

*Pheasant*

GLEN G. SANDERSON

---

# THE ILLINOIS PHEASANT RANGE

## 1958 - 1988



Richard E. Warner  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
607 E. Peabody Drive  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

1 July 1989

---

---

# **THE ILLINOIS PHEASANT RANGE**

**1958 - 1988**

**Richard E. Warner  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
607 E. Peabody Drive  
Champaign, Illinois 61820**

**1 July 1989**

---

## **PREFACE**

The Rural Mail Carrier's Census (RMCC) of pheasants has been conducted at 5-year intervals in Illinois since 1958. The Illinois Department of Conservation has funded the past several RMCCs, and this report summarizes the findings of the 1988 and earlier censuses.

The methods and findings of previous RMCCs have been published in Illinois Natural History Survey Biological Notes No. 94 (Labisky 1975) and No. 115 (Warner 1981). Contact the Illinois Natural History Survey, Distribution Center, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois, 61820, for information regarding these and other publications pertaining to Illinois pheasants. Additional copies of this report may be acquired by contacting Dr. Richard E. Warner at the above address.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF PHEASANTS IN ILLINOIS

- Page 1**      **Table 1. Summary statistics for the Rural Mail Carrier's Census (RMCC) of pheasants in the established pheasant range of Illinois.**
- Page 2**      **Table 2. Pheasants per 100 miles as determined by RMCCs in Illinois during a 5-day period in April 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, and 1988.**
- Page 5**      **Table 3. Changes (%) in relative pheasant abundance as indicated by RMCCs of counties in the established pheasant range in Illinois, 1958-1988.**
- Page 7**      **Distribution and the relative abundance of pheasants as indicated by the 1963 RMCC.**
- Page 8**      **Distribution and the relative abundance of pheasants as indicated by the 1988 RMCC.**
- Page 9**      **Changes in the distribution and relative abundance of pheasants as indicated by the 1983 and 1988 RMCCs.**
- Page 10**     **Changes in the distribution and relative abundance of pheasants over the past 3 decades; the average of the 1958 and 1963 RMCCs compared with the average of the 1983 and 1988 RMCCs.**
- Page 11**     **Peripheral pheasant range in western and southwestern Illinois: numbers of townships where pheasants were indicated by RMCCs in 1963 and/or 1968 (1960s) vs. 1983 and/or 1988 (1980s). Numbers in counties represent 1960s/1980s; pheasants have been reported in all townships since 1958 or earlier for counties without numbers.**

### ASSOCIATIONS OF PHEASANTS AND LAND USE IN ILLINOIS

- Page 12**     **Pheasant abundance and grassland habitat in Illinois. Pheasants per 100 miles represent RMCC data, and the sum of hay and small grain acreages in the state for the 5 years prior to a given census represent figures from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (DOA).**
- Page 13**     **Relative changes in head of cattle on Illinois farms annually; the sum of 1957-62 vs. 1982-87 (DOA data).**
- Page 14**     **Relative changes in acres producing hay in Illinois annually; the sum of 1957-62 vs. 1982-87 (DOA data).**

**Table 1. Summary statistics for the Rural Mail Carrier's Census (RMCC) of pheasants in the established pheasant range of Illinois.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Miles (1,000s)</b>	<b>Miles/ township</b>	<b>Pheasants/ 100 miles<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>1958</b>	<b>250.1</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>7.0</b>	
<b>1963</b>	<b>318.6</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>32.9</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>333.1</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>-39.8</b>
<b>1973</b>	<b>351.2</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-12.5</b>
<b>1978</b>	<b>366.4</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-83.7</b>
<b>1983</b>	<b>372.5</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-37.5</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>475.6</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>120.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Some numbers vary from previously published reports due to the retention of more significant digits in computations, and different methods of averaging.

Table 2. Pheasants per 100 miles as determined by the Rural Mail Carrier's Census (RMCC) in Illinois during a 5-day period in April 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, and 1988<sup>1</sup>.

COUNTY	1958	1963	1968	1973	1978	1983	1988
ADAMS	0	0	0.01	0	0	0.01	0
ALEXANDER <sup>2</sup>							
BOND	0	0	0.02	0	0.01	0	0.02
BOONE	5.53	0.97	2.19	3.25	1.73	0.36	0.51
BROWN	0	0	0	0	0	0.12	0
BUREAU	1.48	0.44	1.12	1.68	1.06	1.06	2.26
CALHOUN <sup>3</sup>							0
CARROLL	1.82	1.29	1.91	5.51	2.30	1.11	1.24
CASS	0.15	0.72	1.41	0.81	0.17	0.94	0.77
CHAMPAIGN	28.71	35.57	17.22	14.43	0.46	0.88	2.57
CHRISTIAN	0.22	1.25	4.69	5.80	0.87	1.94	4.66
CLARK	0.16	0.14	0	0.45	0.03	0.10	0.04
CLAY	0.34	0	0	0	0	0	0.04
CLINTON <sup>3</sup>							0.03
COLES	1.75	2.08	3.26	2.40	0.29	0.12	0.89
COOK	2.69	1.31	1.70	1.93	0.11	0.54	1.91
CRAWFORD	0	0	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.11	0
CUMBERLAND	0.36	0.05	0.14	0.02	0.26	0.11	0.16
DE KALB	10.41	4.35	8.48	4.11	1.80	0.78	0.50
DE WITT	8.45	19.00	14.86	16.92	0.78	0.28	2.02
DOUGLAS	9.46	14.35	20.90	8.02	0.35	0.39	2.00
DU PAGE	4.63	2.88	1.01	1.78	0.48	0.69	0.47
EDGAR	5.01	2.95	5.45	3.70	0.47	0.22	0.69
EDWARDS <sup>3</sup>							0
EFFINGHAM	0.77	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.15	0.12
FAYETTE	0.11	0	0.01	0	0.11	0.13	0.20
FORD	39.67	70.32	28.95	31.93	1.49	0.82	4.47
FRANKLIN <sup>3</sup>							0
FULTON	0.03	0	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.22
GALLATIN <sup>2</sup>							
GREENE	0.21	0.05	0	0	0.02	0.06	0.03
GRUNDY	11.74	15.79	9.21	9.98	0.76	0.07	0.84
HAMILTON <sup>3</sup>							0
HANCOCK	0	0	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.18	0.08
HARDIN <sup>2</sup>							
HENDERSON	0.56	0	0.03	0.18	0.18	0.12	0.85
HENRY	1.86	0.29	0.29	0.75	0.71	0.92	2.35
IROQUOIS	25.56	38.96	16.68	16.68	1.07	0.88	2.77
JACKSON <sup>3</sup>							0
JASPER	1.19	0.18	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.08
JEFFERSON <sup>3</sup>							0
JERSEY	0	0.02	0	0	0.01	0	0
JO DAVIESS	1.85	0.29	0.25	0.99	0.31	0.18	0.29

Table 2, continued

COUNTY	1958	1963	1968	1973	1978	1983	1988
—JOHNSON <sup>2</sup>							
KANE	4.75	3.39	1.90	2.74	1.55	0.57	0.59
KANKAKEE	14.78	18.86	10.29	9.66	0.66	0.31	1.17
—KENDALL	8.42	4.88	5.04	7.72	2.09	0.28	1.02
KNOX	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.27	0.71
LA SALLE	12.68	15.13	9.24	7.59	1.08	0.21	0.86
LAKE	2.40	1.46	1.20	1.19	0.93	0.42	0.46
—LAWRENCE							0.01
LEE	4.64	3.44	3.38	4.68	2.55	1.24	0.65
LIVINGSTON	60.50	101.62	40.54	24.64	1.38	0.46	2.64
—LOGAN	6.98	10.71	27.91	18.05	1.29	0.98	3.88
MACON	0.72	5.96	7.43	13.28	1.15	0.67	0.58
MACOUPIN	0	0.02	0.22	0.15	0.07	0.13	0.25
—MADISON	0	0.01	0	0	0.01	0	0.06
—MARION <sup>3</sup>							0
MARSHALL	13.96	15.75	8.22	2.74	0.38	0.22	1.02
MASON	2.64	5.74	5.85	11.07	7.51	5.14	2.91
—MASSAC <sup>2</sup>							
MCDONOUGH	0.56	0	0.02	0.04	0.23	0.11	0.03
MCHENRY	5.89	3.37	3.02	2.85	1.71	0.39	0.92
—MCLEAN	28.07	40.18	15.16	10.53	0.97	0.53	3.59
MENARD	0.56	1.79	1.13	5.60	0.11	0.92	1.47
MERCER	0.15	0.44	0.51	0.26	0.47	0.65	2.97
—MONROE <sup>3</sup>							0
—MONTGOMERY	0.08	0.09	0.30	0.26	0.15	1.05	1.16
MORGAN	0.12	0.26	0.63	1.26	0.10	0.70	0.11
MOULTRIE	1.15	10.37	16.01	14.77	0.96	0.28	1.15
—OGLE	2.08	0.64	2.29	2.83	1.86	0.55	0.88
PEORIA	0.36	0.16	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.19	0.30
PERRY <sup>3</sup>							0
—PIATT	12.16	33.55	17.70	12.66	0.43	0.13	1.60
—PIKE	0.02	0	0	0	0	0.21	0
—POPE <sup>2</sup>							
—PULASKI <sup>2</sup>							
—PUTNAM	10.38	18.27	10.32	3.14	0.54	0.01	0.75
RANDOLPH <sup>3</sup>							0
RICHLAND							0.08
—ROCK ISLAND	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.17	0.12	0.17	1.89
SALINE <sup>3</sup>							0
SANGAMON	0.31	0.70	1.33	1.45	0.40	0.49	0.48
SCHUYLER	0.01	0	0	0.08	0	0	0
—SCOTT	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0.11
SHELBY	0.16	0.68	0.73	2.83	1.09	0.71	1.64
—ST. CLAIR <sup>3</sup>							0.08
—STARK	4.65	0.44	0.21	0.40	0.49	1.57	3.58

Table 2, continued

COUNTY	1958	1963	1968	1973	1978	1983	1988
STEPHENSON	5.05	0.37	0.76	2.31	1.80	0.59	0.39
TAZEWELL	5.97	9.55	6.58	3.42	0.94	0.43	0.78
UNION <sup>2</sup>							
VERMILION	17.12	10.96	9.39	9.33	0.66	0.44	0.72
WABASH <sup>2</sup>							
WARREN	0.58	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.16	0.19	0.38
WASHINGTON <sup>3</sup>							0.03
WAYNE <sup>3</sup>							0
WHITE <sup>3</sup>							0
WHITESIDE	0.33	0.26	0.82	0.88	1.11	0.45	0.81
WILL	4.18	3.03	2.95	2.78	1.78	0.62	1.13
WILLIAMSON <sup>3</sup>							
WINNEBAGO	1.73	0.63	1.09	1.09	2.54	0.49	0.65
WOODFORD	18.55	22.75	19.80	19.21	2.08	0.45	1.29

<sup>1</sup> Some numbers vary from previously published reports due to the retention of more significant digits in computations, and different methods of averaging.

<sup>2</sup> Not censused.

<sup>3</sup> All or part of the county censused for the first time since 1957.

Table 3. Changes (%) in relative pheasant abundance as indicated by the Rural Mail Carrier's Census (RMCC) of counties in the established pheasant range in Illinois, 1958-1988.<sup>1</sup>

COUNTY	Period						1958-88
	1958-63	1963-68	1968-73	1973-78	1978-83	1983-88	
ADAMS		1000+	-100.00			-100.00	
BOND			-100.00	1000+	-100.00	-100.00	
BOONE	-82.49	126.49	48.25	-46.72	-79.04	39.37	-86.62
BROWN						-100.00	1000+
BUREAU	-70.25	154.27	50.35	-37.15	0.11	113.97	73.15
CALHOUN							
CARROLL	-28.75	47.41	189.03	-58.28	-51.63	11.64	-24.29
CASS	395.62	95.59	-42.23	-79.24	455.91	-18.01	97.45
CHAMPAIGN	23.92	-51.60	-16.18	-96.79	89.64	193.08	-94.63
CHRISTIAN	474.32	275.25	23.69	-84.93	121.87	140.33	349.73
CLARK	-10.00	-100.00		-92.51	198.04	-57.46	-52.49
CLAY	-100.00					-100.00	-88.79
COLES	19.05	56.44	-26.28	-87.96	-58.79	650.30	-73.57
COOK	-51.34	30.36	13.12	-94.28	390.66	252.32	-38.68
CRAWFORD		1000+	47.83	-68.24	850.00	-100.00	1000+
CUMBERLAND	-85.86	168.29	-88.57	1562.50	-58.85	48.79	-35.36
DE KALB	-58.25	95.19	-51.60	-56.09	-57.01	-35.58	-91.36
DE WITT	124.99	-21.79	13.84	-95.38	-63.58	609.44	-91.61
DOUGLAS	51.77	45.65	-61.63	-95.69	12.22	414.80	-89.99
DU PAGE	-37.91	-64.81	76.29	-73.04	42.96	-31.12	-84.53
EDGAR	-41.17	84.65	-32.11	-87.31	-54.12	221.75	-88.59
EFFINGHAM	-90.65	-10.70	94.79	-56.15	173.17	-17.95	-67.57
FAYETTE	-100.00	1000+	-100.00		20.75	58.06	212.93
FORD	77.23	-58.83	10.29	-95.32	-44.81	442.20	-95.19
FULTON	-100.00	1000+	-7.41	152.00	-11.64	247.79	927.22
GREENE	-74.52	-100.00		1000+	265.00	-52.01	-68.21
GRUNDY	34.41	-41.68	8.36	-92.38	-90.38	1048.80	-96.68
HANCOCK		1000+	-38.11	228.92	93.86	-56.10	1000+
HENDERSON	-100.00		432.43	-1.52	-30.41	593.89	72.86
HENRY	-84.17	-2.66	163.61	-6.52	31.09	154.55	52.37
IROQUOIS	52.43	-57.17	-.01	-93.60	-17.91	216.30	-94.35
JASPER	-84.50	-72.41	10.00	-36.69	-35.90	253.79	-92.50
JERSEY	1000+	-100.00		1000+	-100.00		-100.00
JO DAVIESS	-84.19	-14.58	297.45	-69.01	-42.57	61.60	-78.42
KANE	-28.70	-44.01	44.40	-43.48	-63.17	4.12	-85.70
KANKAKEE	27.64	-45.42	-6.15	-93.19	-53.17	279.30	-95.61
KENDALL	-42.08	3.37	53.06	-72.89	-86.57	264.10	-90.19
KNOX	88.89	-46.47	-56.04	275.00	262.00	160.92	653.77
LA SALLE	19.27	-38.91	-17.83	-85.79	-80.59	311.84	-96.14
LAKE	-39.11	-17.78	-.77	-22.28	-54.26	7.36	-77.24
LEE	-25.92	-1.80	38.67	-45.62	-51.13	-48.05	-76.60

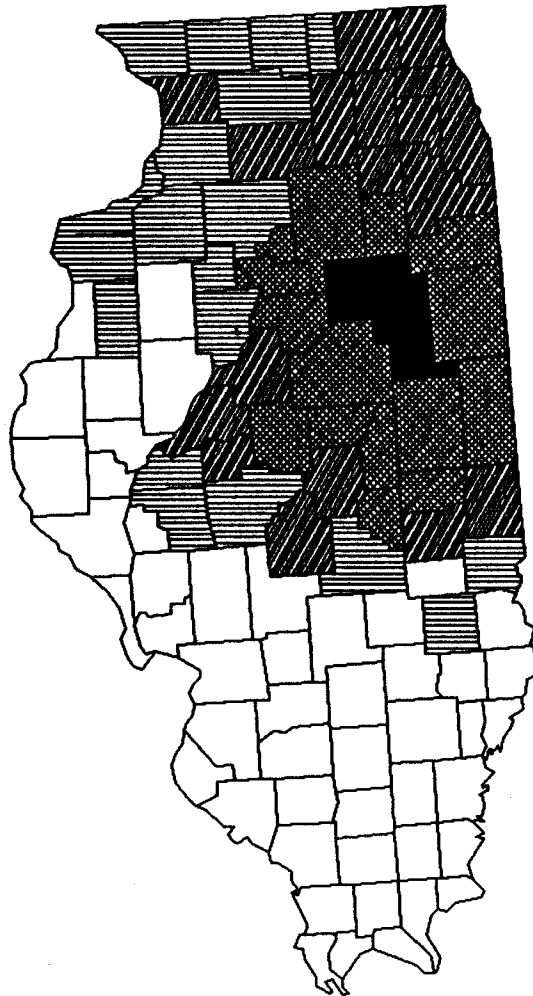


Table 3, continued

COUNTY	Period						
	1958-63	1963-68	1968-73	1973-78	1978-83	1983-88	1958-88
LIVINGSTON	67.96	-60.10	-39.21	-94.39	-66.49	468.95	-98.09
LOGAN	53.39	160.55	-35.31	-92.87	-23.46	294.32	-72.49
MACON	730.33	24.63	78.84	-91.35	-41.42	-13.31	-81.18
MACOUPIN	320.00	1240.48	-28.95	-52.50	71.58	99.81	1779.55
MADISON	1000+	-100.00			-100.00		204.59
MARSHALL	12.83	-47.80	-66.68	-86.22	-41.94	365.81	-95.83
MASON	117.32	1.89	89.23	-32.17	-31.48	-43.42	-3.90
MCDONOUGH	-100.00	1000+	92.86	514.81	-51.33	-73.82	-74.76
MCHENRY	-42.72	-10.58	-5.62	-39.80	-77.31	135.64	-85.91
MCLEAN	43.14	-62.28	-30.56	-90.76	-45.73	580.69	-93.96
MENARD	221.71	-36.72	394.96	-98.11	770.44	58.82	1.93
MERCER	190.22	18.07	-48.77	76.96	40.20	354.40	518.81
MONTGOMERY	6.88	237.43	-15.25	-40.29	583.22	10.31	1167.60
MORGAN	117.22	141.14	100.01				-68.48
MOULTRIE	801.85	54.32	-7.69	-93.52	-70.89	311.57	-87.62
OGLE	-69.14	256.59	23.26	-34.36	-70.30	58.91	-47.67
PEORIA	-54.62	-67.12	-30.14	-3.54	427.54	56.41	-6.43
PIATT	175.81	-47.25	-28.44	-96.64	-68.53	1096.84	-96.21
PIKE	-100.00				1000+	-100.00	778.50
PUTNAM	76.10	-43.54	-69.59	-82.70	-98.62	9946.73	-97.34
ROCK ISLAND	4.71	-58.22	162.71	-28.15	41.28	1005.68	587.14
SANGAMON	122.38	90.39	9.55	-72.79	24.34	-2.05	-3.66
SCHUYLER	-100.00	1000+		-100.00			-100.00
SCOTT	-100.00						86.61
SHELBY	316.92	7.87	287.34	-61.58	-35.13	132.04	178.84
STARK	-90.48	-52.26	91.12	20.43	222.37	128.43	1.09
STEPHENSON	-92.74	107.05	203.56	-21.95	-67.32	-33.90	-81.97
TAZEWELL	59.95	-31.13	-48.06	-72.54	-54.12	81.62	-92.19
VERMILION	-35.99	-14.33	-0.58	-92.91	-33.78	63.75	-95.88
WARREN	-75.86	-76.67	-16.33	468.29	21.89	100.41	-21.00
WHITESIDE	-23.20	219.92	8.03	25.51	-59.48	80.23	113.97
WILL	-27.42	-2.68	-5.65	-35.93	-64.97	81.21	-75.62
WINNEBAGO	-63.47	72.51		133.25	-80.69	32.23	-51.71
WOODFORD	22.64	-12.94	-2.99	-89.19	-78.45	188.80	-95.79

Blanks represent no change and/or where percentages could not be computed.

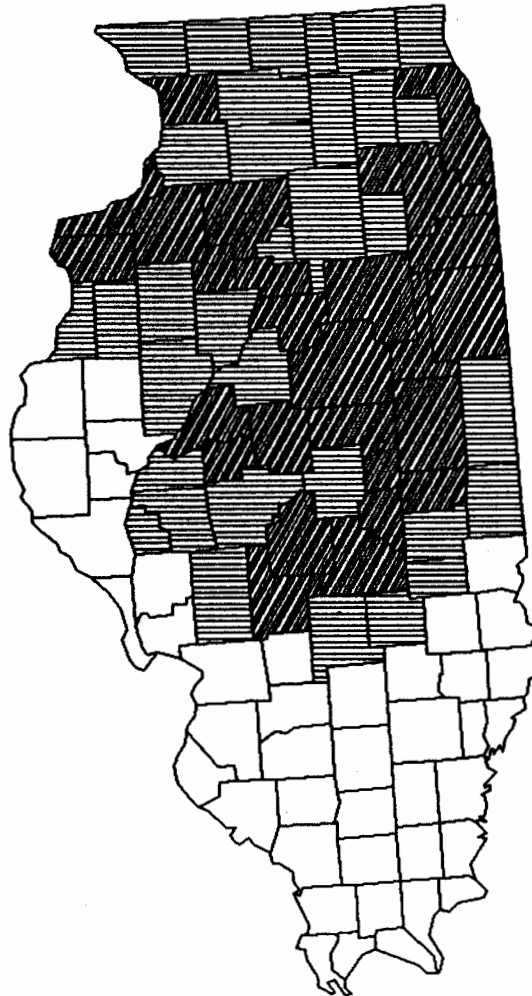
# PHEASANT ABUNDANCE 1963



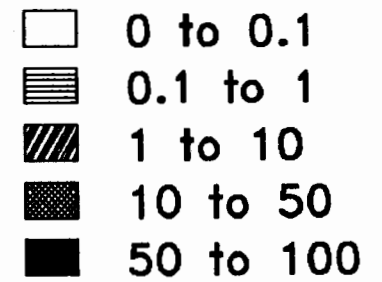
PHEASANTS  
PER 100 MILES

- 0 to 0.1
- ▨ 0.1 to 1
- ▩ 1 to 10
- ▧ 10 to 50
- 50 to 102

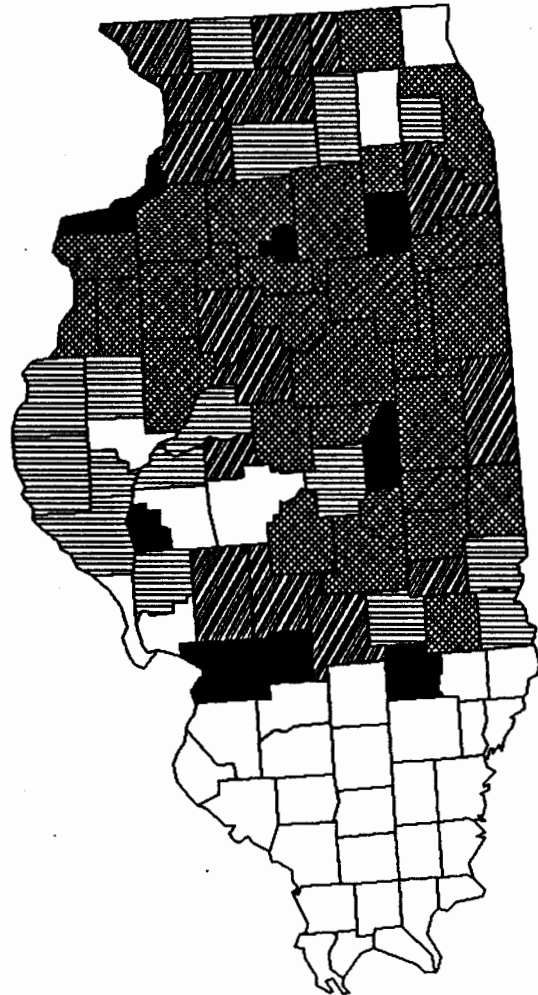
# PHEASANT ABUNDANCE 1988








PHEASANTS  
PER 100 MILES



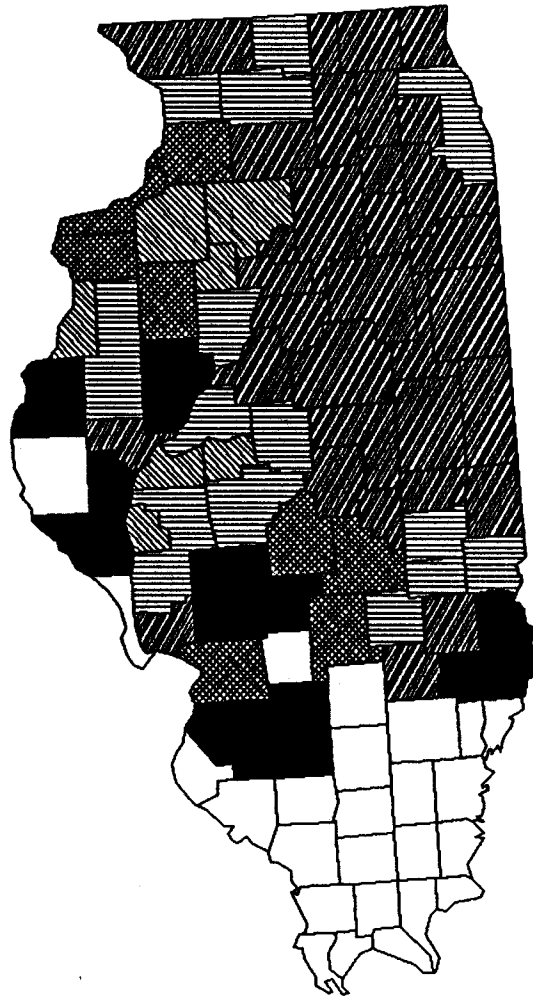
# PHEASANT ABUNDANCE 1983 - 1988



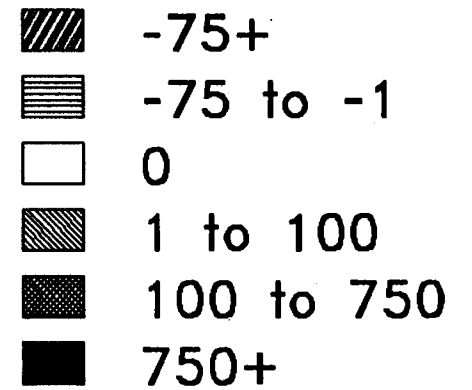
## % CHANGE

-  -100 to -10
-  -10 to 10
-  10 to 100
-  100 to 750
-  750 to 10000

# PHEASANT ABUNDANCE 1958-63 vs. 1983-88



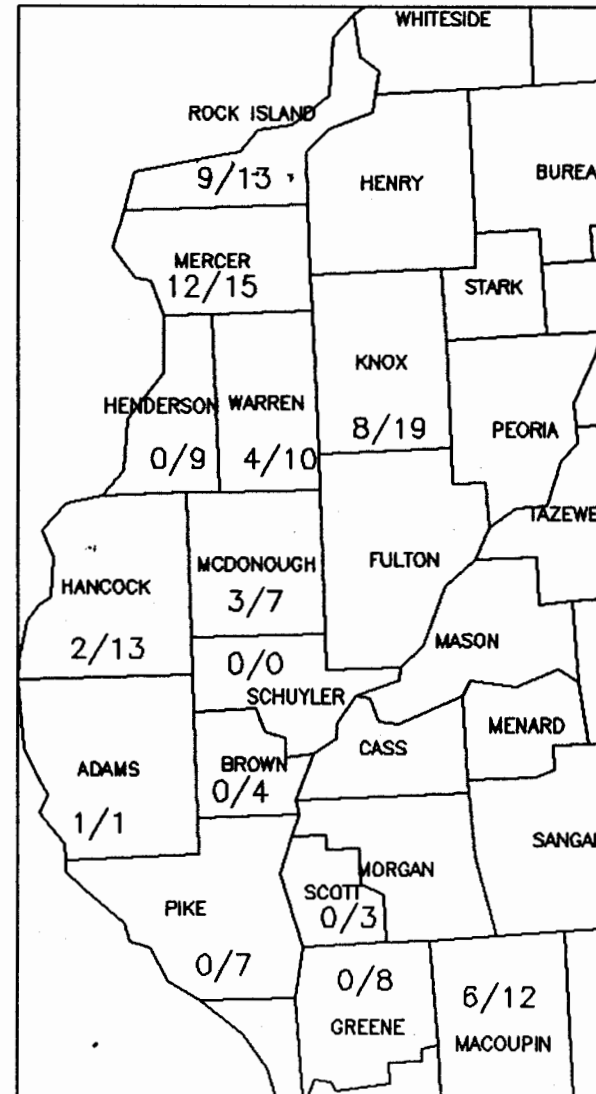
## % CHANGE



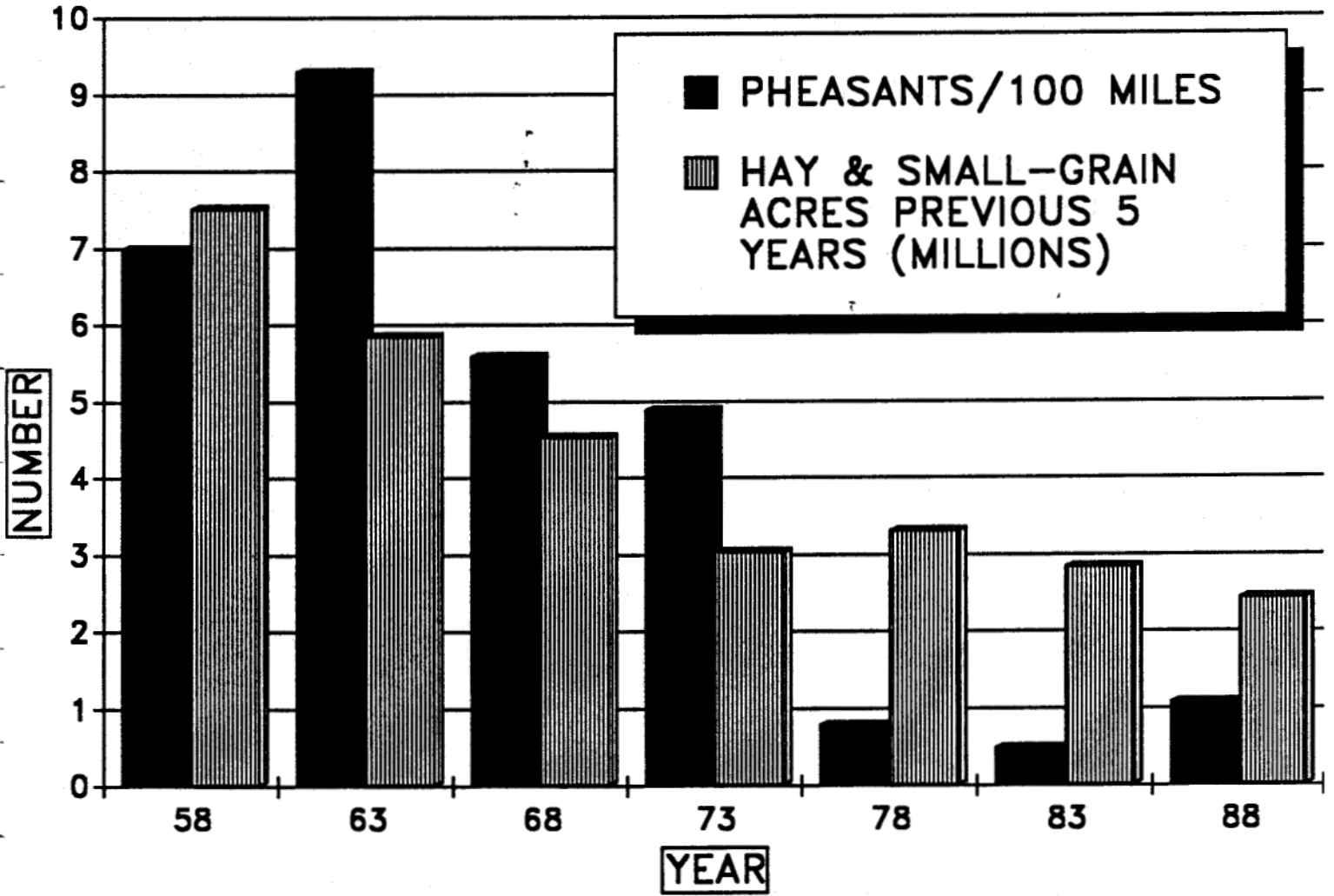
# PERIPHERAL PHEASANT RANGE

## No. Townships With Pheasants

### 1960s/1980s

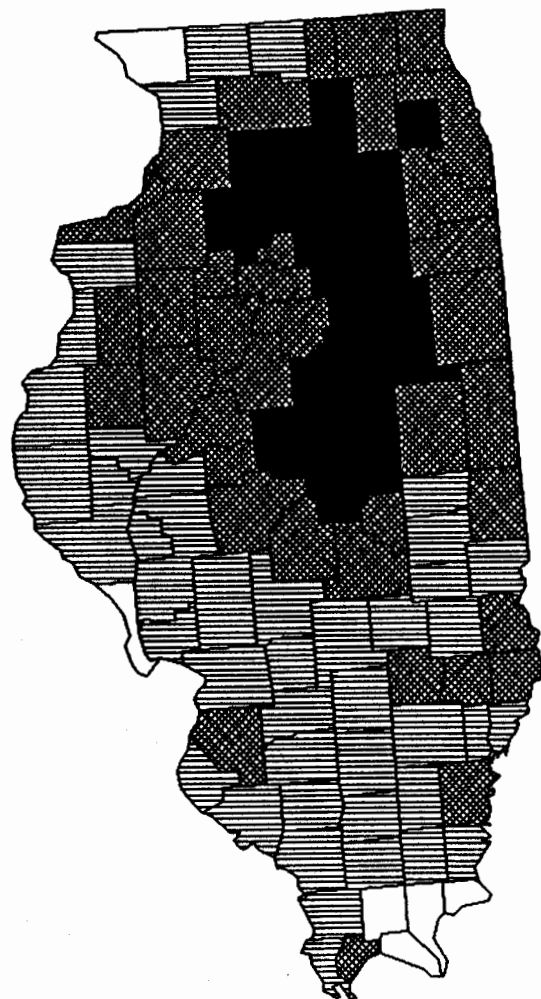


# PHEASANT ABUNDANCE AND GRASSLAND HABITAT IN ILLINOIS



# HAY

## 1957-62 vs. 1982-87

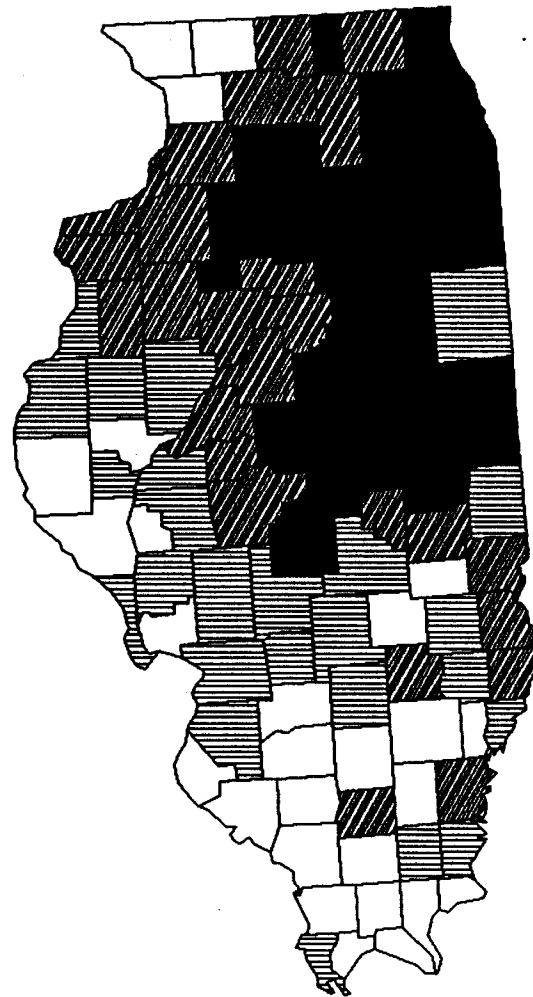


### % CHANGE

- -75 +
- ▨ -75 to -50
- ▧ -50 to 0
- >0



# ALL CATTLE 1957-62 vs. 1982-87



% CHANGE

■	-60 +
▨	-60 TO -43
▤	-43 TO -25
□	-25 TO 45