

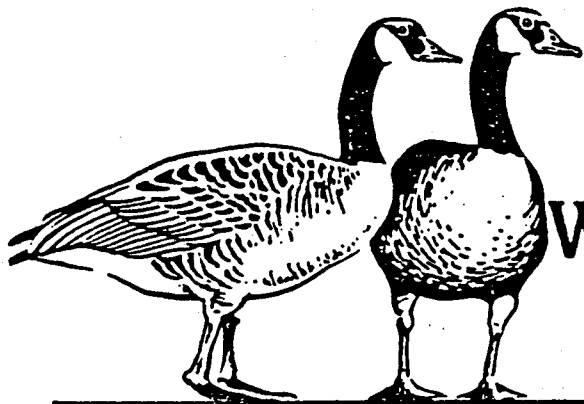


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WATERFOWL PROGRAM

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HARVEST, HUNTER ACTIVITY, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD DUCK IDENTIFICATION, SPLIT GOOSE SEASON, AND GOOSE SEASON DATES IN 1990

William L. Anderson, Investigations and Surveys Program

Robert A. Williamson, Waterfowl Program

Abstract: Purchasers of the (1989) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp were sampled via mail-letter questionnaire to obtain information on waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward selected issues, during the 1990 season (57,399 stamps were sold in 1990). Of 2,833 respondents (72% response), 611 (22%) did not purchase a stamp again in 1990. Thus, the sample size was reduced to 2,222 respondents, 87% of which hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1990. An estimated 57,546 hunters (3% less than in 1989) expended an estimated 739,139 days afield (7% less than in 1989) and harvested an estimated 277,068 waterfowl (18% less than in 1989). From 1985 to 1990, the ratio of duck hunters to goose hunters shifted from 2.3:1 to 1:1. During the regular duck season in 1990, 40,441 hunters expended 365,316 days afield and harvested 205,744 ducks (14% less than in 1989) and 2,386 coots. During the experimental September giant Canada goose season in 9 northeastern counties (Region 2), 4,215 hunters spent 12,767 days afield and harvested 2,878 Canada geese. During the regular goose season, 42,215 hunters devoted 361,057 days afield to harvest 67,127 Canada geese (27% less than in 1989) and 68,446 total geese. The Canada goose harvest included 31,319 taken in the Southern Quota Zone, 8,763 taken in the Rend Lake Quota Zone, 5,961 taken in the Tri-County Zone, and 7,400 taken in Region 2. Harvest in the latter (regular season and September season combined) averaged 1,142 Canada geese per county, or 60% greater than the statewide average for all 102 counties. Hunters reported that they correctly identified at least 86% of duck flights as to species, harvested ≥ 1 ducks during 55% of their duck days afield, harvested ≥ 1 Canada geese during 30% of their goose days afield, and spent an average of \$743 (total - \$43 million) for waterfowl hunting in Illinois during the 1990 season. Majorities of hunters looked favorably on the split goose season in the North Zone, and a majority believed the dates for the goose season in the Tri-County Zone were too early in 1990.

The purpose of this study was to collect information via mail questionnaire from a systematic sample of waterfowl hunters in Illinois following the 1990 hunting season. Data were obtained for waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes of hunters toward selected hunting regulations and other subjects. The questionnaire used for the 1990 season (Fig. 1) was similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989; Anderson and Williamson 1990 and 1991). The mailing list was developed from the names of purchasers of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods used to mail the 1990 Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Survey questionnaire and to process data from returned questionnaires were similar to those employed in previous years (Anderson 1983). The questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Figs. 1 and 2) were mailed to 3,961 purchasers (3,652 residents and 309 non-residents) of the (1989) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp on 16 January 1991. Non-respondents were mailed 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 4 March and again on 9 April, respectively. As of 18 June 1991, 2,833 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 72%.

The mailing list for the 1990 questionnaire was developed by systematically selecting stubs from the sales of 32,000 of the (1989) Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. The stamps are printed with matching (i.e., same I.D. numbers) stubs attached. Vendors

are instructed to write each stamp purchaser's name and mailing address on the stub, and to return the stubs to the DOC Permit Office in Springfield. Persons on the mailing list were notified via letter postmarked 25 October 1990 that they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the hunting season. The notice included a form for keeping records of hunting activity and waterfowl harvested (Fig. 5).

Procedures used to estimate numbers of hunters, days afield, waterfowl harvested, cripples lost, and confidence intervals were described in the final report for the 1984 questionnaire (Anderson 1986). The 1990 estimates were based on a sales of 57,399 of the 1990 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The duck hunting regulations employed in 1990 were similar to those used in 1988 and 1989. The regulations permitted a 30-day season, a bag limit of 3 ducks (2 mallards) per day using the Conventional System, and sunrise shooting (Fig. 6). In contrast, the regulations in 1985-1987 included a 40-day season, a maximum bag limit of 5 ducks (3 mallards) per day using the Point System, and 1/2 hour before sunrise shooting time. As directed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the intent of the restrictions in 1988-1990 was to reduce the nationwide duck harvest to no greater than 75% of what it would have been had the 1985-1987 regulations remained in place. The FWS also suspended the September teal season in 1988-1990.

For Canada geese, the season length was 70 days (60 days in 1989) for most of the state, and the bag limit was 3 Canada geese per day (2 Canada geese in 1989). In the Tri-County Zone, Canada geese (mostly giants) were hunted for 50 days and the daily bag limit was 2 Canada geese. In the Southern and Rend Lake Quota Zones, the season was 70 days or when 71,100 and 21,300 Canada geese, respectively, were harvested. For these quota zones, the daily bag limit was 3 Canada geese per day. Split seasons were implemented in the North Zone, Central Zone, and Southern Quota Zone for 1990-91.

The FWS approved an experimental early Canada goose season for 9 counties in northeastern Illinois for 1987-1990. This hunting effort was directed at local giant Canada geese, which are excessive in urban areas. As specified by the FWS, this early season was held on 1-10 September, and the bag limit was 5 geese per day.

FINDINGS

Characteristics of Respondents

Of the 2,833 respondents to the questionnaire, 611 (22%) did not purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp again in 1990. Of the 2,222 respondents who did purchase a 1990 stamp, 1,939 (87%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 1990 season.

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

An estimated 57,546 waterfowl hunters were active in Illinois during the 1990 season (Table 1). They spent an estimated 739,139

days afield and harvested an estimated 277,068 waterfowl. These estimates are 3, 7, and 18% less, respectively, than those calculated for the 1989 season.

Of the 59,546 hunters who were active in 1990, 28% hunted ducks only, 29% hunted geese only, and 43% hunted both ducks and geese. Since 1985, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of hunters who hunt geese and a steady decrease in the percentage who hunt ducks (Table 2).

September Teal Season. The FWS suspended the September teal season in Illinois and in all other states for 1988-1990.

Regular Duck Season. An estimated 40,441 individuals hunted ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1990 (Table 3). In 365,316 days afield, these hunters harvested an estimated 205,744 ducks. There were more duck hunters, more days afield, and more ducks harvested in Regions 1B and 3A than in any of the other regions. 68% of the duck hunters were active in a single county, 24% were active in 2 counties, and 9% were active in ≥ 3 counties.

For the entire state in 1990, hunting success was 0.54 duck per day afield and 4.91 ducks per hunter. The duck harvest was 14% less, ducks per day afield 2% less, and ducks per hunter 4% less in 1990 than in 1989 (Table 4).

The 205,744 ducks harvested in Illinois in 1990 included an estimated 117,248 mallards, 34,696 wood ducks, and 53,800 other ducks. The FWS estimated that 186,544 total ducks were harvested in the state during the regular duck 1990 season, which included 106,740 mallards, 29,716 wood ducks, and 50,088 other ducks (Martin et al. 1991). The FWS estimates indicate that duck harvest

increased 6% in Illinois, decreased 2% in the Mississippi Flyway, and decreased 3% in the United States, from 1989 to 1990 (Martin et al. 1991). The restrictive duck hunting regulations in 1988, 1989, and 1990, especially sunrise shooting time, apparently had a negative impact on the harvest of wood ducks in Illinois, which is a locally nesting species whose populations are healthy.

The duck hunters reported harvesting no ducks on 45% of their days afield in 1990 (Table 5). They reported harvesting 1 duck on 21% of the days afield, 2 ducks on 21% of the days, and 3 ducks (daily bag limit) on 13% of the days. According to these percentages, the first duck in the daily bag accounted for 53.5% of the duck total harvest, the second duck accounted for 33.5%, and the third duck accounted for 13.0%.

The forgoing percentages were not adjusted for reporting bias, and therefore, they are indices that are valid only for relative comparisons. To illustrate, when applied to the estimated days afield for duck hunting (365,316), the percentages in Table 5 equate to a total statewide harvest of 372,622 ducks, which is 81% greater than the adjusted estimate of 205,744 ducks.

Coot Harvest. The coot harvest, most of which is coincidental to duck hunting, was estimated at 2,386 birds in Illinois in 1990, 10% greater than the estimated harvest for 1989 (Tables 3 and 4). The FWS estimated the Illinois coot harvest at 2,124 birds for the 1990 season, up 9% from that agency's estimate for 1989 (Martin et al. 1991).

September Giant Canada Goose Season. This experimental 10-day (1-10 September 1990) season, approved by the FWS to exert hunting

pressure on giant Canada geese that reside in northeastern Illinois (Fig. 7), resulted in an estimated harvest of 2,878 Canada geese (Table 6). An estimated 4,215 hunters spent 12,767 days afield during this early season. During the same 10 days in 1989, an estimated 3,857 hunters expended 12,967 days afield and harvested 2,950 Canada geese. In 1990, 3 counties (Lake, McHenry, and Will) accounted for 67% of the hunters, 67% of the days afield, and 73% of the harvest. Kane County also contributed prominently to the hunter activity and goose harvest during this early season.

Regular Goose Season. A total of 42,215 goose hunters was estimated to have been active during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1990, and they spent an estimated 361,057 days afield (Table 7). The Southern Quota Zone, located in Region 5, accounted for 56% of the goose hunters and 44% of the days afield. The Rend Lake Quota Zone, also in Region 5, accommodated 17% of the hunters and 14% of the days afield. The Tri-County Zone (in Fulton and Knox counties) was responsible for 12% of the hunters and 10% of the days afield. The values for Region 2 were 12% and 9%, respectively.

There was an estimated 68,446 geese harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1990, which included 67,127 Canada geese and 1,319 other geese (Table 7). For Canada geese, the harvest decreased 27% from 1989 to 1990 (Table 8). The total harvest (regular season plus September season) in 1990 included 70,005 Canada geese (26% less than in 1989) and 71,324 geese of all species (26% less than in 1989). The FWS estimated that 93,700 Canada geese, 1,437 other geese, and 95,137 total geese were taken

in the state in 1990 (Martin et al. 1991).

The Canada goose harvest in the Southern Quota Zone was tabulated at 31,319 birds during the 1990 season (D.D. Thornburg, pers. commun.). This represents 47% of the statewide harvest of white-cheeked geese during the regular goose season. In the Rend Lake Quota Zone, an estimated 8,763 Canada geese (13% of state's total harvest) were taken. This estimate is 1% greater than the projected harvest (i.e., projected from the reported harvest on public hunting areas) of 8,712 Canada geese for the entire Rend Lake Quota Zone (D.D. Thornburg, pers. commun.). The Tri-County Zone was credited with a harvest of 5,961 Canada geese or 9% of the state's total. The other 21,084 Canada geese (31% of total) were harvested in the remainder of the state. These birds included an estimated 7,400 Canada geese taken in Region 2, 2,921 taken in Region 5, 2,791 taken in Region 1B, and 2,780 taken in Region 4. About 5% of the Canada geese harvested outside designated goose zones were taken coincidentally to duck hunting (Table 7).

In northern and central Illinois, 48% of the goose hunters were active during the early (10-day) segment of the regular goose season (Table 9). These hunters expended 26% of the season-total days afield and took 30% of the season's Canada goose harvest during this early segment. Hunter participation, hunter success, and Canada goose harvest were all greater in the North Zone than in the Central Zone during the early segment of the goose season.

For the entire 1990 goose season, hunters had an overall success rate of 0.19 goose per day afield and 1.58 geese per hunter (Table 7). This compares to a success of 0.26 goose per day afield

and 2.14 geese per hunter in 1989. In the Southern Quota Zone, success was 0.20 and 1.33 geese, respectively, in 1990. Similarly, hunting success was 0.18 and 1.25 geese at Rend Lake, 0.16 and 1.15 geese in the Tri-County Zone, and 0.28 and 1.54 geese in the remainder of the state.

Statewide, goose hunters reported harvesting no Canada geese on 70% of their days afield (Table 10). They reported harvesting 1 goose on 16% of the days afield, 2 geese on 9% of the days, and 3 geese (daily bag limit for Canada geese) on 5% of the days. The percentages for the Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone were similar to the statewide averages. In the Tri-County Zone, where the bag limit was 2 Canada geese, hunters reported harvesting 1 Canada goose on 18% of the days afield and 2 geese on 12% of the days. Statewide, the percentages in Table 10 indicate that the first Canada goose accounted for 60.6% of the total Canada goose harvest, the second goose accounted for 29.2%, and the third goose accounted for 10.2%.

The percentages in Table 10 were not adjusted for reporting bias, and therefore, they are indices and not absolute values. Applying these percentages to the estimated days afield for goose hunting (361,056) would result in an estimated total harvest of 180,528 Canada geese in Illinois during the 1990 season. This total is 169% greater than the adjusted estimate of 67,127.

Crippling Losses. Crippling losses were estimated at 61,568 ducks, 24,932 geese, and 906 coots in Illinois during the 1990 hunting season (Table 11). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not true estimates, equate to 29.9 ducks, 36.4

geese, and 38.0 coots lost per 100 harvested. After being somewhat elevated during the mid- and late-1980's, the 1989 and 1990 crippling rates for ducks were back down to the level experienced in 1981 (Table 12). A similar trend was evident for geese except that the crippling rate increased in 1990. This increase was apparently caused by the unprecedented record-high goose population combined with poor hunting success in the established goose zones.

Nationwide crippling rates during the 1990 season, as measured by hunter questionnaire surveys conducted by the FWS, were similar to the rates that prevailed in the 1950's and 1960's (Table 13).

Attitudes and Opinions of Hunters

Identifying ducks. By virtue of self-examination, 60% of the duck hunters in Illinois always correctly identify ducks as to species before they fire the shot(s) that kill the birds (Table 14). An additional 31% of the hunters believe they correctly identify 75% of their ducks before pulling the trigger. Only 9% of the hunters feel that they identify $\leq 50\%$ of their shot-at ducks. Along similar lines, 87% of the hunters claim that it is very important for them to identify ducks as to species before shooting at the birds (Table 14).

The above data indicate that hunters perceive themselves as correctly identifying at least 86% of the duck flights as to species under the conditions that exist in Illinois. If this percentage is reasonably correct, Illinois hunters are exceptionally well versed in the art of identifying in-flight ducks. In field tests conducted in Wisconsin in 1967, experienced

hunters were 74% correct and novice hunters 52% correct in identifying waterfowl flights (Evrard 1970).

Split Goose Season Upstate. According to responses to question #18, a majority of the waterfowl hunters in the northern portion of the state liked splitting the goose season into 2 segments in 1990 (Table 15). In the Northern Zone, 63% of the goose hunters and 57% of the duck hunters favored the split season. In Administrative Region 1A (9 northwestern counties), 54% of the goose hunters and 50% of the duck hunters voted for the split season. Similarly, in Administrative Region 2 (9 northeastern counties), 61% of the goose hunters and 57% of the duck hunters favored the split goose season.

Hunters in the central portion of the state responded less favorably to the split goose season (Table 15). In the Central Zone, 42% of the goose hunters and 32% of the duck hunters liked the split season. In Administrative Regions 1B, 3A, and 3B, 31-55% of the goose hunters and 27-35% of the duck hunters favored the split season. For goose hunters in the Tri-County Zone, which is located in Administrative Region 1B, 32% liked the split season and 38% disliked it. Of the hunters who gave a reason for disliking the split season, 47% thought the early segment was too early, 19% would rather have a longer regular season, and 17% believed the early segment disrupted local ducks and geese.

Goose Season Dates in Tri-County Zone. Goose hunters in the Tri-County Zone were polled to determine their attitude toward beginning the goose season in this zone on the same date that the duck season begins. Almost one-half (47%) of the respondents

indicated that it was unimportant to begin the goose season concurrently with the duck season (Table 16). Another 20% said it was moderately important to begin the season concurrently, and 25% stated that it was very important.

When asked to express their opinion of the dates used for the 1990 goose season in the Tri-County Zone, 56% of the hunters indicated the dates were too early and 38% thought the dates were about right (Table 16). Only 2% of the respondents believed the dates were too late. In a related question, Tri-County hunters were asked to state the number of days they hunted geese on or next to water and the number of days they hunted in fields away from water. The responses indicated 49% and 51% (n=152), respectively.

Economics of Waterfowl Hunting

About one-half (49%) of the active hunters indicated that they spent between \$100 and \$500 for waterfowl hunting in Illinois during the 1990 season (Table 17). An additional 21% said they spent \$500 to \$1,000. Total expenditure was estimated to be \$43 million, which equates to an average of \$743 per hunter or \$58 per day afield. These data suggest that, statewide, duck hunting and goose hunting contributed \$21 million and \$22 million, respectively, to Illinois' annual economy. Goose hunting in the Southern Quota Zone contributed an estimated \$9.2 million, goose hunting in the Rend Lake Quota Zone contributed \$2.9 million, and goose hunting in the Tri-County Zone contributed \$2.2 million.

DISCUSSION

Because of prolonged drought in prairie Canada and reduced duck populations, the duck seasons were reduced in all states in the Mississippi Flyway from 40 days in 1985-1987 to 30 days in 1988-1990. Similarly, the daily bag limit was reduced from a maximum of 5 ducks (3 mallards) using the Point System to 3 ducks (2 mallards) using the Conventional System, and in some states (including Illinois), shooting time was changed from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunrise. The restrictions were designed to reduce the nationwide harvests of mallards and of total ducks by at least 25%. The present survey indicates that, when compared to the 1985-1987 period, harvests were decreased by 33% for mallards and 37% for total ducks in Illinois in 1990 (Table 4). According to FWS harvest surveys, the 1990 harvests were reduced by 18% for mallards and 23% for total ducks in Illinois, by 30% for mallards and 33% for total ducks in the Mississippi Flyway, and by 33% for mallards and 33% for total ducks in the entire nation (Gamble 1990, Martin et al. 1991). Thus, the objective to reduce the harvests by at least 25% was satisfied in 1990.

The restrictive duck hunting regulations--including the change to sunrise shooting time--had a major negative impact on the harvest of wood ducks, a locally nesting species not affected by drought in Canada. Because they leave their roosts early and are active during twilight, wood ducks are most vulnerable to the gun before sunrise. The present survey suggests that the number of woodies harvested in Illinois decreased from an average of 58,373 birds in 1985-1987 to 25,674 (-56%) in 1988, 29,863 (-49%) in 1989,

and 34,696 (-41%) (Table 4). For the same period, FWS surveys indicate decreases of 20-68% in Illinois, 18-63% in the Mississippi Flyway, and 8-32% for the entire nation. Ironically, wood duck populations are generally healthy. Had hunting regulations for woodies been more liberal in 1988-1990, a substantial segment of the gunning pressure could have been shifted to this species and away from the drought-impacted mallard.

The statewide harvest of Canada geese decreased by 24,324 birds (26%) from 1989 to 1990. The harvests in the Southern Quota Zone (31,319) and Rend Lake Quota Zone (8,763) represented only 44% and 41%, respectively, of the maximum number of Canada geese allowed via the quota system. The harvest in northeastern Illinois (Region 2) totaled 10,278 birds, for an average of 1,142 geese per county. Statewide, the harvest of Canada geese averaged 686 birds per county in 1990.

Based on findings of this survey, implementation of the split goose hunting season "upstate" was well received in the North Zone (Table 15). However, the split season was less well received in the Central Zone.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1990 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested ^a
1981	61,929	63,652	874,730	413,264
1982	57,691	58,766	795,807	392,897
1983	56,162	58,240	815,523	475,601
1984	55,250	56,533	748,390	420,357
1985	55,670	56,899	699,113	392,253
1986	59,734	61,876	887,446	467,164
1987	58,803 ^b	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988	57,848	57,796	695,848	277,743
1989	59,263	59,278	797,013	336,854
1990	57,399	57,546	739,139	277,068

^aTeal, ducks, coots, and geese. The September teal season was suspended in 1988 through 1990.

^bExcludes 5,550 stamps purchased by a commercial art company.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted ducks, and the percentage who hunted geese, in Illinois from 1981 through 1990 seasons.

Season (Year)	Percentage Who Hunted:			Percentage Who Were:	
	Ducks Only	Geese Only	Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1981	63	14	23	86	37
1982	59	11	30	89	31
1983	55	13	32	87	45
1984	60	12	28	88	40
1985	61	10	29	90	39
1986	51	13	36	87	49
1987	47	14	39	86	53
1988	36	19	45	81	64
1989	30	20	50	80	70
1990	28	29	43	71	72

Table 3. Duck and coot harvest and hunter activity, by administrative regions, during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1990 (n = 2,222).

Administrative Region ^a	Hunters		Days Afield		Days Afield		Number of Coots
	Number	Per Hunter	Number	Per Hunter ^b	Per Day Afield ^b	Per Hunter ^b	
1A	3,916	9.17	35,912	9.17	21,359	(117) ^c	307
1B	8,445	9.34	78,837	9.34	48,735	(1,684)	264
2	7,364	7.74	57,009	7.74	21,652	(688)	337
3A	9,088	10.48	95,259	10.48	55,089	(190)	659
3B	1,578	7.46	11,776	7.46	6,046	(834)	205
4	3,594	8.36	30,039	8.36	17,026	(688)	58
5	6,049	8.70	52,656	8.70	32,514	(2,137)	556
Unknown	407		3,828		3,323	(806)	0
Entire State	40,441	9.03	365,316	9.03	205,744 ^{d,e}	(7,144)	2,386 ^f

^aSee figure 7.

^bExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^cNumber of ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^dThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 23,882$.

^eIncludes 117,248 mallards, 34,696 wood ducks, and 53,800 other ducks.

^fThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 1,916$.

Table 4. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1990.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks			Total	Number of Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks		
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988	46,748	413,046	128,837	25,674	46,319	200,830	2,093
1989	46,649	433,579	141,656	29,863	67,113	238,632	2,178
1990	40,441	365,316	117,248	34,696	53,800	205,744 ^a	2,386

^aAn estimated 7,144 (3.5%) of these ducks were harvested coincidental to goose hunting.

Table 5. Percentage of days that duck hunters harvested 0, 1, 2, or 3 ducks during the regular duck season in Illinois in 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Note: The percentages in this table were not adjusted for reporting bias (Anderson 1986), and therefore, they are indices that are valid only for relative comparisons.

Administrative Region		Percentage of Days			
		0 Duck	1 Duck	2 Ducks	3 Ducks
1A	(134) ^a	42.5	20.3	23.5	13.7
1B	(289)	40.5	21.1	23.8	14.6
2	(252)	57.9	20.7	15.3	6.1
3A	(311)	42.0	19.3	21.8	16.9
3B	(54)	50.7	23.3	16.8	9.2
4	(123)	44.0	20.6	20.6	15.0
5	(208)	41.3	21.8	22.4	14.5
Unknown	(14)	51.4	27.1	12.9	8.6
Entire State	(1,385)	44.8	20.7	21.1	13.4

^aRespondents who hunted ducks ≥ 1 days in each of the respective regions.

Table 6. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, by county, during the experimental September giant Canada goose season in north-eastern Illinois in 1990.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese
Cook	90	151	76
DuPage	151	572	76
Grundy	90	482	87
Kane	632	1,957	465
Kankakee	241	602	43
Kendall	181	391	43
Lake	693	2,078	487
McHenry	1,114	3,613	822
Will	1,023	2,921	779
Totals	4,215	12,767	2,878

Table 7. Goose harvest and hunter activity, by zones and administrative regions, during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1990-91 (n = 2,222).

Zone or Administrative Region ^a	Hunters		Days Afield		Canada Geese	Other Geese	Geese Total Geese	Per Day Afield ^b	Per Hunter ^b	
	Number	Number	Number	Per Hunter						
Southern Quota Zone	23,697	157,900	31,319	(108) ^c	292	(0)	31,611	(108)	0.20	1.33
Rend Lake Quota Zone	6,986	49,171	8,763	(54)	32	(0)	8,795	(54)	0.18	1.25
Tri-County Zone	5,239	37,458	5,961	(216)	270	(11)	6,231	(227)	0.16	1.15
Remainder of State										
1A	2,379	13,821	2,077	(368)	54	(11)	2,131	(379)	0.13	0.74
1B	2,710	15,627	2,791	(184)	141	(76)	2,932	(260)	0.17	0.99
2	4,938	33,423	7,400	(379)	97	(0)	7,497	(379)	0.21	1.44
3A	3,192	18,638	2,239	(140)	314	(0)	2,553	(140)	0.13	0.76
3B	1,144	8,250	876	(22)	0	(0)	876	(22)	0.10	0.75
4	1,897	16,019	2,780	(43)	76	(0)	2,856	(43)	0.18	1.48
5 ^d	1,927	10,750	2,921	(0)	43	(0)	2,964	(0)	0.28	1.54
Unknown	0	0								
Total	16,049	116,528	21,084	(1,136)	725	(87)	21,809	(1,223)	0.18	1.28
Entire State	42,215	361,057	67,127	(1,514)	1,319	(98)	68,446 ^e	(1,612)	0.19	1.58

^aSee Figure 7.

^bExcludes geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^cNumber of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^dExclude Southern Quota Zone and Rend Lake Quota Zone.

^eThe 95% confidence interval is $\pm 6,468$.

Table 8. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 1990-91.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 (6,312) ^a	3,082 (1,719)	47,384 (8,031)
1982	24,058	107,557	29,574 (4,968)	1,499 (710)	31,073 (5,678)
1983	26,199	124,639	31,395 (4,325)	962 (577)	32,357 (4,902)
1984	22,426	102,583	23,147 (2,859)	1,675 (593)	24,822 (3,452)
1985	22,160	105,792	37,976 (5,248)	2,324 (753)	40,300 (6,001)
1986	30,327	200,291	45,535 (11,348)	2,625 (832)	48,160 (12,180)
1987	32,246	224,164	36,103 (3,563)	1,525 (499)	37,628 (4,062)
1988	37,258	271,600	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989	41,987	350,467	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990	42,215	361,056	67,127 (1,515)	1,319 (97)	68,446 (1,612)

^aNumber of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

Table 9. Goose harvest and hunter activity during the 10-day early segment of the regular goose hunting season in northern and central Illinois in 1990-91.

Note: The data in this table are included in the data presented in Table 7.

Zone	Hunters		Days Afield		Canada Geese		Other Geese	
	Number	Percent ^a	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
North	3,734	57.7	13,219	31.3	2,975	34.9	22	13.3
Central	3,794	40.8	13,279	22.0	2,272	25.7	97	19.6
Both	7,528	47.7	26,498	25.8	5,247	30.2	119	18.0

^aPercentage of total for entire season.

Table 10. Percentage of days that goose hunters harvested 0, 1, 2, or 3 Canada geese during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1990-91. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Note: The percentages in this table were not adjusted for reporting bias (Anderson 1986), and therefore, they are indices that are valid only for relative comparisons.

Zone or Region		Percentage of Days			
		0 Goose	1 Goose	2 Geese	3 Geese
Southern Quota Zone	(554) ^a	69.6	16.5	9.5	4.4
Rend Lake Quota Zone	(110)	71.9	14.8	8.4	4.9
Tri-County Zone	(85)	70.6	17.6	11.8	--- ^b
Remainder of State					
1A	(58)	74.6	13.7	7.9	3.8
1B	(64)	75.5	14.8	7.2	2.5
2	(103)	69.4	15.3	10.2	5.1
3A	(46)	81.4	12.2	3.8	2.6
3B	(17)	90.2	6.2	1.8	1.8
4	(21)	76.6	11.9	7.6	3.9
5	(26)	73.0	11.5	8.6	6.9
Total	(335)	75.0	13.4	7.6	4.0
Entire State	(1,402)	69.7	15.7	9.5	5.1

^a Respondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days exclusively in each of the respective zones and regions.

^b Daily bag limit was 2 Canada geese in the Tri-County Zone.

Table 11. Number of waterfowl that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois during the 1990 season (n = 2,222).

Species	Cripples Lost	
	Number	Per 100 Birds Bagged
Ducks ^a	61,568 ± 5,378 ^b	29.9
Geese	24,932 ± 3,426	36.4
Coots	906 ± 612	38.0

^a Regular duck season.

^b 95% confidence interval.

Table 12. Summary of the number of ducks, geese, and coots that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 1990 seasons.

Year	Ducks		Geese		Coots	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
1981	104,216	30.8	12,573	26.5	1,717	34.7
1982	82,287	25.2	5,868	18.9	1,595	27.0
1983	96,907	24.0	7,627	23.6	2,947	28.1
1984	84,665	23.8	5,711	23.0	3,236	42.0
1985	100,191	31.6	15,918	39.5	2,357	40.8
1986	145,283	38.3	20,699	41.5	2,770	37.6
1987	98,155	34.0	18,375	48.8	2,013	74.7
1988	71,211	35.5	24,578	33.0	1,103	52.7
1989	70,387	29.5	23,086	24.8	1,152	52.9
1990	61,568	29.9	24,932	36.4	906	38.0

Table 13. Summary of the number of waterfowl that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) per 100 birds retrieved in the United States from 1952 through 1990 seasons. Data from U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Hunter Questionnaire Surveys.

Year	Ducks	Geese	Coots
1952	27.9	22.9	
1953	22.5	16.1	
1954	23.0	17.1	
1955	23.6	19.9	
1956	23.3	16.8	
1957	21.8	17.6	
1958	23.3	19.6	
1959	20.2	19.9	
1960	23.0	17.9	
1961	22.1	17.9	
1962	22.6	17.5	
1963	23.8	18.6	
1964	23.8	17.9	
1965	23.5	18.6	
1966	22.4	16.1	
1967	22.0	15.9	
1968	23.2	16.1	
1969	22.5	14.4	

Table 13 - continued

Table 13. Continued - page 2.

1970	21.1	15.3	
1971	22.1	15.4	28.2
1972	22.4	15.5	29.6
1973	21.9	14.8	29.2
1974	21.5	14.3	29.1
1975	20.3	13.0	28.9
1976	19.4	14.2	26.8
1977	20.5	14.9	28.9
1978	20.2	15.7	29.0
1979	20.3	14.3	27.1
1980	19.2	12.9	30.9
1981	19.4	13.2	22.7
1982	19.2	15.2	27.7
1983	19.4	14.4	23.7
1984	19.5	14.2	30.4
1985	19.7	14.0	24.3
1986	20.1	15.7	32.5
1987	24.5	20.5	27.5
1988	23.9	16.3	31.0
1989	22.5	15.9	32.1
1990	23.4	16.4	30.4

Table 14. Attitudes of hunters toward correctly identifying ducks as to species before shooting at the birds in Illinois during the 1990 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "About how often did you correctly identify ducks as to species before you fired the shot(s) that killed the birds?"

	(1,317) ^a
Always	59.8%
About 75%	31.1
About 50%	6.2
About 25%	0.5
Never	0.8
Don't know	1.6

*Responses to the question, "How important is it to you to identify ducks as to species before you shoot at the birds?"

	(1,360)
Not important	2.1%
Moderately important	9.8
Very important	87.1
No opinion	1.0

^aRespondents who hunted ducks ≥ 1 days in Illinois.

Table 15. Attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward the split goose season in northern and central Illinois during the 1990 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "The 1990 goose season in the North Zone and Central Zone was split into 2 segments--an early segment that occurred on September 29 - October 8 and a regular segment that began on the same dates that the duck season began. Did you like or dislike this split goose hunting season?"

GOOSE HUNTERS^a

	<u>Waterfowl Zones</u>			Tri-County Zone	<u>Administrative Regions</u>				
	North	Central	Both		1A	1B	2	3A	3B
	(206) ^b	(279)	(485)	(146)	(79)	(109)	(163)	(105)	(38)
Liked	63.1%	41.6%	50.7%	31.5%	54.4%	55.1%	61.3%	30.5%	55.3%
Disliked	21.8	36.2	30.1 ^d	38.4 ^d	26.6	32.1	24.6	45.7	26.3
No Opinion	15.0	22.2	19.2	30.1	19.0	12.8	14.1	23.8	18.3

DUCK HUNTERS^a

	<u>Waterfowl Zones</u>			<u>Administrative Regions</u>				
	North	Central	Both	1A	1B	2	3A	3B
	(285) ^c	(750)	(1,035)	(127)	(271)	(246)	(289)	(52)
Liked	56.8%	32.1%	38.9%	50.4%	34.7%	56.5%	27.3%	34.6%
Disliked	18.6	27.7	25.2 ^d	22.0	28.8	16.7	32.2	23.1
No Opinion	24.6	40.2	35.9	27.6	36.5	26.8	40.5	42.3

^a 79% of the goose hunters also hunted ducks, and 37% of the duck hunters also hunted geese.

^b Respondents who hunted geese \geq 1 days in the respective zones and regions.

^c Respondents who hunted ducks \geq days in the respective zones and regions.

^d Reasons for disliking: too early (47%), rather have longer regular season (19%), disrupts local ducks and geese (17%), and 5 miscellaneous reasons (17%).

Table. 16. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates used for setting the goose hunting season in the Tri-County Zone in Illinois during the 1990 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

*Responses to the question, "The 1990 goose hunting season in the Tri-County Zone began on the same date (October 27) that the duck season began and continued for 50 days. How important is it to you for this goose season to begin on the same date as the duck season?"

	(147) ^a
Not important	46.9%
Moderately important	20.4
Very important	25.2
No opinion	7.5

*Responses to the question, "The dates for the 1990 goose hunting season in the Tri-County Zone were October 27 to December 15. How do you feel about using similar dates for the goose season in this zone in 1991? (For purposes of answering this question, assume that the goose season will be 50 days in length in the Tri-County Zone in 1991.)"

	(149)
Too early	55.7%
About right	38.3
Too late	2.0
No opinion	4.0

^a Respondents who hunted geese ≥ 1 days in the Tri-County Zone.

Table 17. Estimated expenditures by waterfowl hunters in Illinois during the 1990 season (n = 1,926).

Money Spent	Percentage of Hunters
< \$100	14.4
\$100 - \$500	49.0
\$500 - \$1,000	21.3
\$1,000 - \$2,000	9.3
\$2,000 - \$5,000	4.4
> \$5,000	1.6
Mean	\$743
Total	\$ 43 million*

*Based on an estimated 57,546 active waterfowl hunters in Illinois during the 1990-91 season.

1991 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer the questions on the following pages for your waterfowl hunting activities during the 1991-92 season.

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1991-92 season, answer the first two questions and return this form.

The questionnaire is divided into five parts: General Information, Regular Duck Season, Early September Giant Canada Goose Season in Northeastern Illinois, Regular Goose Season, and Other Topics.

Report only your kill. **DO NOT** report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted.

Write in the number of days on which you hunted ducks and the number of days on which you hunted geese. Include your unsuccessful days.

If you hunted both ducks and geese at the same time, count the day toward your primary target -- that is, primarily ducks or primarily geese.. **DO NOT** count the hunt as a day of duck hunting and also as a day of goose hunting.

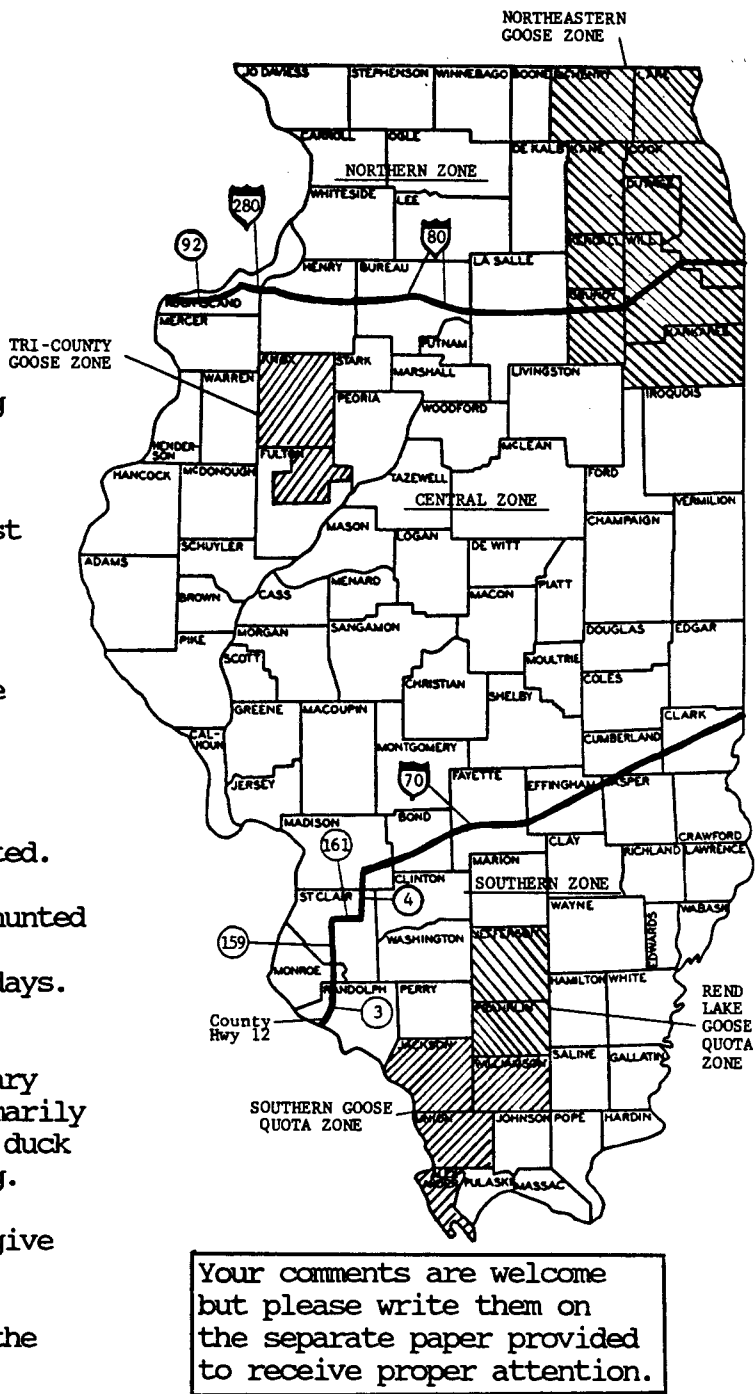
If you can't remember the exact figures, give your best estimate.

When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed envelope and mail.

POSTAGE IS PREPAID.

Thank you for your cooperation

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the 1990 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.
Figure 1 - continued.



EARLY SEPTEMBER GIANT CANADA GOOSE SEASON IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

NOTE: This was a special experimental season that took place on September 1-10 in the following 9 counties only: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will (see map on first page).

8. How many different days did you hunt Canada geese during the early September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1991? . _____
9. In which county did you hunt Canada geese most during the early September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1991? _____
10. How many Canada geese did you personally harvest during the early September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois in 1991? . _____

REGULAR GOOSE SEASON

11. List the number of days you hunted geese and the number of geese you personally harvested during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1991-92. Include the early segment (September 28-October 6) of the regular goose season in the North Zone and Central Zone, but DO NOT include Canada geese killed during the early September giant Canada goose season in northeastern Illinois. (NOTE: If you killed geese coincidental to your duck hunting, leave the number of days blank)

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Canada Geese</u>	<u>Other Geese</u>
*In Southern Quota Zone (see map).....	_____	_____	_____
*In Rend Lake Quota Zone (see map)....	_____	_____	_____
*In Tri-County Zone (in Fulton and Knox counties, see map).....	_____	_____	_____
*Other areas (write in name of each county): a. _____	_____	_____	_____
b. _____	_____	_____	_____
c. _____	_____	_____	_____

12. On how many different days did you harvest 0 geese, 1 goose, 2 geese, or 3 geese?
 - a. Number of days harvesting 0 geese _____
 - b. Number of days harvesting 1 goose _____
 - c. Number of days harvesting 2 geese _____
 - d. Number of days harvesting 3 geese _____

13. Of the days and geese you listed for counties in the North Zone or in the Central Zone (see map), how many were during the early segment (September 28 - October 6) of the split goose hunting season? (NOTE: It may be necessary to repeat some information you provided in answering Question #11)

	<u>Name of County</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Canada Geese</u>	<u>Other Geese</u>
a.	_____	_____	_____	_____
b.	_____	_____	_____	_____
c.	_____	_____	_____	_____

14. How many geese did you knock down in sight but neither you nor anyone else could retrieve? _____

15. If you hunted geese in the Tri-County Zone, on how many different days were you on or next to water and on how many different days were you in fields?

Days on or next to water. _____
Days in fields (i.e., not on or next to water). _____

OTHER TOPICS

16. About how often do you pass up the opportunity to shoot hen mallards while duck hunting in Illinois? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Never...1 Sometimes...3 Usually...3 Always...4

17. About how often do you pass up the opportunity to shoot wood ducks while duck hunting in Illinois? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Never...1 Sometimes...2 Usually...3 Always...4

18. The 1991 goose season in the North Zone and Central Zone was split into 2 segments--an early segment that occurred on September 28-October 6 and a regular segment that began on the same dates that the duck season began. Did you like or dislike this split goose hunting season? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Liked.....1 Disliked.....2 No opinion.....3

If DISLIKED, give reason _____

19. The 1991 goose hunting season in the Tri-County Zone began on the same date (November 1) that the duck season began and continued for 73 days. How important is it to you for this goose season to begin on the same date as the duck season? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Not important.....1 Very important.....3
Moderately important...2 No opinion.....4

20. The dates for the 1991 goose hunting season in the Tri-County Zone were November 1 to January 12. How do you feel about using similar dates for the goose season in this zone in 1992? (circle number for appropriate answer)

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

21. Do you agree or disagree with the idea of creating a controlled goose hunting area (with check station and permanent blinds) on the west side of Rend Lake--i.e., on U.S. Corps of Engineers property? (circle number for appropriate answer)

Agree.....1 Disagree.....2 No opinion.....3

22. If created, would you hunt on this controlled goose hunting area? (circle number for appropriate answer)

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

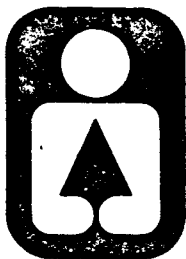
Thank you for your cooperation
POSTAGE IS PREPAID

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant Director

Illinois



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Dear Fellow Sportsman:

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

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is vital to the management of our waterfowl resources: (1) to safeguard waterfowl populations, (2) to grant maximum waterfowl hunting opportunity to license holders, and (3) to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

The information you provide is used to better understand the welfare of the various waterfowl populations. These statistics include distribution of total harvest, number of hunters, and hunting success.

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

Please take a few minutes and 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.

Yours for better waterfowling.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W1

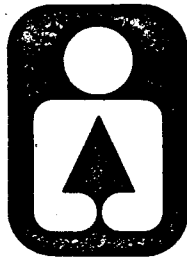
Figure 2. The letter that accompanied the first mailing of the questionnaire.

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant Director

Illinois



Department of Conservation

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Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Waterfowl Hunting Questionnaire, and requested that you fill out and return it as soon as possible. We have not received your form at this time -- perhaps because you have misplaced the questionnaire or haven't found time to complete it and return it to us.

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

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

Postage is prepaid for returning the completed questionnaire. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg".

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W2

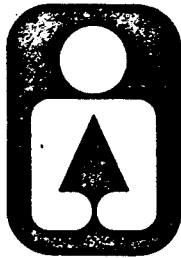
Figure 3. The letter that accompanied the second mailing of the questionnaire.

Brent Manning
Director

John W. Comerio
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay
Assistant Director

Illinois



Department of Conservation

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Dear Fellow Sportsman:

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

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 destroy this one. Your response is needed--even though you did not hunt waterfowl or had an unsuccessful season.

Postage is prepaid for returning the questionnaire. Just fill it out and drop in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending your questionnaire now. Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

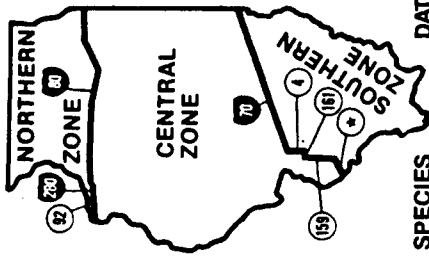
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg
Chief

Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:WLA:lc
Enclosure
W3

Figure 4. The letter that accompanied the third mailing of the questionnaire.



1990 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION



SPECIAL GOOSE ZONES

Tri-County Zone: Fulton (Buckheart, Canton, Cass, Deerfield, Fairview, Farmington, Joshua, Orion, and Putnam Townships, and that portion of Banner Township bounded on the north by Illinois-9 and on the east by US-24), and Knox Counties
 Southern Illinois Quota Zones: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson Counties
 Rend Lake Quota Zone: Franklin and Jefferson Counties
 Northeastern Illinois Canada Goose Zone: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties

LICENSES, STAMPS, AND PERMITS

Hunters must have a current, valid license and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. Please refer to 1990 Illinois Hunting & Trapping Information brochure for exemptions and further information.

Public Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit..... Duck \$ 6.00
 Goose \$15.00

Resident hunting license..... \$ 7.50
 Non-resident hunting license 5 day/regular..... \$25.75/\$45.75
 State Waterfowl Stamp..... \$10.50
 Federal Waterfowl Stamp..... \$12.50
 Sportsman's License (hunt-fish)..... \$13.75

BAG LIMIT

DUCKS

Canvasbacks may not be hunted. Bag limits on ducks are established by a conventional bag limit as follows:

The basic daily bag limit shall be 3 ducks, no more than two of which shall be wood ducks or mallards (no more than one hen mallard) and not more than one black duck, one redhead or one pintail. The possession limit of ducks is twice the daily bag limit. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

GEESE

The daily bag of geese is five per day, which may not include more than three Canada geese or their subspecies and two white-fronted geese in all areas, except that in the Tri-County Zone the daily bag limit of Canada geese will be 2 per day.

Refer to the 1990 Waterfowl Hunting Information brochure for a summary of State and Federal regulations. NOTE: Each hunter should also consult Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, and Chapter 61 of the Illinois Revised Statutes for a complete listing of regulations, or talk with a local Conservation Police Officer.

Target Illinois Poachers Call toll-free 1-800-252-0163.

Illinois Department of Conservation • Division of Wildlife Resources

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The Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission to, or treatment or employment in, any of its programs. For more information, contact the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the US Constitution. The Equal Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217) 782-7676.

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Ducks	Oct. 20-Nov. 18, 1990 (North) Oct. 27-Nov. 25, 1990 (Central) Nov. 10-Dec. 9, 1990 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	3 (See section on Bag Limits)	6
Coots			15	30
Mergansers			5**	10
All Geese (All areas except those listed below)	Sept. 29-Oct. 8, 1990 (North) Sept. 29-Oct. 8, 1990 (Central) Nov. 10-Jan. 18, 1991 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	5, only 3 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	10, only 4 white-fronted geese
All Geese (Tri-County Zone)	Oct. 27-Dec. 15, 1990		5, only 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	
All Geese (Southern Illinois Quota Zone)	Nov. 10-Nov. 12, 1991, or when quota of 71,100 Canada geese is reached	Sunrise to 3 p.m. except sunrise to sunset Jan. 20-24, 1991	5, only 3 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese	
All Geese (Rend Lake Quota Zone)	Nov. 10-Jan. 18, 1991, or when quota of 21,300 Canada geese is reached	Sunrise to 3 p.m.		

* Modoc Ferry route to Randolph County Hwy. 12 to Illinois-3 to Illinois-159.
 ** Only one of daily limit may be a hooded merganser.

Figure 6. Waterfowl hunting regulations in Illinois during the 1990 season.

TRI-COUNTY
GOOSE ZONE

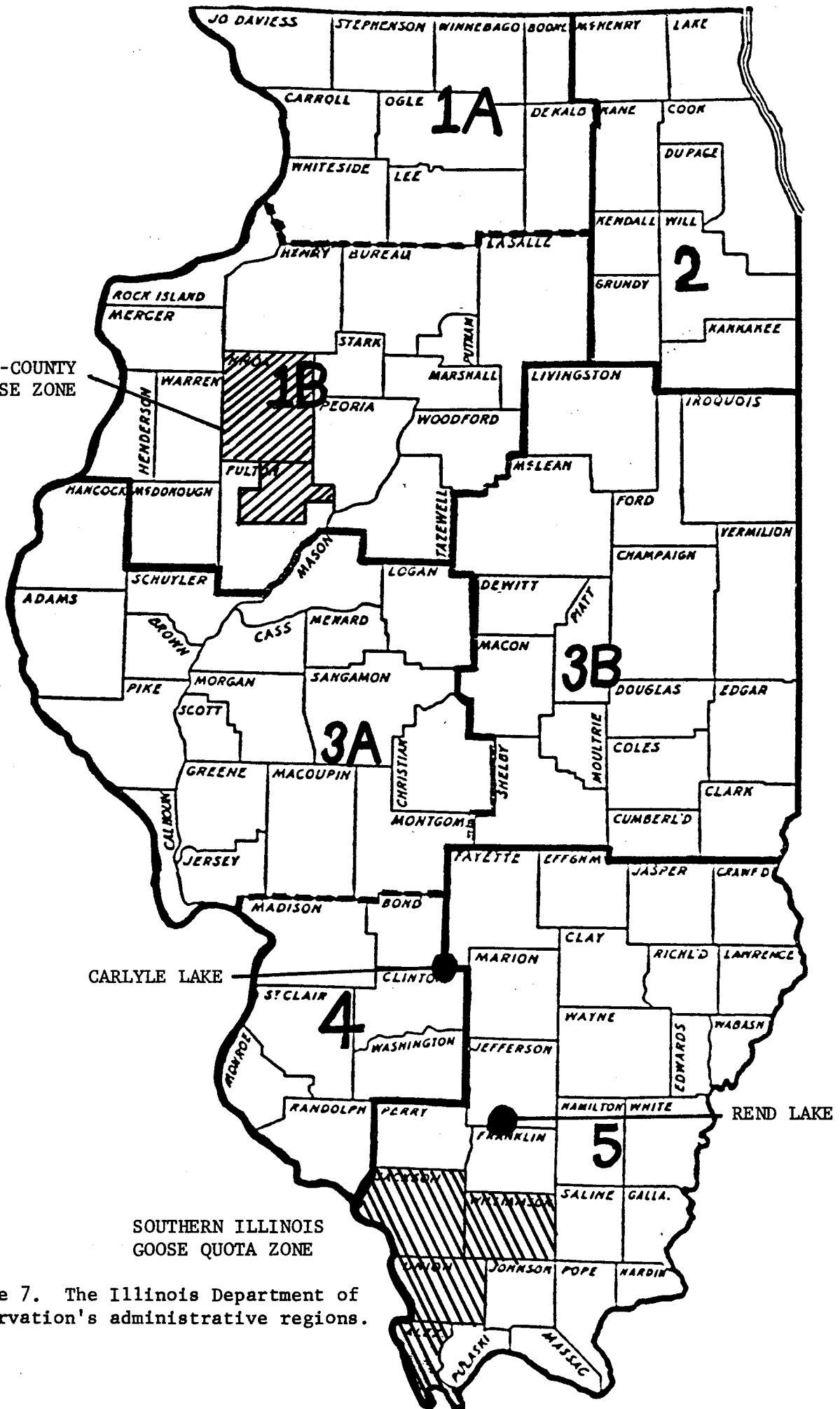


Figure 7. The Illinois Department of Conservation's administrative regions.