | Too many hunters.....8 | Too busy.....9 |
| Other (write in) _____ | | |

IF YOU DID NOT HUNT BOBWHITES IN ILL. DURING THE 1995-96 SEASON, SKIP TO PART IV.

PART II. The following questions apply only to the hunting of wild free-living bobwhite quail. If you hunted only game-farm or hand-reared released quail, skip to Part III.

5. If you answered "yes" to question 4, please answer the following questions about the number of different days you hunted wild bobwhite quail in Illinois and the number of wild bobwhites you harvested for each month of the 1995-96 season? (write in the number of days and number of bobwhites that apply)

Number of days in Nov. 1995 _____	Number of wild bobwhites harvested _____
Number of days in Dec. 1995 _____	Number of wild bobwhites harvested _____
Number of days in Jan. 1996 _____	Number of wild bobwhites harvested _____

6. In which county, or counties, did you hunt wild bobwhites most in Illinois in 1995-96?

	<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
Hunted most	_____	_____
Second most	_____	_____
Third most	_____	_____

7. On what proportion of your bobwhite quail hunts did you use hunting dogs?
(circle the letter of the appropriate answer)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. all my quail hunts | b. 75-99% of my quail hunts |
| c. 50-74% of my quail hunts | d. 25-49% of my quail hunts |
| e. 1-24% of my quail hunts | f. none of my quail hunts |

8. Please rate the level of difficulty you experienced in finding a place to hunt wild bobwhite quail in Illinois in 1995-96?
(circle number of appropriate answer)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| No difficulty.....1 | Little difficulty.....2 |
| Moderate difficulty....3 | Much difficulty.....4 |

9. Did you hunt bobwhite quail in 1995-96 on private farmland that was enrolled in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?
(circle number of appropriate answer)

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------------|
| Yes.....1 | No.....2 | Don't know.....3 |
|-----------|----------|------------------|

9a. If you answered "yes" to question 9, in your opinion, what effect did the land management on the CRP fields that you hunted have on wild bobwhite quail populations in 1995-96? (circle number that best represents your opinion)

Helped.....1 Hurt.....2
No effect...3 Don't know..4

10. On a typical wild bobwhite quail hunting trip in Illinois in 1995-96, about how many hours per day did you hunt? (circle number of appropriate answer)

Less than 1 hour.....1 1-2 hours.....2 3-4 hours.....3
5-6 hours.....4 Over 6 hours..5

PART III. The following questions (11 and 12) apply to game-farm or hand-reared released bobwhite quail hunting only.

11. Did you hunt game-farm or hand-reared released bobwhite quail in Illinois in 1995-96? (circle number of appropriate answer)

Yes.....1 No.....2

12. If you answered "yes" to question 11, on how many days did you hunt hand-reared bobwhite quail and how many hand-reared bobwhite quail did you kill under the following conditions?

(circle number of all that apply and enter number of days and birds)

a. Released your own birds.....1 No. of days _____ No. harvested _____

b. Private licensed preserve.....2 No. of days _____ No. harvested _____

PART IV. Opinion Questions. Please answer even if you did not hunt in 1995-96.

13. In your opinion, how many wild bobwhite quail should be allowed in the daily bag limit in Illinois next season (1996-97)?
(circle number of limit that best represents your opinion)

6 per day.....1 8 per day.....2 10 per day.....3 No opinion....4

14. For many years, the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season has opened on the first Saturday in November. In your opinion, is that opening date:
(circle number that best represents your opinion)

About right?....1 Too early?.....2 Too late?.....3 No opinion.....4

15. Would you prefer to have the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season open on the same date (e.g. Nov. 1 or Nov. 10, etc.) every year rather than on the first Saturday of November?

Yes.....1 No.....2 No opinion.....3

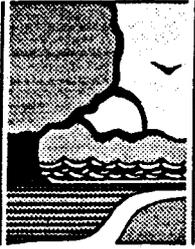
16. In 1995-96, the Illinois wild bobwhite quail season ended on January 8 in the North Zone and on January 15 in the South Zone. In your opinion, are those closing dates:
(circle number that best represents your opinion)

About right?....1 Too early?.....2 Too late?.....3 No opinion.....4

17. Would you prefer to have the wild Illinois bobwhite quail season close on a weekend or holiday rather than on a standard date (e.g., Jan. 8 and Jan. 15)?

Yes.....1 No.....2 No opinion.....3

18. In general how much enjoyment do you get from bobwhite quail hunting?
(circle number of the most appropriate answer)
- Very much....1 Much....2 Some....3 Very little....4
19. If you had to give up bobwhite quail hunting, how would you feel?
(circle number of the most appropriate answer)
- Would miss it more than any other recreational activity.....1
 Would miss it but less than other recreational activities.....2
 Would probably not miss it very much.....3
20. How much enjoyment do you get from a bobwhite quail hunting trip during which
you don't bag at least one quail?
- Very much....1 Much....2 Some....3 Very little....4
21. How much enjoyment do you get from a bobwhite quail hunting trip during which
you don't see any quail?
- Very much....1 Much....2 Some....3 Very little....4
22. From the list below, please rank the top four reasons you enjoy hunting
bobwhite quail. (enter "1, 2, 3, or 4" for the four most appropriate answers)
- Having a good time with friends.....____
 Getting away from work and home.....____
 Watching bird dogs work.....____
 A good way to relax.....____
 Fresh air, exercise, healthy living.....____
 Nature, sunsets, animals, plants.....____
 Challenge and excitement of hunting.....____
 Shooting game.....____
 Eating the game.....____
 Other (write in) _____
23. How many years have you hunted bobwhite quail? Number of years _____
24. How old were you on your last birthday? Years of age _____
25. What is your gender? (circle appropriate one) Male Female
26. What is your marital status? (circle number of appropriate answer)
- Married...1 Never married.....2
 Widowed...3 Divorced or separated..4



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of Illinoisans asked to furnish information on your bobwhite quail hunting activities during the past hunting season.

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is vital to the management of the Illinois bobwhite. Our goals are to safeguard quail populations, to grant maximum quail hunting opportunity to licensed hunters, and to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

The information you provide will be used to better understand the characteristics of our bobwhite population and our bobwhite quail hunters. It also will help us understand how quail hunters view their sport.

Your reply is very important, even if you did not hunt bobwhites or were not successful. Only a limited number of quail hunters can be contacted, therefore, your response is urgently needed.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate.

Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid.

Sincerely,



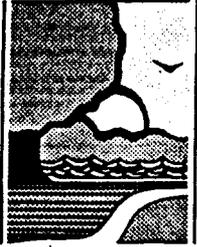
Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief

Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:LD:ld

Enclosure

Q1



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Quail Hunter Survey, and requested that you fill it out and return it as soon as possible. We have not received your form at this time. Perhaps you have misplaced the questionnaire or haven't found time to complete it.

We are enclosing another questionnaire which we hope you will complete and return to us. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please discard this one. The information supplied by you and other bobwhite quail hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Department of Natural Resources in better directing the management of our bobwhite resources.

Please fill out the questionnaire completely and return it even if you did not hunt bobwhite quail or were not successful.

Please drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.

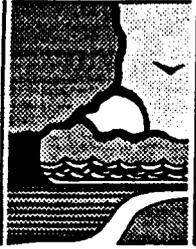
Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:LD:ld

Enclosure

Q2



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report of your bobwhite quail hunting activities for the past season. We don't like to keep bothering you, but this information is very important and only you can supply it.

Another copy of the questionnaire is enclosed. We hope you will complete it and return it as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please discard this one. Your response is needed, even though you did not hunt quail or had an unsuccessful season.

Postage is prepaid for returning the questionnaire. Please drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:LD:ld

Enclosure

Q3

Habitat Stamp ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 1994		278011
Name	County of Residence	*Check species hunted last season <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit <input type="checkbox"/> Quail <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels <input type="checkbox"/> Furbearers <input type="checkbox"/> Crow <input type="checkbox"/> Doves <input type="checkbox"/> Woodcock <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Partridge <input type="checkbox"/> Groundhog
Address	City, State & Zip Code	
Signature of Applicant	Date	
(This Stub To Be Returned To Department)		
Habitat Stamp ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION 1994		278012
Name	County of Residence	*Check species hunted last season <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit <input type="checkbox"/> Quail <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrels <input type="checkbox"/> Furbearers <input type="checkbox"/> Crow <input type="checkbox"/> Doves <input type="checkbox"/> Woodcock <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Partridge <input type="checkbox"/> Groundhog
Address	City, State & Zip Code	
Signature of Applicant	Date	
(This Stub To Be Returned To Department)		

Figure 5. The stubs that were attached to the 1994 Illinois Habitat Stamps.

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