



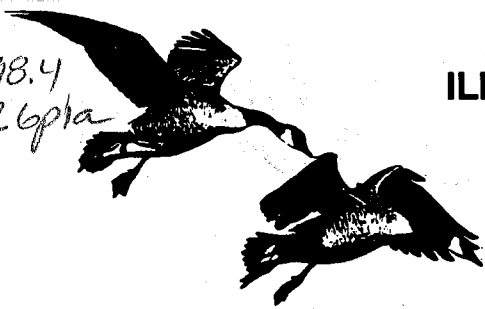
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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WATERFOWL PROGRAM

PERIODIC REPORT NO. 84

**WATERFOWL HARVEST AND HUNTER USE
IN THE REND LAKE QUOTA ZONE
DURING THE 1993 WATERFOWL SEASON**

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Abstract: Rend Lake and the surrounding area in Franklin and Jefferson counties comprise the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Hunter use and harvest at Rend Lake are determined from hunter registration sheets. Hunters are required to register before and after each day's hunt. The known goose harvest is then used as a percentage to project total harvest in the two counties. Rend Lake is assigned a harvest quota equal to 15% of the statewide Canada goose harvest allocation. The statewide Canada goose harvest allocation was 79,000 in 1992 and was reduced by 22% to 61,300 in 1993. The Rend Lake quota was 11,850 in 1992 and was also reduced by 22% to 9,200 in 1993. The goose season at Rend Lake opened 27 November and closed 51 days later on 16 January 1994. The daily bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day. In 1993, the duck season at Rend Lake opened 6 November (7 days earlier than 1992) and closed 30 days later on 5 December. A total of 4,817 ducks (2,751 mallards), 2,784 Canada geese, 1 snow goose and 1 white-fronted goose were harvested by waterfowl hunters on the public hunting areas. A projected harvest estimate of 7,954 Canada geese or 86% of the assigned quota was harvested in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Waterfowl hunters spent a total of 13,251 days afield (16% less than 1992) on the public hunting areas at Rend Lake. The duck and goose harvest increased 24% and 20%, respectively from 1992. Bag limits (conventional), shooting hours for ducks and season length did not change in 1993. Shooting hours were extended again, during the last 3 days of the goose season from 1 p.m. on the state area and 3 p.m. on private land to sunset. Duck hunters reported a success rate of 0.86 ducks per trip while goose hunters reported a 0.35 success rate after the close of the duck season. Access areas which recorded the highest duck harvest included: Cottonwood (751), Bonnie Camp (574), Casey Fork Dam (418), Silo (410) and Dareville (405). Goose hunters were the most successful at Casey Fork Dam (345), Jackie Branch (333), Turnip Patch (296), Cottonwood (258) and Whistling Wings (257). Canada goose numbers peaked at 118,000 on 7 February 1994.

INTRODUCTION

Rend Lake is one of the largest and most diverse waterfowl management areas in Illinois, offering excellent hunting opportunities for both ducks and Canada geese. Waterfowl harvest at Rend Lake has been monitored annually since 1975. In 1979, waterfowl hunters using Rend Lake public access areas were required to register and report their daily harvest. The registration system was developed to determine hunter use and harvest at Rend Lake and this technique has proven to be reliable and accurate. Commercial goose clubs on private lands in Jefferson and Franklin counties are required to obtain a license and submit daily hunter registration and harvest sheets at the end of the hunting season. Prior to the 1982 season, noncommercial goose hunting areas were also required to register hunters and report harvest. Since 1982, the Canada goose harvest on private land in the surrounding area has been derived from the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Questionnaire Survey, which has been conducted since 1981.

Rend Lake and the surrounding area in Franklin and Jefferson counties were designated as a Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) Canada goose harvest quota zone in 1986. Establishment of the Rend Lake Quota Zone has allowed for liberalization of harvest regulations while preventing overharvest in a high concentration area.

The Rend Lake Wildlife Management Area is a cooperative project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC). The project consists of 12,690 acres of land and water in Jefferson and Franklin counties. Implementation of the waterfowl harvest and hunter use survey was partially funded by Pittman-Robertson Project W-83-D.

Employees of the Division of Wildlife Resources, and the COE assisted in the distribution, collection and tabulation of hunter registration sheets in 1993.

METHODS

Waterfowl harvest and hunter use at all Rend Lake public access areas (39) were monitored using the mandatory registration system. A registration box was placed at each hunter access area around the lake as well as the Big Muddy and Casey Fork Management Areas. Hunters were required to register before hunting and report their daily harvest by number and species following each hunt. Registration sheets were collected daily and the number of hunters and harvest by species were totaled for individual access areas and for each day of the season.

Canada goose harvest and hunter activity on private land surrounding Rend Lake were estimated using three different methods.

Commercial licenses were issued for all areas where payment was received for goose hunting privileges. On these commercial clubs, all hunters were required to register before hunting and report their harvest at the end of each hunt. Registration sheets were submitted by club owners at the end of the season to the Union County Refuge Office for tabulation of harvest and hunter use. The goose harvest on other private lands surrounding Rend Lake in Franklin and Jefferson counties was determined from the Statewide Waterfowl Hunter Questionnaire Survey, conducted after the 1993 waterfowl season (Anderson 1994). Finally, the projected total harvest in the quota zone was estimated using the mean reported harvest on the public hunting areas in past years. Analysis of the Canada goose population and harvest data at Rend Lake over the past five years revealed that hunters on the public hunting areas have consistently reported 35% of the total goose harvest in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. This percentage was then used to project total harvest throughout the season in the quota zone. Goose harvest on the public hunting areas was tabulated daily by DOC staff at the Mt. Vernon Game Farm. Projected harvest in the zone was determined and harvest update information was forwarded to the Rend Lake COE office, where it was provided to the public throughout the season by a recorded telephone message.

Canada goose populations at Rend Lake and other wintering areas in southern Illinois were monitored weekly by aerial inventories starting 18 October and continuing to 7 February. DOC biologists conducted the inventories using the state's Cessna 337.

RESULTS

Canada Geese - Population Status, Habitat and Migration Chronology

Population Status

The 1993 spring population survey conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) revealed an estimated population of 617,814 Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) - Canada geese on the breeding grounds. This represents a 29% decrease from the 1992 spring estimate of 866,514 and is well below the 1991-96 MVP Management Plan goal of 900,000 Canada geese (adults and non-breeders).

Habitat

Production was expected to be average however, the number of subadult (2-year old) geese expected in the 1993 fall flight was reduced due to poor gosling survival and recruitment in 1992. The projected fall flight for MVP Canada geese in 1993 was estimated at 1.05 million (Tacha 1993). As a result of the MVP falling below the spring population and fall flight goals (1.2 million) in 1993, conservative harvest strategies were adopted which reduced

allocations and season lengths among MVP harvest states.

Migration Chronology

Canada geese began arriving at southern Illinois wintering refuges during the week of 18-25 September. The first aerial inventory was conducted on 18 October and revealed that 1,400 Canada geese (3,500 in 1992) were present in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Canada goose numbers at Rend Lake gradually increased from 1,400 in late October to 12,000 by opening day (27 November). The first major migration of geese from Wisconsin occurred between 25-27 December, when the population at Rend Lake increased from 5,600 to 45,000 (Table 1). The number of Canada geese at Rend Lake decreased to 25,400 by 4 January as a result of a southerly movement to traditional wintering areas. However, between 10-14 January, a second major migration occurred when the population increased to 38,500 (Figure 1). The population finally peaked at 118,000 during spring staging at Rend Lake on 7 February (108,000 in 1992) (Table 2). The Canada goose population in southern Illinois and western Kentucky also peaked on 7 February (603,800). Large numbers of Canada geese remained on the wintering refuges until late February when warm weather patterns initiated northward migrations to spring staging areas.

Goose use-days (GUD) at Rend Lake decreased from 3.4 million in 1992-93 to 2.4 million in 1993-94 (Table 3). In 1993-94, Rend Lake accounted for 2.4 million GUD (12% of the total), Union County Refuge 3.7 million GUD (19% of the total), Horseshoe Lake Refuge 5.6 million GUD (28% of the total), Crab Orchard NWR 6.2 million GUD (31% of the total), and Ballard County, Kentucky 1.9 million GUD (10% of the total). Goose use-days in southern Illinois and western Kentucky decreased 6% from 21.3 million in 1992-93 to 20.0 million in 1993-94.

Ducks - Population Status, Habitat and Migration Chronology

Population Status

The breeding population of all species of ducks decreased 11% from 29.5 million in 1992 to 26.3 million in 1993 and was 18% below the long-term average (1955-92). The mallard breeding population decreased 5% from 6.0 million in 1992 to 5.7 million in 1993. Overall, the mallard breeding population is 20% below the long-term average (1955-92) (Caithamer et al 1993). The breeding population in 1993 decreased for 9 of the principal species (mallard, gadwall, wigeon, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, northern pintail, canvasback and redhead) from 1992. Only the northern shoveler increased from 1992. Only 3 species (gadwall, green-winged teal and northern shoveler) in 1993 have exceeded their long-term breeding population averages (1955-92).

Habitat

Spring weather conditions resulted in nesting phenology occurring 1-2 weeks earlier than normal across the prairie pothole region in western Canada and the northcentral United States. Normal to above average precipitation occurred in the northcentral United States while many areas throughout Canada received average to below average precipitation.

The May (1993) pond index in Prairie Canada decreased 18% from 2,784,000 ponds in 1992 to 2,268,000 in 1993 and was 33% below the long-term average (1961-92) of 3,381,000 ponds. The number of May ponds in the northcentral United States increased +117% from 825,000 ponds in 1992 to 1,793,000 in 1993, and was 44% above the long-term average (1974-92) of 1,246,000 ponds. Collectively, the number of May ponds increased 12% from 3,609,000 ponds in 1992 to 4,061,000 in 1993, and was 12% below the long-term average (1961-92) of 4,559,000 ponds.

The July (1993) pond index in Prairie Canada increased 80% from 1,272,000 ponds in 1992 to 2,293,000 in 1993 and was 44% above the long-term average (1961-92) of 1,588,000 ponds. Similarly, the number of July ponds in the northcentral United States increased 108% from 664,000 ponds in 1992 to 1,385,000 ponds in 1993, and was 85% above the long-term average (1974-92) of 750,000 ponds.

Consequently production indices for the northcentral United States improved considerably from 1992 and were above long-term averages. Some locations reported the best wetland and cover conditions observed during the past 10 years. Wetland conditions improved in Prairie Canada as a result of precipitation from May to July. However, these improvements most likely arrived too late to benefit early nesting species, but should provide opportunities for late nesting species, renesting ducks and habitat for production in 1994.

The fall flight estimate for ducks from survey areas has ranged from 55 - 88 million since 1970. The mallard fall flight estimate decreased from 9.2 million in 1992 to 8.8 million in 1993. The fall flight estimate for total ducks decreased from 62 million in 1992 to 59 million in 1993.

Migration Chronology

The timing and distribution of the duck migration through Illinois was abnormal as a result of widespread flooding along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Widespread flooding dispersed ducks from traditional areas which contributed to the low numbers of ducks surveyed in many areas. Total ducks in the Illinois River Valley peaked on at 148,225 on 15 November (52% less than 1992). Total ducks in the Mississippi River Valley peaked on 1 November at 60,650 (35% less than 1992). The peak number of ducks for the two

river systems combined (208,875) was 65% less than 1992 (603,195).

Mallard numbers peaked in the Illinois River Valley at 134,600 on 15 November (45% less than 1992) and in the Mississippi River Valley at 45,600 on 1 November (73% less than 1992). These peaks were the lowest recorded since surveys began in 1948.

Six waterfowl surveys were conducted by the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) at Rend Lake between 6 October and 5 January. Total duck numbers on Rend Lake increased from 2,725 on 6 October and reached a peak of 33,900 on 23 November. Mallard numbers also peaked at 30,000 on 23 November.

The peak number of mallards was reported on 23 November (30,000) compared to 17 November (40,000) in 1992. Mallard numbers totaled 42,000 during 3 surveys conducted in the fall of 1993 compared to 68,150 for the same survey period in 1992.

Hunter Participation, Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Success

Hunter Participation

The 1993 quota zone goose hunting season opened 27 November and closed 51 days later on 16 January. The goose season began 21 days after the opening of the southern zone for duck hunting which allowed hunters a 9-day overlap to harvest both ducks and geese. The Canada goose harvest allocation for Illinois decreased 22% from 79,000 in 1992 to 61,300 in 1993. The Rend Lake Quota Zone annually receives 15% of the statewide Canada goose harvest allocation. The harvest quota assigned to Rend Lake decreased 22% from 11,850 in 1992 to 9,200 in 1993. Goose season length in the Rend Lake Quota Zone decreased from 79 days in 1992 to 51 days in 1993. The daily bag limit for Canada geese was 2 in 1993. Shooting hours were extended again during the last 3 days of the goose hunting season from 1 p.m. on the state area and 3 p.m. on private land to sunset.

Duck season length (30 days) and bag limits (conventional) did not change in 1993. Illinois selected one-half hour before sunrise shooting hours option. The duck season at Rend Lake opened 6 November and closed 5 December.

Waterfowl hunters reported a total of 13,251 days afield in 1993 (16% less than 1992) (Table 4). The 5-year (1989-93) average was 15,251 days afield, with a minimum of 6,555 in 1976 and a maximum of 18,553 in 1991.

Daily registration sheets revealed that 5,590 hunters (22% less than 1992) were afield during the duck season. An additional 7,661 goose hunters (10% less than 1992) were given the opportunity to harvest geese 42 days after the close of the duck season. During

the duck season, the mean number of hunters per day was 186 (239 in 1992) and an average of 182 (175 in 1992) goose hunters per day were active on Rend Lake after the close of the duck season.

Public access areas receiving the highest hunting pressure included: Cottonwood (1,345), Casey Fork Dam (1,055), Turnip Patch (967), Whistling Wings (874), Ina Boat Ramp (776) (Figure 2).

Seventeen licensed commercial goose clubs in the Rend Lake Quota Zone reported a total of 2,119 days afield in 1993 (24% less than 1992). The Statewide Waterfowl Hunter Questionnaire Survey indicated that a total of 5,100 hunters (15% less than 1992) spent 25,400 days afield (47% less than 1992) in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (Anderson 1994).

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 2,784 Canada geese (19% greater than 1992) was harvested on the public hunting areas at Rend Lake in 1993 (Table 5). The goose harvest is often incidental to duck hunting during the duck season. Hunters reported a harvest of 126 geese, or 4% of the total, during the 1993 duck season. The majority of the harvest (96%) occurred in late December and January after the close of the duck season when 7,661 hunters harvested 2,658 Canada geese. Public access areas with the highest goose harvest included: Casey Fork Dam (345), Jackie Branch (333), Turnip Patch (296), Cottonwood (258) and Whistling Wings (257) (Figure 3).

The Canada goose harvest on the public hunting areas totaled 2,784. The projected harvest estimate of 7,954 Canada geese for the Rend Lake Quota Zone was determined by dividing the reported harvest rate on the public hunting areas by 35%. This was 1,246 geese less than the assigned quota of 9,200. The harvest estimate derived from the Statewide Hunter Questionnaire Survey after the season revealed a similar harvest estimate of 8,927 Canada geese (19% greater than in 1992) in the Rend Lake Quota Zone (Anderson 1994). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated a harvest of 6,776 Canada geese in the Rend Lake Quota Zone. Seventeen commercial goose hunting clubs reported a total harvest of 830 Canada geese for the season (8% greater than 1992) (Whitton 1993). The final harvest of 7,954 Canada geese represented 86% of the assigned quota of 9,200.

Duck hunters reported a total harvest of 4,817 ducks (24% greater than 1992) at Rend Lake during the 1993 season (Table 5). Mallards comprised 57% of the harvest, wood ducks 19%, ring-necked duck 5%, green-winged teal 4% and scaup 3%. The 1993 mallard harvest of 2,751 was 7% greater than the 1992 harvest (2,566) and 7% less than the 5-year (1989-93) average of 2,960 (Table 6). Harvest trends for dabbling ducks and diving ducks from 1989-93 are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Access areas with the highest total duck and mallard harvest included: Cottonwood (751, 507), Bonnie Camp (574, 310), Casey Fork Dam (418, 243), Silo (410, 257) and Dareville (405, 233) (Figure 6). These areas accounted for 53% of the total duck harvest on the public hunting areas in 1993.

Hunter Success

Goose hunter success on the public hunting areas is influenced by cropping patterns, weather factors, migration chronology and the current age structure of the population. After the close of the duck season, goose hunters reported a success rate of 0.21 in 1992 compared to 0.35 in 1993. The success rate in the Rend Lake Quota Zone as determined by the Statewide Hunter Questionnaire Survey was 0.16 goose per hunter in 1992 compared to 0.35 in 1993. Goose hunters on commercial clubs in the Rend Lake Quota Zone reported a success rate of 0.39 geese per hunter-trip in 1993 (0.28 in 1992).

Duck hunter success at Rend Lake increased considerably from (0.54) in 1992 to (0.86) in 1993 (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

Above average precipitation during the summer months reduced crop acreages in the subimpoundments due to elevated water levels. Receding water levels throughout the summer resulted in robust stands of moist soil plants. Saturated soils as a result of elevated water levels in the subimpoundments throughout the summer resulted in reduced pumping costs during the fall. Widespread flooding along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers and their associated tributaries dispersed the duck migration throughout the state which resulted in an unusually low number of ducks surveyed on traditional areas.

Another mild fall delayed Canada goose migrations from arriving into southern Illinois until late December. Two major migrations of Canada geese occurred during the fall and winter period between 25-27 December and 10-14 January. Prior to the late December migration, only 60,000 geese were surveyed among 12 locations in southern Illinois and western Kentucky.

Favorable conditions for production of MVP geese and high ratios of immatures per adult in 1993 resulted in a highly successful goose hunting season. The increase in production in 1993 will be necessary to offset the losses of recruitment from the 1992 cohort which suffered very high mortality as a result of poor gosling survival due to a late summer snowstorm. Allocations for MVP Canada geese are anticipated to remain stable in 1994 in order to achieve spring population and fall flight objectives outlined in the 1991-96 MVP plan.

Despite record levels of flooding along major river systems in Illinois which dispersed migratory waterfowl, hunters at Rend Lake harvested 24% more ducks and 20% more geese in 1993.

No outbreaks of waterfowl diseases were detected at Rend Lake in 1993-94.

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Table 1. Canada goose numbers at Rend Lake through the fall and winter of 1990-1993.

<u>1990</u>		<u>1991</u>		<u>1992</u>		<u>1993</u>	
Date	No. of Geese	Date	No. of Geese	Date	No. of Geese	Date	No. of Geese
10-15-90	3,500	10-15-91	5,500	10-19-92	3,500	10-18-93	1,400
10-22-90	5,000	10-21-91	4,000	10-26-92	4,000	10-25-93	1,600
10-30-90	12,000	11-04-91	5,000	11-02-92	1,000	11-01-93	1,500
11-07-90	13,000	11-13-91	6,000	11-09-92	4,000	11-08-93	5,000
11-13-90	15,000	11-25-91	8,000	11-16-92	9,500	11-15-93	2,200
11-19-90	12,000	12-04-91	15,000	11-23-92	10,000	11-22-93	12,000
11-26-90	12,000	12-10-91	165,000	11-30-92	14,000	11-29-93	8,000
12-05-90	43,000	12-16-91	145,000	12-07-92	29,000	12-06-93	9,500
12-10-90	70,000	12-24-91	152,000	12-16-92	41,000	12-13-93	11,500
12-19-90	80,000	01-10-92	15,000	12-21-92	27,000	12-21-93	5,600
12-31-90	125,000	01-21-92	45,000	01-06-93	28,000	12-27-93	45,000
01-14-91	136,000	01-27-92	60,000	01-14-93	60,000	01-04-94	25,400
01-22-91	112,000	02-05-92	31,000	01-19-93	108,000	01-10-94	30,200
02-04-91	90,000			01-25-93	85,000	01-18-94	38,500
				02-01-93	63,000	01-24-94	20,000
						01-31-94	26,000
						02-07-94	118,000

Table 2. Peak numbers of Canada geese at Rend Lake, Illinois 1971-1993.

Year	Number of Geese	Date
1971-72 ^a	6,000	Dec. 22
1972-73	2,000	Dec. 13
1973-74	13,000	Jan. 04
1974-75	32,000	Dec. 18
1975-76	50,000	Jan. 22
1976-77	42,000	Dec. 14
1977-78	100,000	Jan. 23
1978-79	62,000	Jan. 04
1979-80	90,000	Jan. 14
1980-81	88,000	Jan. 27
1981-82	120,000	Jan. 18
1982-83	40,000	Feb. 03
1983-84	44,000	Feb. 07
1984-85	72,000	Jan. 15
1985-86	70,000	Dec. 09
1986-87	65,000	Jan. 13
1987-88	110,000	Jan. 25
1988-89	135,000	Jan. 23
1989-90	170,000	Jan. 16
1990-91	136,000	Jan. 14
1991-92	165,000	Dec. 10
1992-93	108,000	Jan. 19
1993-94	118,000	Feb. 07

^a First year that Canada geese started using Rend Lake.

Table 3. Total Goose Use Days and Percent Total at 5 Refuges in Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky in 1993-94.

Week	Union County		Horseshoe Lk.		Crab Orchard		Rend Lake		Ballard County		Total Goose Use Days
	Goose Use Days	% Total	Goose Use Days	% Total	Goose Use Days	% Total	Goose Use Days	% Total	Goose Use Days	% Total	
10-18-93	52,500	23	105,000	46	49,000	21	9,800	4	14,000	6	230,300
10-25-93	28,000	13	105,000	50	52,500	25	11,200	5	12,600	6	209,300
11-01-93	28,000	14	77,000	38	70,000	34	10,500	5	17,500	9	203,000
11-08-93	24,500	13	47,600	26	51,800	28	35,000	19	24,500	13	183,400
11-15-93	56,000	20	84,000	30	112,000	40	15,400	5	14,000	5	281,400
11-22-93	42,000	16	70,000	27	49,000	19	84,000	32	14,000	5	259,000
11-29-93	49,000	20	63,000	25	63,000	25	56,000	23	16,100	7	247,100
12-06-93	63,000	20	70,000	22	91,000	29	66,500	21	21,000	7	311,500
12-13-93	120,000	23	140,000	27	136,000	26	92,000	18	36,000	7	524,000
12-21-93	114,000	35	60,000	18	96,000	29	33,600	10	24,000	7	327,600
12-27-93	294,000	20	217,000	15	546,000	37	315,000	22	73,500	5	1,463,500
01-04-93	78,000	11	108,000	16	228,000	34	152,400	22	114,000	17	680,400
01-10-94	376,000	24	294,000	19	570,000	37	181,200	12	132,000	8	1,553,200
01-18-94	360,000	12	630,000	22	1,410,000	48	231,000	8	294,000	10	2,925,000
01-24-94	665,000	17	1,295,000	33	1,330,000	34	140,000	4	525,000	13	3,955,000
01-31-94	728,000	22	1,435,000	43	847,000	26	182,000	6	112,000	3	3,304,000
02-07-94	672,000	20	875,000	25	574,000	17	826,000	24	490,000	14	3,437,000
Total	3,750,000	19	5,675,600	28	6,275,300	31	2,441,600	12	1,934,200	10	20,094,700

Table 4. Annual Rend Lake Public Hunting Area and Quota Zone Waterfowl Season Statistics, 1975-1993. Monitoring of waterfowl harvest and hunter activity began in 1975 on the public hunting area and in 1986, Rend Lake was designated as a quota zone for Canada goose hunting.

Year	Quota	Season Length	Season Date	Daily Bag	Goose Season				Duck Season				
					Quota Zone Harvest	PHA Harvest	PHA Success	Season Length	Harvest	Season Date	Success	PHA Hunter Use-Days	
1975		70	Oct. 22 - Dec. 30	2		1,710		.58	50	6,878	Oct. 22 - Dec. 10	1.07	6,428
1976		70	Oct. 23 - Dec. 31	2	2,017		.21	50	7,414	Oct. 23 - Dec. 11	1.13	6,555	
1977		70	Oct. 22 - Dec. 30	2	1,630		.19	50	8,748	Nov. 05 - Dec. 19	1.04	8,377	
1978		56	Nov. 02 - Dec. 27	2	4,604		.36	45	9,060	Nov. 02 - Dec. 21	.78	12,622	
1979		62	Oct. 31 - Dec. 31	2	1,917		.15	50	5,375	Oct. 31 - Dec. 19	.52	12,978	
1980		63	Oct. 30 - Dec. 31	2	3,508		.22	50	5,493	Oct. 30 - Dec. 18	.39	16,134	
1981		50	Nov. 12 - Dec. 31	2	2,827		.16	50	6,285	Oct. 29 - Dec. 17	.46	17,873	
1982		40	Nov. 22 - Dec. 31	1	1,109		.08	50	6,845	Oct. 28 - Dec. 16	.57	14,582	
1983		20	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	1	1,856		.14	50	8,270	Oct. 27 - Dec. 15	.76	13,352	
1984		20	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	1	610		.06	50	7,724	Nov. 01 - Dec. 20	.70	11,050	
1985		20	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	1	1,214		.34	50	4,901	Oct. 31 - Dec. 09	.55	8,964	
1986	7,200	50	Nov. 12 - Dec. 31	1	5,657	2,042	.32	40	4,859	Oct. 30 - Dec. 08	.52	14,300	
1987	7,900	50	Nov. 16 - Jan. 04	2	4,872	1,676	.28	40	5,988	Oct. 29 - Dec. 07	.63	14,867	
1988	11,100	50	Nov. 21 - Jan. 09	2	9,236	4,177	.43	30	3,582	Nov. 11 - Dec. 10	.49	14,748	
1989	15,500	56	Nov. 20 - Jan. 14	2	12,613	3,971	.45	30	3,868	Nov. 10 - Dec. 09	.54	14,148	
1990	21,300	70	Nov. 10 - Jan. 18	3	8,763	3,068	.31	30	4,239	Nov. 10 - Dec. 09	.59	14,580	
1991	21,700	84	Nov. 09 - Jan. 31	3	7,510	5,032	.39	30	7,545	Nov. 09 - Dec. 08	.96	18,553	
1992	11,850	79	Nov. 14 - Jan. 31	2	7,331	2,333	.21	30	3,894	Nov. 14 - Dec. 13	.54	15,724	
1993	9,200	51	Nov. 27 - Jan. 16	2	8,927	2,784	.35	30	4,817	Nov. 06 - Dec. 05	.86	13,251	

Table 5. Waterfowl harvest and hunter use on public hunting areas at Rend Lake, Illinois for the 1993 waterfowl season.

Public Access Areas	Hunter Use-days	Total Harvest		
		Mallards	Ducks	Canada Geese
1. Bluegill Hole	122	3	4	22
2. Bonnie Camp	438	310	574	0
3. Bonnie South	762	131	183	153
4. Buck Creek	295	55	123	31
5. Button Bush Bay	21	8	9	0
6. C & E Lot	118	3	6	30
7. Casey Fork Dam	1,055	243	418	345
8. Casey Fork West	181	13	57	13
9. Cottonwood	1,345	507	751	258
10. County Line	250	3	3	54
11. Cypress View	157	23	60	11
12. Dam West	81	6	27	21
13. Dareville	673	233	405	110
14. Elk Prairie	129	1	6	24
15. Gun Creek West	91	13	13	14
16. Hamilton Branch	3	0	0	0
17. Honkers Point	503	4	11	171
18. Ina Boat Ramp	776	71	135	168
19. Ina Parking Lot	257	0	9	40
20. Jackie Branch	700	65	135	333
21. Ken Gray	198	0	12	31
22. Lambrusco	464	0	2	165
23. Mine 21	183	0	1	18
24. Nason North	145	61	105	7
25. Nason South	80	7	12	12
26. Pin Oak	217	162	286	0
27. Resort Ramp	87	8	12	12
28. River Road	39	12	19	2
29. RLCD Boat Ramp	328	37	103	38
30. RLCD Maintenance	13	0	0	0
31. Ryder Bottoms	21	5	17	0
32. Sailboat Harbor	134	27	29	15
33. Silo	634	257	410	41
34. Turnip Patch	967	119	245	296
35. Waltonville Dam	62	11	18	3
36. Waltonville East	316	118	227	12
37. Ward Branch	522	75	95	77
38. Whistling Wings	874	158	293	257
39. Willbanks Woods	0	0	0	0
40. Woodcock Ridge	10	2	2	0
Totals	13,251	2,751	4,817	2,784

Table 6. Harvest of ducks by species at Rend Lake, (Southern Zone) Illinois, 1986 through 1993. Data collected from hunter registration reports.

Species	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
<u>Dabbling Ducks</u>								
American Wigeon	142	145	54	95	77	157	98	135
Black Duck	122	179	182	261	184	304	132	126
Blue-winged Teal	27	34	10	14	13	13	13	14
Gadwall	291	199	57	126	88	170	89	125
Green-winged Teal	205	323	168	285	255	481	143	174
Mallard	2,964	3,915	2,556	2,519	2,803	4,159	2,566	2,751
Northern Shoveler	51	107	32	53	35	89	60	55
Pintail	62	82	23	41	35	49	33	59
Wood Duck	531	660	271	310	503	1,596	454	939
Total	4,395	5,644	3,353	3,704	3,993	7,018	3,588	4,378
<u>Diving Ducks</u>								
Bufflehead	54	35	30	27	41	56	17	24
Canvasback	15	0	0	0	1	26	20	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Redhead	68	24	21	14	12	36	19	35
Ring-necked Duck	133	163	92	52	104	204	166	217
Ruddy Duck	20	17	7	13	7	28	21	23
Scaup	174	105	79	58	81	172	63	140
Total	464	344	229	164	246	527*	306	439
Total All Species	4,859	5,988	3,582	3,868	4,239	7,545	3,894	4,817

* 4 Mergansers were harvested in 1991.

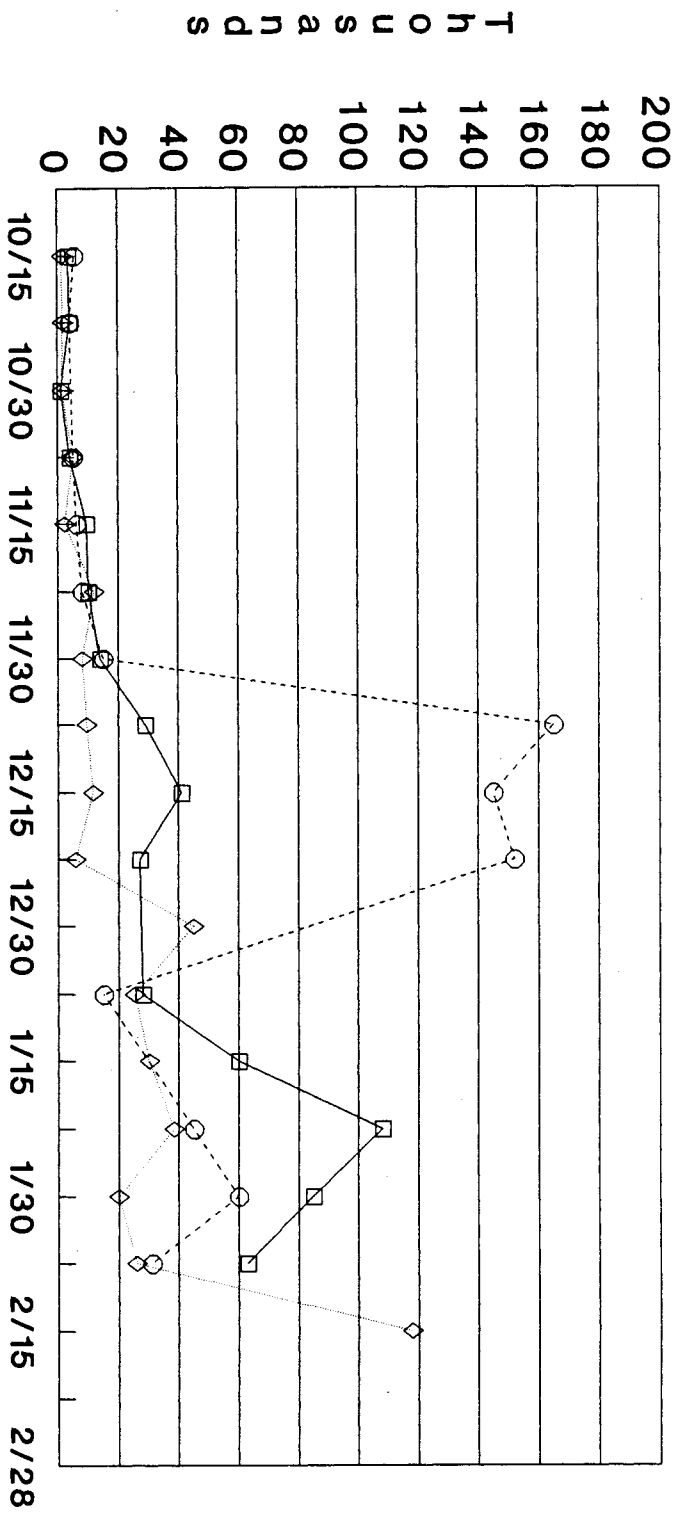


Figure 1. Numbers of Canada geese at Rend Lake, 1991-1993.

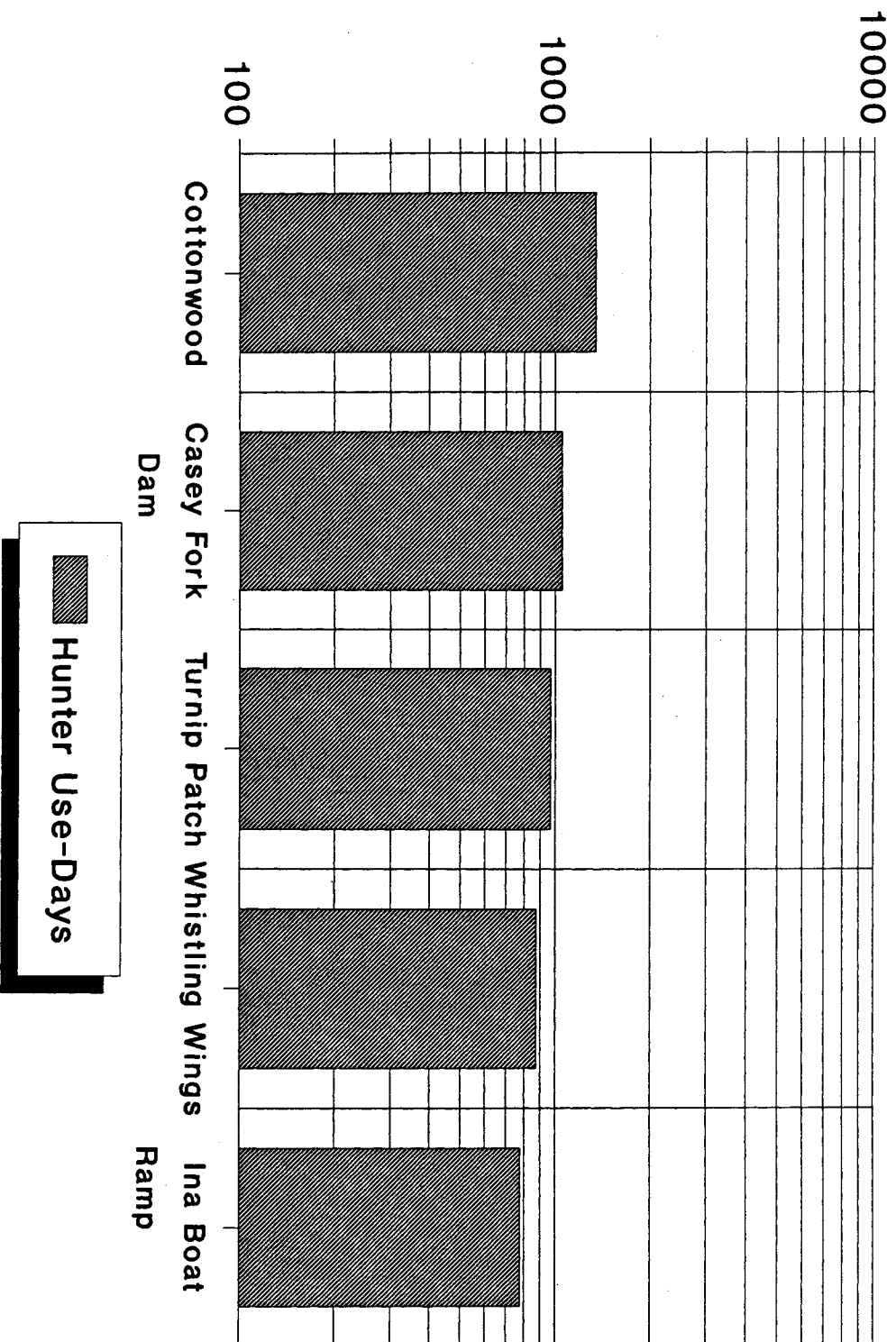


Figure 2. Number of hunter use-days at five access areas at Rend Lake, 1993.

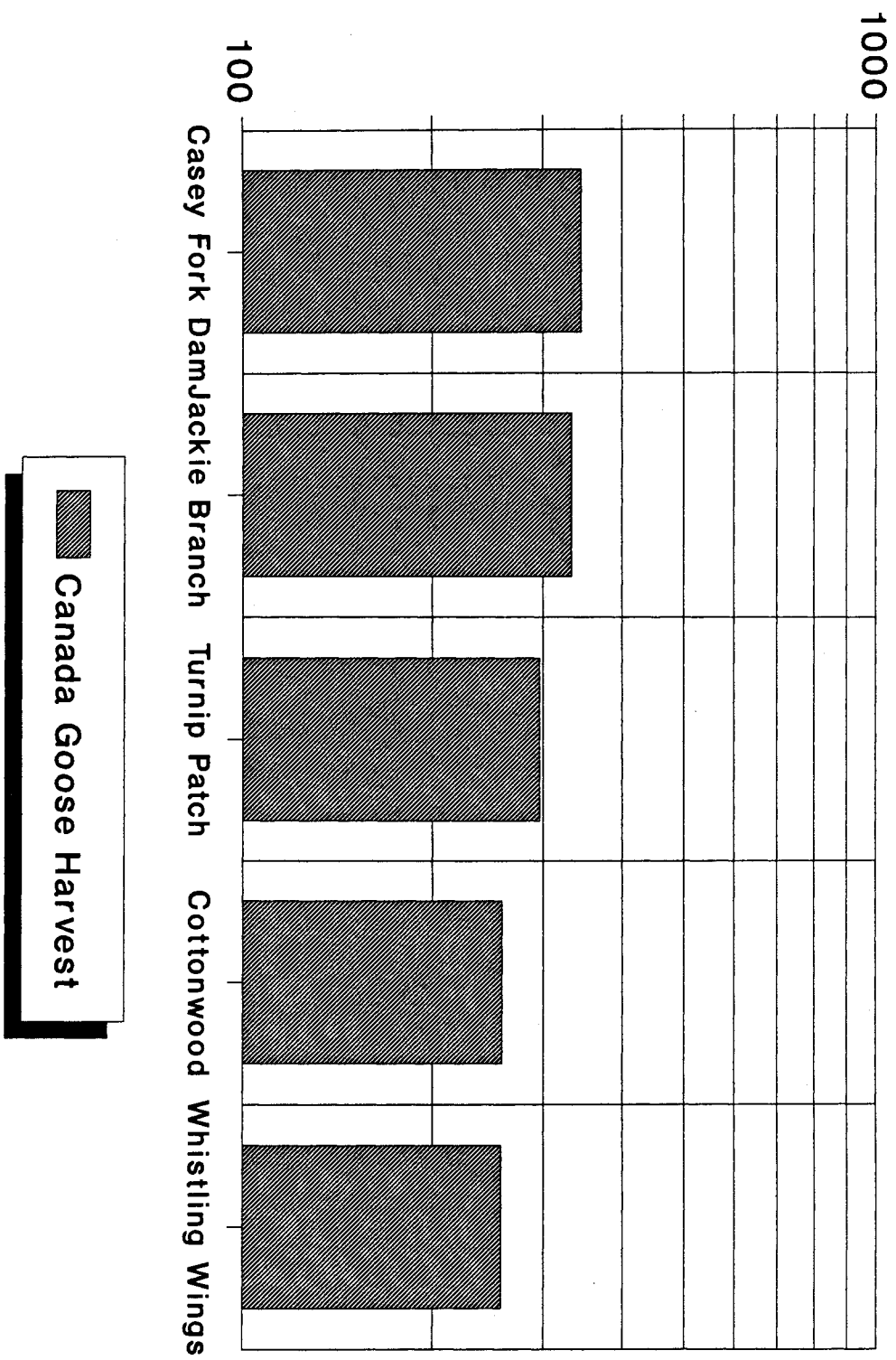


Figure 3. Canada goose harvest at five access areas at Rend Lake, 1993.

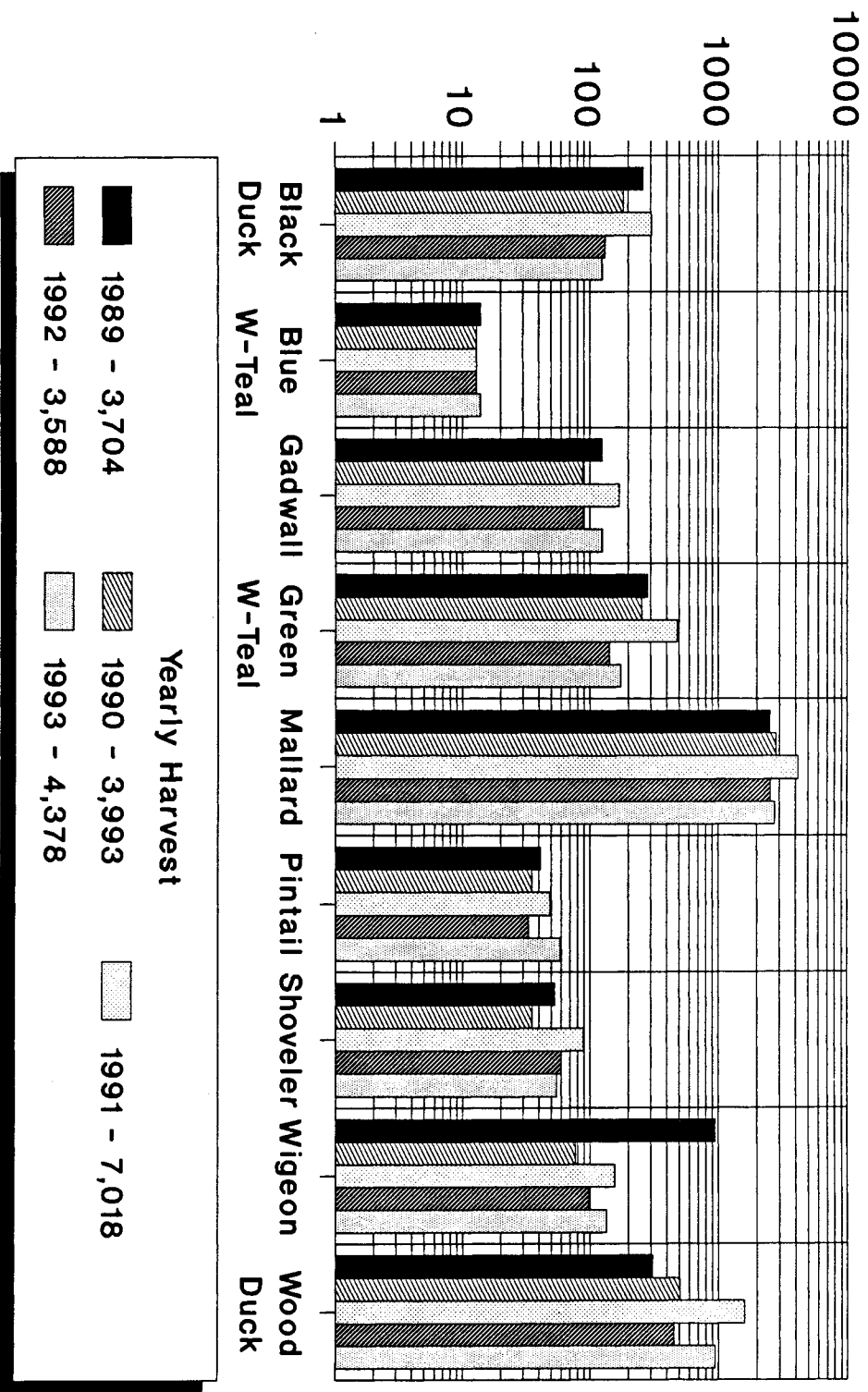


Figure 4. Dabbling duck harvest at Rend Lake, 1989-1993.

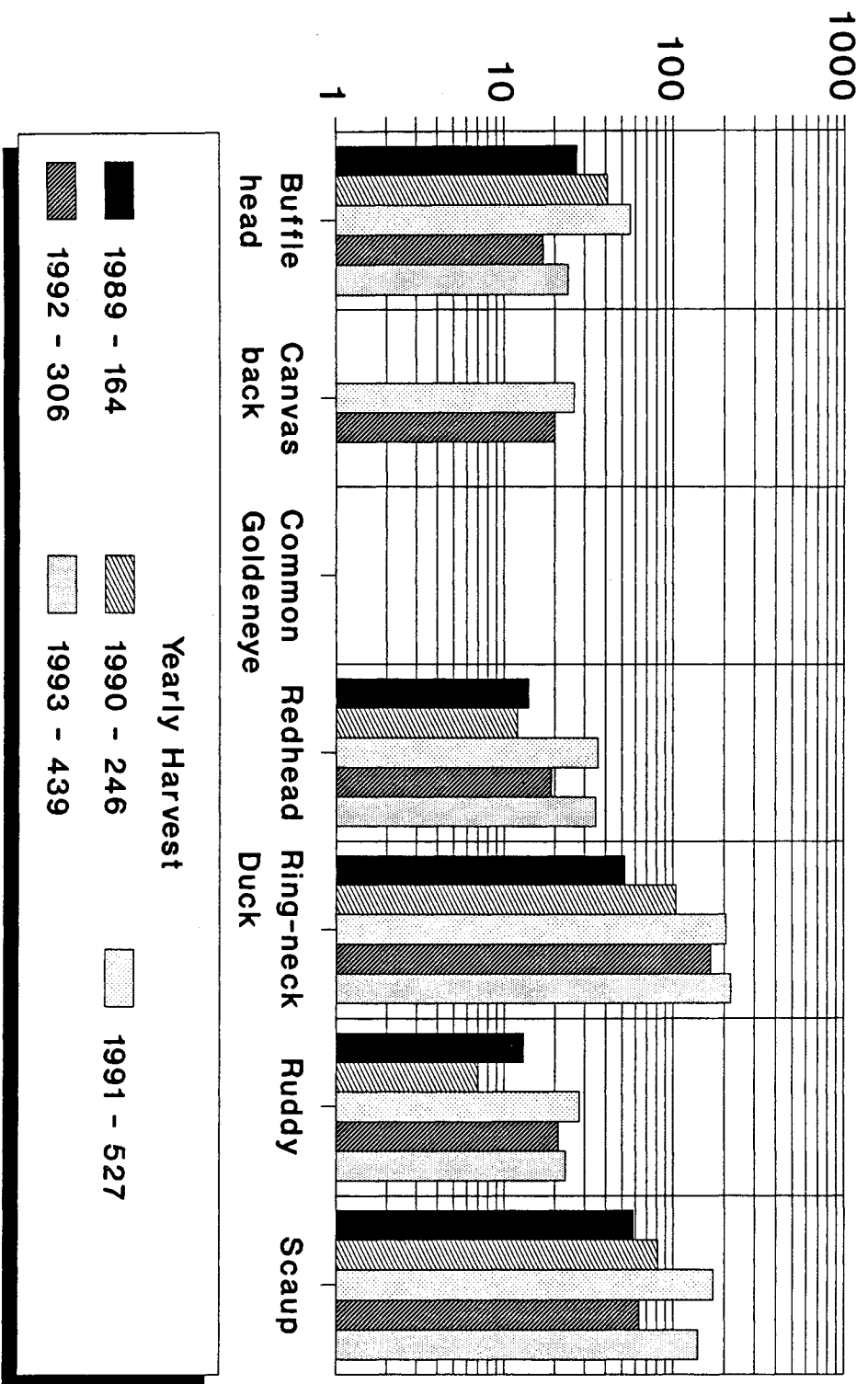


Figure 5. Diving duck harvest at Rend Lake, 1989-1993.

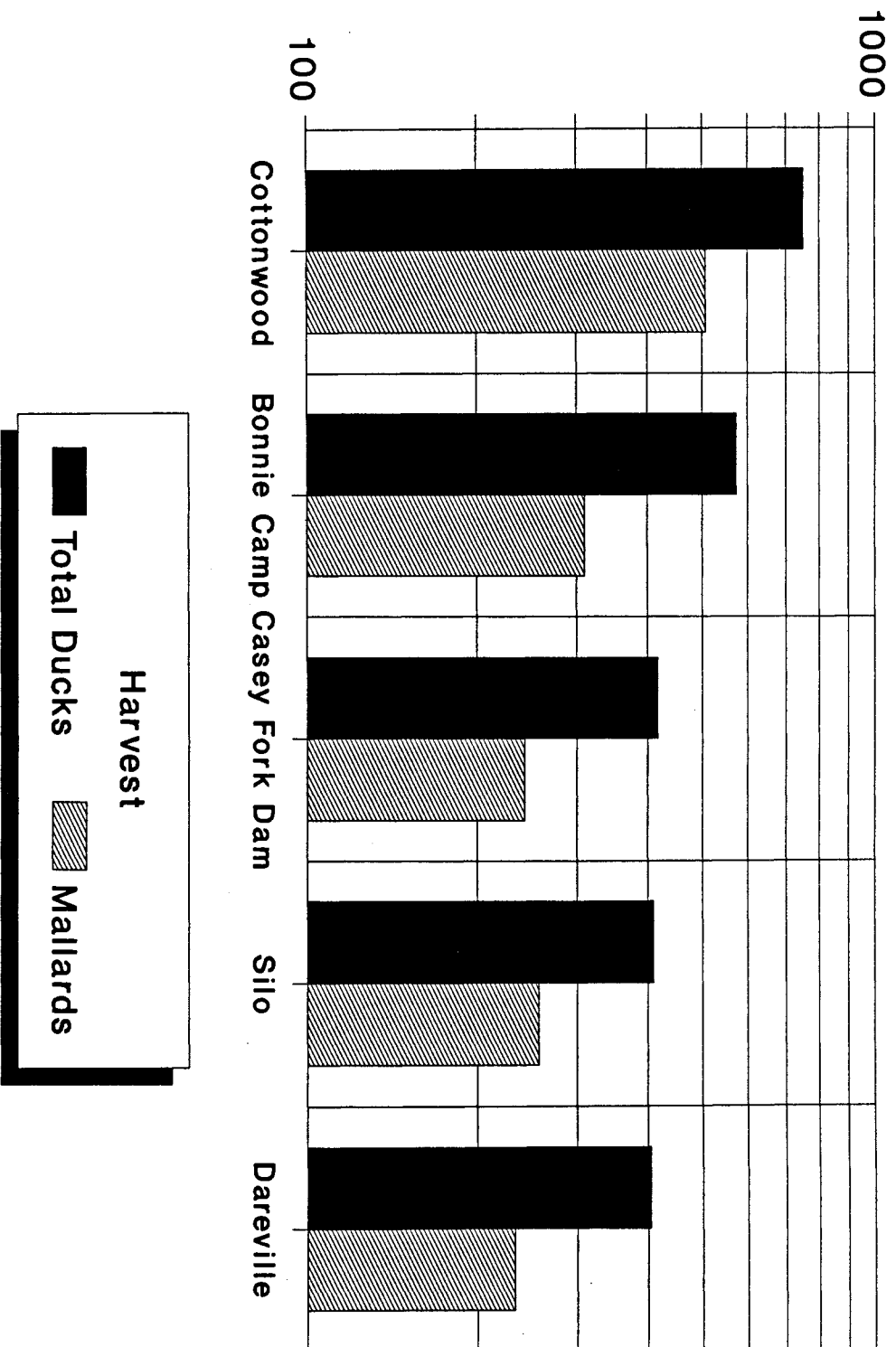


Figure 6. Total ducks and mallard harvest at five access areas at Rend Lake, 1993.