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JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

as required by  
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act  
Illinois

Federal Aid Project No. W-49-R-27  
Study XV: Wildlife Harvests  
Job No. 1: Hunter Harvest Survey, 1979-80

by

Jack A. Ellis

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Div. of Wildlife Resources

October 1, 1980



JOB COMPLETION REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NO.: W-49-R(27)

STUDY XV

JOB NO. 1

**OBJECTIVE:** To collect information on the annual resident hunter harvest of upland game species and furbearers in Illinois and associated hunter characteristics.

**PROCEDURES:** Address cards were completed by hunting license vendors or purchasers of resident hunting or combination license. Two such address cards were attached to each book of 50 hunting and combination licenses for the 1979-80 series. Estimated sales of these licenses were 244,400 hunting and 93,500 combination or an estimated total of 338,000. The latter figure was used in the calculations for this report. The survey address cards were returned to the Division of Wildlife Resources and filed by county of residence of the purchaser.

Because returns of survey cards were considerably less than in previous years all names were used in the 1979 hunter harvest survey. In previous years sub-samples (4,000 - 6,000) were obtained for counties based on proportional license sales for counties. The address cards were numbered to correspond with the numbered questionnaire survey cards (Fig. 1). An initial mailing and two follow-up mailings to non-respondents were made with cover letters for each mailing (Figs. 2, 3 and 4).

The returned questionnaire cards were edited and county code numbers were added to the cards to indicate where the respondents had hunted. Information from the cards was transferred to computer tape at the Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois. David Spour, a Ph.D. candidate in Electrical Engineering, wrote the analysis program and provided the results in print-out form. The final printout listed for the 16 species sampled, the number of hunters, the number of trips, the kill, the mean kill per hunter and its variance by county and by wildlife management unit (Fig. 5).

Confidence limits at the 95 percent level were calculated for the number of hunters, average season bag and harvest. Formulae used were presented by G. F. Hubert, Jr. (Job Completion Report, Proj. W-49-R(24), Job 1, Hunter Mail Survey, 1976-77, 32pp., 1977). Hubert used the information found in Cochran (Sampling Techniques, 2nd ed., Wiley and Sons, New York. 413pp. 1953) or Snedecor and Cochran (Statistical Methods, 6th ed., Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames. 593pp. 1967). The formulae are:

a. Number of hunters for a species, a binomial:

$$\pm 2N \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$$

where N = total hunting license sales

n = number of licenses in sample

p = proportion of licensees in sample who hunted the species

q = 1-p

b. Mean season kill per hunter for a species:

$$\pm 1.96 \frac{s}{\sqrt{n_1}}$$

where s = standard deviation of mean kill per hunter

n<sub>1</sub> = number of licensees in sample who hunted the species

c. Total harvest:

$$\pm 2N \left( \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}}}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

where x = reported season bag for all licensees

#### FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

##### 1979-80 Hunting Season

The costs of hunting licenses for the 1979-80 season were raised 114 percent compared with fees in 1978. This increase in license fees combined with low populations of upland game caused a 13 percent decline in hunting license sales from 1978 to 1979.

The 1979-80 hunting seasons and bag limits are shown in Table 1. The season for upland game species, quail, pheasants, rabbits and Huns was 15 days less than in 1978. The season on raccoons in 1980 was reduced to 40 days in both zones compared to 65 and 62 days in the northern and southern zones, respectively, in 1978. Coyotes were not protected in 1979.

##### The Hunter Harvest Survey

A total of 3,730 name-address cards were received from license vendors or buyers. From these, 3,724 were sent questionnaires on 29 December 1979. A second mailing to 1,893 non-respondents was made 28 January 1980. A third mailing of 1,123 questionnaires was made 27 February 1980. Seventy-three letters were returned as undeliverable by the postal service. Thus, from a sample of 3,657 (3,730 licensees minus 73 undelivered questionnaires) 2,978 useable replies were returned. Eighty-one percent of the licensees contacted responded to the survey.

Of those that responded, 20 percent indicated that they did not hunt any of the species listed on the questionnaire. In the 1978 survey, 13 percent of the respondents did not hunt. This increase in non-participants in 1979 was surprising considering the increase in hunting license fees.

The hunters in the sample were asked if they purchased a firearm deer permit in 1979. The affirmative response rate was 30.29 percent. Based on this sample, an estimated  $102,380 \pm 5,836$  hunters purchased such a permit. However, 73,725 firearm deer permits were issued by the Department of Conservation in 1979. Traditionally, the positive response to this question in the hunter harvest survey is exaggerated.

Based on the response to the question "Did you hunt outside Illinois in 1979?", 10.8 percent responded positively. Thus, an estimated  $36,335 \pm 3,837$  resident licensed hunters hunted outside Illinois in 1979.

The results of the 1979-80 hunter harvest survey is presented in Table 2. For each species information is presented on the estimated number of hunters and their percent of all licenses sold, average daily and season bags, average days afield, estimated total harvest and estimated total days afield. Similar information for each of the 16 species included in the survey is presented in Tables 3 to 18 for the wildlife management units (Fig. 5). Percentage change in harvests from 1978 to 1979 by game management unit and statewide for 10 species are presented in Table 19. Estimates for statewide hunting effort and success for most of the legal game species for the years 1975-79 are shown in Table 20.

Data on the distribution of hunting effort and success for the game species in the 1979 survey are presented in Table 21. In general most of the hunters for most of the species surveyed in 1979 hunted five or less times during the season and harvested five or less of each species.

Confidence intervals at the 95 percent level for the estimated number of hunters, season bag and total harvest are presented in Table 22. The reader should not infer that these estimates are absolute within the upper and lower values provided. The calculated estimates and confidence intervals reflect the accuracy of the sampling technique.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mail surveys of hunting effort and success in Illinois provide indicators of annual trends in the hunter interest and harvest for most of the game species. Since 1956 Illinois has conducted such surveys and the data become more valuable each year in assessing populations and interest among hunters. Such surveys should be continued, and if necessary, altered to meet management needs or modified to obtain more reliable estimates.

#### DATA AND REPORTS:

Original data and reports included in this project are on file in the Department of Conservation Office, 129 N. Kennedy, Vandalia, IL.

PREPARED BY: Jack Ellis  
Staff Biologist  
Division of Wildlife Resources

APPROVED BY: T. Miller, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

DATE: 1 October 1980



Illinois Department of Conservation  
Hunting Survey  
1979-80 Season

No 552

1. Did you purchase a FIREARM deer permit to hunt deer in Illinois in 1979? Yes  No
2. Did you hunt in any state or country other than Illinois in 1979? Yes  No
3. Did you hunt any of the game listed below in Illinois during the 1979-80 season? Yes  No

PLEASE FILL IN ALL THREE BLANKS FOR EACH KIND OF GAME YOU HUNTED:

	Number killed during season	County where you hunted most for each kind of game	Number of days hunted
RABBITS . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
FOX SQUIRRELS. _____	_____	_____	_____
GRAY SQUIRRELS _____	_____	_____	_____
QUAIL . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
PHEASANT. . . . .	_____	_____	_____
HUN. PARTRIDGE _____	_____	_____	_____
DOVE. . . . .	_____	_____	_____
WOODCOCK . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
(NOT Groundhog or Woodchuck)			
COMMON SNIPE. _____	_____	_____	_____
DUCKS. . . . .	_____	_____	_____
GEESE . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
RACCOON . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
RED FOX . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
GRAY FOX. . . . .	_____	_____	_____
COYOTE . . . . .	_____	_____	_____
FOX or COYOTE CHASING WITH DOGS FOR SPORT ONLY AND NOT TO KILL: _____	_____	_____	_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!  
POSTAGE IS PREPAID

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill in the form on the left side of this card for the 1979-80 Illinois hunting season. If you did not hunt any of the game listed in Illinois, check the first three questions and return the card.

REPORT ONLY YOUR KILL. DO NOT report the kill of others with whom you may have hunted.

Do NOT report game killed or days hunted on shooting areas or preserves where a fee is charged for game taken.

Fill in the number of days on which you hunted each kind of game listed including your unsuccessful days.

If you hunted for more than one kind of game on a particular day, count it a day for EACH kind of game you hunted.

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

Fill in only the blanks that apply to you. Leave all other blanks unmarked.

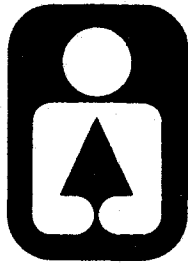
Your comments are welcomed, but please send them in a separate letter to receive proper attention.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL ANSWERS—  
POSTAGE IS PREPAID



Fig. 1. The questionnaire card used in the 1979-80 hunter harvest survey.

Illinois



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# Department of Conservation

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605 WM. G. STRATTON BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706

CHICAGO OFFICE – ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of Illinoisans asked to furnish information on your hunting activities during the past 1979-80 hunting season.

The information supplied by you and other selected hunters is vital to the management of our game resources; (1) to safeguard game populations, (2) to grant maximum 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 game populations. These statistics include distribution of total harvests, number of hunters and hunting success.

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

Please take just a minute and fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimates. Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail; no postage is required.

Yours for better small game hunting.

Sincerely,

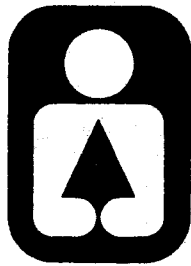
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. Miller".

T. Miller, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

Fig. 2. Cover letter sent with initial mailing in 1979-80 hunter harvest survey.

Illinois



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CHICAGO OFFICE — ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a Hunting Questionnaire Card and requested that you fill out and return the completed form. 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 as soon as possible. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please destroy this one. The information supplied by you and other hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Conservation Department in better directing the management of Illinois' game resources.

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

No postage is required in returning the completed questionnaire. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

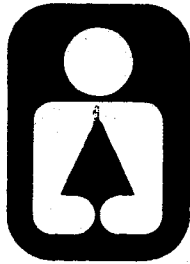
T. Miller, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

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Fig. 3. Cover letter sent to non-respondents to initial mailing in 1979-80 hunter harvest survey.

Illinois



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# Department of Conservation

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CHICAGO OFFICE – ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

This letter is to remind you that we still would like to receive a report of your hunting activity for the 1979 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 card, please destroy this one. Your response is needed--even though you did not hunt or had an unsuccessful season.

No postage is required to return the card. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Please help us complete this survey by sending it in now. Your prompt attention will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

T. Miller, Chief  
Division of Wildlife Resources

Enclosure

Fig. 4. Cover letter sent to non-respondents to follow-up mailing in 1979-80 hunter harvest survey.

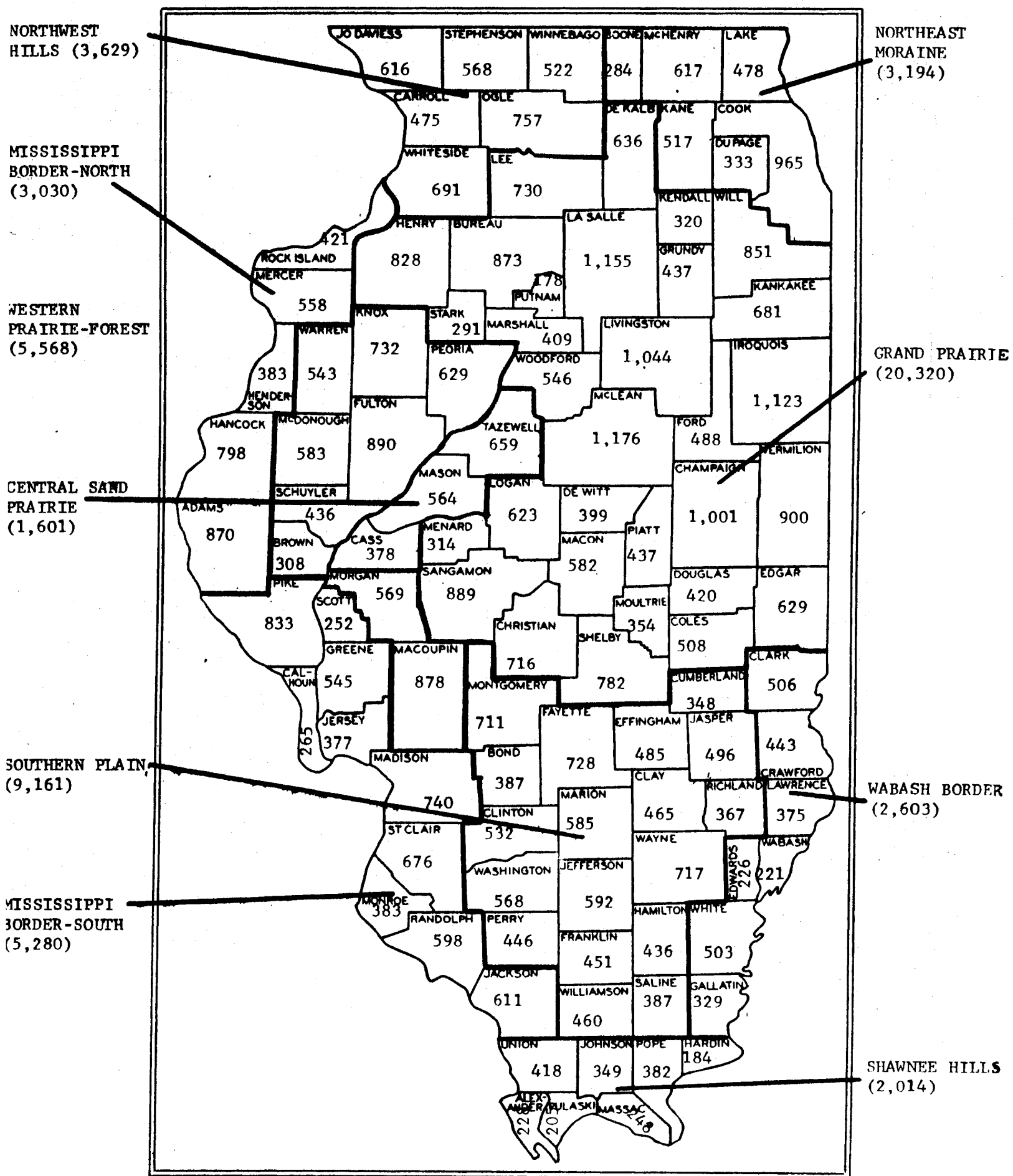


Fig. 5. Game management units in Illinois. The size (square miles) of each unit is in parentheses.

Table 1. Illinois' hunting regulations for migratory and small game, 1979-80.

Species	Zone	Season Duration	Limit	
			Daily	Possession
Rabbits	Statewide	Nov. 10-Dec. 31	4	8
Squirrel	Northern	Sept. 1-Nov. 15	5	10
	Southern	Aug. 1-Nov. 15	5	10
Bobwhite quail	Statewide	Nov. 10-Dec. 31	6	12
Ring-necked Pheasant	Statewide	Nov. 10-Dec. 31	2	4
Gray Partridge	Statewide	Nov. 10-Dec. 31	2	4
Mourning Dove	Statewide	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	12	24
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 15-Dec. 18	5	10
Common Snipe	Statewide	Oct. 15-Jan. 29	8	16
Ducks	Northern	Oct. 17-Dec. 5	Point System	
	Southern	Oct. 31-Dec. 19		
Geese	Statewide	Oct. 17-Dec. 31	Varied by Species	
Raccoon	Northern	Nov. 10-Dec. 19	None	None
	Southern	Nov. 20-Dec. 29		
Fox	Statewide	Nov. 30-Jan. 31	None	None

Table 2. Summary of statewide data from hunter harvest survey, 1979-80 season  
(n = 2,978).

Species	Est. Hunters	% Lic. Sales	Average Bag Daily Season		Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Days Afield
Rabbits	177,285	52.45	0.63	3.54	627,589	5.60	992,660
Fox Squirrels	126,892	37.54	1.02	6.68	847,638	6.55	831,154
Gray Squirrels	81,832	24.21	0.83	6.08	497,538	7.30	597,453
Bobwhite Quail	84,670	25.05	0.85	4.64	392,869	5.45	461,826
Pheasant	117,131	34.65	0.33	1.85	216,692	5.51	645,923
Gray Partridge	5,107	1.51	0.12	0.89	4,546	7.51	38,359
Mourning Dove	66,397	19.64	2.48	12.38	821,994	4.99	331,190
Woodcock	12,258	3.63	0.66	2.73	33,464	4.14	50,734
Common Snipe	3,064	0.91	0.61	2.44	7,478	4.00	12,256
Ducks	62,764	18.57	1.04	10.09	633,298	9.68	607,324
Geese	39,384	11.65	0.24	1.67	65,772	6.98	275,007
Raccoon	52,664	15.58	0.88	8.88	467,652	10.14	533,904
Red Fox	21,111	6.24	0.14	0.95	20,055	6.52	137,676
Gray Fox	13,052	3.86	0.09	0.70	9,137	7.68	100,217
Coyote	22,927	6.78	0.13	0.90	20,634	6.69	153,338
Canid Chasers	1,929	0.57	----	----	----	24.35	46,977

Table 3. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Rabbits (n = 1,562)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	13,393	7.55	0.63	4.20	56,251	89,323
Northeast Moraine	11,804	6.65	0.34	2.32	27,385	80,585
Mississippi Border-North	10,215	5.76	0.82	3.86	39,430	48,010
Mississippi Border-South	25,310	14.27	0.78	4.26	107,821	137,219
Western Prairie/Forest	13,733	7.74	0.67	3.18	43,671	65,033
Central Sand Prairie	4,767	2.68	0.37	2.05	9,772	26,218
Grand Prairie	51,869	29.25	0.47	2.56	132,785	282,726
Southern Plain	27,467	15.49	0.88	4.93	135,412	153,906
Wabash Border	7,264	4.09	1.07	5.53	40,170	37,455
Shawnee Hills	3,745	2.11	0.41	3.06	11,459	27,804
Unknown	7,718	4.35	0.53	3.04	23,463	44,378



Table 4. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Fox squirrel (n = 1,118)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	9,874	7.78	1.16	7.93	78,301	67,642
Northeast Moraine	4,086	3.22	0.59	3.39	13,851	23,381
Mississippi Border-North	10,215	8.05	1.50	6.70	68,440	45,740
Mississippi Border-South	22,359	17.62	0.99	7.64	170,823	172,289
Western Prairie/Forest	12,371	9.74	1.12	6.53	80,782	72,183
Central Sand Prairie	3,064	2.41	1.06	4.48	13,727	12,936
Grand Prairie	29,396	23.16	1.07	5.89	173,142	162,416
Southern Plain	20,203	15.92	1.04	8.06	162,836	156,743
Wabash Border	6,129	4.83	1.39	8.91	54,609	39,158
Shawnee Hills	4,086	3.22	0.64	6.75	27,580	42,789
Unknown	5,107	4.02	0.74	5.22	26,658	35,862

Table 5. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Gray squirrel (n = 721)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	6,242	7.62	0.54	3.93	24,532	45,740
Northeast Moraine	5,221	6.38	0.81	4.98	26,000	32,120
Mississippi Border-North	3,518	4.30	0.66	3.55	12,490	18,840
Mississippi Border-South	16,117	19.69	0.98	8.66	139,571	141,986
Western Prairie/Forest	4,199	5.13	0.56	3.51	14,740	26,558
Central Sand Prairie	794	0.97	0.02	2.00	1,589	4,540
Grand Prairie	13,733	16.78	0.48	2.83	38,865	80,470
Southern Plain	18,387	22.47	0.85	6.72	123,558	145,277
Wabash Border	4,767	5.82	1.17	8.24	39,279	33,482
Shawnee Hills	5,221	6.38	1.12	9.87	51,530	45,853
Unknown	3,632	4.44	1.12	6.97	25,314	22,586

Table 6. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Bobwhite quail (n = 746)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	4,086	4.82	0.62	3.81	15,568	24,970
Northeast Moraine	1,021	1.21	0.55	4.67	4,770	8,626
Mississippi Border-North	5,561	6.57	0.54	2.96	16,462	30,758
Mississippi Border-South	13,166	15.55	1.06	6.26	82,418	77,860
Western Prairie/Forest	7,037	8.31	0.41	2.03	14,285	34,844
Central Sand Prairie	2,270	2.68	0.11	1.00	2,270	20,316
Grand Prairie	20,770	24.53	0.25	1.19	24,717	98,290
Southern Plain	20,657	24.40	1.44	8.47	174,963	121,557
Wabash Border	4,313	5.09	1.21	5.76	24,842	20,543
Shawnee Hills	2,497	2.95	1.92	8.05	20,101	10,442
Unknown	3,291	3.89	0.95	3.93	12,935	13,620

Table 7. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Pheasant (n = 540)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	16,117	13.76	0.27	1.53	24,659	91,934
Northeast Moraine	17,138	14.63	0.35	2.52	43,189	123,373
Mississippi Border-North	2,837	2.42	0.10	0.60	1,702	16,230
Mississippi Border-South	227	0.19	0.11	1.50	340	2,951
Western Prairie/ Forest	3,632	3.10	0.27	1.03	3,741	13,960
Central Sand Prairie	5,675	4.84	0.33	2.06	11,690	34,844
Grand Prairie	61,289	52.32	0.35	1.83	112,160	319,273
Southern Plain	2,837	2.42	0.69	2.40	6,810	9,874
Wabash Border	1,021	0.88	0.20	0.89	909	4,653
Shawnee Hills	---	----	----	----	---	---
Unknown	6,356	5.42	0.42	1.93	12,267	28,829

Table 8. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Gray partridge (n = 45)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,589	31.11	0.03	0.29	461	14,186
Northeast Moraine	1,021	20.00	0.15	1.44	1,471	9,873
Mississippi Border-North	113	2.22	----	----	---	227
Mississippi Border-South	---	----	----	----	---	---
Western Prairie/Forest	454	8.89	1.45	4.00	1,816	1,248
Central Sand Prairie	227	4.44	0.20	0.50	113	567
Grand Prairie	1,475	28.29	0.05	0.46	679	14,300
Southern Plain	---	---	----	----	---	---
Wabash Border	---	---	----	----	---	---
Shawnee Hills	---	---	----	----	---	---
Unknown	227	4.44	----	----	---	908

Table 9. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Dove (n = 585)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	2,610	3.93	1.11	6.04	15,767	14,187
Northeast Moraine	5,221	7.86	2.20	14.07	73,459	33,369
Mississippi Border-North	4,540	6.84	3.77	10.17	46,171	12,258
Mississippi Border-South	8,512	12.82	0.27	14.76	12,564	46,648
Western Prairie/Forest	4,086	6.15	2.53	14.78	60,391	23,835
Central Sand Prairie	3,632	5.47	2.15	13.19	47,906	22,246
Grand Prairie	18,727	28.20	2.32	10.92	204,499	88,189
Southern Plain	12,485	18.80	2.86	13.72	171,293	59,814
Wabash Border	2,951	4.44	2.57	12.08	35,648	13,847
Shawnee Hills	1,702	2.56	2.51	12.20	20,764	8,285
Unknown	1,929	2.90	2.45	10.82	20,877	8,512

Table 10. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Common snipe (n = 27)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	681	22.22	0.47	1.50	1,021	2,156
Northeast Moraine	227	7.40	1.67	7.50	1,702	1,021
Mississippi Border-North	---	----	----	----	---	---
Mississippi Border-South	454	14.18	2.40	3.00	1,362	567
Western Prairie/ Forest	227	7.40	1.00	1.00	227	227
Central Sand Prairie	113	3.70	0.50	2.00	227	454
Grand Prairie	1,021	0.33	0.62	1.44	1,471	2,383
Southern Plain	304	0.11	0.27	4.33	1,474	5,447
Wabash Border	---	----	----	----	---	---
Shawnee Hills	---	----	----	----	---	---
Unknown	---	----	----	----	---	---

Table 11. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Woodcock (n = 108)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	568	4.63	0.18	0.60	340	1,929
Northeast Moraine	681	5.56	0.61	1.33	906	1,475
Mississippi Border-North	113	0.92	4.97	10.00	1,128	227
Mississippi Border-South	1,248	10.18	0.27	1.45	1,810	6,583
Western Prairie/Forest	568	4.63	0.44	1.60	908	2,043
Central Sand Prairie	113	0.92	----	----	---	227
Grand Prairie	5,108	42.59	0.58	2.04	10,419	17,819
Southern Plain	2,497	20.37	0.98	6.27	15,656	16,003
Wabash Border	908	7.41	0.48	2.00	1,816	3,745
Shawnee Hills	227	1.85	0.40	1.00	227	567
Unknown	113	0.92	----	----	---	113



Table 12. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Duck (n = 553)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	4,767	7.59	0.85	8.00	38,135	44,604
Northeast Moraine	6,583	10.49	0.74	6.36	41,867	56,181
Mississippi Border-North	6,129	9.76	1.39	16.09	98,613	70,936
Mississippi Border-South	9,080	14.47	1.23	13.20	119,856	97,721
Western Prairie/Forest	3,064	4.88	1.02	9.22	28,254	27,807
Central Sand Prairie	3,518	5.60	1.15	15.03	52,882	46,080
Grand Prairie	16,230	25.86	1.01	9.40	152,563	151,519
Southern Plain	8,399	13.38	0.87	8.11	68,114	78,427
Wabash Border	567	0.90	1.67	17.00	9,647	5,788
Shawnee Hills	1,816	2.89	0.56	2.25	4,086	7,264
Unknown	2,610	4.16	0.92	7.43	19,396	20,997

Table 13. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Geese (n = 347)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,702	4.32	0.14	1.27	2,162	15,436
Northeast Moraine	2,156	5.47	0.06	0.74	1,596	24,970
Mississippi Border-North	2,043	5.19	0.06	1.00	2,043	33,142
Mississippi Border-South	2,724	6.92	0.17	1.13	3,078	17,592
Western Prairie/Forest	1,248	3.17	0.07	0.73	911	12,939
Central Sand Prairie	908	2.30	0.15	1.25	1,135	7,718
Grand Prairie	6,015	15.27	0.13	0.94	5,654	43,697
Southern Plain	12,258	31.12	0.42	2.57	31,503	75,476
Wabash Border	340	0.86	0.15	1.33	453	3,064
Shawnee Hills	8,172	20.75	0.49	1.88	15,363	32,120
Unknown	1,816	4.61	0.20	1.00	1,816	8,853

Table 14. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Raccoon (n = 464)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	6,696	13.72	0.72	6.75	45,201	62,538
Northeast Moraine	908	1.72	0.61	4.63	4,204	6,924
Mississippi Border-North	4,654	8.84	1.12	13.00	60,496	54,253
Mississippi Border-South	6,356	12.07	0.66	8.48	53,899	81,947
Western Prairie/Forest	7,604	14.44	0.84	8.84	67,224	80,131
Central Sand Prairie	908	1.72	1.11	6.13	5,566	4,994
Grand Prairie	14,074	26.72	0.97	8.40	118,222	121,786
Southern Plain	6,696	12.72	0.90	9.97	66,764	73,775
Wabash Border	1,930	3.66	1.46	15.41	29,734	20,316
Shawnee Hills	1,248	2.37	0.64	6.36	7,940	12,372
Unknown	1,589	3.02	0.59	5.50	8,740	14,868

Table 15. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Red fox (n = 186)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	2,043	9.68	0.07	0.44	899	13,166
Northeast Moraine	568	2.69	0.44	3.20	1,816	4,086
Mississippi Border-North	908	4.30	0.12	0.50	454	3,746
Mississippi Border-South	2,270	10.75	0.16	1.35	3,064	19,408
Western Prairie/Forest	2,384	11.29	0.10	1.00	2,384	24,743
Central Sand Prairie	340	1.61	0.12	0.67	228	2,497
Grand Prairie	7,718	36.56	0.18	1.00	7,718	42,109
Southern Plain	2,497	11.83	0.15	0.95	2,372	16,117
Wabash Border	568	2.69	0.30	0.60	340	1,135
Shawnee Hills	454	2.15	0.02	0.25	114	5,334
Unknown	1,362	6.45	0.11	0.42	572	5,334

Table 16. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Gray fox (n = 115)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,021	7.83	0.06	0.56	572	9,307
Northeast Moraine	113	0.87	----	----	---	227
Mississippi Border-North	340	2.61	0.07	0.33	112	1,589
Mississippi Border-South	1,248	9.56	0.07	0.82	1,024	13,846
Western Prairie/Forest	1,135	8.70	0.03	0.40	454	14,641
Central Sand Prairie	340	2.61	0.04	0.33	112	2,497
Grand Prairie	3,518	26.96	0.10	0.65	2,287	23,607
Southern Plain	3,518	26.96	0.15	1.00	3,518	22,926
Wabash Border	794	6.09	0.33	1.00	794	2,383
Shawnee Hills	227	1.74	0.02	0.50	113	4,653
Unknown	794	6.09	0.02	0.14	111	4,540

Table 17. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Coyote (n = 202)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	1,248	5.44	0.02	0.09	112	4,994
Northeast Moraine	---	----	----	----	---	---
Mississippi Border-North	2,610	11.39	0.13	0.70	1,827	14,187
Mississippi Border-South	2,838	12.38	0.14	1.08	3,064	21,678
Western Prairie/Forest	3,972	17.33	0.17	1.63	6,475	37,795
Central Sand Prairie	568	2.47	0.12	0.60	340	2,837
Grand Prairie	4,086	17.82	0.06	0.36	1,471	23,835
Southern Plain	3,972	17.33	0.18	1.26	5,005	27,921
Wabash Border	794	3.46	0.06	0.43	342	6,129
Shawnee Hills	1,589	6.93	0.09	0.36	572	6,242
Unknown						

Table 18. Summary of hunting effort and success in wildlife management units in Illinois 1979-80 for the species listed below. The sample size is in parenthesis.

Canid chasing (n = 17)

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated number of hunters	Percent of hunting pressure	Average daily bag	Average season bag	Estimated total harvest	Estimated total days afield
Northwest Hills	---	---				---
Northeast Moraine	---	---				---
Mississippi Border-North	113	5.88				1,135
Mississippi Border-South	340	17.65				6,354
Western Prairie/Forest	227	11.76				14,751
Central Sand Prairie	---	---				---
Grand Prairie	113	5.88				1,702
Southern Plain	1,021	52.94				17,361
Wabash Border	113	5.88				5,674
Shawnee Hills	---	---				---
Unknown	---	---				---

Table 19. Percentage changes in harvests among various wildlife management units from 1978-79 to 1979-80.

Wildlife Management Units	Rabbits	Fox Squirrels	Gray Squirrels	Quail	Pheasant	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northwest Hills	-22	+12	-10	-39	-62	-76	-15	-80	+40	-88
Northeast Moraine	-48	-54	+ 4	+50	-45	-32	-17	-29	---	---
Mississippi Border-North	-71	-46	-62	-84	-76	-53	-12	-75	+10	-76
Mississippi Border-South	-48	-45	-31	-27	+67	-95	+10	+201	-44	+50
Western Prairie/Forest	-66	-48	-30	-72	-53	-37	- 1	- 2	+49	- 4
Central Sand Prairie	-67	-82	-86	-92	-35	-26	+24	-90	-45	-89
Grand Prairie	-46	-45	-45	-69	-42	-17	+19	-34	+32	-61
Southern Plain	-46	-40	-47	-10	+12	-36	+35	- 3	+44	-10
Wabash Border	-51	-39	-28	-39	+791	-66	+17	-70	+56	-48
Shawnee Hills	-70	-33	-44	-28	---	-71	-56	-63	+11	-92
State	-50	-44	-37	-41	-44	-41	+ 5	-35	+17	-45



Table 20. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters for years 1975-80. (n = 2,978)

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED TOTAL HUNTERS	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL DAYS AFIELD
		DAILY BAG	SEASON BAG		DAYS AFIELD	DAYS AFIELD	
<b>Rabbit</b>							
1975-76	266,385	1.12	6.85	1,824,738	6.13	1,632,940	
1976-77	304,884	1.06	7.11	2,167,725	6.73	2,051,869	
1977-78	281,254	0.98	6.83	1,920,964	6.99	1,966,402	
1978-79	228,891	0.90	5.53	1,266,483	6.11	1,399,197	
1979-80	177,285	0.63	3.54	627,589	5.60	992,660	
<b>Fox Squirrel</b>							
1975-76	173,173	1.28	8.13	1,407,896	6.35	1,100,037	
1976-77	177,312	1.18	9.22	1,634,817	7.78	1,379,487	
1977-78	176,712	1.19	8.77	1,549,764	7.38	1,303,956	
1978-79	160,905	1.28	9.38	1,508,698	7.30	1,174,780	
1979-80	126,892	1.02	6.68	847,638	6.55	831,154	
<b>Gray Squirrel</b>							
1975-76	137,533	0.77	4.96	682,165	6.46	888,824	
1976-77	93,355	0.95	8.00	746,840	8.40	784,182	
1977-78	117,164	0.92	6.97	816,637	7.60	890,535	
1978-79	102,690	0.95	7.69	789,722	8.11	833,733	
1979-80	81,832	0.83	6.08	497,538	7.30	597,453	
<b>Bobwhite</b>							
1975-76	139,018	1.63	10.39	1,444,400	6.36	884,154	
1976-77	159,570	1.43	9.28	1,480,810	6.51	1,038,801	
1977-78	136,023	1.22	7.98	1,087,115	6.52	887,565	
1978-79	107,474	1.08	6.24	671,099	5.79	622,454	
1979-80	84,670	0.85	4.64	392,869	5.45	461,826	
<b>Pheasant</b>							
1975-76	212,126	0.58	3.14	666,075	5.39	1,143,359	
1976-77	198,664	0.53	3.23	641,685	6.11	1,213,837	
1977-78	179,385	0.38	2.54	455,637	6.63	1,189,771	
1978-79	146,250	0.44	2.63	384,506	6.03	882,996	
1979-80	117,131	0.33	1.85	216,692	5.51	645,923	

Table 20. (continued) Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters for years 1975-80. (n = 2,978)

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED TOTAL HUNTERS	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE		ESTIMATED TOTAL DAYS AFIELD
		DAILY BAG	SEASON BAG		DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL DAYS AFIELD	
<b>Gray partridge</b>							
1975-76	5,826	0.11	0.76	4,428	6.61	38,510	
1976-77	4,963	0.12	1.00	4,963	8.38	41,590	
1977-78	6,088	0.09	1.07	6,514	11.83	72,016	
1978-79	7,938	0.15	1.68	9,262	7.95	63,097	
1979-80	5,107	0.12	0.89	4,546	7.51	38,359	
<b>Dove</b>							
1975-76	111,032		17.20	1,909,748	5.32	591,143	
1976-77	108,668	3.08	20.19	2,194,007	6.55	711,775	
1977-78	98,750	2.98	16.91	1,669,862	5.68	560,425	
1978-79	89,154	3.03	15.55	1,386,575	5.12	456,863	
1979-80	66,397	2.48	12.38	821,994	4.99	331,190	
<b>Woodcock</b>							
1975-76	13,822	0.62	2.96	40,913	4.79	66,207	
1976-77	10,983	0.52	2.76	30,313	5.42	59,528	
1977-78	10,989	0.33	2.20	24,175	6.66	73,210	
1978-79	16,691	0.42	2.06	34,400	4.96	82,844	
1979-80	12,258	0.66	2.73	33,464	4.14	50,734	
<b>Common Snipe</b>							
1979-80	3,064	0.61	2.44	7,478	4.00	12,256	
<b>Ducks</b>							
1975-76	67,624	1.15	10.36	700,585	9.03	610,645	
1976-77	72,340	1.20	10.72	775,485	8.93	645,996	
1977-78	75,734	0.99	9.17	694,480	9.27	702,098	
1978-79	73,176	1.15	11.70	855,821	10.19	745,601	
1979-80	62,764	1.04	10.09	633,298	9.68	607,324	
<b>Geese</b>							
1975-76	31,984	0.38	2.30	73,563	6.06	193,823	
1976-77	35,483	0.39	2.52	89,417	6.42	227,801	
1977-78	43,658	0.36	2.37	103,470	6.61	288,529	
1978-79	42,032	0.33	2.51	105,339	7.64	321,295	
1979-80	39,384	0.24	1.67	65,772	6.98	275,007	

Table 20. (continued) Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters for years 1975-80. (n = 2,978)

SPECIES AND SEASONS	ESTIMATED TOTAL HUNTERS	AVERAGE		AVERAGE		ESTIMATED		AVERAGE		ESTIMATED	
		DAILY BAG	SEASON BAG	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL HARVEST	DAYS AFIELD	TOTAL DAYS AFIELD	
<b>Raccoon</b>											
1975-76	35,868	1.06	9.78	350,789	9.20	350,789	9.20	329,986			
1976-77	48,473	0.80	8.33	403,780	10.48	403,780	10.48	507,997			
1977-78	46,182	0.82	7.72	356,530	9.39	356,530	9.39	433,606			
1978-79	52,414	0.80	8.47	444,040	10.64	444,040	10.64	194,694			
1979-80	52,664	0.88	8.88	467,652	10.14	467,652	10.14	533,904			
<b>Red Fox (Gun)</b>											
1976-77	20,909	0.15	0.99	20,700	6.71	20,700	6.71	140,299			
1977-78	26,284	0.13	1.10	28,912	8.30	28,912	8.30	218,142			
1978-79	27,072	0.16	1.14	30,939	7.19	30,939	7.19	194,694			
1979-80	21,111	0.14	0.95	20,005	6.52	20,005	6.52	137,676			
<b>Gray Fox (Gun)</b>											
1976-77	8,870	0.13	0.94	8,338	7.00	8,338	7.00	62,090			
1977-78	10,691	0.07	0.50	5,346	6.55	5,346	6.55	149,830			
1978-79	11,500	0.08	0.68	7,836	7.94	7,836	7.94	91,288			
1979-80	13,052	0.09	0.70	9,137	7.68	9,137	7.68	100,217			
<b>Coyote</b>											
1976-77	16,791	0.19	1.59	26,698	8.45	26,698	8.45	141,884			
1977-78	22,868	0.16	1.08	24,698	6.55	24,698	6.55	149,830			
1978-79	25,851	0.18	1.45	37,452	7.84	37,452	7.84	202,635			
1979-80	22,927	0.13	0.90	20,634	6.69	20,634	6.69	153,338			
<b>Canid Chaser</b>											
1976-77	7,181				15.53		15.53	111,521			
1977-78	4,603				15.13		15.13	69,639			
1978-79	3,664				18.94		18.94	69,412			
1979-80	1,929				24.35		24.35	46,977			

Table 21. Distribution of hunting effort and success among resident Illinois hunters in 1979-80.

	Range	Percent Hunts	Percent Harvests
<b>Rabbit</b>			
Hunters = 1,562	0	--	35.4
Hunts = 8,746	1-5	67.7	45.5
Harvests = 5,531	6-10	20.2	11.1
	11-14	3.6	2.3
	15-19	3.1	2.1
	20-24	3.0	1.2
	≥ 25	2.4	2.4
<b>Fox Squirrel</b>			
Hunters = 1,118	0	--	16.1
Hunts = 7,323	1-5	63.5	48.7
Harvests = 7,673	6-10	19.8	16.4
	11-14	3.9	3.3
	15-19	4.8	5.0
	20-24	3.4	3.0
	≥ 25	4.6	7.5
<b>Gray Squirrel</b>			
Hunters = 721	0	--	22.2
Hunts = 5,264	1-5	60.2	47.0
Harvests = 4,384	6-10	20.5	15.9
	11-14	4.4	3.2
	15-19	5.7	3.9
	20-24	4.7	3.3
	≥ 25	4.5	4.5
<b>Quail</b>			
Hunters = 746	0	--	44.2
Hunts = 4,069	1-5	70.9	37.0
Harvests = 3,465	6-10	16.6	8.3
	11-14	3.6	1.3
	15-19	4.3	2.3
	20-24	1.7	2.1
	≥ 25	2.9	4.8
<b>Pheasant</b>			
Hunters = 5,691	0	--	43.6
Hunts = 1,032	1-5	68.5	47.3
Harvests = 1,913	6-10	19.0	6.2
	11-14	3.1	1.4
	15-19	3.8	0.7
	20-24	3.1	0.1
	≥ 25	2.5	0.7

Table 21. Distribution of hunting effort and success among resident Illinois hunters in 1979-80.

	Range	Percent Hunts	Percent Harvests
<b>Gray Partridge</b>			
Hunters = 45	0	--	64.4
Hunts = 338	1-5	55.6	33.3
Harvests = 40	6-10	22.2	2.3
	11-14	2.2	0
	15-19	8.9	0
	20-24	6.7	0
	≥ 25	4.4	0
<b>Dove</b>			
Hunters = 585	0	--	12.6
Hunts = 2,918	1-5	72.5	29.6
Harvests = 7,245	6-10	18.3	17.7
	11-14	3.0	8.3
	15-19	2.2	8.0
	20-24	2.2	9.9
	≥ 25	1.8	13.9
<b>Woodcock</b>			
Hunters = 108	0	--	19.4
Hunts = 447	1-5	81.5	71.0
Harvests = 295	6-10	10.2	7.4
	11-14	2.7	0.9
	15-19	1.8	0.0
	20-24	0.0	0.0
	≥ 25	3.8	0.9
<b>Common Snipe</b>			
Hunters = 27	0	--	29.6
Hunts = 108	1-5	81.4	59.2
Harvests = 66	6-10	14.8	7.4
	11-14	0.0	0.0
	15-19	0.0	3.7
	20-24	0.0	0.0
	≥ 25	3.7	0.0
<b>Duck</b>			
Hunters = 553	0	--	19.3
Hunts = 5,351	1-5	44.2	34.6
Harvests = 5,581	6-10	27.1	17.3
	11-14	4.7	6.9
	15-19	6.3	6.0
	20-24	9.2	5.1
	≥ 25	8.5	10.8

Table 21. Distribution of hunting effort and success among resident Illinois hunters in 1979-80.

	Range	Percent Hunts	Percent Harvests
<b>Geese</b>			
Hunters = 347	0	--	44.4
Hunts = 2,423	1-5	65.4	50.1
Harvests = 579	6-10	16.1	3.5
	11-14	4.6	0.6
	15-19	4.9	0.6
	20-24	3.2	0.6
	≥ 25	5.8	0.3
<b>Raccoon</b>			
Hunters = 464	0	--	14.9
Hunts = 4,704	1-5	50.0	45.3
Harvests = 4,122	6-10	14.5	13.7
	11-14	5.0	5.1
	15-19	9.3	6.2
	20-24	10.6	4.1
	≥ 25	15.6	10.7
<b>Red Fox</b>			
Hunters = 186	0	--	54.3
Hunts = 1,213	1-5	70.4	43.5
Harvests = 176	6-10	17.7	1.0
	11-14	0.0	0.5
	15-19	3.2	0.0
	20-24	2.2	0.0
	≥ 25	6.5	0.5
<b>Gray Fox</b>			
Hunters = 115	0	--	57.4
Hunts = 883	1-5	61.7	42.5
Harvests = 80	6-10	23.5	0.0
	11-14	0.9	0.0
	15-19	2.6	0.0
	20-24	4.3	0.0
	≥ 25	7.0	0.0
<b>Coyote</b>			
Hunters = 202	0	--	57.4
Hunts = 1,351	1-5	64.9	40.1
Harvests = 182	6-10	20.8	1.5
	11-14	2.5	0.0
	15-19	4.0	1.0
	20-24	3.0	0.0
	≥ 25	4.8	0.0

Table 21. Distribution of hunting effort and success among resident Illinois hunters in 1979-80.

	Range	Percent Hunts	Percent Harvests
Canid Chasing			
Hunters = 17	0	--	
Hunts = 414	1-5	23.6	
	6-10	29.4	
	11-14	0.0	
	15-19	5.9	
	20-24	0.0	
	<u>≥</u> 25	41.1	

Table 22. Estimated number of resident hunters, average season bag and total harvest by species in Illinois, 1979-80. (n = 2,978)

Species	Estimated Number of Hunters	Estimated Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest
Rabbit	177,285 ± 6,186 <sup>a</sup>	3.54 ± 0.36 <sup>a</sup>	627,578 ± 69,371 <sup>a</sup>
Fox Squirrel	126,892 ± 5,998	6.68 ± 0.59	847,638 ± 45,710
Gray Squirrel	81,832 ± 5,306	6.08 ± 0.79	497,538 ± 35,590
Bobwhite Quail	84,670 ± 5,368	4.64 ± 0.83	392,869 ± 24,931
Pheasant	117,131 ± 5,895	1.85 ± 0.20	216,692 ± 17,690
Gray Partridge	5,107 ± 1,511	0.89 ± 0.43	4,546 ± 1,750
Dove	66,397 ± 4,922	12.38 ± 1.32	821,994 ± 108,279
Woodcock	12,258 ± 2,316	2.73 ± 1.47	33,464 ± 19,507
Snipe	3,064 ± 1,174	2.44 ± 1.28	7,478 ± 4,916
Ducks	62,764 ± 4,817	10.09 ± 1.40	633,298 ± 102,047
Geese	39,384 ± 3,974	1.67 ± 0.34	65,772 ± 18,697
Raccoon	52,664 ± 4,493	8.88 ± 1.23	467,652 ± 77,428
Red Fox (Gun)	21,111 ± 2,998	0.95 ± 0.33	20,055 ± 7,721
Gray Fox (Gun)	13,052 ± 2,387	0.70 ± 0.09	9,137 ± 2,956
Coyote (Gun)	22,927 ± 3,115	0.90 ± 0.15	20,634 ± 7,350
Canid Chasers	1,929 ± 933	---	---

<sup>a</sup> 95% confidence interval





