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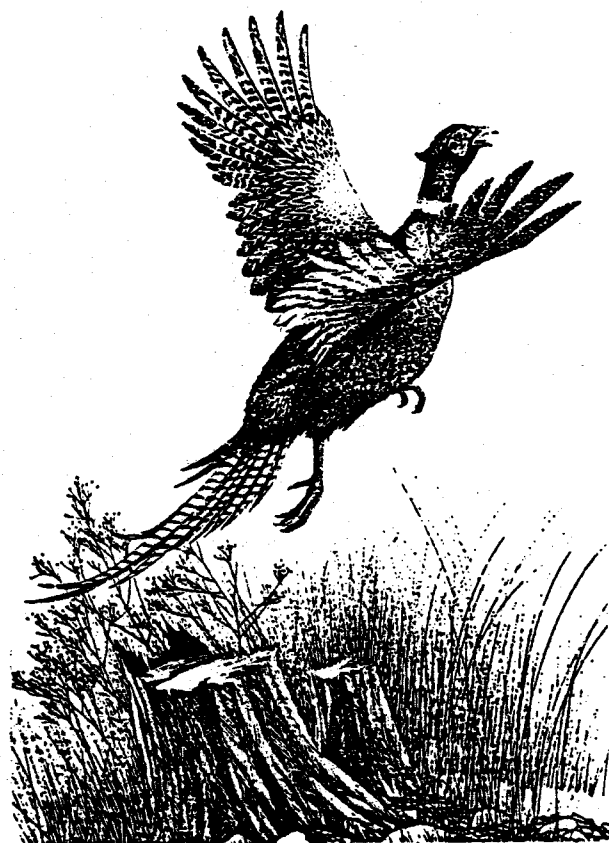


**RESULTS OF THE 1991-92 ILLINOIS  
PHEASANT HUNTER SURVEY**

**PREPARED BY:**

**WILLIAM L. ANDERSON, INVESTIGATIONS & SURVEYS PROGRAM  
LARRY M. DAVID, UPLAND WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

**DECEMBER 1992**





Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
Administrative Report  
15 December 1992

RESULTS OF THE 1991-92 ILLINOIS PHEASANT HUNTER SURVEY

William L. Anderson, Investigations and Surveys Program  
Larry M. David, Upland Wildlife Program

Abstract: Purchasers of the (1990) Illinois Pheasant Stamp were surveyed via mail-letter questionnaire to determine their activities and harvest during the 1991 season, and their attitudes and opinions toward pheasant hunting regulations and related issues. The mailing list consisted of 3,867 individuals, 2,751 (71%) of which returned usable questionnaires. Because 908 (33%) of the respondents did not hunt pheasants in Illinois again in 1991, the effective sample was reduced to 1,843 active pheasant hunters. Of these hunters, 81% pursued wild pheasants (82% of days afield) and 35% shot game-farm pheasants (18% of days afield). Hunters of wild pheasants were afield an average of 7.1 days (48% in November and 46% in December), and they harvested an average of 3.9 pheasants; 28% took 0 pheasant, 16% took 1 pheasant, 13% took 2 pheasants, and 22% took 3-5 pheasants. Wild pheasant hunters took 0 birds on 62% of their days afield, 1 bird on 23% of their days, and 2 birds (daily bag limit) on 15% of their days. Almost all (93%) of their hunting activity was on private land, 88% of which was owned by an acquaintance other than a relative. Of the hunters (26%) who hunted on CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land, 82% thought the program helped pheasant populations. Game-farm pheasant hunters were afield an average of 3.7 days, and they harvested an average of 7.4 pheasants. Majorities (>50%) of all groups of pheasant hunters usually or always wear a blaze (hunter) orange upper outer garment and cap when afield, and majorities of these groups considered it appropriate to mandate the wearing of such apparel for upland game (rabbit, quail, pheasant, and partridge) hunters. Except for some uncertainty about the contribution of game-farm pheasants, the findings of this survey support and expand upon the conclusions of the initial (1990) pheasant hunter survey.

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The survey reported herein is the second of two that were scheduled for pheasant hunters in Illinois. The first survey, conducted following the 1990-91 hunting season, devoted considerable space to issues related to the management of state-

owned controlled pheasant hunting areas and projects for Illinois Pheasant Stamp funding (Anderson and David 1991a). Although both surveys included several questions about hunter activity and type (wild or game-farm) of pheasant hunted, the 1991-92 survey placed more emphasis on the activities of wild pheasant hunters on private land. It should also be noted that the mailing lists for the 1991-92 survey (Illinois Pheasant Stamp purchasers) and 1990-91 survey (pheasant hunters identified via the Hunter Harvest Survey) were derived from different sources.

Surveys such as these are the only practical vehicle the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) has for becoming familiar with the activities and attitudes of hunters statewide. Thus, the purpose of the pheasant hunter surveys was to determine when and where hunters are in the field, characteristics of their pheasant harvest, and their opinions of pheasant hunting regulations and related issues. These surveys improve the DOC's understanding of the rank-and-file hunter--i.e., the feelings of the "silent majority"--toward the pheasant resource and the sport of pheasant hunting.

This survey is one in a series scheduled for upland game hunters in Illinois. A rabbit hunter survey was conducted following the 1989 season (Anderson and David 1991b); the initial pheasant hunter survey was conducted following the 1990 season (Anderson and David 1991a); and a quail hunter survey was conducted following the 1991 season (Anderson and David 1992). Dove hunters will be surveyed at the end of the 1992 season, and if plans go as scheduled, hunters of "miscellaneous" species (e.g., gray

partridge, woodcock, crow, woodchuck) will be surveyed following the 1993 season. Rabbit hunters will be surveyed again in 1994 or 1995.

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

A 4-page, 24-question questionnaire was developed specifically for the 1991-92 Illinois Pheasant Hunter Survey (Fig. 1). This questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Fig. 2) were mailed to 3,867 potential pheasant hunters on 7 January 1992. Non-respondents were sent 2nd and 3rd copies of the questionnaire, and accompanying letters (Figs. 3 and 4), on 18 February and 27 March, respectively. As of 15 June 1992, 2,751 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 71%.

The mailing list for the 1991-92 Illinois Pheasant Hunter Survey was developed by systematically selecting stubs from the sales of 86,000 (from total of 104,551) of the 1990 Illinois Pheasant 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. The people on the list were notified by letters postmarked 22 October 1991 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 pheasants harvested (Fig. 5).

Data were transferred from the filled-out questionnaires to a computer file using a data management program (IBM dBASE III+). The data were analyzed with a statistical program (IBM SPSS/PC+

V2.0). Because a relatively large number of hunters was sampled, it was possible to present the results for wild pheasant hunters relative to the North Zone, South Zone, and the entire state.

#### HUNTING REGULATIONS IN 1991

For purposes of setting the 1991 hunting seasons for wild pheasants and other upland game species, the state was divided into north and south zones. 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.

The 1991 season for wild pheasants began on 2 November throughout the state and extended to 1 January in the North Zone and to 5 January in the South Zone. The bag limit was 2 cocks (males) per day and 4 in possession. Legal shooting time began at sunrise and ended at sunset.

For game-farm (pen-reared) pheasants, the season extended (with some exceptions) from 1 September to 15 April on private licensed preserves and from 6 November to 15 December (except closed Mondays and Tuesdays) on state controlled pheasant areas. On private licensed preserves, there was no daily bag limit and either sex could be taken. On state controlled areas, hunters were limited to 2 birds of either sex.

#### FINDINGS

Of the 2,751 individuals who filled out and returned questionnaires, 87% purchased an Illinois resident hunting license in 1991, 71% purchased a 1991 Illinois Pheasant Stamp for personal



use, and 67% hunted pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92, and 8% hunted pheasants in another state in 1991-92 (Table 1). Thus, the effective sample for this survey was reduced to 1,843 active resident pheasant hunters.

#### Hunter Activities

Of the 1,843 active pheasant hunters, 81% hunted wild pheasants and 35% hunted game-farm pheasants during the 1991 season (Table 2). Further breakdown of the data indicate that 66% hunted wild pheasants only, 19% hunted game-farm pheasants only, and 15% hunted both types of pheasants. When combined with data from the Hunter Harvest Survey (Anderson and Campbell 1992), these findings indicate that an estimated 73,345 individuals hunted wild pheasants only, 21,500 hunted game-farm pheasants only, and 17,133 hunted both wild and game-farm pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92. For hunters who pursued wild pheasants, 90.9% were active in the North Zone and 9.1% were active in the South Zone.

The hunters expended 82% of their days afield pursuing wild pheasants and 18% of their days shooting game-farm pheasants (Table 2). Hunters of wild pheasants devoted an average of 7.1 days to the field during the 1991 season (Table 3). In comparison, the annual Hunter Harvest Survey indicated that (wild) pheasant hunters spent an average of 6.5 days afield during the 1991 season (Anderson and Campbell 1992). When data in Table 2 and from the Hunter Harvest Survey were combined, an estimated 616,661 days afield were devoted to hunting wild pheasants and 136,283 days were devoted to game-farm pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92.

The hunters expended 46% of their (wild) pheasant-hunting days in November, 48% in December, and 6% in January (Table 3). The "use rate" (i.e., days hunted/number of days available to hunt) was greater for November (0.12) than for December (0.11). This is in contrast to rabbit hunters and quail hunters, whose use rates were greater in December than in November (Anderson and David 1991b, 1992).

Of the hunters who pursued wild pheasants, 45% were in the field on opening day of the 1991 season, which was characterized by decreasing temperatures, strong northwest winds, and intermittent rain (Table 4). On the second day, when temperatures averaged 20° F, 36% of the hunters were afield. In addition, 26% were afield on both opening day and on the second day, and 55% were afield on opening day and/or on the second day. Similarly, 47% of the hunters claimed to have been in the field during  $\geq 1$  of the last 5 days of the season in the North Zone.

The vast majority (88%) of the wild pheasant hunters pursued their sport on land owned or rented by acquaintances other than relatives (Table 5). About two-thirds of these owners or renters were long-time (>5 years) acquaintances. Another 25% of the hunters were active on land owned or rented by relatives, and 11% hunted on their own land. Although the leasing of land specifically for pheasant hunting occurred at a low rate (2% of hunters), it was more prevalent in the North Zone than in the South Zone.

Of the hunters who pursued game-farm pheasants during the 1991 season, 10% released their own birds, 33% were active on private

licensed preserves, and 68% utilized state controlled areas (Table 6). These hunters spent an average of 4.7, 4.2, and 2.7 days, engaged in their respective activity. Therefore, of the total days devoted to hunting game-farm pheasants, 12.6% involved hunters who released their own birds, 37.9% took place on private licensed preserves, and 49.5% occurred on state controlled areas.

#### Characteristics of Pheasant Harvest

The hunters of wild pheasants reported harvesting an average of 3.9 birds in Illinois during the 1991 season (Table 7). Among these hunters, 28% took 0 pheasant, 16% took 1 pheasant, 13% took 2 pheasants, and 22% took 3-5 pheasants. For purposes of comparison, the annual Hunter Harvest Survey indicated that the 1991 wild pheasant harvest averaged 4.1 birds per hunter; 23% of the hunters took 0 pheasant, 54% took 1-5 pheasants, and 14% took 6-10 pheasants (Anderson and Campbell 1992).

Slightly more than one-half (54%) of the wild pheasant harvest occurred during November (Table 7). Another 41% of the harvest took place during December, and the remaining 5% of the pheasants were taken in January. The harvest rate (i.e., pheasants taken per day afield) was greater during November (0.62) than during December (0.48) and January (0.50). For the entire season, hunters harvested no pheasants on 62% of their days afield, 1 pheasant on 23% of their days, and 2 pheasants (daily bag limit) on 15% of their days (Table 8).

The hunters of game-farm pheasants reported harvesting averages of 1.5 to 2.7 birds per day and 4.0 to 11.4 birds for the

entire 1991 season (Table 6). Since 55.1% of the pheasant harvest consisted of wild birds (Table 2) and an estimated 391,419 wild birds were harvested during the 1991 season (Anderson and Campbell 1992), the remaining 44.9% equates to approximately 318,960 game-farm birds.

However, because the actual harvest of wild pheasants appears to be between 40% and 55% of that reported via questionnaires (Hjersman 1951, Edwards 1959), the 1991 harvest may have included only 186,000 wild birds and 152,000 game-farm birds. If so, the data in Table 6 suggest that 18,000 of these birds were released by the hunters who shot them, 78,000 were taken on private licensed preserves, and 56,000 were taken on state controlled areas. According to DOC records, 56,181 pheasants were harvested on the state controlled areas (Willms et al. 1992), and 118,280 were harvested on private licensed preserves, during the 1991 season (T.L. Musser, pers. commun.). Our relatively low estimate of pheasant harvest on licensed shooting preserves is attributed, in part, to the fact that these areas attract a high proportion of senior (no hunting license) hunters (T.L. Musser, pers. commun.).

#### Attitudes and Opinions

Finding and Leasing Places to Hunt. Almost all (94%) of the wild pheasant hunters were active on private land in Illinois (Table 9). Only 15% of the hunters' frequented public areas. Similarly, 93% of the pheasant hunters days afield occurred on private land and 7% took place on public land (Table 9).

When asked how much difficulty they had in finding a place to

hunt pheasants, 32% of the hunters indicated "none" and 24% said "much" (Table 9). Pheasant hunters in the North Zone appeared to experience more difficulty than pheasant hunters in the South Zone in finding a place to hunt. Statewide, pheasant hunters apparently had more difficulty than quail (bobwhite) hunters in finding a place to pursue their sport (Anderson and David 1992).

Almost one-half (47%) of all active pheasant hunters expressed a willingness to pay a landowner for the right to hunt pheasants in Illinois (Table 10). Hunters of game-farm pheasants (69%) appeared more willing to pay than wild pheasant hunters (41%). The amounts they would be willing to pay averaged \$16.09 for wild pheasant hunters and \$17.67 for game-farm pheasant hunters. In general, pheasant hunters exhibited a higher level of interest than rabbit hunters or quail hunters in paying for the right to hunt (Anderson and David 1991b, 1992).

Utilization and Evaluation of CRP Land. About one-fourth (26%) of the hunters pursued wild pheasants on CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land in Illinois during the 1991 season (Table 11). An additional 46% of the hunters had not hunted pheasants on CRP land, and the other 28% did not know whether they had hunted on CRP land. Of those who knew they had hunted on CRP land, the vast majority (82%) felt the program had helped pheasant populations (Table 11). Only 5% of the hunters believed the program hurt pheasant numbers. Compared to quail hunters, pheasant hunters were less likely to have hunted on CRP land but were more positive about the benefits of the program (Anderson and David 1992).

Wearing Blaze Orange Clothing. More than two-thirds (69%) of the pheasant hunters said that they usually or always wear blaze (hunter) orange upper garment and cap when afield (Table 12). Although the percentages varied, majorities of all groups of pheasant hunters--wild, game-farm, North Zone, South Zone--usually or always wear blaze orange. Majorities (58-74%) of these groups also supported the concept of the state mandating the wearing of blaze orange for upland game hunters (Table 12). In comparison, 65% of the quail hunters usually or always wear blaze orange upper outer garment and cap, and 55% of these hunters thought it appropriate to mandate the wearing of such garments (Anderson and David 1992).

#### Characteristics of Pheasant Hunters

Pheasant hunters who participated in this survey were, on the average, 37 years of age (Table 13). Game-farm pheasant hunters were older (average 39 years) than wild pheasant hunters (average 36 years). The hunters had hunted pheasants for an average of 18 years, and 5% of them had participated in a field trial in Illinois in 1991. Game-farm pheasant hunters were more apt than wild pheasant hunters to have participated in a field trial.

Wild pheasant hunters traveled an average of 54 miles (round trip) per day afield. Two-thirds (69%) of these hunters were active in 1 county; 24% were active in 2 counties, and 7% were active  $\geq 3$  counties (n=1,490). Two-thirds (66%) of the wild pheasant hunters also hunted in their county of residence, and 42% of them hunted only in their county of residence. These data

suggest that pheasant hunters are somewhat more mobile than quail hunters (Anderson and David 1992).

## DISCUSSION

The mailing list for the 1990 Illinois Pheasant Hunter Survey was based on individuals who indicated via the annual Hunter Harvest Survey that they had hunted pheasants the previous year (Anderson and David 1991a). Thus, the mailing list was 1 year old at the time the survey was conducted, and the participants were people who had already responded to the Hunter Harvest Survey. These factors biased the sample in favor of more ardent hunters who hunted wild pheasants and hunters who were more willing to participate in surveys.

Although the mailing list for the 1991-92 survey was also 1 year old at the time the survey was conducted, game-farm pheasant hunters were more proportionally represented, and the respondents had not previously participated in a DOC hunter survey. Thus, biases inherent in this survey were less severe than those associated with the 1990 survey. To illustrate, wild pheasant hunters in the current survey reported spending an average of 7.1 days afield and harvesting an average of 3.9 birds. These averages are similar to those reported by pheasant hunters (6.5 days and 4.1 pheasants) via the 1991 Hunter Harvest Survey (Anderson and Campbell 1992).

For wild pheasant hunters, the results of the current survey confirm, for the most part, those of the 1990 survey. That is, these hunters made greater use of the days available to hunt, and

harvested pheasants at a higher rate, in November than during December (Tables 3 and 7). The first 2 days of the season were particularly important--55% of the hunters ventured afield on one or both of these days (Table 4). Collectively, these 2 days accounted for 11.4% of the total days afield by pheasant hunters during the 1991 season. However, other studies--which were conducted >30 years ago in several states--showed that 20-44% of the pheasant hunting pressure occurred on opening day and 48-85% occurred during the first week (Allen 1947, Leedy and Hicks 1945, Harper et al. 1951, Blouch 1956, Robertson 1958). For the entire 1991 season, 55% of the hunters were afield  $\leq 5$  days and 10% were afield  $\geq 16$  days (Table 3).

Although the hunters reported harvesting an average of 3.9 wild pheasants in 1991-92, 28% of them took no birds and 57% took  $\leq 2$  birds (Table 7). At the other extreme, 9% of the hunters harvested  $\geq 11$  pheasants. Based on these data, it appears that the majority of wild pheasant hunters spend relatively few days afield and harvest, at most, 1 or 2 birds.

The wild pheasant hunters expended >90% of their days afield on private land (Table 9), about 88% of which was owned by acquaintances not related to the hunters (Table 5). Furthermore, pheasant hunters overwhelmingly selected "hunting wild pheasants on private land" and "pheasant habitat management on private lands" as their top priorities for DOC management and funding in the 1990-91 survey (Anderson and David 1991a).

Almost 41% of the wild pheasant hunters expressed a willingness to pay (average \$16.09 per day) landowners for the



right to hunt (Table 10). In contrast, 29% of the quail hunters (average \$15.88 per day) and 31% of the rabbit hunters (average \$6.31 per day) were willing to pay landowners for hunting privileges (Anderson and David 1991b, 1992). It appears that a higher percentage of pheasant hunters than either quail or rabbit hunters was willing to pay for the right to hunt. However, upland bird hunters were willing to pay more per day afield than rabbit hunters.

Although only 26% of them hunted on CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land, wild pheasant hunters had a very positive impression of the effects of this program on pheasant populations (Table 11). Earlier cropland acreage diversion programs, such as the Soil Bank which was similar to CRP, were shown to benefit pheasants (Joselyn and Warnock 1964, Gates and Ostrom 1966). Pheasants have shown a positive response to CRP in the Texas high plains (Berthelsen and Smith 1990) and good pheasant habitat suitability indexes have been reported from undisturbed CRP fields in a multi-state midwestern study (Hays et al. 1989).

For game-farm pheasant hunters, the results of the current survey differed appreciably from those of the 1990 survey. The 1990 survey indicated that 23% of Illinois' pheasant hunters, 9% of their days afield, and 23% of their harvest involved game-farm birds (Anderson and David 1991). Findings of the 1991-92 survey revealed much higher percentages for hunting game-farm pheasants: 35% of the hunters, 18% of the days afield, and 45% of the pheasant harvest (Table 2). Since hunters of game-farm birds were under

represented in the 1990 survey, we consider the percentages derived via the 1991-92 survey more representative--though, seemingly high--of game-farm pheasant hunters, their activities, and their harvest.

It is evident that majorities of all groups of pheasant hunters are in the habit of wearing a blaze (hunter) orange upper outer garment and cap when afield in Illinois (Table 12). Majorities of these groups also thought it appropriate for the State of Illinois to mandate the wearing of blaze orange for pheasant and other upland game hunters. Quail hunters also support mandatory use of blaze orange clothing (Anderson and David 1992). If rabbit hunters have similar attitudes toward blaze orange, consideration should be given to making the wearing of a blaze orange upper outer garment and cap mandatory for upland game (rabbits, quail, pheasants, and partridge) hunters in Illinois.

Except for some uncertainty about the level at which game-farm birds contribute to pheasant hunting in the state, the findings of the current survey support and expand upon the findings for the 1990 survey. Therefore, almost all of conclusions derived from the earlier survey (Anderson and David 1991a) stand.

Acknowledgements. Appreciation is extended to R.E. Warner and S.L. Etter for assistance in developing the questionnaire used for this survey, and to L.K. Campbell and K.L. Benner for data and word processing. This study was funded in part by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Projects W-99-R and W-112-R, the DOC, Illinois Natural History Survey, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating.

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Table 1. Percentage of respondents to the 1991-92 Illinois Pheasant Hunter Survey who purchased a resident Illinois hunting license, purchased  $\geq 1$  Illinois Pheasant Stamps, hunted pheasants (wild and/or game-farm) in Illinois in 1991-92, and hunted pheasants in another state in 1991-92 (n = 2,751).

Activity	Number	Percentage
*Purchased resident Illinois hunting license	2,386	86.7
*Purchased Illinois Pheasant Stamp for personal use	1,962	71.3
*Purchased $\geq 1$ additional Illinois Pheasant Stamps not for personal use	181	6.6
*Hunted pheasants in Illinois	1,843	67.0
*Hunted pheasants in another state	205	7.5

Table 2. Relative pheasant harvest and hunter activity for wild pheasants and for game-farm pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92 (n = 1,843).

Type of Pheasant Hunted	Percentage		
	Hunters	Days Afield	Pheasant Harvest
Wild	80.8 <sup>a</sup>	81.9	55.1
Game-farm	34.5 <sup>a</sup>	18.1	44.9

<sup>a</sup>65.5% of the hunters hunted wild pheasants only, 19.2% hunted game-farm pheasants only, and 15.3% hunted both types of pheasants.

Table 3. The number of days afield by respondents who hunted wild pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92. The season extended from 2 November to 1 January in the North Zone and from 2 November to 5 January in the South Zone. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Parameter	North Zone (1,325)	South Zone (133)	Entire State (1,490) <sup>a</sup>
		<u>November</u>	
Mean days	3.3	3.7	3.4
Percentage of days	46	51	48
Use rate <sup>b</sup>	0.11	0.13	0.12
		<u>December</u>	
Mean days	3.4	3.0	3.3
Percentage of days	48	41	46
Use rate	0.11	0.10	0.11
		<u>January</u>	
Mean days	0.4	0.6	0.4
Percentage of days	6	8	6
Use rate	0.40 <sup>c</sup>	0.12	0.29 <sup>c</sup>
		<u>Entire State</u>	
Mean days	7.1	7.3	7.1 <sup>d</sup>
Percentage of days	100	100	100
Use rate	0.12	0.11	0.11

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

<sup>b</sup>Mean days divided by number of days available to hunt.

<sup>c</sup>These values are thought to be inflated.

<sup>d</sup>54.8% hunted 1-5 days, 24.2% hunted 6-10 days, 10.6% hunted 11-15 days, and 10.4% hunted 16-50 days.

Table 4. Percentage of wild pheasant hunters who were active on the first day, second day, and last 5 days of the pheasant hunting season in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Dates of Activity	Weather <sup>a</sup>		Percentage of Hunters		
	Mean temp.	Precip.	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Hunted on opening day (Sat., 2 Nov.)	39°F <sup>c</sup>	0.06 inch	(1,325)	(133)	(1,490) <sup>b</sup>
			45.4	45.9	45.2 <sup>d</sup>
Hunted on second day (Sun., 3 Nov.)	20°	Trace	36.1	35.3	35.8 <sup>d</sup>
Hunted on $\geq$ 1 of last 5 days in North Zone (Fri., 27 Dec.- Tues., 1 Jan.)			47.1	---	---

<sup>a</sup>Recorded at Piper City (National Climatic Data Center 1991).

<sup>b</sup>Includes a few hunters not identified as to zone.

<sup>c</sup>Accompanied by decreasing temperatures and strong (25 - 35mph) winds from the northwest.

<sup>d</sup>25.8% were afield on opening day and on the second day, and 55.2% were afield on opening day and/or on the second day.



Table 5. The owners or renters of private lands on which respondents hunted wild pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92.

Owner or Renter	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
	(1,325)	(133)	(1,490) <sup>a</sup>
Hunter (owned or rented)	11.6	11.3	11.4
Hunter (leased for hunting)	2.3	0.8	2.2
Relative	24.8	27.1	24.7
Acquaintance >5 years	58.9	58.6	58.6
Acquaintance <5 years	29.7	23.3	29.3

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 6. Type of area or condition, number of days afield, and number of pheasants harvested by respondents who hunted game-farm pheasants in Illinois during the 1991-92 season (n = 635).

Type of Area or Condition	Percentage of Hunters	Days Afield per Hunter <sup>a</sup>	Pheasants Harvested	
			Per Day <sup>a</sup>	Per Hunter <sup>a</sup>
Released own birds	9.9	4.7	1.8	8.6
Private licensed preserve	33.4	4.2	2.7	11.4
State controlled area	67.7	2.7	1.5	4.0
All areas/conditions		3.7	2.0	7.4

<sup>a</sup>For hunters who were active in the respective area or condition.

Table 7. The number of pheasants harvested by respondents who hunted wild pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Parameter	North Zone (1,325)	South Zone (133)	Entire State (1,490) <sup>a</sup>
		<u>November</u>	
Mean pheasants	2.1	1.7	2.1
Percentage of harvest	53	55	54
Harvest rate <sup>b</sup>	0.64	0.46	0.62
		<u>December</u>	
Mean pheasants	1.7	1.2	1.6
Percentage of harvest	42	39	41
Harvest rate	0.50	0.40	0.48
		<u>January</u>	
Mean pheasants	0.2	0.2	0.2
Percentage of harvest	5	6	5
Harvest rate	0.50	0.33	0.50
		<u>Entire State</u>	
Mean pheasants	4.0	3.1	3.9 <sup>c</sup>
Percentage of harvest	100	100	100
Harvest rate	0.56	0.42	0.55

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

<sup>b</sup>Mean pheasants harvested divided by mean days hunted.

<sup>c</sup>28.1% of the hunters harvested 0 pheasants, 15.7% harvested 1 pheasant, 12.8% harvested 2 pheasants, 21.9% harvested 3-5 pheasants, 12.8% harvested 6-10 pheasants, and 8.7% harvested 11-80 pheasants.

Table 8. The number of days respondents who hunted wild pheasants reported harvesting 0, 1, or 2 pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Number of Pheasants	<u>North Zone</u>		<u>South Zone</u>		<u>Entire State</u>	
	Mean	Percentage	Mean	Percentage	Mean	Percentage
	(1,325)		(133)		(1,490)	
0	4.4	62	4.7	65	4.4	62
1	1.6	23	1.7	23	1.6	23
2	1.1	15	0.9	12	1.1	15

Table 9. The type of lands hunted by wild pheasant hunters, and the level of difficulty they experienced in finding a place to hunt, in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Subject	Percentage of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Type of land	(1,325)	(133)	(1,490) <sup>a</sup>
Private-hunters	95.3	82.0	93.8
-days afield	93.6 <sup>b</sup>	83.7 <sup>b</sup>	93.2 <sup>b</sup>
Public-hunters	12.4	31.6	14.6
-days afield	6.4 <sup>b</sup>	16.3 <sup>b</sup>	6.8 <sup>b</sup>
Level of difficulty	(1,317)	(133)	(1,482) <sup>a</sup>
None	31.7	33.1	31.6
Little	16.5	24.8	17.1
Moderate	28.1	24.8	27.7
Much	23.7	17.3	23.6

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of days.

Table 10. Attitudes of pheasant hunters toward paying a landowner for the right to hunt pheasant in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Subject	Type of Pheasant Hunted <sup>a</sup>		
	Wild	Game-Farm	Combined
Willing to pay a landowner	(1,367)	(619)	(1,708) <sup>b</sup>
Yes	40.6%	68.7%	47.0%
No	38.1	15.2	33.3
No Opinion	21.3	16.1	19.7
Amount willing to pay per day	(572)	(430)	(821) <sup>a</sup>
\$10-\$15	77.6%	69.8%	74.9%
\$16-\$30	17.5	24.0	19.6
\$31-\$50	3.5	4.0	3.8
>\$50	1.4	2.0	1.7
Mean	\$16.09	\$17.23	\$16.67

<sup>a</sup>Based on type of pheasant hunted during the 1991-92 season.

<sup>b</sup>Includes 278 respondents who hunted both wild and game-farm pheasants.

Table 11. Utilization and evaluation of CRP (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program) land by wild pheasant hunters in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Subject	Percentages of Hunters		
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State
Hunted pheasants on CRP land	(1,310)	(130)	(1,471) <sup>a</sup>
Yes	26.9	20.0	26.0
No	45.1	51.5	45.5
Don't know	28.0	28.5	28.5
Effect of CRP land on pheasant populations	(382)	(30)	(419) <sup>a</sup>
Helped	81.9	83.3	81.9
Hurt	0.8	0.0	0.7
None	5.2	0.0	4.8
Don't know	12.1	16.7	12.6

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 12. Attitudes of pheasant hunters toward wearing blaze orange clothing when afield in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Wild Pheasant Hunters			Game-Farm Pheasant Hunters		All Pheasant Hunters
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State	Game-Farm Pheasant Hunters	All Pheasant Hunters	
	(1,280)	(129)	(1,440) <sup>a</sup>	(625)	(1,787) <sup>b</sup>	
Never	7.7%	4.7%	7.2%	1.8%	6.2%	
Only during firearm deer season	30.4	22.5	29.4	9.0	24.8	
Usually	20.4	26.4	20.6	15.8	19.0	
Always	41.5	46.4	42.7	73.4	49.9	
*Responses to the question, "How frequently do you wear a blaze (hunter) orange upper outer garment and cap when hunting pheasants?"						
	Wild Pheasant Hunters			Game-Farm Pheasant Hunters		All Pheasant Hunters
	North Zone	South Zone	Entire State	Game-Farm Pheasant Hunters	All Pheasant Hunters	
	(1,262)	(125)	(1,415) <sup>a</sup>	(624)	(1,762) <sup>b</sup>	
Appropriate	57.6%	60.8%	58.3%	74.0%	62.0%	
Inappropriate	41.4	39.2	41.7	26.0	38.0	

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

<sup>b</sup>Includes some respondents who hunted both wild and game-farm pheasants.



Table 13. Some characteristics of pheasant hunters in Illinois in 1991-92. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Characteristic	Type of Pheasant Hunted		
	Wild	Game-Farm	Combined
Mean age in years	(1,451) 35.6	(627) 39.4	(1,796) <sup>a</sup> 36.6
Mean years hunted pheasants	(1,444) 18.0	(628) 17.9	(1,797) 17.8
Mean miles traveled (round trip) per day	(1,442) 53.9 <sup>b</sup>	---	---
Participated in field trial in Illinois in 1991	(1,420) 5.2%	(618) 6.6%	(1,760) 4.8%

<sup>a</sup>Includes some respondents who hunted both wild and game-farm pheasants.

<sup>b</sup>47.4% of the hunters drove 1-20 miles, 19.5% drove 21-40 miles, 9.8% drove 41-60 miles, and 23.3% drove 61-600 miles.

1991-92 ILLINOIS PHEASANT HUNTER SURVEY

INSTRUCTIONS

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

If you did not hunt pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92, 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 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 1991-92 season?  
(circle number of appropriate answer)  
Yes.....1                      No.....2
2. Did you purchase an Illinois State Pheasant Stamp for your personal use for the 1991-92 season?              (circle number of appropriate answer)  
Yes.....1                      No.....2
3. Did you purchase additional Illinois State Pheasant Stamps not for your personal use in 1991?              (circle number of appropriate answer)  
Yes.....1                      No.....2
4. Did you hunt pheasants out of state during the 1991-92 season?  
(circle the number of the appropriate answer)  
Yes.....1                      No.....2
5. Did you hunt pheasants in Illinois during the 1991-92 season?  
(circle number of appropriate answer)  
Yes.....1                      No.....2

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the 1991-92 Illinois Pheasant Hunter Survey (continued).

IF YOU DID NOT HUNT PHEASANTS IN ILL. DURING THE 1991-92 SEASON, SKIP TO PART IV.

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

6. If you answered "yes" to question 5, please answer the following questions about the number of different days you hunted wild pheasants in Illinois and the number of wild pheasants you harvested for each month of the 1991-92 season? (write in the number of days and number of pheasants that apply)

Number of days in Nov. 1991 \_\_\_\_\_ Number of wild pheasants harvested \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days in Dec. 1991 \_\_\_\_\_ Number of wild pheasants harvested \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days in Jan. 1992 \_\_\_\_\_ Number of wild pheasants harvested \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of days.....\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of wild pheasants.....\_\_\_\_\_

7. On how many different days during the 1991-92 season did you bag (kill and retrieve): (enter the appropriate number of days)

a. no wild pheasants? .....\_\_\_\_\_ days

b. 1 wild pheasant?.....\_\_\_\_\_ days

c. 2 wild pheasants?.....\_\_\_\_\_ days

8. Did you hunt wild pheasants in Illinois on opening day (Saturday, November 2) of the 1991-92 season? (circle number of appropriate answer)

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

9. Did you hunt wild pheasants in Illinois on the second day (Sunday, November 3) of the 1991-92 season? (circle number of appropriate answer)

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

10. Did you hunt wild pheasants on any of the last day five days (Saturday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Jan. 1) of the 1991-92 season in the North Zone? (circle number of appropriate answer)

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

11. In which county, or counties, did you hunt wild pheasants most in Illinois in 1991-92?

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

12. About how many miles did you travel (round trip) on a typical pheasant hunting trip in Illinois in 1991-92?

Number of miles \_\_\_\_\_

13. Please rate the level of difficulty you experienced in finding a place to hunt wild pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92?  
(circle number of appropriate answer)

No difficulty.....1 Little difficulty.....2

Moderate difficulty....3 Much difficulty.....4

14. On what type(s) of lands did you hunt wild pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92 and on many days did you hunt on each type of land?  
(circle number of all that apply and write in the number of days)

Privately owned lands?....1 Number of days \_\_\_\_\_

Publicly owned lands?.....2 Number of days \_\_\_\_\_  
(State and Federal)

15. If you hunted wild pheasants on private land during the 1991-92 season, please select the statements that apply to you.  
(circle number of all that apply)

I hunted on land owned or rented by:

myself.....1

someone else in my family (including relatives).....2

someone with whom I have been acquainted for over 5 years.....3

someone with whom I have been acquainted for less than 5 years.....4

someone from whom I leased land specifically for hunting.....5

16. Did you hunt wild pheasants in 1991-92 on 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

16a. If you answered "yes" to question 16, in your opinion, what effect did the land management on the CRP fields that you hunted have on wild pheasant populations?

(circle number of appropriate answer)

helped.....1 hurt.....2

no effect...3 don't know..4

17. Are you aware of anyone who accidentally shot a wild hen pheasant in Illinois during the 1991-92 season?

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

PART III. The following questions (19 and 20) apply to game-farm or hand-reared released pheasant hunting only.

18. Did you hunt game-farm or hand-reared released pheasants in Illinois in 1991-92?

(circle number of appropriate answer)

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

19. If you answered "yes" to question 19, on how many different days did you hunt hand-reared pheasants and how many pheasants 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    Number of days \_\_\_\_\_ Number harvested \_\_\_\_\_

b. Private licensed preserve.....2    Number of days \_\_\_\_\_ Number harvested \_\_\_\_\_

c. State Controlled Pheasant Area.3    Number of days \_\_\_\_\_ Number harvested \_\_\_\_\_

PART IV. Opinion Questions. Please answer even if you did not hunt in 1991-92.

20. Would you be willing to pay a landowner in Illinois for the right to hunt wild pheasants?            (circle number of appropriate answer)

Yes.....1                      No.....2                      Undecided.....3

If "yes", about how much would you be willing to pay per day?

(circle number of appropriate answer)

\$10-15.....1            \$16-30.....2            \$31-50.....3            over \$50.....4

21. How frequently do you wear a blaze (hunter) orange upper outer garment and cap when hunting pheasants?

Never.....1                      Only during the firearm deer seasons....2

Usually.....3                      Always.....4

22a. In your opinion would it be appropriate or inappropriate for Illinois to mandate the wearing of a blaze (hunter) orange upper outer garment and cap for pheasant and other upland game hunters?

Appropriate.....1                      Inappropriate.....2

22. Did you participate in an organized field trial in Illinois with your pheasant hunting dog or other "bird" dog that you own or handle in 1991?            (circle number of appropriate answer)

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

23. How many years have you hunted pheasants?            Number of years \_\_\_\_\_

24. How old were you on your last birthday?            Years of age \_\_\_\_\_

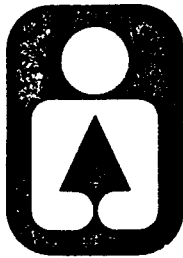
Thank you for your cooperation.  
POSTAGE IS PREPAID

Brent Manning  
Director

John W. Comerio  
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay  
Assistant Director

Illinois



Department of Conservation  
life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787  
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

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

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

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

Your reply is very important, even if you did not hunt pheasants or were not successful. Only a limited number of pheasant 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,

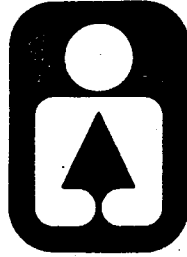
Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:LD:lg

Enclosure

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

Illinois



Department of Conservation  
life and land together

Brent Manning  
Director

John W. Comerio  
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay  
Assistant Director

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787  
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Pheasant Hunter Questionnaire, 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 pheasant hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Department of Conservation in better directing the management of our ring-necked pheasant resources.

Please fill out the questionnaire completely and return it even if you did not hunt pheasants 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,

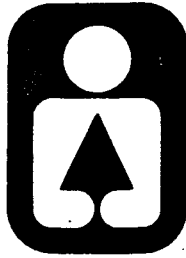
Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

JMV:LD:lg

Enclosure

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

**Illinois**



**Department of Conservation**

life and land together

Brent Manning  
Director

John W. Comerio  
Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay  
Assistant Director

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Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report of your pheasant 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 pheasants 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:lg

Enclosure

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





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