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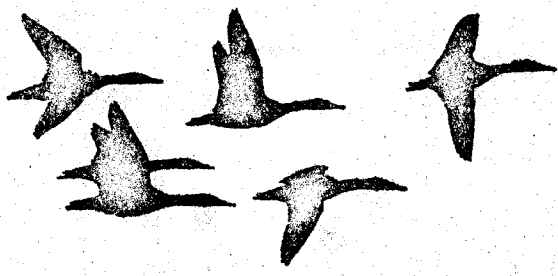
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Division of Wildlife Resources

MIGRATORY BIRD SECTION

PERIODIC REPORT NO. 2

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NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

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SUMMARY OF HARVEST AND HUNTER USE ON PUBLIC WATERFOWL AREAS

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Waterfowl harvest and hunter use figures are the primary means of measuring the success of a public facility and its impact on the resource. The data in this report were collected from check stations or by sampling procedures on 17 waterfowl hunting areas throughout the state. A complete breakdown of these areas by use, harvest and success is found in Table 1.

Carlyle Lake in Fayette and Clinton counties represents our largest single area of hunting pressure with 9,362 hunter efforts. It was also first in number of ducks harvested and third in hunter success (Table 1). Carlyle along with Rend Lake and Shelbyville Lake, all U. S. Corps of Engineers and Department of Conservation cooperative projects, have made a large contribution to waterfowl hunting opportunities in Illinois. Their combined total of 15,562 hunters constitutes 33 percent of total hunting effort during 1972. These areas were also three of the top four in success ratio.

The small Marshall county area produced very favorable results, leading all areas in central and northern Illinois with a .86 success ratio.

Overall the waterfowl season was considered generally poor, but several areas experienced more than expected declines in harvest. The Batchtown and Godard-Diamond Island areas were well below 1971 harvests. Low water in Pool 25 actually necessitated closing Batchtown for several days. Oakwood Bottoms was dramatically below 1971 in both duck use and harvest.

There are a number of public water area supporting waterfowl hunting, particularly along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, in which there are no harvest figures available. Future effort will implement use and harvest surveys on these areas.

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	Hunting Pressure			Harvest and Success				
	Hunters	Percent of Total	Rank	Harvest	Percent of Total	Rank	Ratio	Rank
Carlyle Lake ⁺	9,362	.20	1	7,736	.26	1	.84	4
Oakwood ^{*+}	5,443	.12	2	1,327	.05	8	.26	16
Rend Lake ⁺	3,800	.08	3	3,534	.12	2	.93	1
Stump Lake	3,486	.07	4	1,957	.07	6	.56	8
Godar-Diamond	2,917	.06	5	2,366	.08	3	.80	5
Batchtown	2,826	.06	6	2,133	.07	4	.75	7
Quincy Bay	2,477	.05	7	1,119	.04	9	.45	11
Shelbyville Lake ⁺	2,400	.05	8	2,040	.07	5	.85	3
Mermet	2,369	.05	9	944	.03	10	.40	13
Marshall County	2,102	.05	10	1,809	.06	7	.86	2
Calhoun Point	1,745	.04	11	668	.02	13	.38	15
Glades	1,676	.04	12	888	.03	12	.52	10
Larue Scatters ^{*+}	1,550	.03	13	337	.01	16	.22	17
Spring Lake	1,537	.03	14	605	.02	15	.39	14
Rice Lake	1,159	.02	15	621	.02	14	.53	9
Sanganois	1,147	.02	16	911	.03	11	.79	6
Anderson Lake	595	.01	17	261	.01	17	.44	12
Totals	46,591	98%		29,256	99%		.61	

* areas operated and information furnished by the U. S. Forest Service

+ data from sample bag checks and car counts