***Human*Dimensions**
Research Program

2014-2015
Illinois Hunter Harvest Report

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-24
Job Number 101.1
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015

Wayne Rosenthal, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Paul Vehlow
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mark G. Alessi
Acting Chief, Division of
Wildlife Resources

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, James M. Crain,
Linda K. Campbell, Laura A. Schweizer,
and Craig A. Miller

INHS Technical Report 2015 (49)
November 03, 2015

Key words: Harvest, Upland game permits, EHD, Hunting experiences, Regulations

Suggested Citation:
Williams, B.D., J.M. Crain, L.K. Campbell, L.A. Schweizer, and C.A. Miller. 2015. 2014-2015 Illinois Hunter Harvest Report. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-24. Human Dimensions Research Program Report HR-15-01/INHS Technical Report (49). Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL. 85pp.

SECTION 1: HUNTER HARVEST

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

SECTION 2: HUNTER ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF APPENDICES

Page

2014-2015
ILLINOIS HUNTER HARVEST REPORT

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-24
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.1

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, James M. Crain,
Linda K. Campbell, Laura A. Schweizer,
and Craig A. Miller

Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
November 03, 2015

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-24

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ABSTRACT

A random sample of 3,000 hunters was selected from 2014 Illinois resident Habitat Stamp and hunting license holders and mailed an 8-page self-administered questionnaire designed to query hunters about their hunting activities and harvest in Illinois. We received 1,296 questionnaires, 1,207 of which were usable, for a 43% response rate. Illinois resident license sales decreased 1.0% from 2013 (281,399) to the 2014 seasons (278,546). Total days afield decreased for 12 game species (rabbit, dove, snipe, rail, crow, turkey, deer, raccoon, coyote, opossum, red and gray fox) from 2013-14, but increased for 4 species (woodcock, groundhog, and red and gray squirrel). Harvest decreased for 9 game species (dove, woodcock, snipe, crow, raccoon, red and gray fox, coyote, and opossum) from 2013-2014, but increased for 3 species (groundhog, gray squirrel and fox squirrel). Harvest did not change for one game species (rail) and could not be compared for four game species (rabbit, wild quail, wild pheasant, and wild gray partridge). Hunters were also asked about small game hunting, applying for Free Upland Game Permits, and the effects of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) on deer hunting, as well as their opinions about hunting experiences and regulations in Illinois.

OBJECTIVE

To survey resident hunters (18-24 game animal categories) annually to determine their activities and harvest in Illinois.

METHODS

A random sample of 3,000 hunters was selected from the Illinois resident hunting license database to receive questionnaires that aimed to query hunters about their harvest(s) in Illinois during the 2014-15 hunting seasons. All Illinois resident license types were included in the sample frame except for Youth (8,721), Super Senior (1,288), and Super Senior Sportsman licenses (430), a total of 10,439 licenses, which were new license purchase options during 2014. Methods for survey questionnaire mailings and follow-up reminders followed those of Miller et al. (1999). We mailed recipients a self-administered, 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A),

cover letter (Appendix B), and postage-paid return envelope on 30 April 2015. This mailing was followed with a thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) on 20 May 2015. On 09 June 2015, a second questionnaire, cover letter (Appendix D), and return envelope were mailed to non-respondents, and a second thank you/reminder postcard was mailed on 02 July 2015. Data were coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS 22.0 (SPSS Inc. 2013). Estimates for species harvests, number of hunters, and days afield were computed using the formulas in Anderson and Campbell (1993). Harvest estimates of game species included only those harvested by Illinois resident hunters; non-resident harvests were not included. In an effort to discern whether some respondents had been reporting non-wild type harvest of certain species, hunters were asked to report non-wild quail, pheasant, and partridge harvest on the 2012-13 questionnaire. Format of this question in 2014-15 was reverted to the 2011-12 and previous years' format. Therefore, estimates of wild quail, pheasant, and partridge harvested during 2012-13 were calculated differently than past estimates and the 2014-15 estimate, so comparisons across years are to be made with extreme caution.

RESULTS

Section 1 – Hunter Harvest

License Sales

We sampled 3,000 Illinois resident hunters and received 1,296 questionnaires, of which 1,207 were usable, for a 43% response rate. A total of 278,546 Illinois residents purchased hunting licenses during 2014-15 hunting seasons, a 1.0% decrease from 2013-14 (281,399; Figure 1.1, Table 1.1).

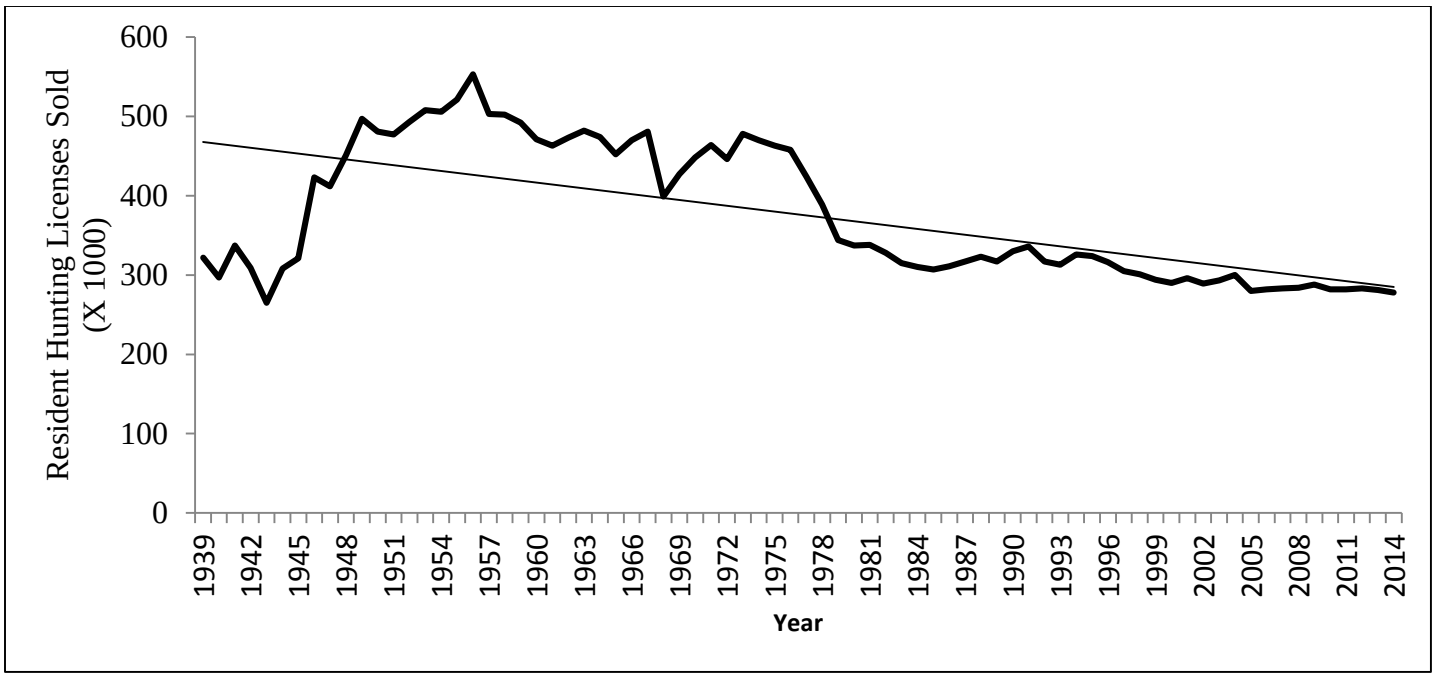


Figure 1.1. Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1939-2014.

Almost all (98.0%) respondents reported that they purchased a hunting license in 2014 (Figure 1.2) and 87.0% indicated they had hunted in Illinois during the 2014-15 hunting seasons (March 2014 – February 2015) (Figure 1.3). One quarter (25.0%) of hunting license holders reported that they purchased their hunting license online.

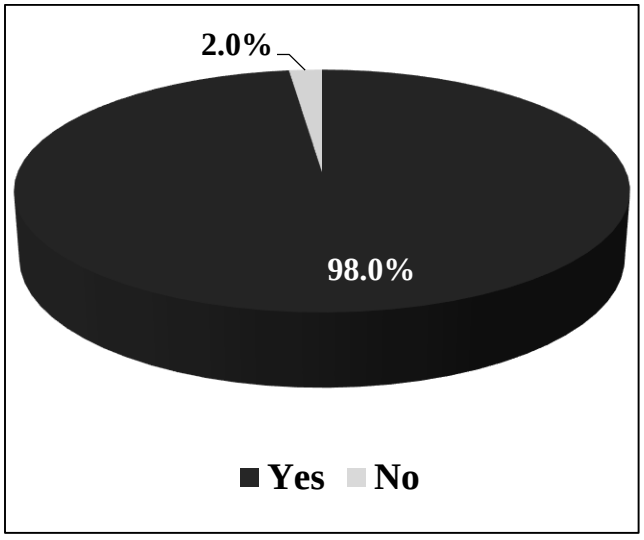


Figure 1.2. Percentage of hunters who purchased a Hunting license in 2014 (*n*-1,207).

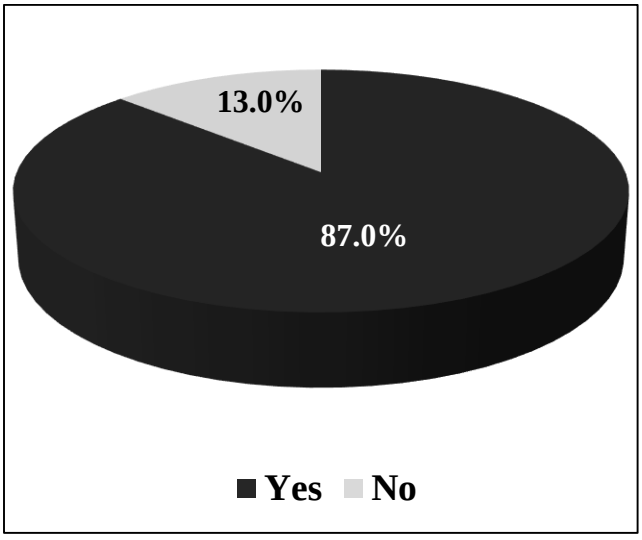


Figure 1.3. Percentage of hunters who hunted any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2014 and February 2015 (*n*=1,207).

Harvest

Harvest estimates for 2014-15 Illinois large and small game are presented in Table 2; 95.0% confidence intervals for all species are provided in Table 3. Harvest estimates for the 16 species, excluding deer, turkey, rail, and snipe, are available by wildlife management units (WMUs) and administrative regions in Tables 1.4-1.42. Rail and snipe harvest estimates were excluded because respondents did not hunt these species and also did not report any harvest. In addition, 10 Illinois hunters reported harvesting a total of 30 Eurasian Collared-Doves and 21 were unsure whether or not they harvested this species during the 2014-15 hunting season. Harvest estimates for all species from 2004 – 2014 are presented in Table 1.43 and percent change in harvest is provided in Table 1.44. Season dates and bag limits for species hunted can be located in Appendix G.

Estimates from 2014-15 suggest an increase from 2013-14 in the number of animals harvested for 3 game species: groundhog, fox, and squirrel. Decreases in harvest estimates occurred for 9 species: rabbit, dove, snipe, crow, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, coyote and opossum. Due to changes in methods used to estimate harvest of wild quail, wild pheasant, and wild gray partridge, figures were not comparable to previous estimates (except for 2011-12). Between-year changes in harvests could not be calculated for rail because hunters did not report any harvest either this year, the previous year, or both. Rabbit hunting trends from 2004-2012 were not comparable to 2014-15 estimates due to changes in length of the 2013-14 season (Figure 1.4); however, standardizing harvest for all years by the total estimated days hunted per season made comparisons possible. Rabbit hunters spent less time afield on average during 2014-15 when compared to 2013-14, but had slight increases in average harvest per hunter and harvest per hunter per day (Figure 1.5). Rabbit hunter effort and harvest reveal that hunter days afield per hunter have remained relatively consistent since 2004, whereas harvest per hunter and hunter harvest per day trends reveal a steady decline. Trends in estimated number of hunters, harvest, and days afield for dove, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, and coyote from 2004-2014 are provided in Figures 1.6-1.9.

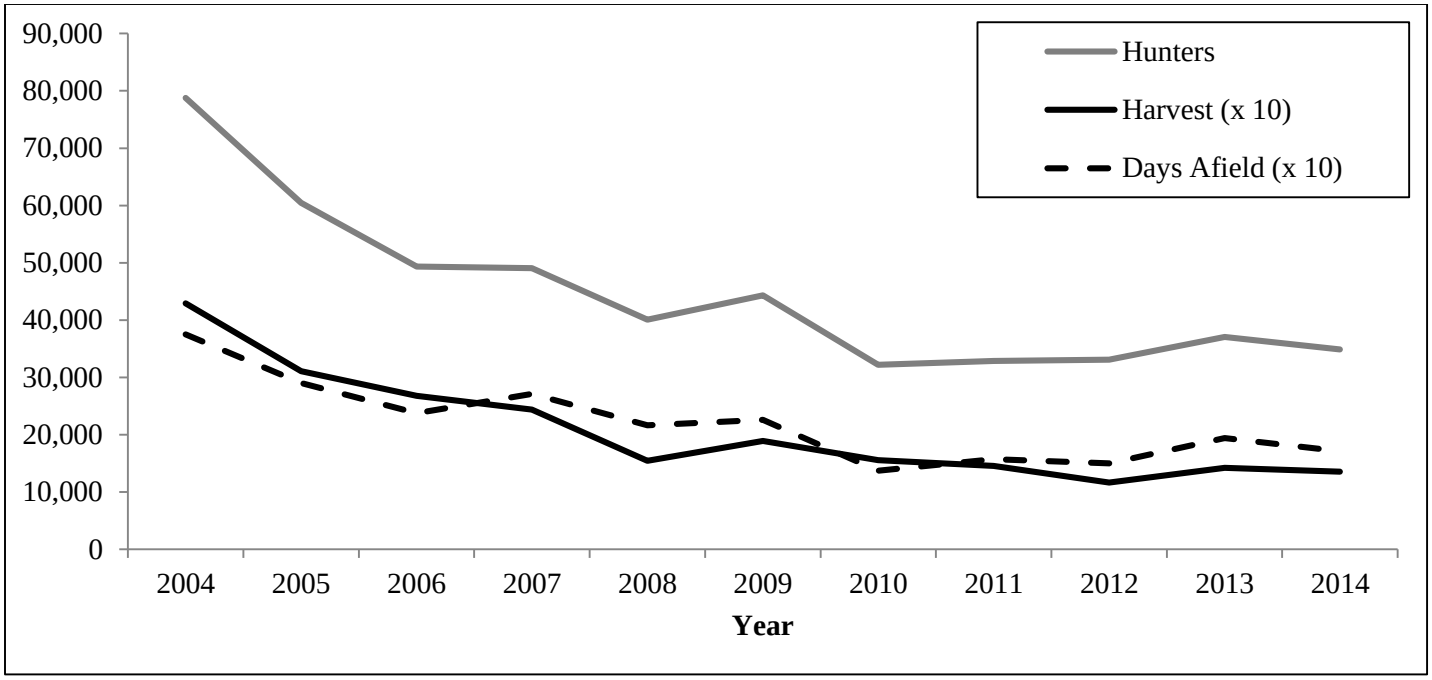


Figure 1.4. Illinois rabbit harvest and hunter activity (2004-2014).
*2013-14 Season is not directly comparable to previous years because of increased season length.

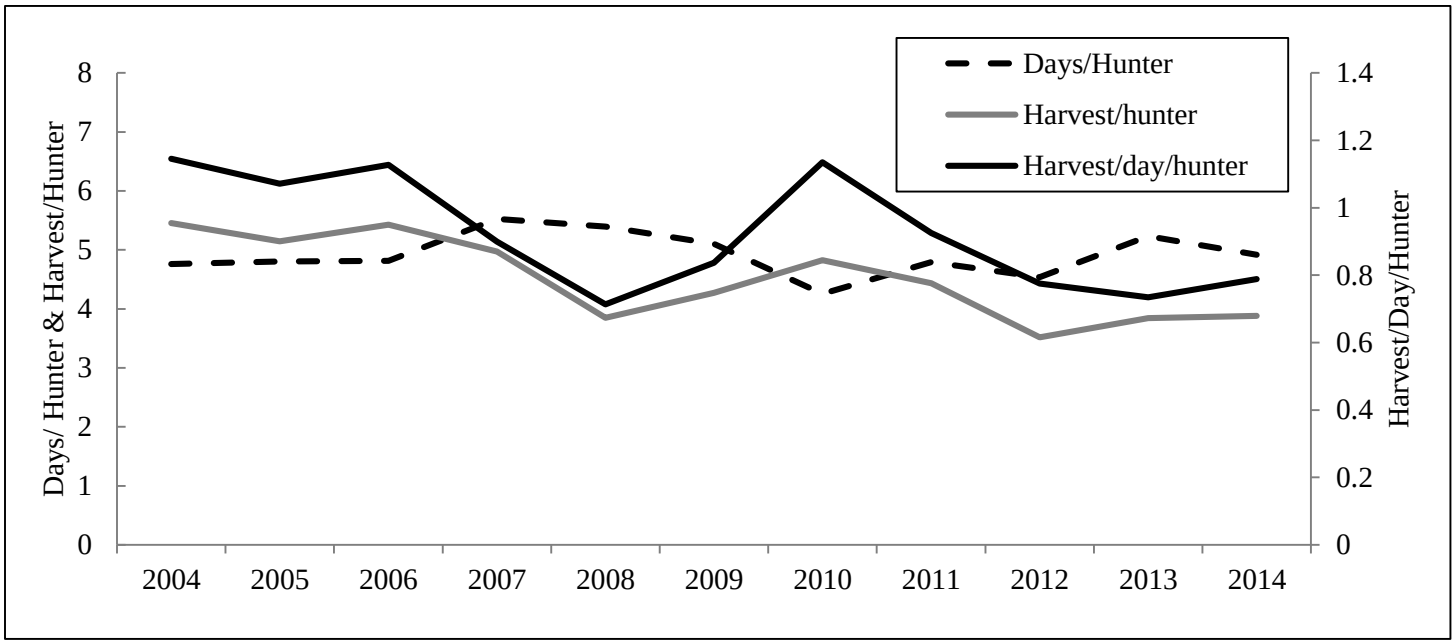


Figure 1.5. Number of days per hunter, harvest per hunter, and harvest per day per hunter from 2004-15 for rabbit hunting in Illinois.

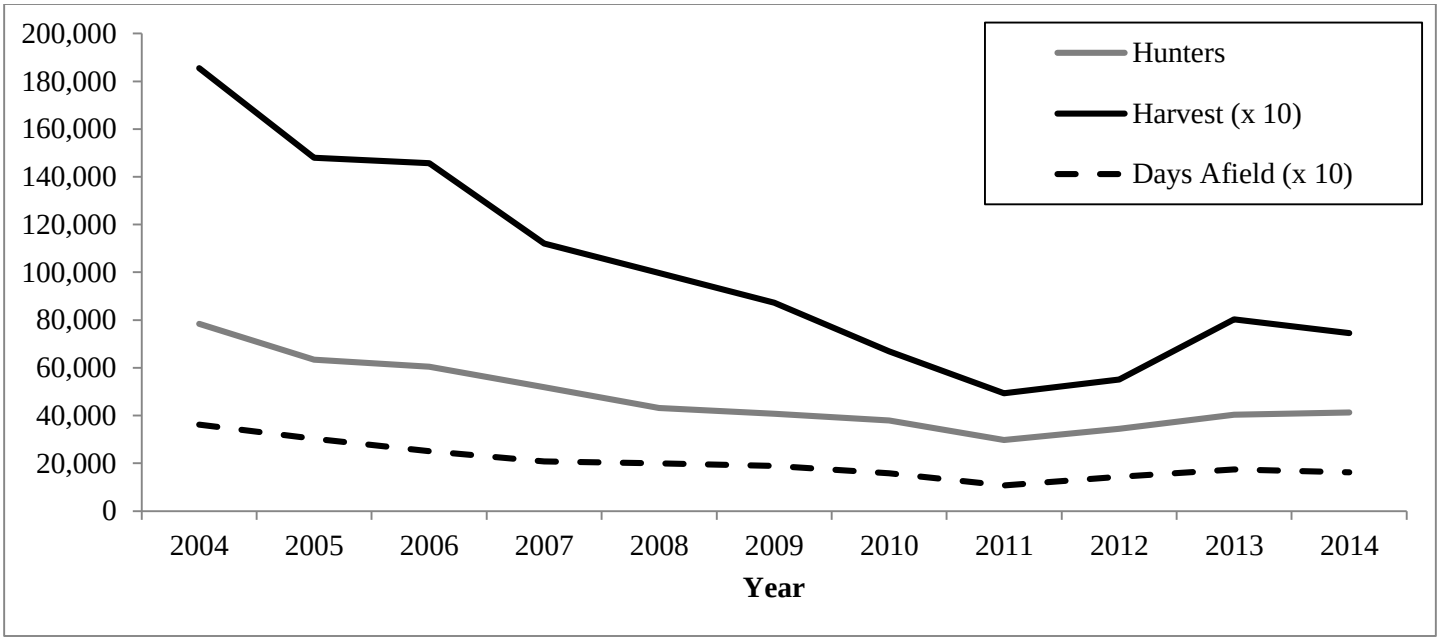


Figure 1.6. Illinois dove harvest and hunter activity (2004-2014).

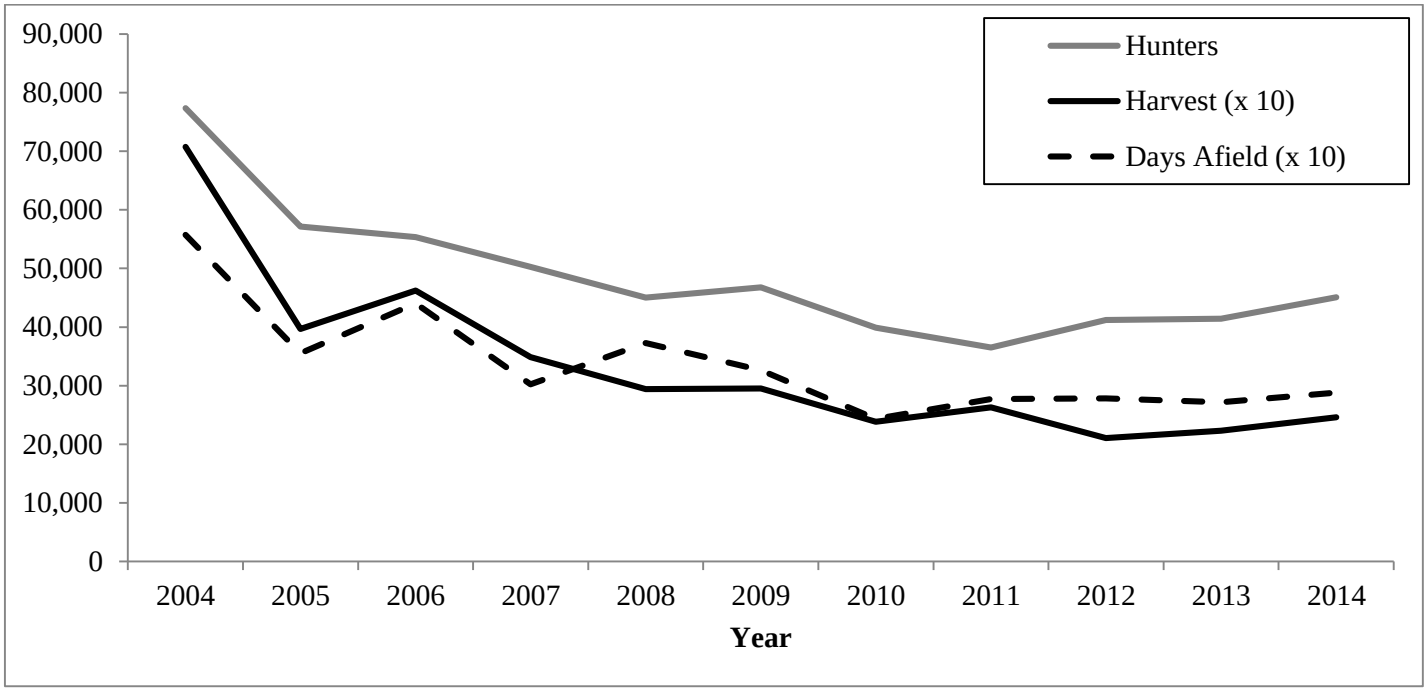


Figure 1.7. Illinois fox squirrel harvest and hunter activity (2004-2014).

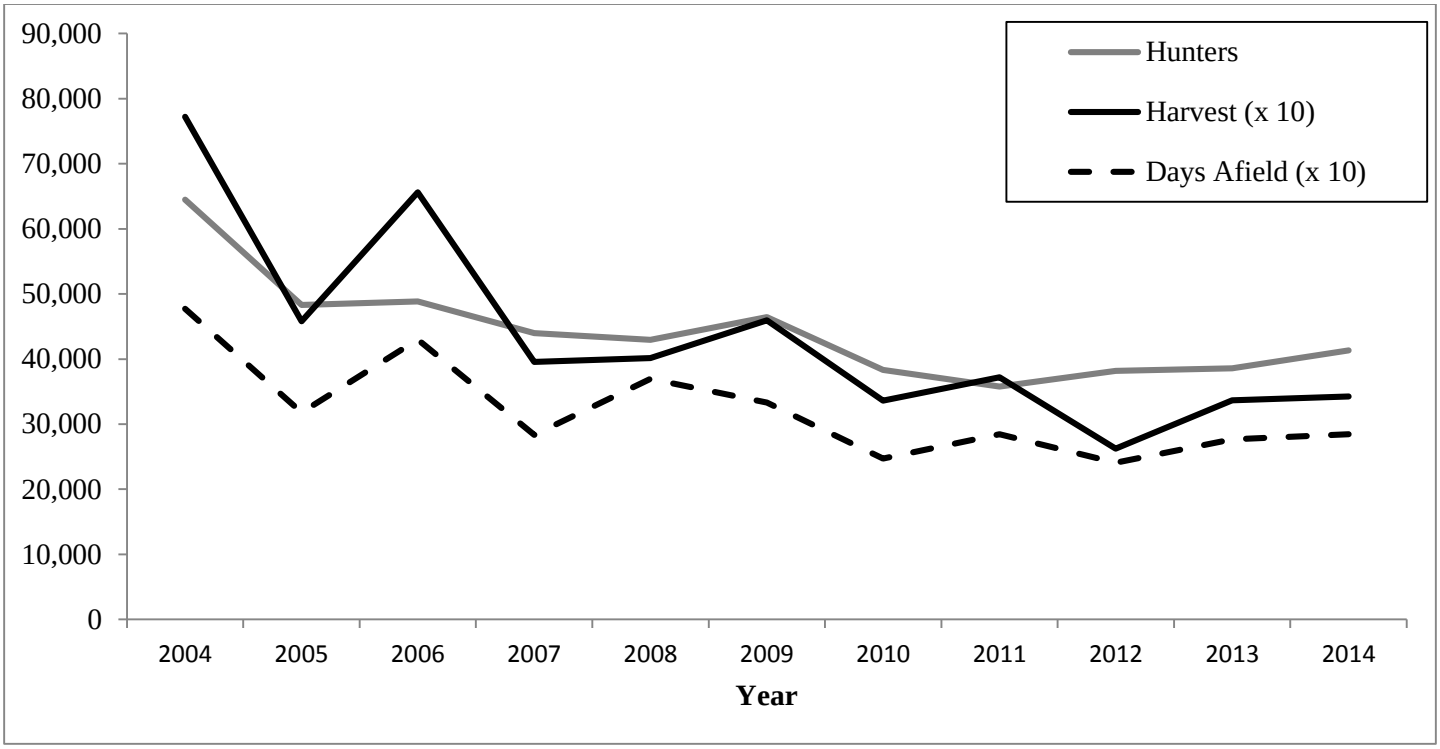


Figure 1.8. Illinois gray squirrel harvest and hunter activity (2004-2014).

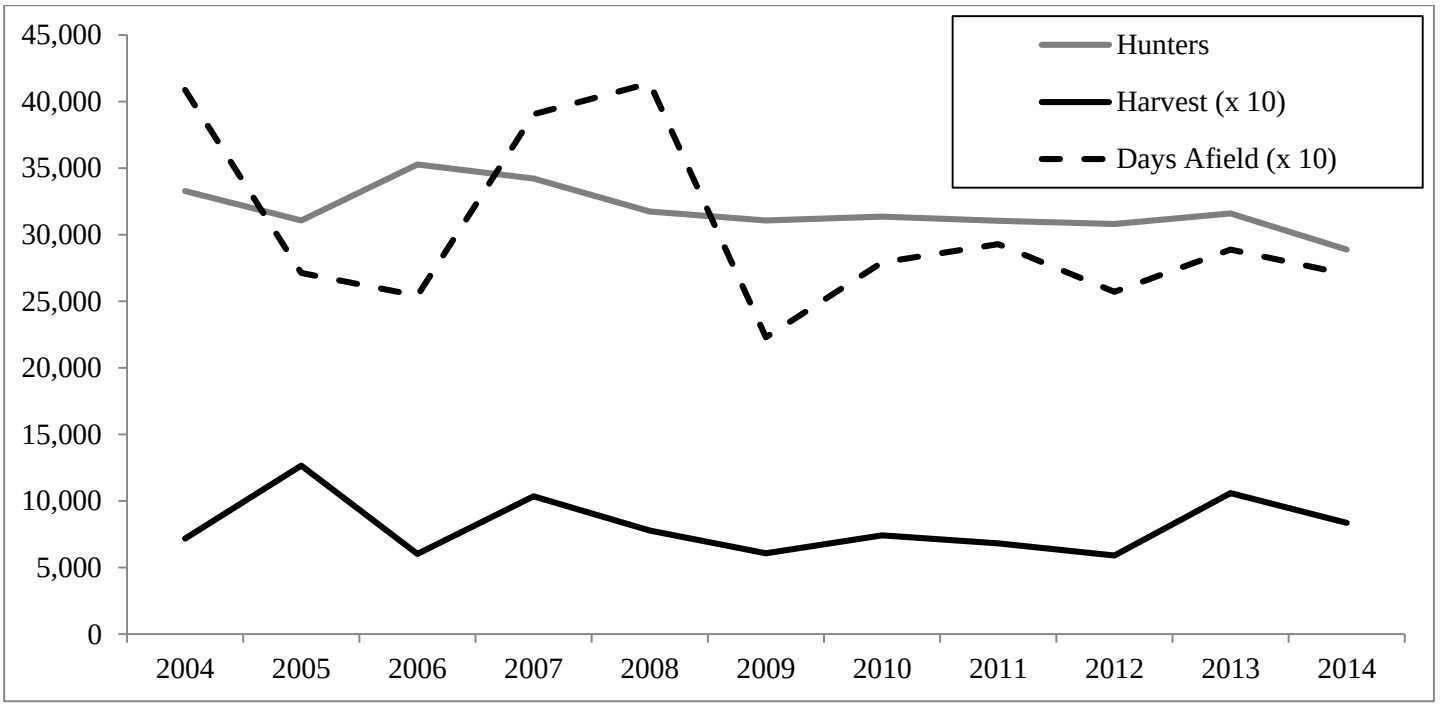


Figure 1.9. Illinois coyote harvest and hunter activity (2004-2014).

Table 1.1. Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1938-2014.

Year	Licenses (x 1,000)	Year	Licenses (x 1,000)
1938	294	1977	424
1939	322	1978	389
1940	297	1979	344[a]
1941	337	1980	337
1942	309	1981	338
1943	265	1982	328
1944	308	1983	315
1945	321	1984	310
1946	423	1985	307
1947	412	1986	311
1948	451	1987	317
1949	497	1988	323
1950	481	1989	317
1951	477	1990	330
1952	493	1991	336
1953	508	1992	317
1954	506	1993	313
1955	521	1994	326[b]
1956	553	1995	324
1957	503	1996	316
1958	502	1997	305
1959	492	1998	301
1960	471	1999	294[c]
1961	463	2000	290
1962	473	2001	296
1963	482	2002	289
1964	474	2003	293
1965	452	2004	300
1966	470	2005	280
1967	481	2006	282[d]
1968	399	2007	283
1969	427	2008	284
1970	448	2009	288
1971	464	2010	282
1972	446	2011	282
1973	478	2012	283
1974	470	2013	281
1975	463	2014	278
1976	458		

[a] Includes Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1979.
[b] Includes senior citizen (≥ 65 years) hunting licenses beginning in 1994.
[c] Includes senior citizen (≥ 65 years) Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1999.
[d] Includes apprentice hunting licenses beginning in 2006.

Table 1.2. Summary of statewide data from the 2014 Hunter Harvest Survey (*n* =1,207).

Species	Total Hunters	Percent of License Sales	Average Bag		Total Harvest	Days Hunting	
			Daily	Season		Average /Hunter	Total Hunter Days
Rabbit	34,874	13.17	0.79	3.88	135,275	4.92	171,482
Non-wild Quail	6,442	2.15	3.18	16.45	105,954	5.17	33,319
Wild Quail	11,328	3.83	0.84	4.78	54,199	5.71	64,639
Non-wild Pheasant	26,211	8.67	2.46	11.19	293,207	4.54	119,060
Wild Pheasant	15,549	5.31	0.60	2.66	41,316	4.40	68,415
Dove	41,316	15.41	4.61	18.05	745,902	3.91	161,708
Non-wild Gray Partridge	889	0.40	2.14	11.25	9,996	5.25	4,665
Wild Gray Partridge	1,111	0.07	1.44	2.60	2,888	1.80	1,999
Woodcock	444	0.17	0.33	0.50	222	1.50	666
Crow	3,998	0.87	0.87	2.17	8,663	2.50	9,996
Groundhog	4,443	1.48	0.92	8.95	39,761	9.75	43,315
Fox Squirrel	45,092	14.72	0.85	5.45	245,894	6.39	288,321
Gray Squirrel	41,316	13.71	1.20	8.28	342,297	6.88	284,322
Turkey-Spring	42,204	17.54	0.10	0.43	17,992	4.39	185,254
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	3,776	2.35	0.07	0.24	889	3.41	12,883
Turkey-Fall Archery	13,550	6.52	0.00	0.07	889	17.64	239,008
Deer-Regular Firearm	158,821	58.20	0.12	0.53	83,520	4.26	675,932
Deer-Muzzleloader	28,432	10.35	0.08	0.23	6,442	2.83	80,410
Deer-Archery	95,737	37.10	0.03	0.50	47,757	17.88	1,712,153
Deer-Late Winter Firearm Season	23,323	13.78	0.09	0.23	5,331	2.58	60,196
Deer- Special CWD Season	7,108	2.65	0.20	0.53	3,776	2.63	18,659
Raccoon	7,552	3.23	1.17	11.24	84,852	9.62	72,635
Red Fox	1,555	0.47	0.20	0.86	1,333	4.29	6,664
Gray Fox	889	0.40	0.04	0.25	222	6.50	5,775
Coyote	28,876	11.22	0.31	2.89	83,520	9.36	270,328
Opossum	1,999	0.60	0.71	5.67	11,328	8.00	15,993

Table 1.3. Estimated number (± 95% confidence interval) of Resident Licensed Hunters and Harvest in Illinois, 2014-15 seasons (*n* =1,207).

Species	*n*	Total Estimated Hunters	Estimated Average Season Bag	Total Estimated Harvest
Rabbit	157	34,874± 4,501	3.88 ± 1.14	135,275 ± 41,903
Non-Wild Quail	29	6,442 ± 2,031	16.45 ± 8.86	105,954 ± 64,079
Wild Quail	51	11,328 ± 2,672	4.78 ± 2.91	54,199 ± 33,830
Non-Wild Pheasant	118	26,211 ± 3,962	11.19 ± 4.84	293,207 ± 128,386
Wild Pheasant	70	15,549 ± 3,108	2.66 ± 1.43	41,316 ± 22,695
Non-Wild Gray Partridge	4	889 ± 761	11.25 ± 18.92	9,996 ± 16,582
Wild Gray Partridge	5	1,111 ± 851	2.60 ± 4.62	2,888 ± 4,960
Dove	186	41,316 ± 5,572	18.05 ± 3.23	745,902 ± 168,949
Woodcock	2	444 ± 628	0.50 ± 0.98	222 ± 4,908
Crow	18	3,998 ± 1,607	2.17 ± 1.49	8,663 ± 6,633
Groundhog	20	4,443 ± 1,692	8.95 ± 10.59	39,761 ± 46,313
Gray Squirrel	186	41,316 ± 4,842	8.28 ± 1.69	342,297 ± 78,555
Fox Squirrel	203	45,092 ± 5,023	5.45 ± 1.00	245,894 ± 51,395
Raccoon	34	7,552 ± 2,195	11.24 ± 4.72	84,852 ± 42,537
Red Fox	7	1,555 ± 1,006	0.86 ± 0.28	1,333 ± 1,001
Gray Fox	4	889 ± 761	0.25 ± 0.49	222 ± 415
Coyote	130	28,876 ± 4,140	2.89 ± 1.13	83,520 ± 33,363
Opossum	9	1,999 ± 1,140	5.67 ± 3.20	11,328 ± 9,006

Table 1.4. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Rabbit (n = 157)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	889	2.55	0.11	0.25	222	1,999
Northeast Moraine	444	1.27	0.06	0.50	222	3,776
Mississippi Border-North	1,777	5.10	1.21	2.88	5,109	4,220
Mississippi Border-South	5,553	15.92	1.09	4.56	25,322	23,323
Western Prairie/Forest	3,110	8.92	0.96	3.71	11,551	11,995
Central Sand Prairie	666	1.91	0.14	0.33	222	1,555
Grand Prairie	10,662	30.57	0.60	3.79	40,427	67,082
Southern Plain	7,774	22.29	0.99	3.77	29,321	29,765
Wabash Border	3,110	8.92	0.76	5.79	17,992	23,545
Shawnee Hills	889	2.55	1.16	5.50	4,887	4,220
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**34,874**	**100.00**	**0.79**	**3.88**	**135,275**	**171,482**

Table 1.5. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Quail (n = 29)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	444	6.90	3.19	25.50	11,328	3,554
Northeast Moraine	222	3.45	0.40	2.00	444	1,111
Mississippi Border-North	222	3.45	7.69	100.00	22,213	2,888
Mississippi Border-South	666	10.34	5.50	11.00	7,330	1,333
Western Prairie/Forest	889	13.79	4.38	35.00	31,098	7,108
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	2,666	41.38	1.08	4.58	12,217	11,328
Southern Plain	444	6.90	3.10	32.50	14,438	4,665
Wabash Border	889	13.79	5.17	7.75	6,886	1,333
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**6,442**	**100.00**	**3.18**	**16.45**	**105,954**	**33,319**

Table 1.6. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Quail (n = 51)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	666	5.88	0.56	3.00	1,999	3,554
Mississippi Border-South	1,777	15.69	0.66	2.38	4,220	6,442
Western Prairie/Forest	1,555	13.73	1.28	9.14	14,216	11,106
Central Sand Prairie	444	3.92	0.89	4.00	1,777	1,999
Grand Prairie	2,888	25.49	0.50	4.00	11,551	23,323
Southern Plain	2,666	23.53	1.25	5.33	14,216	11,328
Wabash Border	889	7.84	0.81	5.50	4,887	5,997
Shawnee Hills	444	3.92	1.50	3.00	1,333	889
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**11,328**	**100.00**	**0.84**	**4.78**	**54,199**	**64,639**

Table 1.7. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Pheasant (n = 118)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,333	5.08	2.08	13.50	17,992	8,663
Northeast Moraine	2,666	10.17	2.47	16.67	44,425	17,992
Mississippi Border-North	222	0.85	7.69	100.00	22,213	2,888
Mississippi Border-South	666	2.54	1.76	12.33	8,219	4,665
Western Prairie/Forest	1,555	5.93	6.59	41.43	64,417	9,774
Central Sand Prairie	1,333	5.08	2.12	6.00	7,997	3,776
Grand Prairie	14,438	55.08	1.84	7.74	111,730	60,641
Southern Plain	2,443	9.32	1.43	4.55	11,106	7,774
Wabash Border	889	3.39	2.00	2.50	2,221	1,111
Shawnee Hills	444	1.69	3.25	6.50	2,888	889
Unknown	222	0.85	2.08	-	-	889
Statewide	**26,211**	**100.00**	**2.46**	**11.19**	**293,207**	**119,060**

Table 1.8. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Pheasant (n = 70)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,333	8.57	0.63	2.50	3,332	5,331
Northeast Moraine	222	1.43	4.00	4.00	889	222
Mississippi Border-North	889	5.71	0.43	1.50	1,333	3,110
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	1,555	10.00	0.41	1.86	2,888	7,108
Central Sand Prairie	444	2.86	0.00	0.00	-	1,999
Grand Prairie	10,218	65.71	0.63	3.02	30,876	49,312
Southern Plain	889	5.71	1.50	2.25	1,999	1,333
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**15,549**	**100.00**	**0.60**	**2.66**	**41,316**	**68,415**

Table 1.9. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Gray Partridge (n = 4)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	222	25.00	2.50	5.00	1,111	444
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	222	25.00	13.33	40.00	8,885	666
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	444	50.00	-	-	-	3,554
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**889**	**100.00**	**2.14**	**11.25**	**9,996**	**4,665**

Table 1.10. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Gray Partridge (n = 5)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	222	20.00	0.50	1.00	222	444
Western Prairie/Forest	222	20.00	-	-	-	444
Central Sand Prairie	222	20.00	-	-	-	222
Grand Prairie	222	20.00	-	-	-	666
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	222	20.00	12.00	12.00	2,666	222
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,111**	**100.00**	**1.44**	**2.60**	**2,888**	**1,999**

Table 1.11. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Dove (n = 186)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,111	2.69	5.94	19.00	21,102	3,554
Northeast Moraine	1,333	3.23	2.86	6.67	8,885	3,110
Mississippi Border-North	1,777	4.30	7.57	19.88	35,318	4,665
Mississippi Border-South	5,553	13.44	3.72	11.16	61,973	16,660
Western Prairie/Forest	3,776	9.14	5.53	32.18	121,503	21,991
Central Sand Prairie	1,777	4.30	8.06	17.13	30,431	3,776
Grand Prairie	16,660	40.32	4.21	17.95	298,983	71,081
Southern Plain	5,997	14.52	5.41	18.44	110,619	20,436
Wabash Border	2,221	5.38	3.22	13.20	29,321	9,107
Shawnee Hills	1,111	2.69	3.79	25.00	27,766	7,330
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**41,316**	**100.00**	**4.61**	**18.05**	**745,902**	**161,708**

Table 1.12. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Woodcock (*n* = 2)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest						
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	222	50.00	-	-	-	444
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	222	50.00	1.00	1.00	222	222
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**444**	**100.00**	**0.33**	**0.50**	**222**	**666**

Table 1.13. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Crow (*n* = 18)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	222	5.56	1.00	1.00	222	222
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	222	5.56	-	-	-	1,111
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	2,221	55.56	0.88	2.10	4,665	5,331
Southern Plain	222	5.56	-	-	-	666
Wabash Border	666	16.67	1.50	4.00	2,666	1,777
Shawnee Hills	444	11.11	1.25	2.50	1,111	889
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**3,998**	**100.00**	**0.87**	**2.17**	**8,663**	**9,996**

Table 1.14. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Groundhog (*n* = 20)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	222	5.00	1.00	1.00	222	222
Mississippi Border-South	666	15.00	1.75	4.67	3,110	1,777
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	222	5.00	-	-	-	222
Grand Prairie	889	20.00	0.12	1.50	1,333	11,551
Southern Plain	1,777	40.00	1.21	17.88	31,764	26,211
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	666	15.00	1.00	5.00	3,332	3,332
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**4,443**	**100.00**	**0.92**	**8.95**	**39,761**	**43,315**

Table 1.15. Summary of 2014 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Gray Squirrel (*n* = 186)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,999	4.84	0.39	2.00	3,998	10,218
Northeast Moraine	666	1.61	0.50	1.33	889	1,777
Mississippi Border-North	1,555	3.76	0.66	4.71	7,330	11,106
Mississippi Border-South	10,440	25.27	1.37	9.23	96,403	70,192
Western Prairie/Forest	1,555	3.76	0.36	3.29	5,109	14,216
Central Sand Prairie	1,111	2.69	0.31	1.00	1,111	3,554
Grand Prairie	7,774	18.82	0.68	4.86	37,762	55,532
Southern Plain	12,439	30.11	1.64	12.13	150,824	92,183
Wabash Border	2,221	5.38	1.43	11.90	26,433	18,437
Shawnee Hills	1,555	3.76	1.75	8.00	12,439	7,108
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**41,316**	**100.00**	**1.20**	**8.28**	**342,297**	**284,322**

Table 1.16. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Fox Squirrel (n = 203)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,555	3.45	0.69	2.57	3,998	5,775
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	1,111	2.46	0.57	4.80	5,331	9,329
Mississippi Border-South	9,551	21.18	0.90	5.79	55,310	61,529
Western Prairie/Forest	3,776	8.37	1.02	7.06	26,655	26,211
Central Sand Prairie	889	1.97	0.83	3.75	3,332	3,998
Grand Prairie	13,105	29.06	0.87	5.63	73,746	84,408
Southern Plain	11,106	24.63	0.74	4.78	53,088	72,191
Wabash Border	2,443	5.42	0.92	7.18	17,548	19,103
Shawnee Hills	1,555	3.45	1.19	4.43	6,886	5,775
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**45,092**	**100.00**	**0.85**	**5.45**	**245,894**	**288,321**

Table 1.17. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Raccoon (n = 34)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	666	8.82	0.95	6.67	4,443	4,665
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	444	5.88	1.70	8.50	3,776	2,221
Mississippi Border-South	666	8.82	0.32	6.67	4,443	13,772
Western Prairie/Forest	1,333	17.65	1.96	9.17	12,217	6,220
Central Sand Prairie	222	2.94	6.00	6.00	1,333	222
Grand Prairie	1,111	14.71	1.13	15.60	17,326	15,327
Southern Plain	1,555	20.59	1.31	12.57	19,547	14,882
Wabash Border	1,111	14.71	1.57	18.20	20,214	12,883
Shawnee Hills	444	5.88	0.64	3.50	1,555	2,443
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**7,552**	**100.00**	**1.17**	**11.24**	**84,852**	**72,635**

Table 1.18. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Red Fox (*n* = 7)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	222	14.29	0.10	1.00	222	2,221
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	222	14.29	1.00	1.00	222	222
Southern Plain	666	42.86	0.12	0.67	444	3,776
Wabash Border	444	28.57	1.00	1.00	444	444
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,555**	**100.00**	**0.20**	**0.86**	**1,333**	**6,664**

Table 1.19. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Gray Fox (*n* = 4)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	222	25.00	.25	1.00	222	889
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	222	25.00	-	-	-	1,111
Southern Plain	444	50.00	-	-	-	3,776
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**889**	**100.00**	**.040**	**0.25**	**222**	**5,775**

Table 1.20. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Coyote (n = 130)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	3,110	10.77	0.55	4.07	12,661	23,101
Northeast Moraine	444	1.54	0.32	4.00	1,777	5,553
Mississippi Border-North	1,333	4.62	0.27	3.50	4,665	17,326
Mississippi Border-South	4,887	16.92	0.25	1.41	6,886	27,766
Western Prairie/Forest	1,999	6.92	0.19	3.00	5,997	31,320
Central Sand Prairie	889	3.08	0.06	0.25	222	3,554
Grand Prairie	9,996	34.62	0.32	3.04	30,431	94,182
Southern Plain	3,110	10.77	0.18	1.64	5,109	29,099
Wabash Border	2,221	7.69	0.41	6.80	15,105	36,429
Shawnee Hills	889	3.08	0.33	0.75	666	1,999
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**28,876**	**100.00**	**0.31**	**2.89**	**83,520**	**270,328**

Table 1.21. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and harvest in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the species listed below.

Opossum (n = 9)						
Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-South	222	11.11	0.60	3.00	666	1,111
Western Prairie/Forest	222	11.11	0.20	2.00	444	2,221
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	222	11.11	0.77	10.00	2,221	2,888
Southern Plain	444	22.22	1.00	2.50	1,111	1,111
Wabash Border	666	33.33	0.79	10.00	6,664	8,441
Shawnee Hills	222	11.11	1.00	1.00	222	222
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,999**	**100.00**	**0.71**	**5.67**	**11,328**	**15,993**

Table 1.22. Percent change in harvest from 2013-14 to 2014-15 in Wildlife Management Units for selected species.

Wildlife Management Unit	Rabbit[a]	Non-Wild Quail	Wild Quail[c]	Non-Wild Pheasant	Wild Pheasant[c]	Dove	Fox Squirrel	Gray Squirrel	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northwest Hills	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+21	-62%	-56	+752	---[b]	---[b]	+10
Northeast Moraine	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	-65	---[b]	-77	---[b]	---[b]	---[b]	+88
Mississippi Border-North	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+11	-68	-24	+262	---[b]	---[b]	-61
Mississippi Border-South	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	-50	+106	+54	+479	---[b]	---[b]	+66
Western Prairie Forest	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+30	-11	-64	+19	---[b]	---[b]	-26
Central Sand Prairie	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+14	-75	-96	-73	---[b]	---[b]	-89
Grand Prairie	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+8	+33	-30	-40	----[b]	---[b]	+27
Southern Plain	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	-39	+3	+50	+84	---[b]	---[b]	-75
Wabash Border	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+384%	+55	-16	+18	---[b]	---[b]	-29
Shawnee Hills	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+43%	+1	-52	---[b]	---[b]	---[b]	-30

[a] Differences were not calculated for Rabbit harvests due to change in season length from 2013-14 to 2014-15.
[b] Percentage change could not be calculated in certain WMU's due to no harvest in 2013 and/or 2014 in those units.
[c] Differences were not calculated for Wild Quail and Wild Pheasant harvests due to a change in how harvests are calculated.

Table 1.23. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Rabbit (*n* = 157)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	6,664	19.11	0.67	3.60	23,990	35,762
Region 2	2,443	7.01	0.21	1.09	2,666	12,883
Region 3	6,220	17.83	0.64	3.07	19,103	29,765
Region 4	10,218	29.30	1.14	4.72	48,202	42,204
Region 5	9,329	26.75	0.81	4.43	41,316	50,867
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**34,874**	**100.00**	**0.79**	**3.88**	**135,275**	**171,482**

*2013-14 Season is not directly comparable to previous years because of increased season length.

Table 1.24. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Quail (*n* = 29)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	1,777	27.59	1.90	14.75	26,211	13,772
Region 2	444	6.90	0.20	1.00	444	2,221
Region 3	2,221	34.48	2.37	6.40	14,216	5,997
Region 4	1,555	24.14	6.62	36.86	57,309	8,663
Region 5	444	6.90	2.92	17.50	7,774	2,666
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**6,442**	**100.00**	**3.18**	**16.45**	**105,954**	**33,319**

Table 1.25. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Quail (*n* = 51)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	1,555	13.73	0.21	1.86	2,888	13,994
Region 2	222	1.96	0.00	0.00	-	1,111
Region 3	1,333	11.76	0.40	0.67	889	2,221
Region 4	5,109	45.10	1.28	8.04	41,093	31,986
Region 5	3,110	27.45	0.61	3.00	9,329	15,327
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**11,328**	**100.00**	**0.84**	**4.78**	**54,199**	**64,639**

Table 1.26. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Pheasants (*n* = 118)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	7,552	29.06	3.30	18.44	139,274	42,204
Region 2	9,107	35.04	1.78	8.98	81,743	45,980
Region 3	3,554	13.68	1.95	5.00	17,770	9,107
Region 4	4,665	17.95	2.62	10.86	50,645	19,325
Region 5	1,111	4.27	2.43	3.40	3,776	1,555
Unknown	222	0.85	-	-	-	889
Statewide	**26,211**	**100.00**	**2.46**	**11.19**	**293,207**	**119,060**

Table 1.27. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Pheasants (*n* = 70)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	5,775	37.14	0.60	3.08	17,770	29,543
Region 2	1,111	7.14	1.00	1.40	1,555	1,555
Region 3	5,997	38.57	0.44	1.89	11,328	25,545
Region 4	2,666	17.14	0.91	4.00	10,662	11,773
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**15,549**	**100.00**	**0.60**	**2.66**	**41,316**	**68,415**

Table 1.28. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Non-Wild Gray Partridge (*n* = 4)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	25.00	2.50	5.00	1,111	444
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	444	50.00	-	-	-	3,554
Region 4	222	25.00	13.33	40.00	8,885	666
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**889**	**100.00**	**2.14**	**11.25**	**9,996**	**4,665**

Table 1.29. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Wild Gray Partridge (*n* = 5)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	444	40.00	-	-	-	1,111
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	444	40.00	0.33	0.50	222	666
Region 5	222	20.00	12.00	12.00	2,666	222
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,111**	**100.00**	**1.44**	**2.60**	**2,888**	**1,999**

Table 1.30. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Doves (*n* = 186)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	9,107	22.04	4.95	16.54	150,602	30,431
Region 2	4,665	11.35	2.68	8.43	39,316	14,660
Region 3	7,108	17.30	4.47	22.09	157,044	35,096
Region 4	13,105	31.89	5.44	23.07	302,315	55,532
Region 5	7,330	17.84	3.72	13.18	96,625	25,989
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**41,316**	**100.00**	**4.61**	**18.05**	**745,902**	**161,708**

Table 1.31. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Woodcock (*n* = 2)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	50.00	0.00	0.00	0	444
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	222	50.00	1.00	1.00	222	222
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**444**	**100.00**	**0.33**	**0.50**	**222**	**666**

Table 1.32. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Crow (*n* = 18)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	889	22.22	0.06	0.25	222	3,554
Region 2	444	11.11	1.33	4.00	1,777	1,333
Region 3	1,333	33.33	1.63	2.17	2,888	1,777
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	1,333	33.33	1.13	2.83	3,776	3,332
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**3,998**	**100.00**	**0.87**	**2.17**	**8,663**	**9,996**

Table 1.33. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Groundhog (*n* = 20)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	5.00	-	-	-	222
Region 2	222	5.00	1.00	1.00	222	222
Region 3	889	20.00	0.23	5.00	4,443	19,103
Region 4	1,333	30.00	1.11	3.33	4,443	3,998
Region 5	1,777	40.00	1.55	17.25	30,653	19,769
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**4,443**	**100.00**	**0.92**	**8.95**	**39,761**	**43,315**

Table 1.34. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Gray Squirrel (*n* = 186)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	6,220	15.05	0.70	3.64	22,657	32,431
Region 2	2,221	5.38	0.70	4.90	10,884	15,549
Region 3	4,665	11.29	0.58	4.24	19,769	33,985
Region 4	14,216	34.41	1.36	9.42	133,942	98,402
Region 5	13,994	33.87	1.49	11.08	155,045	103,955
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**41,316**	**100.00**	**1.20**	**8.28**	**342,297**	**284,322**

Table 1.35. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Fox Squirrel (*n* = 203)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	7,997	17.73	0.88	4.83	38,650	43,981
Region 2	1,777	3.94	0.53	4.25	7,552	14,216
Region 3	7,552	16.75	0.77	4.79	36,207	46,869
Region 4	15,105	33.50	0.99	6.46	97,514	98,402
Region 5	12,661	28.08	0.78	5.21	65,972	84,852
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**45,092**	**100.00**	**0.85**	**5.45**	**245,894**	**288,321**

Table 1.36. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Raccoon (*n* = 34)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	1,999	26.47	1.22	9.89	19,769	16,215
Region 2	222	2.94	-	-	-	889
Region 3	889	11.76	1.29	10.00	8,885	6,886
Region 4	2,221	29.41	1.22	13.30	29,543	24,212
Region 5	2,221	29.41	1.09	12.00	26,655	24,434
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**7,552**	**100.00**	**1.17**	**11.24**	**84,852**	**72,635**

Table 1.37. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Red Fox (n = 7)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	14.29	0.10	1.00	222	2,221
Region 2	222	14.29	1.00	1.00	222	222
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	444	28.57	1.00	1.00	444	444
Region 5	666	42.86	0.12	0.67	444	3,776
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,555**	**100.00**	**0.2**	**0.86**	**1,333**	**6,664**

Table 1.38. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Gray Fox (n = 4)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	25.00	-	-	-	1,111
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	444	50.00	0.17	0.50	222	1,333
Region 5	222	25.00	-	-	-	3,332
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**889**	**100**	**0.04**	**0.25**	**222**	**5,775**

Table 1.39. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Coyote (n = 130)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	7,997	27.69	0.29	3.94	31,542	109,731
Region 2	2,221	7.69	0.18	0.80	1,777	9,774
Region 3	5,553	19.23	0.41	3.08	17,104	42,204
Region 4	9,107	31.54	0.27	1.83	16,660	61,307
Region 5	3,998	13.85	0.35	4.11	16,437	47,313
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**28,876**	**100.00**	**0.31**	**2.89**	**83,520**	**270,328**

Table 1.40. Summary of 2014-15 hunting effort and success in administrative regions in Illinois for the species listed below.

Opossum (n = 9)						
Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	222	11.11	0.20	2.00	444	2,221
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	444	22.22	0.94	7.50	3,332	3,554
Region 4	444	22.22	0.78	3.50	1,555	1,999
Region 5	889	44.44	0.73	6.75	5,997	8,219
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide	**1,999**	**100.00**	**0.71**	**5.67**	**11,328**	**15,993**

Table 1.41. Percent change in harvest from 2013-14 to 2014-15 within administrative regions for selected species.

Administrative Regions	Rabbit[a]	Non-Wild Quail	Wild Quail[c]	Non-Wild Pheasant	Wild Pheasant[c]	Fox Squirrel	Gray Squirrel	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Region 1	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	-29	-13	+33	-48	+17	---[b]	-10
Region 2	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+38	-51	-50	-100	---[b]	---[b]	-73
Region 3	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+26	-48	+76	-55	---[b]	---[b]	+56
Region 4	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+17	+9	+63	-21	---[b]	---[b]	+19
Region 5	---	---[b]	---	---[b]	---	+31	+21	+20	-38	-61	---[b]	-58

[a] Differences were not calculated for Rabbit harvests due to change in season length from 2013-14 to 2014-15.
[b] Percentage change could not be calculated in certain regions due to no harvest in those regions.
[c] Differences were not calculated for Wild Quail and Wild Pheasant harvests due to a change in how harvests are calculated.

Table 1.42. Distribution of hunting effort and harvest among resident Illinois hunters in 2014, from the 2014-2015 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
RABBIT	---	---	0	36.3%
	1-5	72.6%	1-5	44.6
	6-10	19.1	6-10	10.2
	11-14	1.9	11-14	3.2
	15-19	3.2	15-19	1.9
	20-24	1.9	20-24	1.3
	25+	1.3	25+	2.5
NON-WILD QUAIL	---	---	0	20.7
	1-5	69.0	1-5	24.1
	6-10	13.8	6-10	13.8
	11-14	10.3	11-14	3.5
	15-19	3.5	15-19	10.3
	20-24	3.4	20-24	3.5
	25+	0	25+	24.1
WILD QUAIL	---	---	0	51.0
	1-5	70.6	1-5	25.5
	6-10	17.6	6-10	11.7
	11-14	4.0	11-14	4.0
	15-19	1.9	15-19	1.9
	20-24	2.0	20-24	0
	25+	3.9	25+	5.9
NON-WILD PHEASANT	---	---	0	15.3
	1-5	77.1	1-5	32.2
	6-10	12.7	6-10	28.8
	11-14	3.4	11-14	7.6
	15-19	5.1	15-19	2.5
	20-24	0	20-24	6.8
	25+	1.7	25+	6.8
WILD PHEASANT	---	---	0	47.1
	1-5	80.0	1-5	44.3
	6-10	8.6	6-10	4.3
	11-14	5.7	11-14	0
	15-19	2.8	15-19	0
	20-24	1.5	20-24	0
	25+	1.4	25+	4.3

Table 1.42 - continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
NON-WILD GRAY PARTRIDGE	---	---	0	50.0
	1-5	75.0	1-5	25.0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	25.0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	25.0
WILD GRAY PARTRIDGE	---	---	0	60.0
	1-5	100	1-5	20.0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	20.0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
DOVE	---	---	0	13.4
	1-5	81.7	1-5	15.6
	6-10	14.0	6-10	16.7
	11-14	2.7	11-14	9.1
	15-19	1.1	15-19	12.9
	20-24	0	20-24	9.7
	25+	0.5	25+	22.6
WOODCOCK	---	---	0	50.0
	1-5	100	1-5	50.0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
SNIPE	---		0	100
	1-5	0	1-5	0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
RAIL	---	100	0	100
	1-5	0	1-5	0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0

Table 1.42 - continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
CROW	---	---	0	50.0
	1-5	100	1-5	33.3
	6-10	0	6-10	16.7
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
GROUNDHOG	---	---	0	30.0
	1-5	65.0	1-5	45.0
	6-10	10.0	6-10	10.0
	11-14	5.0	11-14	5.0
	15-19	0	15-19	5.0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	20.0	25+	5.0
GRAY SQUIRREL	---	---	0	15.1
	1-5	61.3	1-5	44.0
	6-10	25.8	6-10	18.3
	11-14	2.1	11-14	4.3
	15-19	5.4	15-19	4.3
	20-24	0.6	20-24	5.4
	25+	4.8	25+	8.6
FOX SQUIRREL	---	---	0	14.8
	1-5	64.5	1-5	57.1
	6-10	25.2	6-10	15.3
	11-14	1.4	11-14	2.5
	15-19	3.0	15-19	2.4
	20-24	1.5	20-24	4.5
	25+	4.4	25+	3.4
TURKEY-SPRING	---	---	0	64.2
	1-5	78.4	1-5	35.8
	6-10	17.4	6-10	0
	11-14	1.0	11-14	0
	15-19	2.1	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	1.1	25+	0
TURKEY-FALL SHOTGUN	---	---	0	76.5
	1-5	94.1	1-5	23.5
	6-10	5.9	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
TURKEY-FALL ARCHERY	---	---	0	93.4
	1-5	27.9	1-5	6.6
	6-10	19.6	6-10	0
	11-14	3.3	11-14	0
	15-19	13.1	15-19	0
	20-24	16.4	20-24	0
	25+	19.7	25+	0

Table 1.42 - continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
DEER REGULAR FIREARM SEASON			0	57.6
	1-5	66.7	1-5	42.4
	6-10	33.3	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
DEER-MUZZLELOADER-ONLY SEASON	---	---	0	79.7
	1-5	89.8	1-5	20.3
	6-10	10.2	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
DEER-ARCHERY SEASON	---	---	0	64.5
	1-5	23.0	1-5	35.5
	6-10	19.9	6-10	0
	11-14	7.2	11-14	0
	15-19	10.7	15-19	0
	20-24	12.4	20-24	0
	25+	27.6	25+	0
DEER-LATE WINTER ANTERLESS SEASON	---	---	0	82.9
	1-5	97.1	1-5	17.1
	6-10	2.9	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
DEER-SPECIAL CWD SEASON	---	---	0	65.6
	1-5	93.8	1-5	34.4
	6-10	6.2	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
RACCOON	---	---	0	11.8
	1-5	58.8	1-5	38.2
	6-10	11.8	6-10	17.6
	11-14	5.9	11-14	5.9
	15-19	5.9	15-19	5.9
	20-24	5.8	20-24	8.8
	25+	11.8	25+	11.8

Table 1.42 – continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
RED FOX	---	---	0	14.3
	1-5	71.4	1-5	85.7
	6-10	14.3	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	14.3	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
GRAY FOX	---	---	0	75.0
	1-5	75.0	1-5	25.0
	6-10	0	6-10	0
	11-14	0	11-14	0
	15-19	25.0	15-19	0
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	0	25+	0
COYOTE	---	---	0	43.8
	1-5	59.2	1-5	43.9
	6-10	16.2	6-10	7.7
	11-14	4.6	11-14	0.8
	15-19	5.4	15-19	0.7
	20-24	4.6	20-24	0
	25+	10.0	25+	3.1
OPOSSUM	---	---	0	0
	1-5	66.7	1-5	66.7
	6-10	0	6-10	22.2
	11-14	22.2	11-14	0
	15-19	0	15-19	11.2
	20-24	0	20-24	0
	25+	11.1	25+	0

Table 1.43. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 2004-2014.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
RABBIT						
2004	78,768	1.14	5.45	429,460	4.76	375,013
2005	60,431	1.07	5.15	311,011	4.80	290,349
2006	49,350	1.13	5.43	267,782	4.81	237,525
2007	49,054	0.90	4.97	243,874	5.53	271,107
2008	40,077	0.71	3.85	154,216	5.40	216,255
2009	44,312	0.84	4.27	189,254	5.10	226,152
2010	32,225	1.13	4.83	155,552	4.25	137,089
2011	32,863	0.93	4.44	145,773	4.79	157,523
2012	33,093	0.77	3.52	116,353	4.54	150,150
2013	37,066[a]	0.73	3.84[a]	142,401[a]	5.23[a]	194,029[a]
2014	34,874	0.79	3.88	135,275	4.92	171,482
WILD QUAIL						
2004	38,913	1.22	6.77	263,293	5.55	216,064
2005	29,983	1.44	8.16	244,521	5.67	170,108
2006	24,918	1.48	7.95	198,207	5.38	133,972
2007	24,614	1.34	7.67	188,710	5.74	141,227
2008	21,962	1.04	6.88	151,170	6.64	145,720
2009	16,948	1.18	7.31	123,933	6.21	105,220
2010	14,110	1.64	7.07	99,812	4.32	60,967
2011[b]	12,668	0.87	3.68	46,633	4.25	53,793
2012[b]	11,266	0.90	4.19	47,175	4.66	52,456
2013[b]	10,779	0.72	4.79	51,628	6.61	71,295
2014[b]	11,328	0.84	4.78	54,199	5.71	64,639
WILD PHEASANT						
2004	55,075	0.67	3.63	200,059	5.44	299,696
2005	44,430	0.67	3.31	146,961	4.93	218,888
2006	38,509	0.72	3.08	118,763	4.26	164,067
2007	35,961	0.58	2.86	102,822	4.95	177,887
2008	29,016	0.73	3.56	103,399	4.86	140,911
2009	22,244	0.64	2.89	64,262	4.48	99,747
2010	24,213	0.70	2.66	64,451	3.83	92,670
2011[b]	12,301	0.57	2.24	27,539	3.93	48,285
2012[b]	17,427	0.48	1.69	29,396	3.49	90,905
2013[b]	14,940	0.33	1.38	20,613	4.22	62,974
2014[b]	15,549	0.60	2.66	41,316	4.40	68,415
WILD GRAY PARTRIDGE						
2004	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
2005	311	0.43	3.00	932	7.00	2,175
2006	485	0.50	1.33	647	2.67	1,294
2007	349	1.50	1.50	524	1.00	349
2008	321	0.00	0.00	0	2.50	802
2009	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
2010	697	0.60	1.50	1,045	2.50	1,742
2011[b]	184	2	2	367	1.0	184
2012[b]	704	0.01	3.25	2,228	6.25	4,401
2013[b]	189	0.20	2.00	378	10.0	1,891
2014[b]	1,111	1.44	2.60	2,888	1.80	1,999

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
DOVE						
2004	78,455	5.13	23.65	1,855,135	4.61	361,989
2005	63,383	4.89	23.35	1,479,709	4.78	302,777
2006	60,514	5.81	24.07	1,456,542	4.14	250,631
2007	51,847	5.38	21.62	1,120,739	4.02	208,437
2008	43,123	4.98	23.14	997,917	4.64	200,225
2009	40,781	4.61	21.41	873,182	4.64	189,254
2010	37,974	4.21	17.61	668,547	4.18	158,688
2011	29,742	4.57	16.57	492,765	3.62	107,769
2012	34,501	3.85	15.97	550,962	4.15	143,109
2013	40,281	4.62	19.94	803,159	4.31	173,794
2014	41,316	4.61	18.05	745,902	3.91	161,708
WOODCOCK						
2004	1,569	0.44	1.10	1,726	2.50	3,923
2005	621	0.83	1.25	777	1.50	932
2006	1,133	0.25	0.43	485	1.71	1,942
2007	524	0.60	1.00	524	1.67	873
2008	802	0.18	0.60	481	3.40	2,725
2009	1,059	0.00	0.00	0	4.67	4,943
2010	1,219	0.72	1.14	1,394	1.57	1,916
2011	1,102	0.50	1.67	1,836	3.33	3,672
2012	704	0.40	1.00	704	2.50	1,760
2013	189	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	189
2014	444	0.33	0.50	222	1.50	666
SNIPE						
2004	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
2005	311	0.75	1.50	466	2.00	621
2006	485	1.80	3.00	1,456	1.67	809
2007	349	1.00	2.50	873	2.50	873
2008	160	0.00	0.00	0	10.00	1,603
2009	530	0.18	1.33	706	7.33	3,884
2010	348	1.25	5.00	1,742	4.00	1,394
2011	551	1.00	1.33	734	1.33	734
2012	176	1.00	1.00	176	1.00	176
2013	189	2.00	2.00	378	1.00	189
2014	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
RAIL						
2004	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
2005	466	0.40	0.67	311	1.67	777
2006	324	3.00	6.00	1,942	2.00	647
2007	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
2008	160	0.00	0.00	0	10.00	1,603
2009	177	0.00	0.00	0	20.00	3,531
2010	174	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	174
2011	367	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	367
2012	176	0.00	0.00	0	2.00	352
2013	189	0.00	0.00	0	2.00	378
2014	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
CROW						
2004	7,689	3.41	18.08	139,021	5.31	40,796
2005	5,748	0.82	4.22	24,235	5.16	29,672
2006	6,310	2.73	8.62	54,365	3.15	19,902
2007	5,237	3.38	8.90	46,610	2.63	13,791
2008	4,489	1.55	9.75	43,764	6.29	28,214
2009	4,414	2.20	12.24	54,022	5.56	24,539
2010	3,135	4.30	13.39	41,980	3.11	9,755
2011	3,121	1.24	3.65	11,383	2.94	9,180
2012	3,168	0.64	2.94	9,329	4.61	14,610
2013	2,458	1.05	4.62	11,347	4.38	10,779
2014	3,998	0.87	2.17	8,663	2.50	9,996
GROUNDHOG						
2004	5,021	0.95	4.78	24,007	5.03	25,262
2005	4,816	0.61	2.90	13,982	4.74	22,836
2006	3,236	0.56	4.30	13,915	7.70	24,918
2007	1,571	0.62	8.11	12,744	13.00	20,425
2008	4,649	0.56	2.69	12,504	4.83	22,443
2009	3,531	0.86	5.65	19,949	6.55	23,127
2010	2,961	0.52	2.00	5,923	3.82	11,322
2011	3,488	0.72	3.32	11,566	4.58	15,973
2012	2,112	0.35	1.42	2,992	4.08	8,625
2013	4,160	0.91	3.73	15,507	4.09	17,020
2014	4,443	0.92	8.95	39,761	9.75	43,315
GRAY SQUIRREL						
2004	64,490	1.62	11.98	772,306	7.40	477,003
2005	48,314	1.44	9.48	457,816	6.58	317,846
2006	48,864	1.52	13.42	655,945	8.80	430,070
2007	43,992	1.40	8.99	395,401	6.44	283,327
2008	42,963	1.09	9.34	401,411	8.60	369,350
2009	46,431	1.38	9.90	459,718	7.17	333,137
2010	38,322	1.36	8.77	336,190	6.45	247,004
2011	35,801	1.31	10.39	372,144	7.95	284,569
2012	38,198	1.09	6.87	262,455	6.30	240,804
2013	38,579	1.22	8.72	336,430	7.17	276,671
2014	41,316	1.20	8.28	342,297	6.88	284,322
FOX SQUIRREL						
2004	77,356	1.27	9.15	707,660	7.21	557,498
2005	57,169	1.12	6.94	396,764	6.22	355,441
2006	55,336	1.05	8.36	462,430	7.96	440,425
2007	50,276	1.15	6.94	348,791	6.01	302,355
2008	45,047	0.79	6.53	294,005	8.27	372,556
2009	46,784	0.90	6.31	295,356	6.97	326,251
2010	39,890	0.98	5.98	238,468	6.10	243,171
2011	36,535	0.95	7.19	262,722	7.58	277,042
2012	41,190	0.76	5.11	210,351	6.75	278,121
2013	41,416	0.82	5.38	222,963	6.56	271,754
2014	45,092	0.85	5.45	245,894	6.39	288,321

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
TURKEY-SPRING						
2004	72,649	0.14	0.56	40,483	4.06	295,146
2005	55,149	0.12	0.48	26,410	4.09	225,413
2006	87,858	0.14	0.62	54,042	4.49	394,473
2007	52,196	0.12	0.52	27,058	4.30	224,322
2008	54,024	0.10	0.45	24,207	4.53	244,790
2009	54,493	0.11	0.48	25,952	4.17	227,387
2010	51,038	0.12	0.51	25,955	4.26	217,217
2011	44,430	0.12	0.49	21,664	4.14	183,960
2012	44,183	0.14	0.46	20,243	3.30	145,926
2013	49,358	0.11	0.43	21,181	3.94	194,596
2014	42,204	0.10	0.43	17,992	4.39	185,254
TURKEY-FALL SHOTGUN						
2004	12,082	0.18	0.48	5,806	2.73	32,951
2005	10,719	0.15	0.41	4,350	2.67	28,584
2006	16,180	0.17	0.45	7,281	2.59	41,907
2007	10,649	0.08	0.21	2,269	2.82	30,026
2008	9,779	0.07	0.21	2,084	2.85	27,894
2009	9,533	0.08	0.30	2,825	3.70	35,309
2010	8,710	0.09	0.26	2,264	2.94	25,606
2011	7,895	0.10	0.30	2,387	2.98	23,500
2012	6,689	0.13	0.32	2,122	2.39	16,018
2013	6,619	0.17	0.49	3,215	2.80	18,533
2014	3,776	0.07	0.24	889	3.41	12,883
TURKEY-FALL ARCHERY						
2004	19,927	0.01	0.09	1,726	15.39	306,757
2005	13,049	0.01	0.11	1,398	15.31	199,780
2006	25,403	0.01	0.12	3,074	16.82	427,157
2007	19,028	0.01	0.16	2,968	17.01	323,653
2008	16,191	0.01	0.09	1,443	16.36	264,829
2009	18,007	0.01	0.14	2,472	13.79	248,396
2010	17,768	0.01	0.15	2,613	15.21	270,171
2011	15,789	0.01	0.10	1,652	15.13	238,855
2012	11,618	0.01	0.18	2,112	14.73	171,097
2013	18,344	0.01	0.18	3,215	15.78	289,530
2014	13,550	0.00	0.07	889	17.64	239,008
DEER-REGULAR FIREARM SEASON						
2004	203,197	0.18	0.79	160,047	4.26	865,824
2005	179,895	0.19	0.80	144,476	4.24	762,924
2006	163,905	0.20	0.85	139,473	4.18	684,584
2007	180,156	0.18	0.77	139,132	4.31	776,662
2008	181,789	0.16	0.71	129,689	4.40	799,616
2009	190,490	0.16	0.72	136,821	4.39	835,755
2010	186,385	0.16	0.67	124,895	4.24	790,829
2011	176,800	0.14	0.63	111,808	4.46	789,175
2012	159,128	0.15	0.67	105,968	4.42	702,696
2013	163,771	0.11	0.49	80,373	4.45	729,216
2014	158,821	0.12	0.53	83,520	4.26	675,932

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
DEER-MUZZLELOADER-ONLY SEASON						
2004	26,988	0.15	0.38	10,199	2.58	69,511
2005	28,188	0.15	0.38	10,719	2.54	71,461
2006	33,331	0.16	0.38	12,782	2.36	78,798
2007	28,804	0.18	0.42	12,045	2.38	68,606
2008	34,306	0.12	0.32	10,901	2.68	91,856
2009	39,546	0.12	0.33	13,241	2.73	107,868
2010	34,664	0.11	0.30	10,277	2.59	89,709
2011	37,269	0.12	0.31	11,383	2.65	98,773
2012	24,644	0.09	0.28	6,865	3.22	79,388
2013	29,123	0.11	0.27	7,943	2.57	74,888
2014	28,432	0.08	0.23	6,442	2.83	80,410
DEER-ARCHERY SEASON						
2004	113,288	0.03	0.69	77,670	20.05	2,270,944
2005	92,899	0.03	0.63	58,722	18.68	1,734,949
2006	109,378	0.04	0.81	88,506	22.31	2,440,621
2007	106,139	0.03	0.62	65,289	20.25	2,149,480
2008	104,040	0.03	0.67	69,253	19.11	1,988,460
2009	105,396	0.03	0.60	63,026	18.92	1,994,053
2010	108,870	0.03	0.55	59,922	18.86	2,053,021
2011	107,769	0.03	0.59	63,340	17.86	1,924,973
2012	82,028	0.03	0.56	46,295	19.05	1,562,760
2013	104,390	0.03	0.45	46,711	17.40	1,816,799
2014	95,737	0.03	0.50	47,757	17.88	1,712,153
DEER-LATE WINTER ANTLERLESS SEASON						
2004	29,656	0.17	0.39	11,454	2.26	67,000
2005	29,206	0.13	0.30	8,700	2.31	67,577
2006	55,983	0.14	0.30	16,827	2.11	118,277
2007	55,513	0.15	0.32	17,632	2.08	115,740
2008	62,680	0.15	0.31	19,237	2.07	129,689
2009	60,201	0.12	0.33	19,773	2.65	159,595
2010	56,961	0.11	0.29	16,548	2.55	145,101
2011	51,773	0.10	0.26	13,586	2.61	135,124
2012	42,422	0.11	0.29	12,146	2.56	108,608
2013	38,768	0.08	0.18	6,997	2.35	90,963
2014	23,323	0.09	0.23	5,331	2.58	60,196
DEER-SPECIAL CWD SEASON						
2004	---	---	---	---	---	---
2005	---	---	---	---	---	---
2006	---	---	---	---	---	---
2007	---	---	---	---	---	---
2008	---	---	---	---	---	---
2009	---	---	---	---	---	---
2010	---	---	---	---	---	---
2011	12,484	0.14	0.32	4,039	2.34	29,191
2012	9,329	0.05	0.11	1,056	2.13	19,891
2013	7,754	0.08	0.15	1,135	1.95	15,129
2014	7,108	0.20	0.53	3,776	2.63	18,659

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
RACCOON						
2004	12,867	1.42	20.26	260,626	14.32	184,211
2005	11,807	1.40	19.32	228,054	13.83	163,273
2006	8,252	1.19	12.20	100,641	10.27	84,784
2007	9,078	1.02	13.46	122,199	13.15	119,406
2008	8,657	1.30	15.33	132,735	11.80	102,116
2009	8,298	1.09	12.19	101,159	11.23	93,215
2010	8,884	1.08	10.18	90,405	9.41	83,612
2011	10,098	1.05	10.80	109,054	10.29	103,914
2012	10,210	0.91	8.62	88,013	9.48	96,814
2013	9,077	1.12	15.50	140,699	13.85	125,759
2014	7,552	1.17	11.24	84,852	9.62	72,635
RED FOX						
2004	3,295	0.07	0.48	1,569	6.48	21,340
2005	2,175	0.07	0.50	1,087	7.14	15,535
2006	1,780	0.19	0.91	1,618	4.82	8,576
2007	2,095	0.08	0.58	1,222	7.42	15,537
2008	1,443	0.04	0.56	802	13.44	19,397
2009	2,295	0.05	0.31	706	6.00	13,770
2010	1,394	0.04	0.13	174	3.38	4,703
2011	918	0.03	0.20	184	6.80	6,242
2012	528	0.29	0.67	352	2.33	1,232
2013	1,324	0.09	1.29	1,702	14.57	19,289
2014	1,555	0.20	0.86	1,333	4.29	6,664
GRAY FOX						
2004	2,040	0.10	0.69	1,412	6.85	13,965
2005	1,087	0.00	0.00	0	10.57	11,496
2006	647	0.38	2.00	1,294	5.25	3,398
2007	349	0.00	0.00	0	15.00	5,237
2008	641	0.02	0.25	160	13.50	8,657
2009	1,412	0.00	0.00	0	6.13	8,651
2010	1,045	0.04	0.17	174	4.00	4,181
2011	918	0.03	0.20	184	6.80	6,242
2012	176	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	176
2013	1,135	0.15	3.00	3,404	20.17	22,883
2014	889	0.04	0.25	222	6.50	5,775

Table 1.43 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
COYOTE						
2004	33,265	0.18	2.16	71,707	12.29	408,748
2005	31,070	0.47	4.07	126,610	8.73	271,086
2006	35,273	0.24	1.71	60,190	7.21	254,191
2007	34,216	0.26	3.02	103,345	11.41	390,513
2008	31,741	0.19	2.45	77,749	13.04	413,755
2009	31,072	0.27	1.95	60,731	7.17	222,797
2010	31,354	0.27	2.36	74,031	8.91	279,229
2011	31,027	0.23	2.20	68,113	9.44	292,831
2012	30,805	0.23	1.91	58,969	8.34	256,998
2013	31,582	0.37	3.35	105,903	9.14	288,774
2014	28,876	0.31	2.89	83,520	9.36	270,328
OPOSSUM						
2004	2,824	0.49	5.94	16,789	12.11	34,206
2005	2,952	0.43	6.16	18,176	14.26	42,100
2006	1,618	0.48	7.10	11,488	14.80	23,947
2007	1,920	0.76	4.82	9,252	6.36	12,220
2008	2,084	0.75	4.31	8,977	5.77	12,023
2009	2,648	0.99	5.27	13,947	5.33	14,123
2010	2,090	1.48	5.42	11,322	3.67	7,664
2011	2,937	0.59	4.31	12,668	7.31	21,480
2012	2,816	0.45	3.38	9,505	7.44	20,947
2013	1,702	0.82	8.11	13,805	9.89	16,831
2014	1,999	0.71	5.67	11,328	8.00	15,993

[a] 2013-14 figures, other than the standardized average daily bag, are not directly comparable to previous years due to increased season length in 2013-14 season.

[b] 2011-2014 figures are not directly comparable to previous years due to changes in harvest reporting on the questionnaire; hunters distinguished between wild and non-wild pheasant, quail, and partridge from 2011-2014.

Table 1.44. Percent change in statewide harvest by species for 1, 5 and 10 year time periods, from the 2014-15 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

Species	2014 Estimated Harvest	% Change 1 Year [a]	% Change 5 Years [a]	% Change 10 Years [a]
Rabbit	135,275[b]	---	---	---
Wild Quail	54,199[c]	---	---	---
Wild Pheasant	41,316[c]	---	---	---
Wild Gray Partridge	2,888[c]	---	---	---
Dove	745,902	-7	-15	-60
Woodcock	222	---	---	-87
Crow	8,663	-24	-84	-94
Groundhog	39,761	+156	+99	+66
Gray Squirrel	342,297	+2	-26	-56
Fox Squirrel	245,894	+10	-17	-65
Turkey-Spring	17,992	-15	-31	-56
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	899	-72	-69	-85
Turkey-Fall Archery	899	-72	-64	-48
Deer-Regular Firearm	83,520	+4	-39	-48
Deer-Muzzleloader	6,442	-19	-51	-37
Deer-Archery	47,757	+2	-24	-39
Deer-Late winter antlerless	5,331	-24	-73	-53
Deer- Special CWD Season	3,776	+233	---	---
Raccoon	84,852	-40	-16	-67
Red Fox	1,333	-22	+89	-15
Gray Fox	222	-93	---	-84
Coyote	83,520	-21	+38	+16
Opossum	11,328	-18	-19	-33

[a] From 2013-14, 2009-10, and 2004-05, respectively; see also Table 47.
[b] 2014-15 figure is not directly comparable to previous years due to change in season length in 2013-14 season.
[c] Methods used to estimate figures has changed from previous years; thus, figures are not directly comparable.

Section 2 – Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

A large majority of Illinois hunters (81.9%) intended to hunt deer during 2014-15, of which 20.2% relied exclusively on public land, while less than one third (28.4%) intended to hunt turkey and fewer (14.2%) relied exclusively on public land. Additional wildlife species and number of hunters can be found in Table 2.1. If given only one day to hunt, a majority of hunters (67.1%) identified deer as the species they would target most (Table 2.2).

Upland Game Hunting

Almost half (48.5%) of Illinois resident license holders did not intend to hunt upland game during the 2014-15 hunting seasons. Of those who intended to hunt upland game, 21.9% would hunt rabbit, followed by pheasants (19.2%), quail (10.1%), and gray partridge (0.3%) (Figure 2.1). Of the hunters who applied for a "Free Upland Game Permit", 39.0% were pheasant hunters who indicated they relied exclusively on receiving the Free Upland Game Permit to hunt, followed by rabbit hunters (27.1%), quail hunters (15.3%), and gray partridge hunters (6.8%) (Figure 2.2). A majority of Illinois hunters that applied for public hunting permits (65.7%) did not apply for a Free Upland Game Permit for use during the 2014-15 hunting seasons (Figure 2.3), but of those who did apply, over three quarters (76.3%) reported receiving a Free Upland Game Permit (Figure 2.4). Almost half (47.4%) of upland game permit applicants reported that they apply for a permit "every year", followed by 15.8% who apply during "occasional years", and 10.5% who apply "most years", yet 26.3% of 2014-15 applicants "rarely apply" (Figure 2.5). When applying for a "Free Upland Game Permit", most hunters (60.8%) chose only one site, though 7.8% of respondents applied for two sites, and 31.4% applied for three or more sites (Figure 2.6). A majority of Free Upland Game Permit applicants (69.6%) were satisfied with the application process, while 19.6% were neutral and 10.7% reported being dissatisfied (Table 2.3).

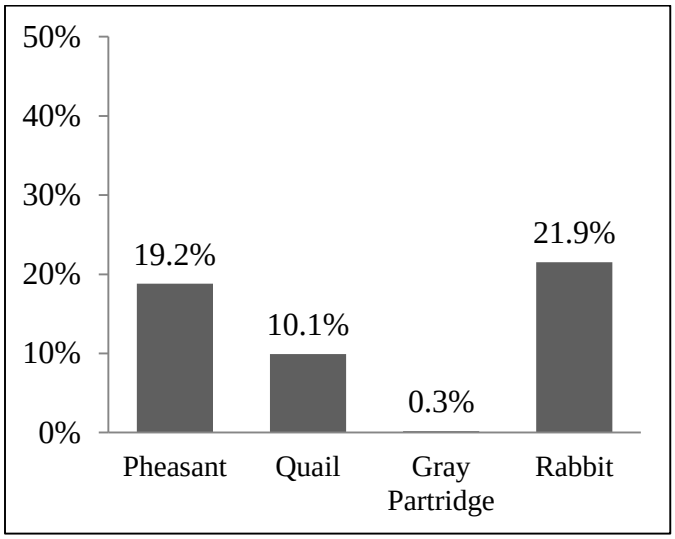


Figure 2.1 Upland species hunters intended to hunt during the 2014-15 seasons in Illinois (*n*=1,185).
*Cases selected for those who intended to hunt during the 2014-15 season.

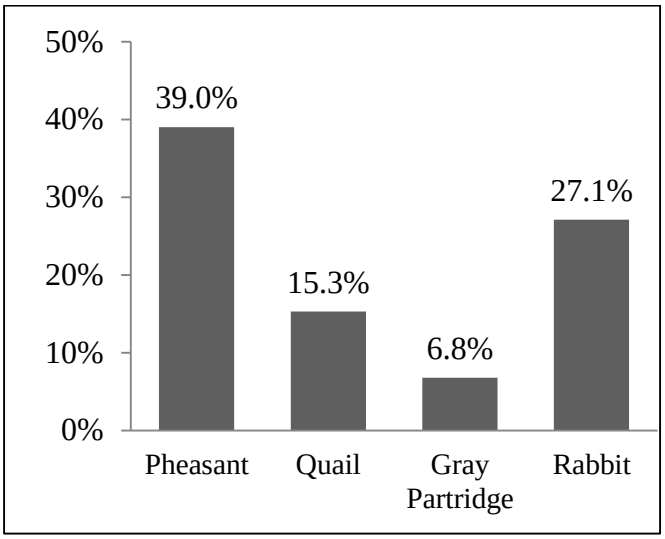


Figure 2.2. Upland species hunters* relied exclusively on receiving a Free Upland Game permit to hunt (*n*=59).
*Cases restricted to those who applied for a "Free Upland Game Permit".

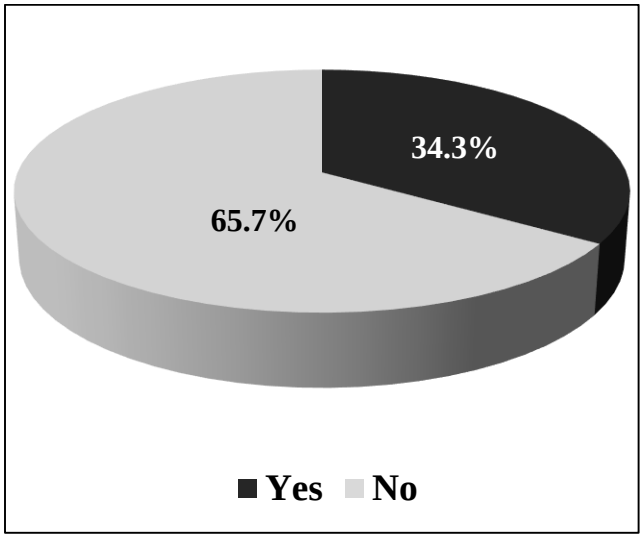


Figure 2.3. Percentage of hunters who applied for a Free Upland Game Permit for the 2014-15 season (*n*=172).
*Cases selected for those who applied for a public land hunting permit.

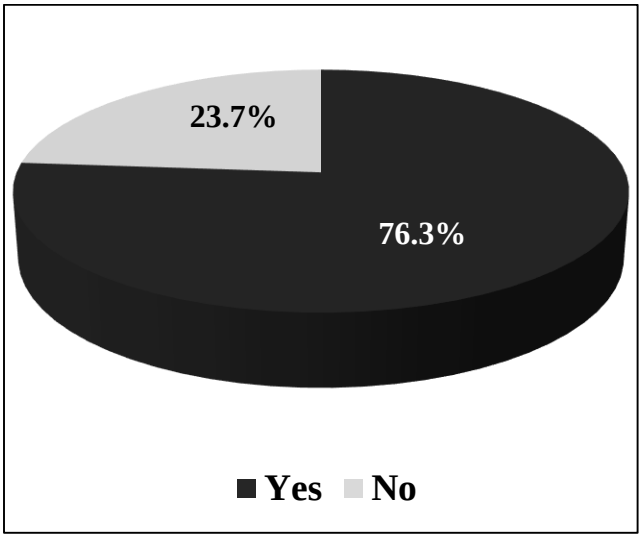


Figure 2.4. Percentage of hunters* who received a Free Upland Game Permit for the 2014-15 Season (*n*=59).
*Cases selected for those who applied for a Free Upland Game Permit for the 2014-2015 season.

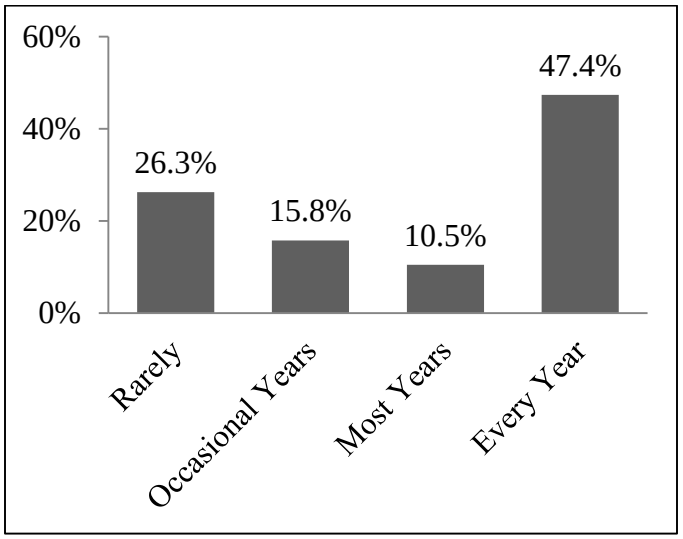


Figure 2.5. How often Illinois hunters* apply for a Free Upland Game Permit (*n*=59).

*Cases selected for those who have previously applied for a Free Upland Game Permit.

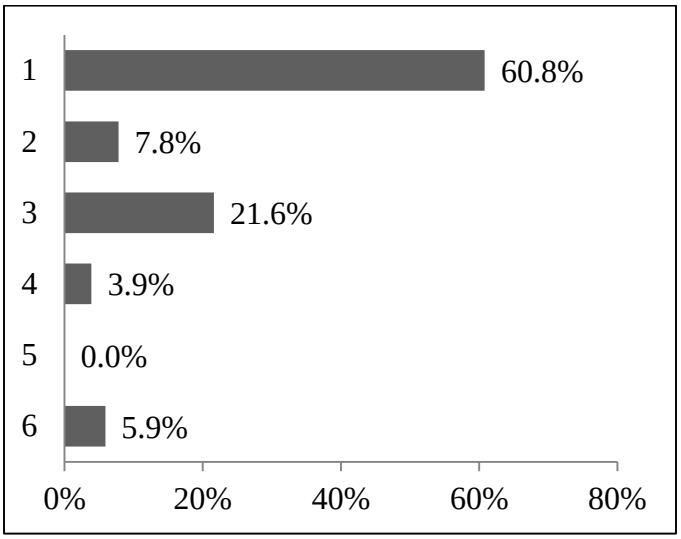


Figure 2.6. Number of sites hunters* apply for when they apply for a Free Upland Game Permit in Illinois (*n*=59).

*Cases selected for those who have previously applied for a Free Upland Game Permit.

Harvest Reporting

Illinois hunters were asked about their experiences using the various harvest reporting processes in Illinois; a large portion (66.3%) of hunters have experience reporting their harvests by phone, followed by 47.7% that have used check stations, 27.5% have reported online, and 7.7% have used online windshield cards (Figure 2.7). When choosing ONE preferred method for reporting harvest, a majority of hunters (52.0%) preferred using a telephone to report their harvests. (Figure 2.8). Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with statements regarding hunting permits in Illinois; more than half (55.5%) were in agreement that Illinois should simplify site hunting rules and 35.7% agreed that rules for hunting on state sites are too complex (Table 2.4). Two hundred hunters reported using the free windshield card for reporting their harvest while hunting on state sites (Table 2.5). A majority of these hunters rated their overall experience using windshield cards as good (39.4%) or excellent (11.1%) (Table 2.6) and also expressed satisfaction with all aspects of windshield cards except one; "Ease of hunting new sites under this system" (Table 2.7).

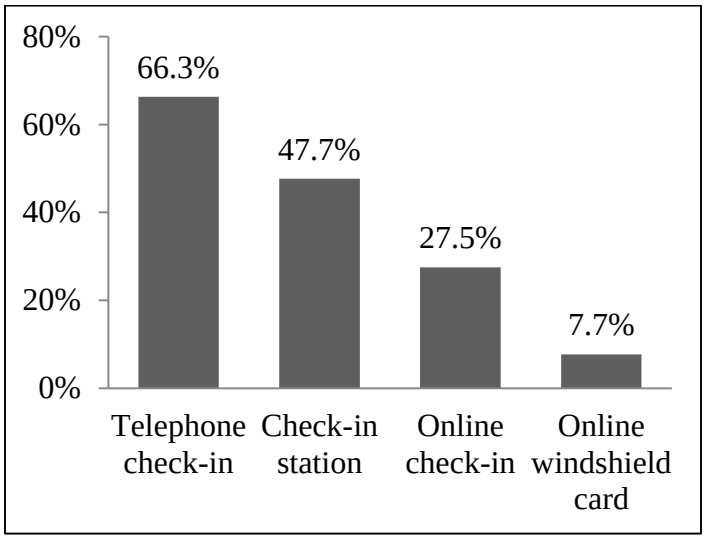


Figure 2.7. Methods* used for reporting harvest in Illinois (*n*=1,207).
*Percentages equal greater than 100 because more than one response could be selected.

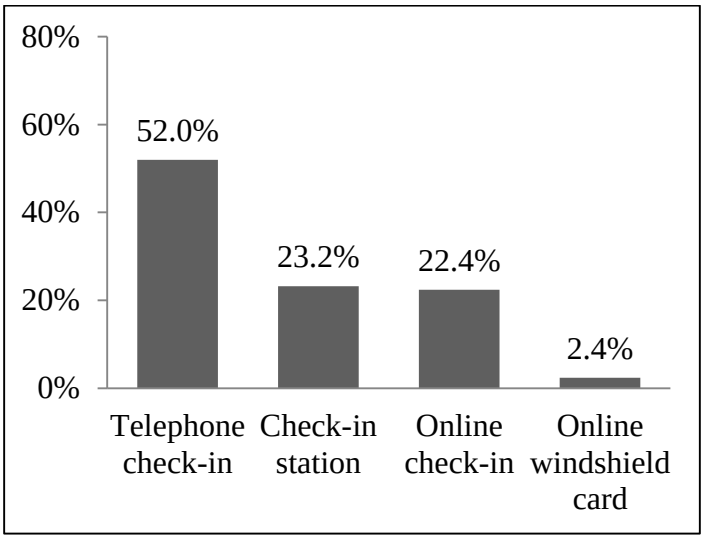


Figure 2.8. Hunters' preferred method for harvest reporting in Illinois (*n*=1,085).

Small Game Hunting

Eighty seven percent of Illinois hunters have hunted small game in the past (Figure 2.9). These hunters reported that the three most hunted small game species during their first year of hunting were rabbit (71.0%), squirrel (65.3%) and pheasant (42.4%), followed by quail (35.1%) and dove at (31.7%) (Figure 2.10). Hunters accessed private land most often in the past 12 months to hunt small game; 56.4% hunted private land owned by someone else, followed by 24.6% who hunted their own land (Table 2.8). Illinois hunters were asked about their tenure hunting different types of private and public land. Most hunters who access public land and private hunting reserves have shorter tenures and have hunted these lands for 1-5 years, while those who have accessed private land, personally owned or owned by someone else, have longer tenures and most have accessed these lands for greater than 25 years (Table 2.9). Private land hunters also hunted more days in Illinois during 2014-15 than those who hunted public land or private hunting preserves, yet a large majority of Illinois hunters did not hunt small game during the 2014-15 hunting seasons (Table 2.10).

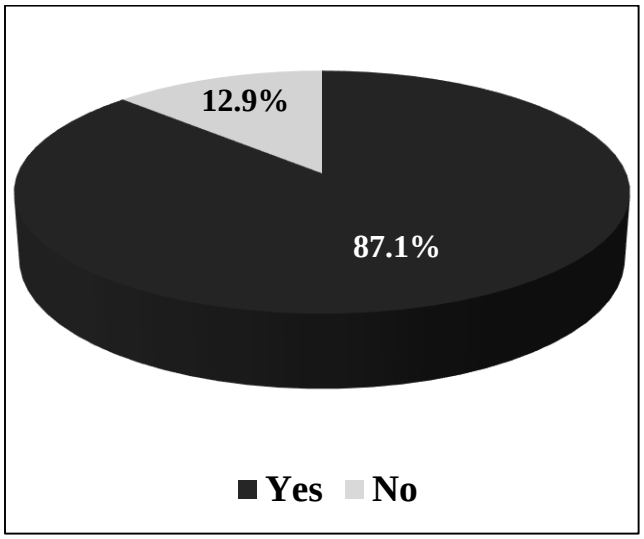


Figure 2.9. Percentage of 2014-15 Illinois hunters who have previously hunted small game (*n*=1,197).
.

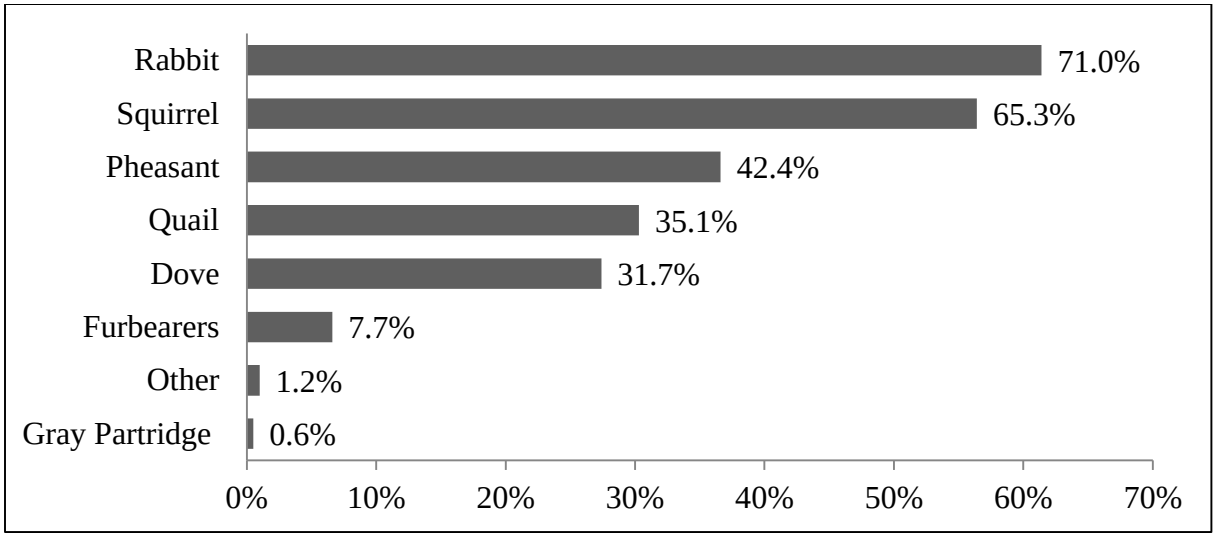


Figure 2.10. Targeted species during hunters'* first year of hunting small game (*n*=1,043).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they have previously hunted small game.

The small game species listed most often by hunters that stopped hunting due to a lack of access to land was pheasant (31.4%), followed by quail (27.0%), rabbit (26.7%), and dove (16.1%) (Figure 2.11). A large portion (68%) of hunters indicated that they had not been excluded from hunting small game on private property, but of the 31.7% who had been excluded, 52.5% reported that the property had been leased for deer hunting (Figure 2.12 and 2.13). A majority of these hunters (55.0%) also felt that they were excluded so that deer hunters would not be disturbed (Figure 2.14). Displaced pheasant hunters (49.0%) reported having additional hunting access for pheasant hunting, almost half (44.7%) had hunting rights to private land (Figures

2.15 and 2.16), while fewer displaced quail hunters (41.3%) had other places to hunt and almost 60% had access to private property (59.6%) (Figures 2.17 and 2.18). Half of dove hunters (51.9%) had other places to hunt after being displaced and 62.0% of these hunters could hunt private land (Figures 2.19 and 2.20). Very few (12.4%) gray partridge hunters had other places to hunt, but of the ones who did, 47.6% would hunt public land. A majority of displaced rabbit hunters (55.1%) and about one third of furbearer hunters (34.0%) had other places to hunt and both had the two highest proportions of displaced hunters with private land access (73.9% and 74.7%, respectively) (Figures 2.23-2.26).

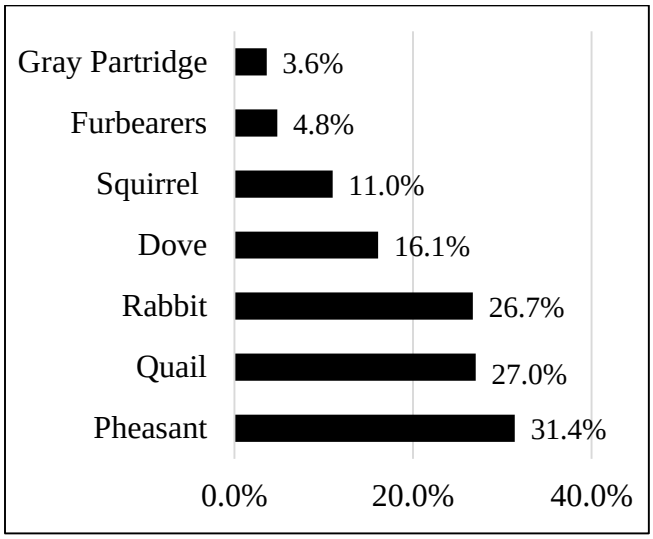


Figure 2.11. Percentage of small game hunters that have stopped hunting a species due to lack of access to land in Illinois (*n*=1,043).
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game.

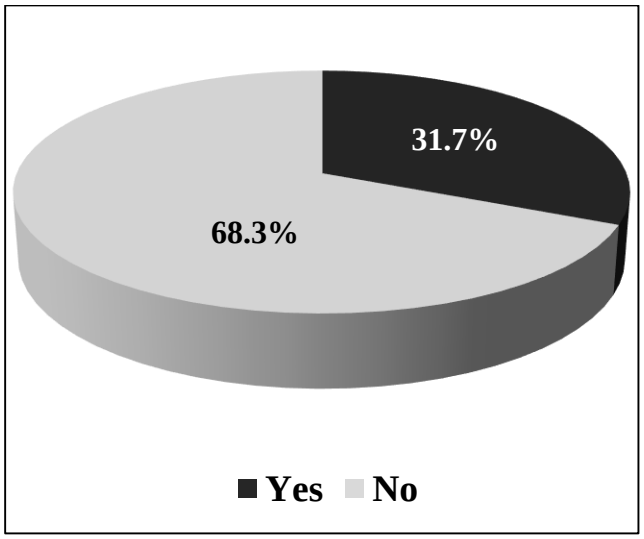


Figure 2.12. Percentage of small game hunters that have been excluded from hunting on private property they previously hunted in IL (*n*=993).
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game.

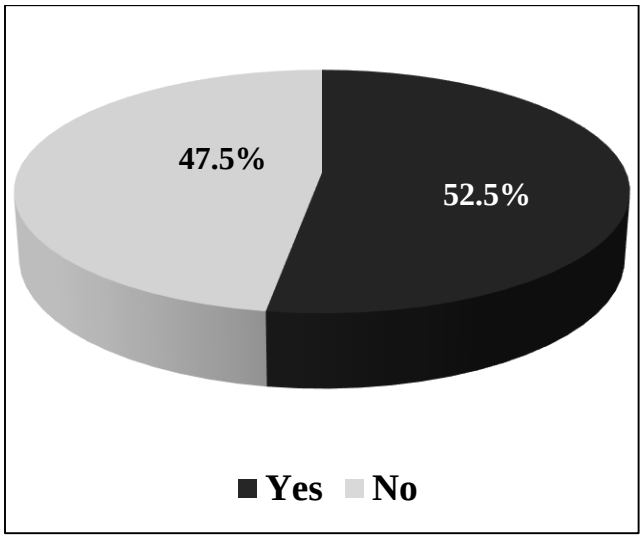


Figure 2.13. Percentage of small game hunters excluded from property that was leased for deer hunting (*n*=303).
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

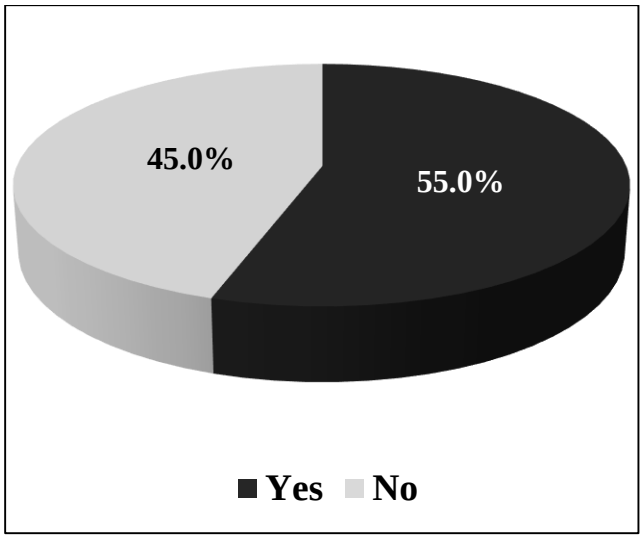


Figure 2.14. Percentage of small game hunters excluded from properties so deer hunters would not be disturbed (=298).
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

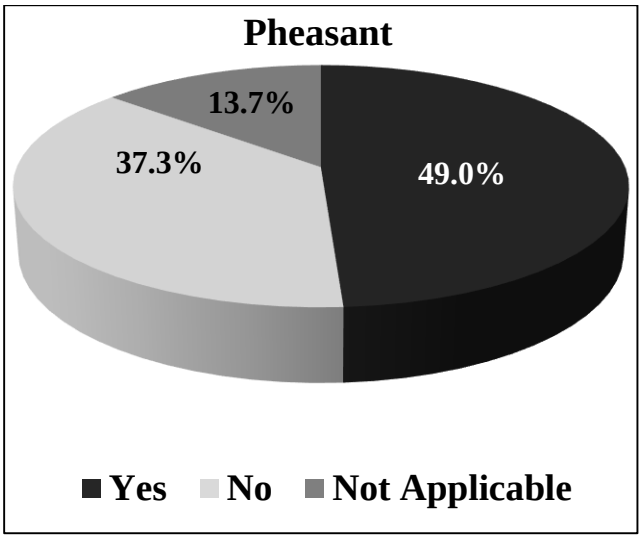


Figure 2.15. Did you have other places to hunt pheasant (*n*=233)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

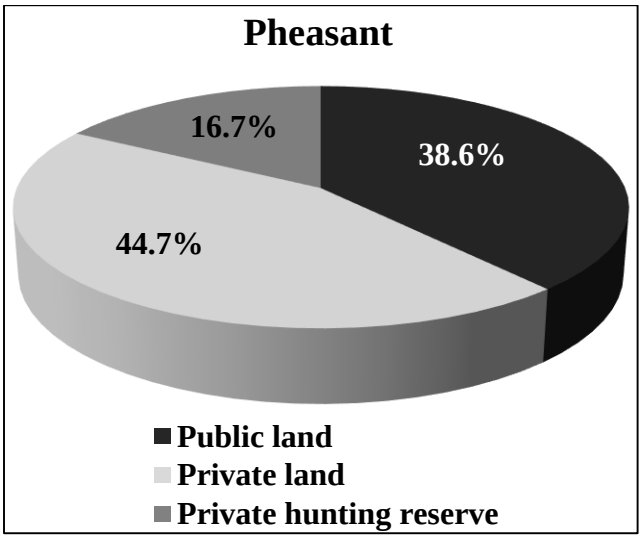


Figure 2.16. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=114)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting pheasant and had another place to hunt.

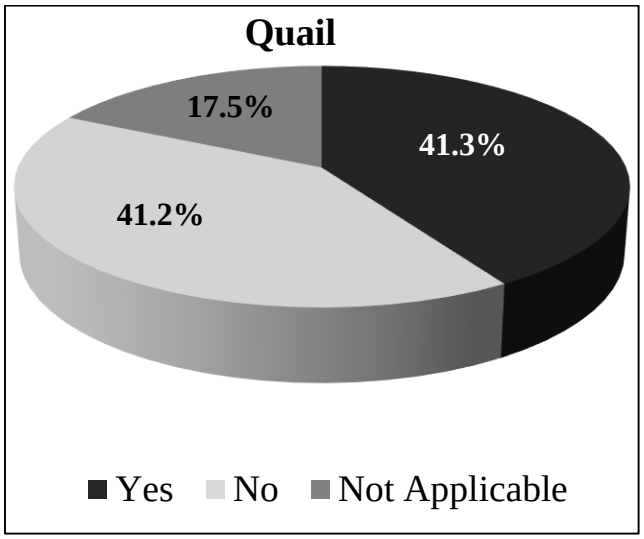


Figure 2.17. Did you have other places to hunt Quail (*n*=228)?

*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

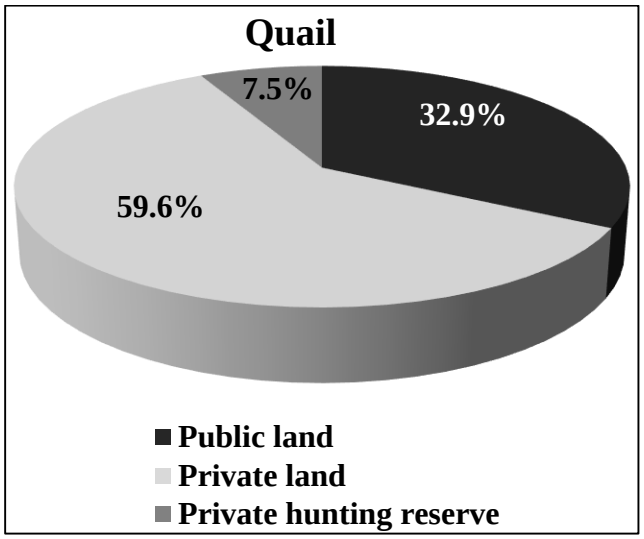


Figure 2.18. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=94)?

*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting quail and had another place to hunt.

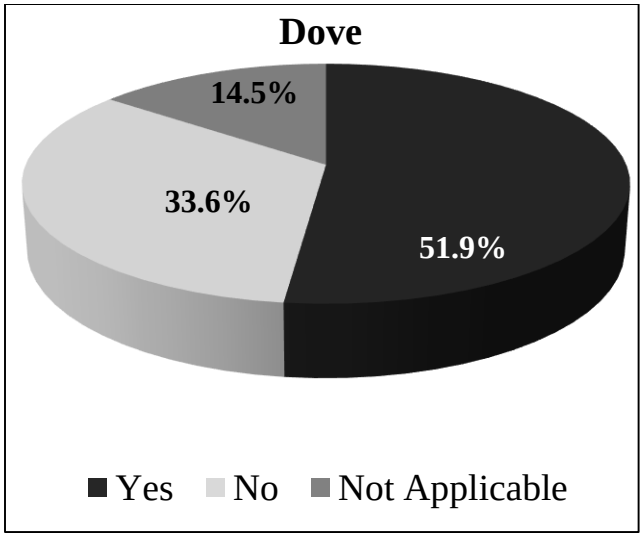


Figure 2.19. Did you have other places to hunt dove (*n*=214)?

*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

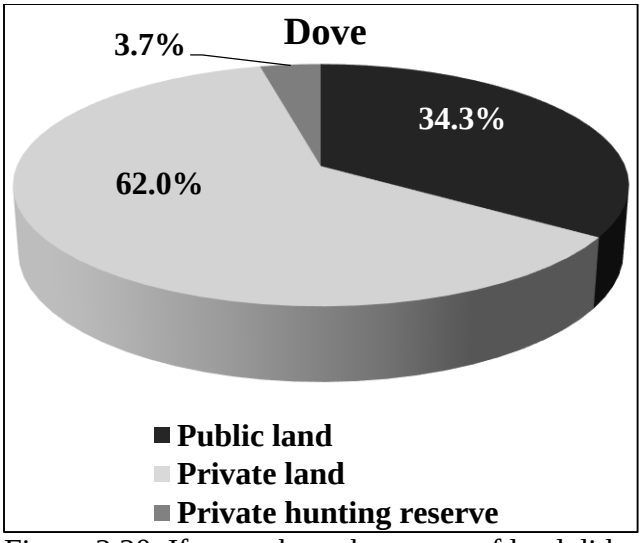


Figure 2.20. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=111)?

*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting dove and had another place to hunt.

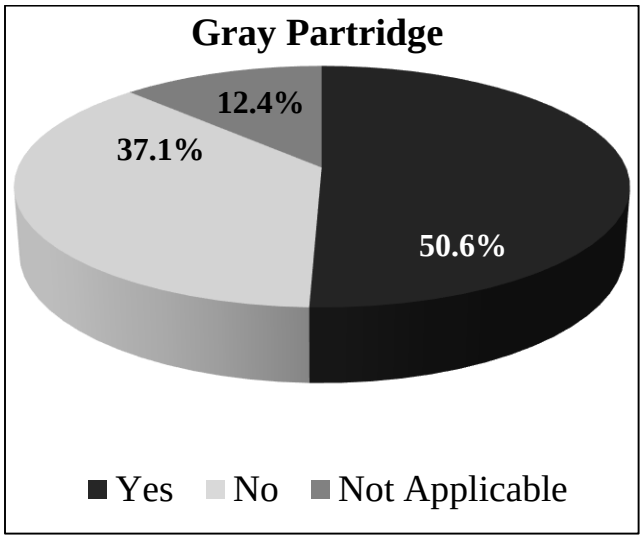


Figure 2.21. Did you have other places to hunt gray partridge (*n*=170)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

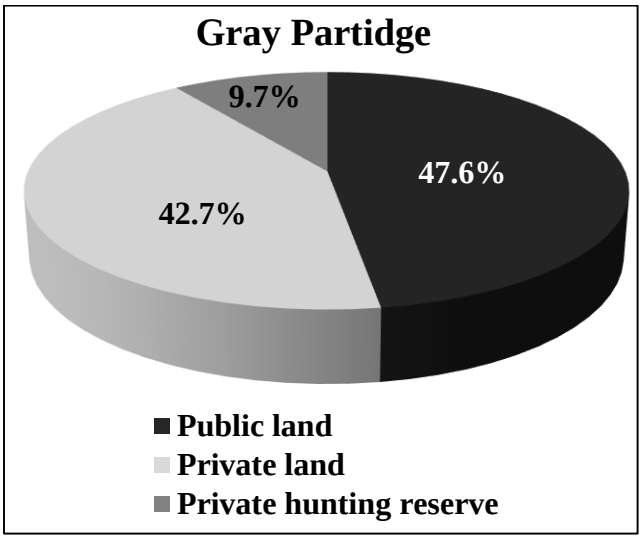


Figure 2.22. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=21)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting gray partridge and had another place to hunt.

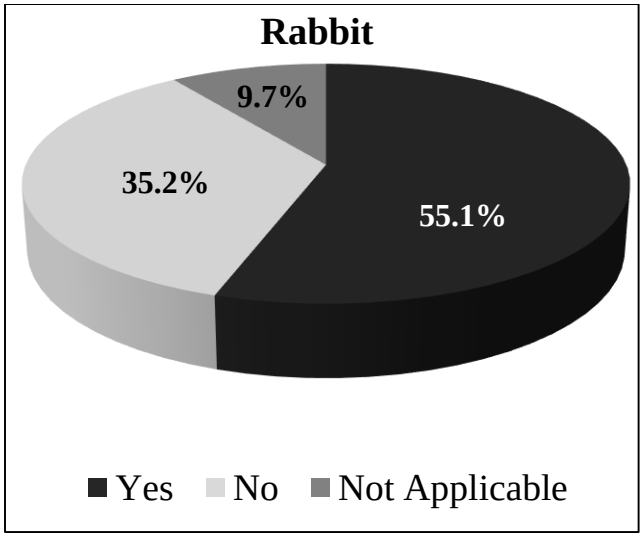


Figure 2.23. Did you have other places to hunt rabbit (*n*=236)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

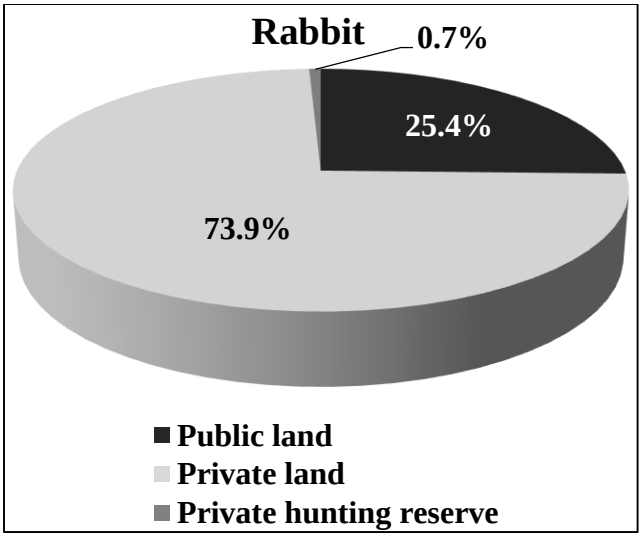


Figure 2.24. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=130)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting rabbit and had another place to hunt.

.

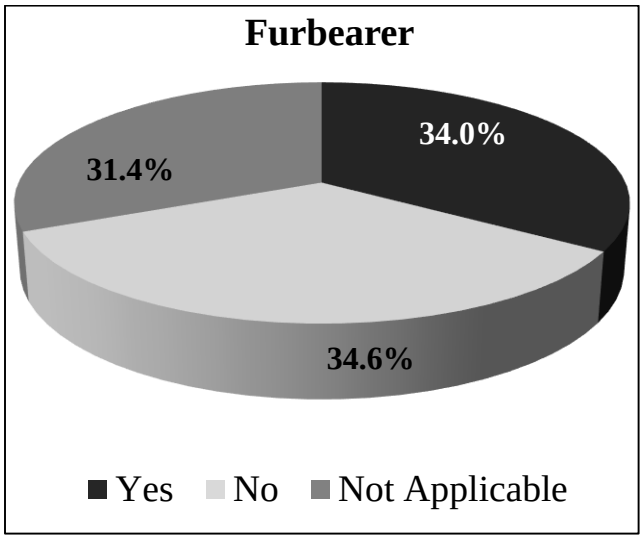


Figure 2.25. Did you have other places to hunt furbearers (*n*=185)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they have previously hunted small game and were excluded from a hunting area.

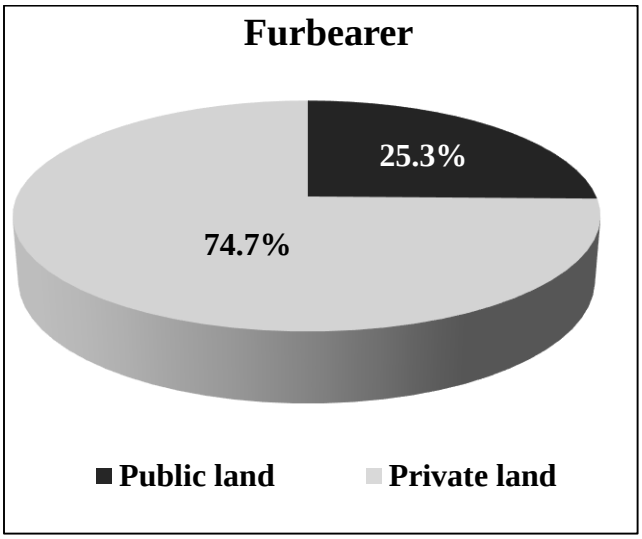


Figure 2.26. If yes, what other types of land did you hunt (*n*=63)?
*Cases restricted to those who indicated they were previously excluded from hunting furbearers and had another place to hunt.

Most small game hunters rated the amount of private land available to hunt in their region as poor (30.1%) or very poor (25.2%), which was slightly lower than hunter ratings on the amount public land, where hunters' most frequent responses were poor (34.9%) or fair (28.8%) (Table 2.11). In regard to the quality of habitat on private land, small game hunters' top two ratings were good (30.4%) and (28.5%) fair, which was very similar to hunter ratings of the quality of habitat on public land. Over 75% of small game hunters felt that small game populations in their regions had decreased (Figure 2.27) and most hunters identified predators (47.4%) as being a very important cause, followed by farming practices (41.0%) and development (33.7%) (Table 2.12).

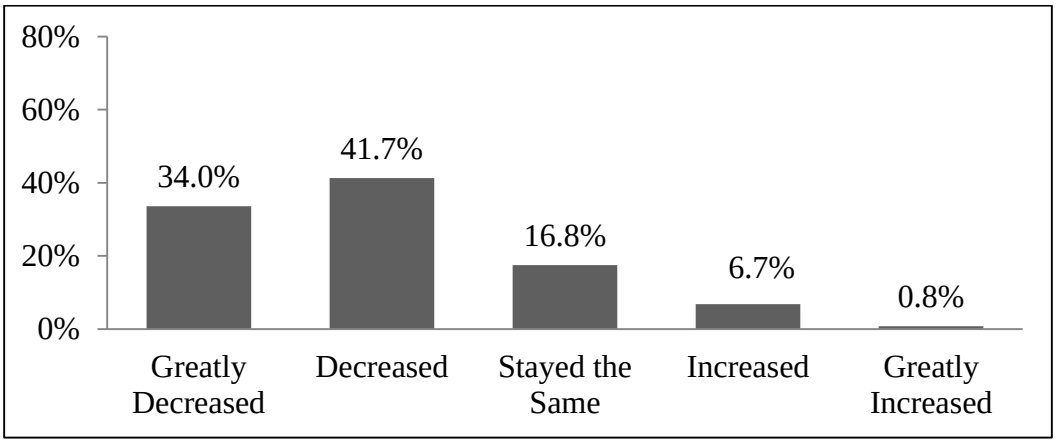


Figure 2.27. Illinois hunter* opinions about the population change of small game in regions where they hunt (*n*=982).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they have previously hunted small game.

Hunter Attitudes Regarding Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Bluetongue Virus

Approximately 14% of deer hunters reported they observed dead deer between July and October 2014 (Figure 2.28). These hunters reported an average of 3.43 (± 2.88) dead deer, and 29.3% of them saw ≥4 deer (Table 2.13). Only a small proportion (7.6%) of hunters that observed dead deer reported them to IDNR (Figure 2.29), and those hunters reported an average of 2.83 (±3.90) deer (Table 2.14). Counties in which most of the dead deer were observed include Pike, Fulton, Greene, Will, Jasper, and LaSalle Counties (Table 2.15).

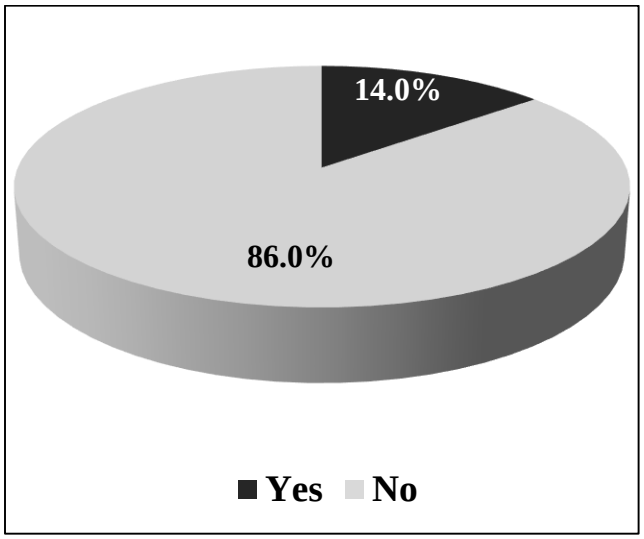


Figure 2.28. Percentage of hunters who reported observing dead deer from July through October 2014 (*n*=1,123).

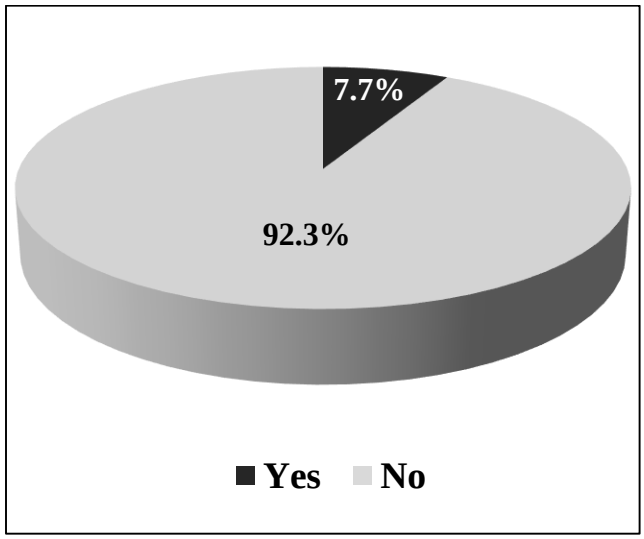


Figure 2.29. Percentage of hunters* that reported dead deer they observed to the IDNR (*n*=155).
*Cases selected for those who observed dead deer.

The majority of deer hunting occurred on private lands in Illinois during the 2014-15 deer seasons and only 13.0% occurred on public lands (Figure 2.30). Fifty-five percent of deer hunters believed that EHD & BTV had decreased the number of deer in the areas they hunt, 36.4% saw no change, and 8.4% indicated deer populations increased (Table 2.16). Approximately 64% of Illinois deer hunters believed that the statewide population of deer had decreased, 24.7% believed there was no change, and 11.5% indicated the statewide deer population increased (Table 2.17). Only 9.8% of Illinois deer hunters indicated they saw more deer during the 2014-15 deer seasons than they had 5 years prior, while 75.2% of deer hunters reported seeing fewer deer and 61.7% reported harvesting fewer deer (Table 2.18 and Table 2.19).

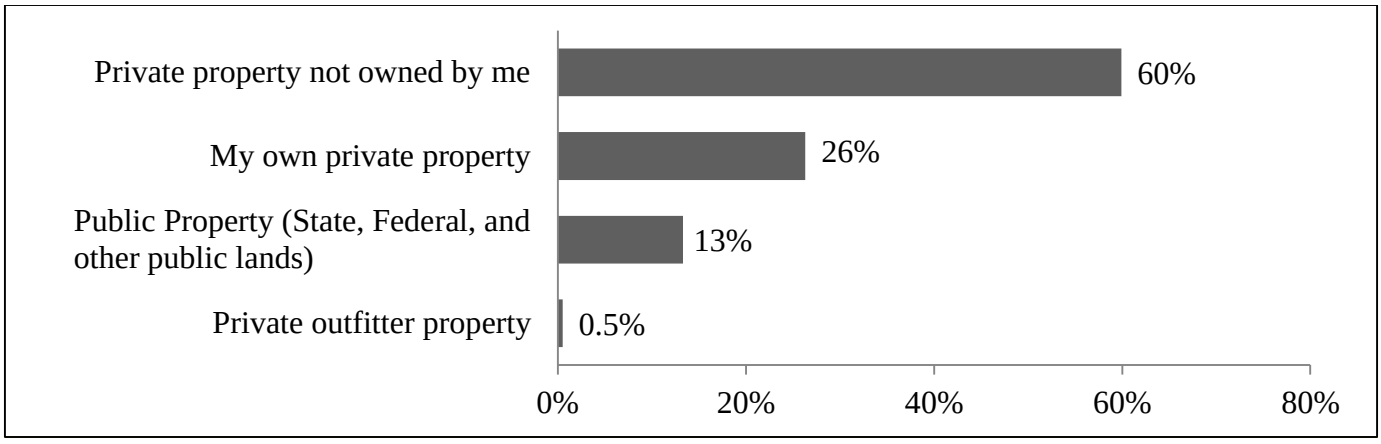


Figure 2.30. Types of property Illinois deer hunters* hunted most often for deer (*n*=826).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted deer in Illinois during the 2014-15 hunting seasons.

Hunting Experiences and Regulations

Hunters were asked to identify the type of land on which they hunt deer most often. Results were combined to create 2 groups of Illinois deer hunters: 1) public lands, and 2) private lands. A majority of private land (86.9%) and public land deer hunters (78.2%) use tree stands for hunting. A greater percentage of public land hunters (25.9%) reported that they have had a tree stand stolen in the past when compared to private land hunters (7.7%) (Table 2.26). Majorities of deer hunters from both groups (public land hunters = 74.8%; private land hunters = 51.1%) disagreed that tree stands should be removed on public land at the end of each day (Table 2.20), and 69.7% of public and 49% of private lands hunters agreed that hunters on public lands should be

allowed to keep tree stands up for the entire season (Table 2.21). When separated by different types of hunting equipment, Illinois respondents who hunt with both firearm and archery equipment (93.0%) were more likely to have hunted with tree stands than firearm-only and archery-only deer hunters. However, archery-only deer hunters were more likely to have a tree stand stolen (Table 2.22), more likely to agree that hunters should remove their tree stands from public land at the end of the day, and less in favor of leaving tree stands up for an entire season on public land (Table 2.23).

A large majority of Illinois hunters reported that they have never used firearms equipped with a suppressor (Figure 2.31). Illinois hunter opinions reveal that over 40% agree that their use of a firearms without suppressors has damaged their hearing (Figure 2.32) and over 60% agreed that the use of suppressors on firearms would protect their hearing (Figure 2.33). Slightly more than half of respondents (50.4%) also agreed that hunters should be allowed to use suppressors while hunting in Illinois (Figure 2.34).

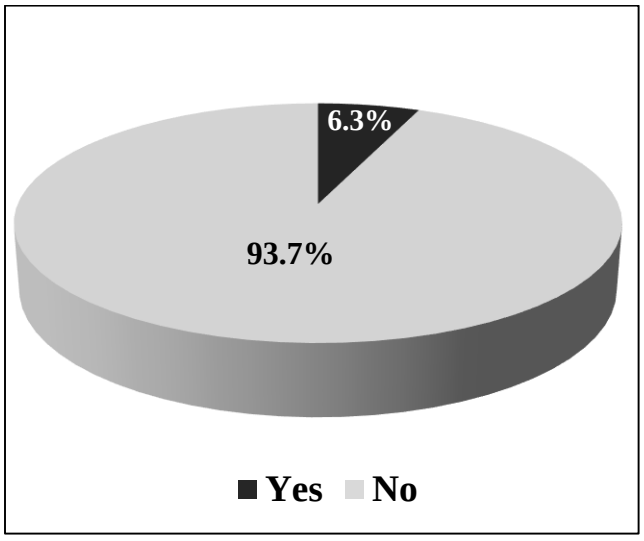


Figure 2.31. Percentage of Illinois hunters who have used firearms equipped with a suppressor (*n*=1,028).

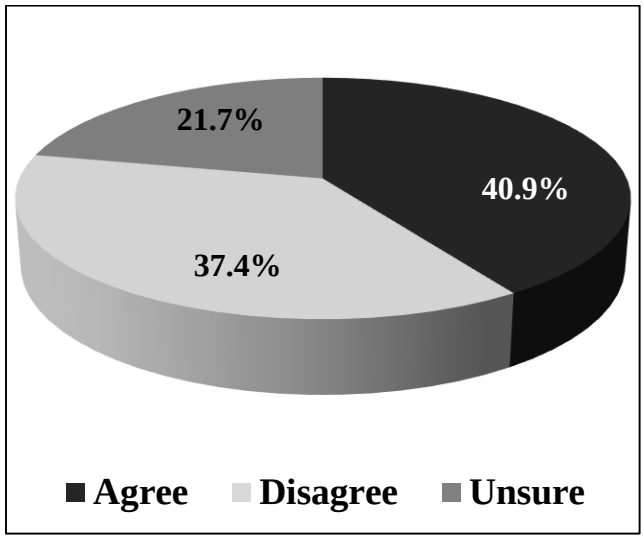


Figure 2.32. Percentage of Illinois hunter responses: Shooting firearms has damaged my hearing (*n*=1,126).

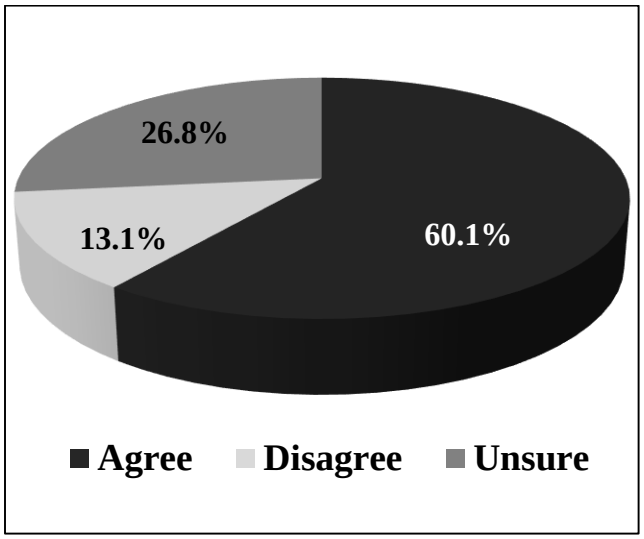


Figure 2.33. Percentage of Illinois hunter responses: Using a suppressor would help protect my hearing. (*n*=1,125).

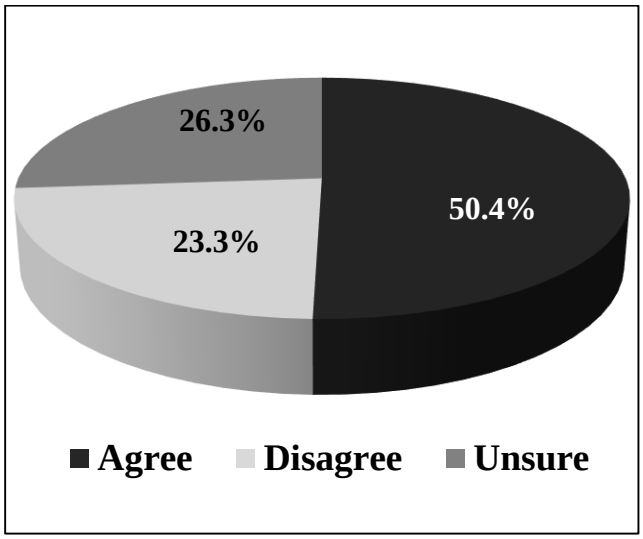


Figure 2.34. Percentage of Illinois hunter responses: Hunters should be allowed to hunt using suppressors in Illinois (*n*=1,126).

General Information

Respondents to the 2014-15 Hunter Harvest Survey were mostly male (92.8%) (Figure 2.35), white/non-hispanic (97.0%), had a mean age of 49 years old, mode of 57 years old, and had been hunting for an average of 30 years. Counties hunted most frequently were Will, Fulton, and Randolph, and most frequently listed counties of residence were Cook, Madison, and Will. When asked about their preferences for receiving hunting law updates, 44.5% of hunters chose the IDNR website, followed by email (43.7%), newspapers (29.7%), Illinois Hunt/Trap Digest (29.2%), and Facebook (9.0%). When asked about memberships to hunting organizations, the majority of hunters listed “Ducks Unlimited” followed by “Local Hunting Clubs” and “Pheasants Forever”.

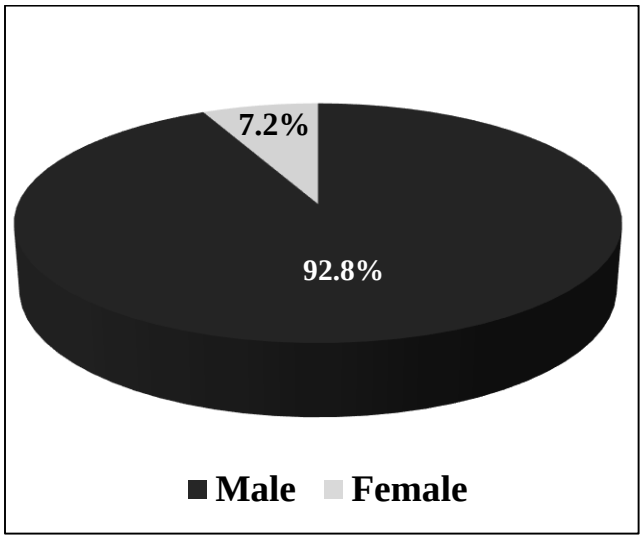


Figure 2.35. Gender distribution of Illinois hunters (*n*=1,195).

References

Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. 1993. Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey, 1992. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R, Job 1, Job Completion Report 65pg.

IBM SPSS Inc. 2012. SPSS for Windows. IBM Corporation, 1 New Orchard Road, Armonk NY, U.S.A.

Miller, C.A., L.K. Campbell and K.D. Caldwell. 1999. 1998-99 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey Report. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-112-R-8, Job 1, Job Completion Report 77pg.

Table 2.1. Number of hunters who intended to hunt "species listed" and number of those hunters who relied exclusively on public land to hunt in Illinois during 2014-15 (*n*=1,185).

Species	Number of Hunters Intended to Hunt	Percent of hunters (%)	Number of Hunters Relying Exclusively on Public land	Percent of hunters (%)
Ducks	225	19.0	67	29.8
Geese	208	17.5	45	21.6
Deer	971	81.9	196	20.2
Doves	284	23.9	50	17.6
Furbearers	87	7.3	11	12.6
Pheasants	227	19.2	55	24.2
Quail	120	10.1	10	8.3
Squirrels	378	31.9	56	14.8
Rabbits	260	21.9	27	10.4
Turkeys	337	28.4	48	14.2
Gray Partridge	3	0.3	2	66.6

Table 2.2. Preferred species if hunters are given only one day to hunt only one species (*n*=1,191).

Species	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Deer	799	67.1
Ducks	73	6.0
Turkeys	73	6.0
Pheasants	73	6.0
Squirrels	49	4.1
Doves	33	2.8
Rabbits	26	2.2
Geese	22	1.8
Quail	20	1.7
Furbearer	14	1.2
Coyotes*	5	.4

*Indicates write-ins provided by hunters.

Table 2.3. 2014-15 hunting season applicants' satisfaction ratings for the hunting permit application process in Illinois.

Permit	Number of hunters*	Dissatisfied (%)	Slightly Dissatisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Slightly Satisfied (%)	Satisfied (%)
Free Upland Game	56	7.1	3.6	19.6	7.1	62.5
Deer Firearm	402	3.2	5.2	18.9	8.5	64.2
Deer Archery	246	3.3	1.6	14.6	9.8	70.7
Deer Muzzleloader	76	2.6	7.9	11.8	6.6	71.1
Fall Turkey	39	7.7	2.6	15.4	5.1	69.2
Spring Turkey	125	12.0	10.4	14.4	8.8	54.4
Free Dove	63	7.9	6.3	19.0	7.9	58.7
Pheasant INDR Controlled Hunt	41	7.3	0.0	12.2	14.6	65.9

*Cases selected for those who applied for a public hunting permit for the 2014-2015 season.

Table 2.4. Respondents' agreement or disagreement with statements regarding hunting on state sites, as reported from the 2014-15 Hunter Harvest survey.

	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Slightly Disagree (%)	Unsure (%)	Slightly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
Mandatory Check-in/check-out makes me want to hunt less. (*n*=1,106)	20.8	23.7	6.3	23.1	7.8	10.1	8.2
Rules for hunting on state sites are too complex (*n*=1,095)	9.0	14.2	6.3	34.7	14.6	12.5	8.6
IDNR should work to simplify state site hunting rules throughout IL (*n*=1,101)	4.9	6.5	3.5	29.5	15.3	22.9	17.3

Table 2.5. Responses by applicants regarding use of a free windshield card for hunting state sites in Illinois.

Used free windshield card	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Yes	200	17.9
No	920	82.1

Table 2.6. Overall opinion of the free windshield card for state sites.

Opinion	Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters (%)
Very Poor	12	6.1
Poor	14	7.0
Fair	72	36.4
Good	78	39.4
Excellent	22	11.1

* Cases selected for those who indicated they have used a free windshield card for hunting state sites.

Table 2.7. Opinion of hunters "who used the free windshield card" regarding the following statements as reported on the 2014-15 Hunter Harvest Survey.

Statement	Number of hunters	Dissatisfied (%)	Neutral (%)	Satisfied (%)
Ease of finding sites on the IDNR website	194	20.1	32.5	47.4
Quality of site regulations on IDNR website	194	20.6	33.5	45.8
Quality of site maps on IDNR website	194	26.3	27.8	45.9
Use of windshield cards to hunt state sites	197	12.2	26.4	61.4
Ease of filing harvest information after close of season	194	23.2	27.3	49.5
Carrying permit information while hunting	197	16.8	30.5	52.8
Ease of hunting new sites under this system	195	21.0	47.7	31.3

Table 2.8. Types of property most often hunted in Illinois during the last 12 months for small game.

	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Public lands (State or Federal)	136	15.1
My own private property	221	24.6
Private property not owned by me	508	56.4
Private hunting preserve	35	3.9

Table 2.9. Number of years Illinois small game hunters* reported hunting the following types of land, 2014-15 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

	Average number of years/hunter**	0 years (%)	1-5 years (%)	6-10 years (%)	11-15 years (%)	16-20 years (%)	21-25 years (%)	>25 years (%)
Public lands (State or Federal) *n*=(507)	13.9	10.5	32.5	14.6	9.5	9.1	5.7	18.1
My own private property (*n*=401)	17.2	14.7	15.5	17.5	9.2	11.0	6.7	25.4
Private property not owned by me (*n*=808)	25.0	0.9	14.4	14.9	8.7	11.6	5.8	43.8
Private hunting preserve (*n*=208)	5.8	35.6	37.5	12.0	2.9	5.3	1.9	4.8

*Cases selected for those that indicated they have hunted small game.

**Average number of years hunting the specified land type by small game hunters in Illinois.

Table 2.10. Number of days respondents* reported hunting small game in Illinois, at the following types of sites during the 2014-2015 hunting season.

	0-days (%)	1-day (%)	2-4 days (%)	5-10 days (%)	10+ days (%)
IDNR controlled pheasant hunts (*n*=613)	90.0	4.1	2.3	2.6	1.0
Public hunting areas (*n*=640)	78.8	6.3	5.9	3.8	5.3
Private hunting preserves (*n*=599)	87.8	4.0	4.2	1.7	2.3
Private land owned by me (*n*=669)	69.5	3.3	8.7	7.2	11.4
Private land not owned by me (*n*=800)	46.1	6.5	15.5	12.1	19.8

*Cases selected for those that indicated they have hunted small game.

Table 2.11. Opinion of Illinois small game hunters* on amount of private and public land available and quality of habitat in the region where they hunt.

Small game hunters opinion of:	Very Poor (%)	Poor (%)	Fair (%)	Good (%)	Excellent (%)
Amount of **private land** available to hunt small game in the region where they hunt. (*n*=970)	25.2	30.1	26.4	14.4	4.0
Amount of **public land** available to hunt small game in the region where they hunt. (*n*=953)	15.9	34.9	28.8	17.6	2.8
Quality of habitat on private land for small game in the region where they hunt. (*n*=969)	10.7	22.9	28.5	30.4	7.5
Quality of habitat on public land for small game in the region where they hunt. (*n*=913)	9.6	23.0	32.4	30.2	4.8

*Cases selected for those that indicated they have hunted small game.

Table 2.12. Importance of the following causes for lower small game population numbers in Illinois.

	Not Important (%)	Somewhat Important (%)	Important (%)	Very Important (%)
Farming Practices (*n*=691)	9.8	21.6	27.6	41.0
Predators (*n*=703)	6.1	16.1	30.2	47.7
Development (*n*=656)	14.9	22.7	28.7	33.7
Weather (*n*=613*)*	38.7	38.8	14.2	8.3

*Only includes responses from those who have seen the population of small game decrease in the region where they hunt since they began hunting.

Table 2.13. Number of dead deer seen by Illinois hunter respondents between July through October 2014.*

Number of dead deer observed	Number of respondents	(# of dead deer observed x # of res)
1	31	31
2	39	78
3	41	123
4	17	68
5	8	40
6	6	36
7	3	21
8	1	8
10	5	50
12	2	24
15	4	60
TOTAL	157	539

*Indicates number of dead deer personally observed in or next to bodies of water (creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.), were fresh enough to have died during the July-October period, and did not show any visible signs of trauma (broken bones or other wounds).

Table 2.14. Number of dead deer Illinois hunters reported to the IDNR during 2014.*

Number of dead deer reported	Number of Illinois hunters	Dead deer observed per hunter
1	5	5
2	4	8
3	2	6
15	1	15
TOTAL	12	34

*Indicates number of dead deer Illinois hunters personally observed in or next to bodies of water (creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.), were fresh enough to have died during the July-October period, and did not show any visible signs of trauma (broken bones or other wounds).

Table 2.15. Illinois counties in which hunters observed the most deer believed to have died from EHD or BTV as reported on the 2014-15 Hunter Harvest Survey.

County	Number of Illinois hunters that observed the most dead deer in this county
Pike	7
Fulton	6
Greene	5
Will	5
Jasper	5
LaSalle	5

Table 2.16. Illinois deer hunters'* perceptions of the impact of EHD and BTV on the Illinois deer population during 2014 in areas typically hunted (*n*=682).

Impact level	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	117	17.2
Decreased Moderately	129	18.9
Decreased Slightly	131	19.2
No Change	248	36.4
Increased Slightly	25	3.7
Increased Moderately	17	2.5
Increased Considerably	15	2.2

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted deer in Illinois during 2014-15.

Table 2.17. Illinois deer hunters'* perceptions of the impact of EHD and BTV on the Illinois deer population during 2014 (*n*=687).

Impact level	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	110	16.0
Decreased Moderately	176	25.6
Decreased Slightly	152	22.1
No Change	170	24.7
Increased Slightly	37	5.4
Increased Moderately	25	3.6
Increased Considerably	17	2.5

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted deer in Illinois during 2014-15.

Table 2.18. Change in number of **deer seen** by Illinois deer hunters* during the 2014-15 deer seasons compared to 5 years ago (*n*=823).

Number of deer seen have:	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	285	34.6
Decreased Moderately	180	21.9
Decreased Slightly	154	18.7
No Change	124	15.1
Increased Slightly	52	6.3
Increased Moderately	21	2.6
Increased Considerably	7	0.9

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted deer in Illinois during 2014-15.

Table 2.19. Change in number of **deer harvested** by deer hunters* during the Illinois 2014-15 deer seasons compared to 5 years ago (*n*=799).

Number of deer harvested have:	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters (%)
Decreased Considerably	219	27.4
Decreased Moderately	142	17.8
Decreased Slightly	132	16.5
No Change	250	31.3
Increased Slightly	45	5.6
Increased Moderately	7	0.9
Increased Considerably	4	0.5

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted deer in Illinois during 2014-15.

Table 2.20. Deer hunter* responses about tree stand use and theft on private and/or public lands in Illinois.

	Type of land the hunt most often	*n*	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pearson Chi-square	df	p	Cramer's V
Do you hunt out of a tree stand?	Public lands	110	21.8	78.2	5.984	1	0.019	0.085
	Private lands	712	13.1	86.9				
Have you ever had a tree stand left on public lands stolen?	Public lands	108	74.1	25.9	32.996	1	>.001	0.209
	Private lands	646	92.3	7.7				

*Cases selected for those who indicated that they hunted deer in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons.

Table 2.21. Deer hunter* opinions about tree stand removal on private and/or public lands in Illinois.

Hunters on public lands should:	Type of land	*n*	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Slightly Disagree (%)	Unsure (%)	Slightly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Pearson Chi-Square	df	p	Cramer's V
remove tree stands at the end of each day	Public	107	49.5	18.7	6.5	8.4	2.8	5.6	8.4	40.879	6	<.001	0.228
	Private	681	21.6	20.4	9.1	17.5	5.4	12.5	13.5				
be allowed to leave tree stands up through the entire hunting season	Public	109	9.2	8.3	2.8	10.1	8.3	18.3	43.1	20.907	6	<.001	0.207
	Private	692	16.2	13.0	4.5	17.3	10.4	19.8	18.8				

*Cases selected for those who indicated that they hunted deer in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons.

Table 2.22. Illinois deer hunter* opinions by type "firearm, archery, or both" regarding tree stand use and theft.

	Type of hunter	*n*	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pearson Chi-square	df	p	Cramer's V
Do you hunt out of a tree stand?	Firearm	414	21.0	79.0	30.957	2	<.001	.192
	Archery	110	10.0	90.0				
	Both	317	6.9	93.1				
Have you ever had a tree stand left on public lands stolen?	Firearm	370	93.5	6.5	13.302	2	.001	.131
	Archery	85	82.5	17.5				
	Both	262	87.3	12.7				

*Cases selected for those who indicated that they hunted deer in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons.

Table 2.23. Illinois deer hunter opinions by type "firearm, archery, or both" regarding tree stand removal.

Hunters on public lands should:	Type of hunter	*n*	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Slightly Disagree (%)	Unsure (%)	Slightly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)	Pearson Chi-Square	df	p	Cramer's V
remove tree stands at the end of each day	Firearm	393	25.7	21.4	7.9	20.9	3.6	9.9	10.7	30.678	12	.002	.195
	Archery	106	26.4	14.2	6.6	12.3	3.8	18.9	17.9				
	Both	307	24.4	20.5	11.1	11.7	7.5	10.7	14.0				
be allowed to leave tree stands up through the entire hunting season	Firearm	403	12.2	10.7	3.5	19.9	9.9	22.8	21.1	27.165	12	.007	.182
	Archery	108	21.3	13.0	7.4	9.3	8.36	12.0	28.7				
	Both	308	15.4	12.2	4.3	16.2	10.1	19.4	22.3				

*Cases selected for those who indicated that they hunted deer in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons

Appendix A

Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey: 2014-2015 Season

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Division of Wildlife Resources
&
Illinois Natural History Survey

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided

Section 1. Hunting Activity and Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information to allow IDNR biologists to monitor game species harvest and conserve wildlife populations in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase a hunting license in 2014? ____ Yes ____ No (**skip to Question 7**)

2. Did you purchase your hunting license online? ____ Yes ____ No

3. Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2014 and February 2015?

____ Yes ____ No (**skip to Question 7**)

4. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species between March 1, 2014-February 28, 2015. Include only game harvested and days you personally hunted in Illinois. Count only game you retrieved; **do not count animals you were not able to retrieve or animals that were trapped**. Count any part of a day hunted as 1 day.

Species	**Number of Days Hunted**	**Number Harvested**	**County Hunted Most Often**
Rabbit			
Quail (**shooting preserve, club, etc.**)			
Quail (**wild**)			
Pheasant (**shooting preserve, club, etc.**)			
Pheasant (**wild**)			
Gray Partridge (**shooting preserve, club, etc.**)			
Gray Partridge (**wild**)			
Dove			
Woodcock			
Snipe			
Rail			
Crow			
Ground Hog (Woodchuck)			
Gray Squirrel			
Fox Squirrel			
Turkey – Spring			
Turkey – Fall Shotgun			
Turkey – Fall Archery			
Deer – Regular Firearm Season			
Deer – Muzzleloader-Only Season			
Deer – Archery Season			
Deer – Late Winter Firearm Season			
Deer – Special CWD season			
Raccoon			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Opossum			

5. Did you harvest any Eurasian collared-doves in Illinois during the 2014 season?

____ Yes; how many? _____ ____ No ____ Not sure

6. Which of the following did you **rely exclusively** on public land to hunt in 2014-15? (Please check **all that apply**).

____ None ____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Deer
____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants ____ Quail ____ Squirrels
____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys ____ Doves ____ Gray partridge

7. At the start of the **2014-15 hunting season**, which game species did you **intend to hunt**? (Check **all that apply**).

____ None ____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Deer
____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants ____ Quail ____ Squirrels
____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys ____ Doves ____ Gray partridge

8. If you had only one day to hunt, which **ONE** of the following would you hunt? (Please check **one**).

____ Deer ____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants ____ Gray partridge
____ Quail ____ Squirrels ____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys
____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Doves ____ Other (please identify)_____

Section 2. Small Game Hunting. IDNR biologists are interested in learning about hunters who hunt small game in order to better manage hunting opportunities.

1. Have you **ever** hunted small game before? ____ Yes ____ No (**skip to Section 3**)

2. In your **first year of hunting** small game, which species did you hunt? (Please check **all that apply**).

____ Pheasant ____ Quail ____ Dove ____ Gray partridge
____ Rabbit ____ Squirrel ____ Furbearers ____ Other (please identify) _____

3. In the last 12 months, on which of the following types of property did you hunt small game **most often**? (Please check **only one**).

____ Public lands (State or Federal property) ____ My own private property
____ Private property not owned by me ____ Private hunting preserve

4. How many years have you hunted **each** of these types of land?

_____ years on public lands (State or Federal property) _____ years on my own private property
_____ years on private property not owned by me _____ years on private hunting preserve

5. How often did you hunt small game in Illinois at the following types of sites during the 2014-15 hunting season?

	0 days	1 day	2-4 days	5-10 days	10+ days
IDNR controlled pheasant hunts	1	2	3	4	5
Public hunting areas	1	2	3	4	5
Private hunting preserves	1	2	3	4	5
Private land owned by me	1	2	3	4	5
Private land not owned by me	1	2	3	4	5

6. Which of these species have you stopped hunting due to a lack of access to land? (Check **all that apply**).

____ Pheasant ____ Quail ____ Dove ____ Gray partridge
____ Rabbit ____ Squirrel ____ Furbearers ____ Other (please identify) _____

7. Have you ever been excluded from hunting small game on any private property you previously hunted?

____ Yes ____ No (**skip to Question 8**)

7a. Was the property leased for deer hunting? ____ Yes ____ No

7b. Were you excluded from these properties so that deer hunters would not be disturbed? ____ Yes ____ No

7c. Did you have other places to hunt these species? (Please **circle one for each species**).

	Yes, public land	Yes, private land	Yes, private hunting preserve	No	Not Applicable
Pheasant	1	2	3	4	5
Quail	1	2	3	4	5
Dove	1	2	3	4	5
Gray partridge	1	2	3	4	5
Rabbit	1	2	3	4	5
Furbearers	1	2	3	4	5

Please refer to the map on the back of the cover letter to answer questions 8 through 12

8. Please give your opinion of the amount of **private** land available to hunt small game in the **region where you hunt**?

Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

9. Please give your opinion of the amount of **public** land available to hunt small game in the **region where you hunt**?

Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10. Please give your opinion of the **quality of habitat on private** land for small game in the **region where you hunt**?

Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

11. Please give your opinion of the **quality of habitat on public** land for small game in the **region where you hunt**?

Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

12. Since you began hunting, how has the **population** of small game changed in the **region where you hunt**?

Greatly Decreased		Decreased		Same		Increased		Greatly Increased
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

13. If you rated #12 as 1-4, please rate the importance for the following as causes for lower population numbers.

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Farming practices	1	2	3	4
Predators	1	2	3	4
Development	1	2	3	4
Weather	1	2	3	4

14. Please indicate your level of support for reducing bag limits of upland birds on public hunting areas (PHAs).

Species	Strongly Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neutral	Slightly Support	Moderately Support	Strongly Support
Pheasant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dove	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Quail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 3. Hunting Permits. IDNR wildlife managers are interested in learning about hunters' satisfaction with the hunting permit system in Illinois.

If you did not apply for any permit(s) to hunt public land in 2014-15, skip to question 5

1. Please indicate which permits you applied for the **2014-15 season**s.

					How satisfied were you with the application process?				
Permit	Applied		Received		Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Neutral	Slightly Satisfied	Satisfied
Deer Firearm	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Deer Archery	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Deer Muzzleloader	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Turkey - Fall	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Turkey - Spring	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Free Dove	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Free Upland Game	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5
Pheasant IDNR - Controlled Hunt	Y	N	Y	N	1	2	3	4	5

2. Which of the following did you **rely exclusively** on receiving a Free Upland Game Permit to hunt?

____ Pheasant ____ Quail ____ Gray partridge ____ Rabbit ____ None

3. Which best describes how often you *apply* for a Free Upland Game Permit? (Please check **one**).

____ Rarely ____ Occasional years ____ Most years ____ Every year

4. When you apply for a Free Upland Game Permit, to how many sites do you typically apply? (Please circle **one**).

1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Which of the following methods for reporting harvest do you have experience using? (Check **all that apply**).

____ Check-in station ____ Telephone check-in ____ Online check-in ____ Online windshield card

6. Which **ONE** of the following methods for reporting harvest do you **prefer to use most**? (Check **only one**).

____ Check-in station ____ Telephone check-in ____ Online check-in ____ Online windshield card

7. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about hunting permits in Illinois.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Mandatory check-in/check-out makes me want to hunt less.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rules for hunting on state sites are too complex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDNR should work to simplify state site hunting rules throughout Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

8. Have you used a free windshield card for hunting state sites? ____ Yes ____ No (Please go to **Section 4**)

9. Please give your opinion of the following by selecting the number that matches your response.

	Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Neutral	Slightly Satisfied	Satisfied
Ease of finding sites on IDNR website	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of site regulations on IDNR website	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of site maps on IDNR website	1	2	3	4	5
Use of windshield cards to hunt state sites	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of filing harvest information after close of season	1	2	3	4	5
Carrying permit information while hunting	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of hunting new sites under this system	1	2	3	4	5

10. Please rate your overall opinion of the free windshield card for state sites.

Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Section 4. White-tailed Deer in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about white-tailed deer and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Blue Tongue Virus (BTV) in Illinois **during 2014**.

1. Using the table below, please report the number of dead deer you saw in or next to bodies of water (creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.) from **July through October 2014**. Report ONLY deer that (1) YOU actually saw; (2) were fresh enough to have died DURING the July-October period; (3) were IN or BESIDE a water source; and (4) DID NOT show any visible signs of trauma (broken bones or other wounds). DO NOT report deer that someone else told you about, if you did not actually see them.

Did you observe dead deer in this period?	If Yes, how many dead deer, meeting the criteria above did **you** see?	Did you report any of the dead deer you observed to the IDNR?	If Yes, how many dead deer did **you** report to the IDNR?
___ Yes ___ No	_____ dead deer	___ Yes ___ No	_____ reported

2. In which county did you observe the most deer that you believe died from EHD or BTV? _____ County

3. How do you think EHD and BTV impacted the deer population **during 2014** in areas **you typically hunt?** Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

4. How do you think EHD and BTV impacted the deer population **during 2014** throughout the **entire state?** Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5. Which type of land do you hunt **most often** for deer? (Please check **one**).

____ Public property (State, Federal, and other public lands) ____ My own private property

____ Private property not owned by me ____ Private outfitter property

6. How did the number of deer **you saw** during the 2014-15 season compare to 5 years ago? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

7. How does the number of deer **you harvested** during the 2014-15 season compare to 5 years ago? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Decreased Considerably	Decreased Moderately	Decreased Slightly	No Change	Increased Slightly	Increased Moderately	Increased Considerably
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 5. Hunting Experiences and Regulations. IDNR wildlife managers are interested in learning about your opinions regarding potential new hunting regulations.

Use of Tree Stands

1. Do you hunt out of a tree stand? ____ Yes ____ No

2. Have you ever had a tree stand left on public lands stolen? (Not confiscated) ____ Yes ____ No

3. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding **tree stands**.

Hunters on public lands should…	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
remove tree stands at the end of each day.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
be allowed to leave tree stands up through the entire hunting season.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Suppressor refers to a device that is attached to or part of the barrel of a firearm which reduces the amount of noise and visible muzzle flash generated by firing.

4. Have you ever used a firearm equipped with a suppressor? ____ Yes ____ No

5. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding suppressors.

Suppressors	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Shooting firearms has damaged my hearing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Using a suppressor would help protect my hearing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunters should be allowed to hunt using suppressors in Illinois.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 6. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about the people involved in hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? _____ years

2. What is your county of residence? _____ County

3. What county do you hunt in **most often**? _____ County

4. How would you like to receive future hunting law updates? (Please check **all that apply**).

____ E-mail ____ Press release in newspapers ____ In the next Hunt/Trap Digest

____ IDNR website ____ Facebook/Twitter ____ Other (please identify)_____

5. What is your gender? ____ Male ____ Female

6. Please give your age. _____ years

7. What is your race or ethnicity? (Please check **all that apply**).

____ White/non-hispanic ____ Black/African American ____ American Indian/Native Alaskan

____ Asian ____ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ____ Hispanic/Latino

____ Other (Please identify) _____

8. In which of the following hunting organizations are you a member? (Please check **all that apply**).

____ Pheasants Forever ____ Quail Forever ____ Ducks Unlimited

____ Delta Waterfowl ____ Whitetail Forever ____ Illinois Whitetail Alliance

____ Local Hunting Club ____ Other (Please Identify) _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Appendix B

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

April 30, 2015

Dear Illinois Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2014 Illinois hunting license purchasers. We are asking you to provide information about your activities during the 2014-2015 hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2014-2015 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you.** A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about hunting activities in Illinois. Results of this study will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' wildlife populations. **Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential**. By responding you will help us more effectively manage wildlife and hunting in Illinois.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove your name from our mailing list.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

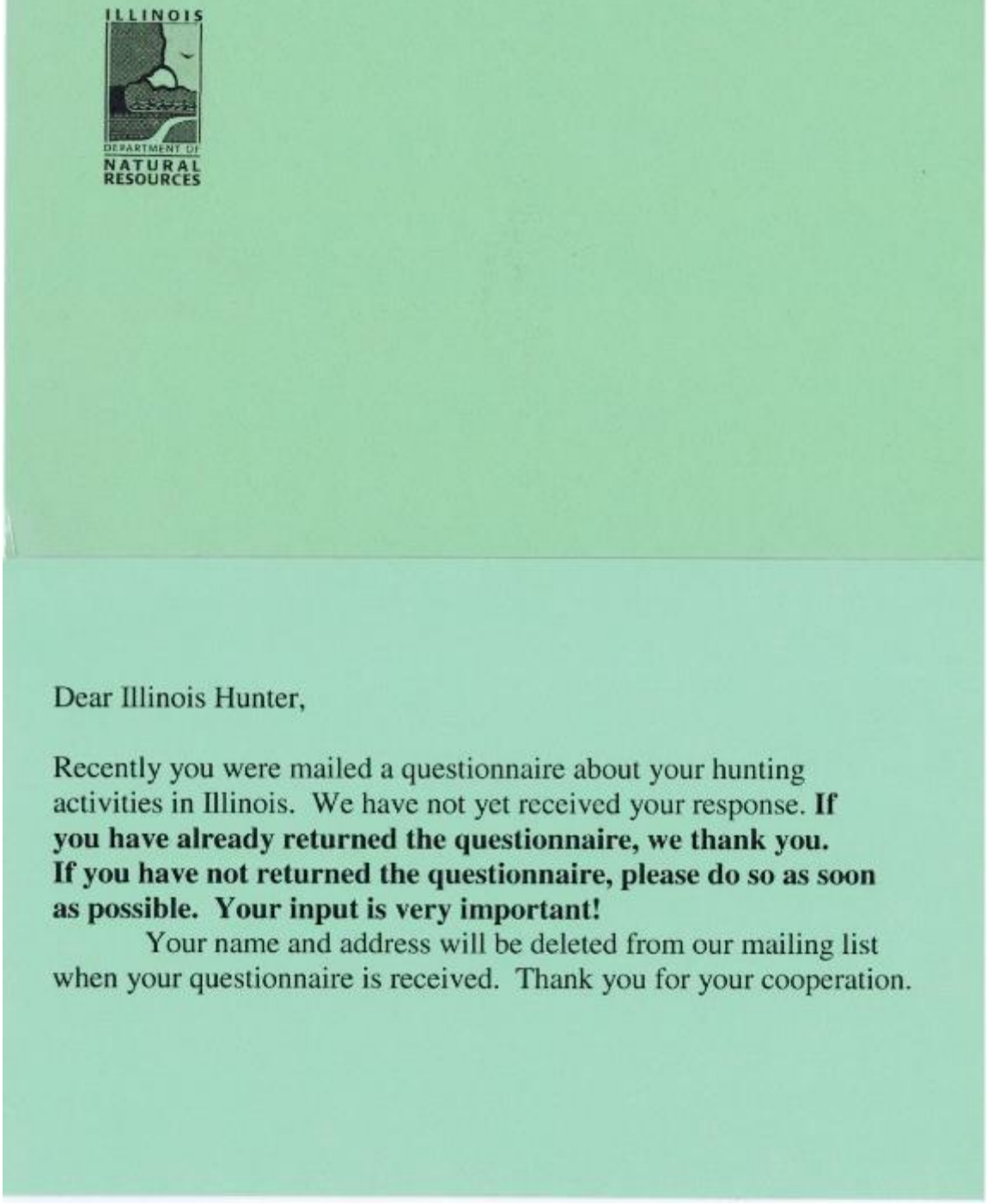
If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Appendix C


ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES
Dear Illinois Hunter,
Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your hunting activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!
Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

June 9, 2015

Dear Illinois Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2014 Illinois hunting license purchasers. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2014-2015 hunting seasons. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.
We have enclosed another copy for your use. The information you and other selected hunters provide will help wildlife managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' wildlife populations. Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.

Even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2014-2015 seasons, we ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the portions of the questionnaire that pertain to you. A postage paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

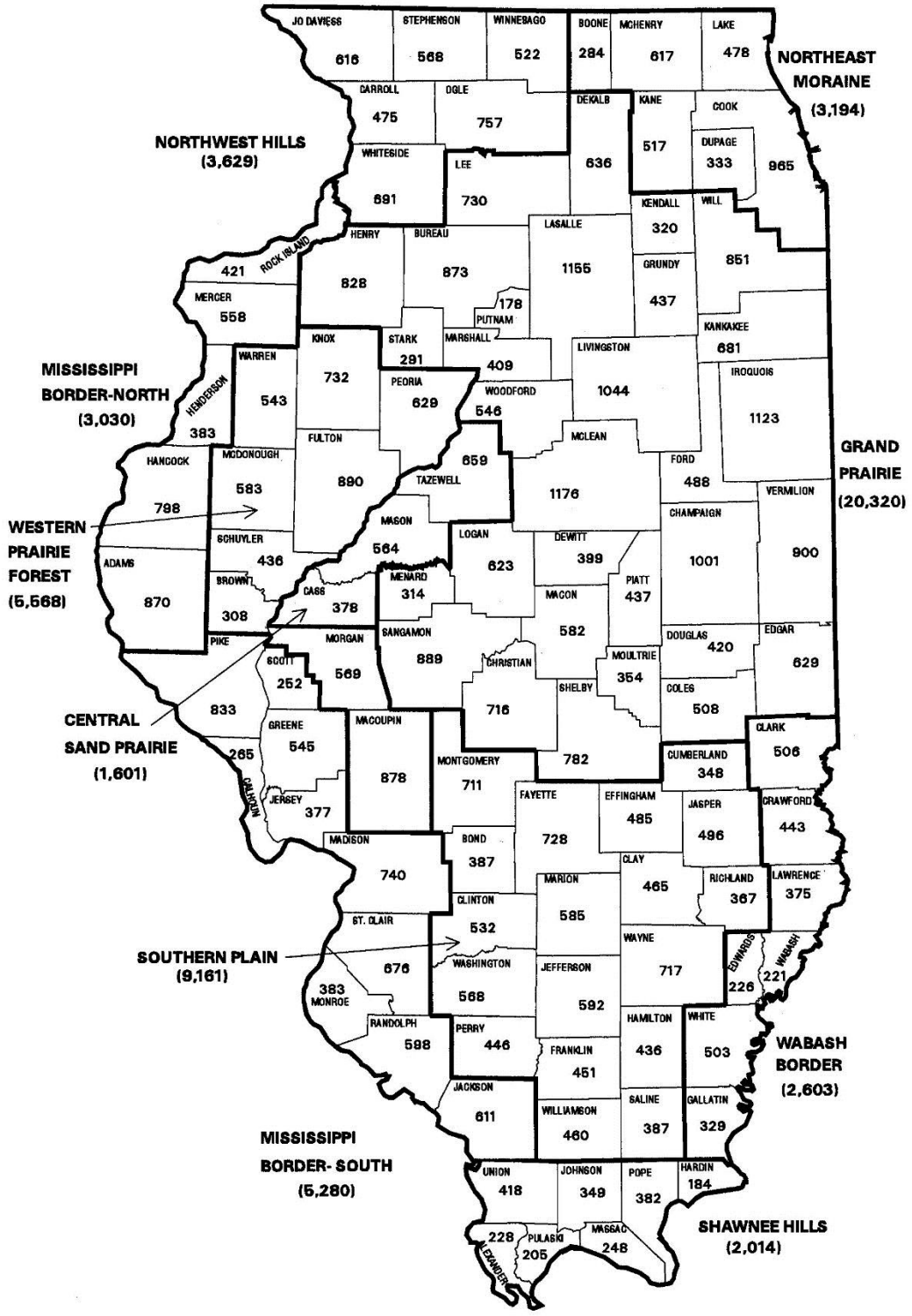
Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

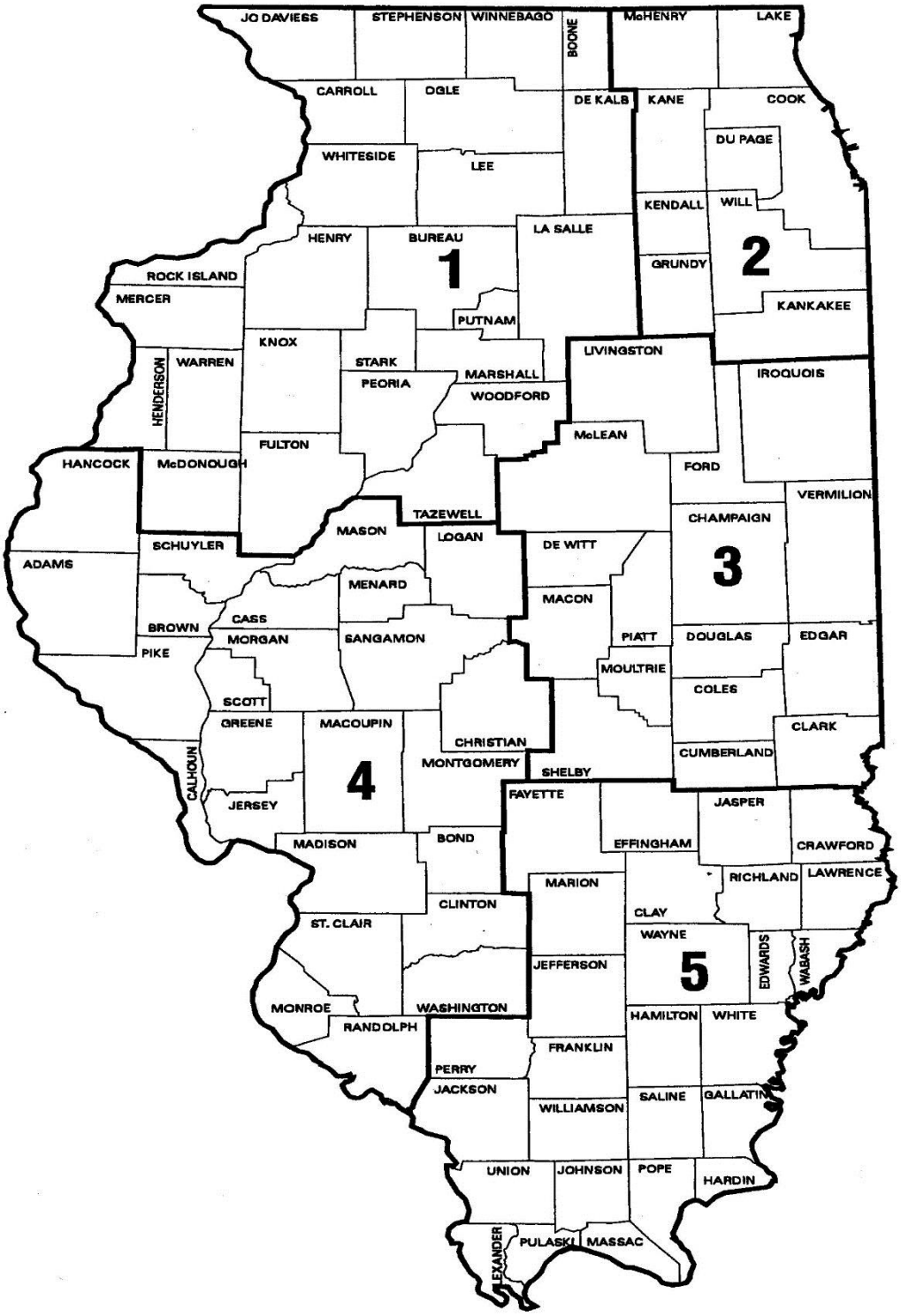
Appendix E

Wildlife management units in Illinois (square miles in parentheses).



Appendix F

Administrative regions in Illinois.



Appendix G

2014-2015 Season Dates and Limits Information

Small Game

SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 1, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2015 (Statewide)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10[a]
Cock Pheasant	Nov. 1, 2014 - Jan. 8, 2015 (North) Nov. 1, 2014 - Jan. 15, 2015 (South)		2	6[a]
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6[a]
Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20[a]
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2015 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21 - 23 and Dec. 4 - 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	5	10[a]
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1, 2014 - March 31,2015 Closed Nov. 21 - 23 and Dec. 4 - 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Sunrise to sunset	No Limit	

Deer & Turkey

SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Firearm Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)	Nov. 21 - 23; Dec. 4 - 7, 2014	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per firearm permit[f]
Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec.12 - 14, 2014 (also allowed Dec. 4 - 7)		One deer per muzzleloading rifle permit[f]
Special CWD Deer Season	Jan. 1 - 4 and Jan. 16 - 18, 2015		One deer per valid deer permit[g]
Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader & Shotgun)			One antlerless deer per permit
Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane County)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 20, Nov. 24 - Dec. 3, and Dec. 8, 2014 - Jan. 18, 2015		One deer per archery permit[f]
Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2014 - Jan. 18, 2015		
Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 11 - 13, 2014		One deer
Youth Turkey Season (1 permit per year)	March 28 - 29, 2015 (South) April 4 - 5, 2015 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits
Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 6 - May 7, 2015[b] (South) April 13 - May 14, 2015[b] (North)		One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2, 2014	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1, 2014 - Jan. 18, 2015, except closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One either-sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2

Migratory Game Birds

SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES		HOURS	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Dove[c]	Sept. 1 - Nov. 14, 2014; Dec. 26, 2014 - Jan. 9, 2015		Sunrise to sunset	15[c]	45[c]
Teal (tentative)	Sept. 6 - 21, 2014			6	18
Early Canada Goose	Sept. 1 - 15, 2014	North and Central	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5	15
		South Central & South		2	6
Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	Sept. 6 - Nov. 14, 2014		Sunrise to sunset	25	75
Common Snipe	Sept. 6 - Dec. 21, 2014			8	24
Woodcock	Oct. 18 - Dec. 1, 2014			3	9
Crow	Oct. 28, 2014 - Feb. 28, 2015		1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	

The season dates for Migratory Waterfowl seasons that occur after Oct. 1 will be available in September. See 2014-2015 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.

2014-2015 Season Dates and Limits Information *(continued)*

Furbearers—Hunting

SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2014 - Feb. 10, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2015 (South) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) opens at sunrise[d]	No Limit
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2015 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted except Nov. 10 opens at sunrise[d]	
Coyote and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide) Closed Nov. 21 - 22 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 23 and closed Dec. 4 - 6 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in counties open for firearm deer hunting[g]	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours Nov. 10, 2014 - March 15, 2015[e]	

Furbearers—Trapping

SPECIES	DATES (INCLUSIVE) AND ZONES	LIMIT	SPECIAL REGULATIONS
Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink, Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2014 - Jan. 20, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - Jan. 25, 2015 (South)	None except for badger, which is limited to 2 per person per season in north zone and 1 per person per season in south zone	
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30, 2014 (Statewide)	None	
Beaver	Nov. 5, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (South)		
River Otter	Nov. 5, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (North) Nov. 10, 2014 - March 31, 2015 (South)	5 per person per season (statewide)	Must purchase Otter Registration Permit within 48 hours after each otter is trapped. Must affix official CITES tag to each pelt.
Extended Spring Season for Mink and Muskrat	Begins at sunset on Jan. 20, 2015 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2015 (North) Begins at sunset on Jan. 25, 2015 - closes at sunset on Feb. 15, 2015 (South)	None	No foothold traps may be set for mink or muskrat. Body-gripping (killer) traps must be completely submerged underwater.

[a] On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

[b] South — 1st season — April 6 - 10; 2nd season — April 11 - 16; 3rd season — April 17 - 22; 4th season — April 23 - 29; 5th season — April 30 - May 7
North — 1st season — April 13 - 17; 2nd season — April 18 - 23; 3rd season — April 24 - 29; 4th season — April 30 - May 6; 5th season — May 7 - 14

[c] The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate. There is no bag limit on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be taken only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for the purpose of taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily bag limit for mourning/white-winged doves.

[d] During the Archery Deer Season bow hunting hours for coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, opossum, red fox and gray fox will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

[e] Hunters with unfilled firearm deer permits may take coyotes during firearm deer season by shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader or handgun from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

[f] No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader and youth firearm seasons. For the purpose of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates are within the same 12-month period that begins July 1.

[g] Antlered deer bag limit does not apply to this season.