

HumanDimensions
Research Program

Results of the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey



ILLINOIS
NATURAL
HISTORY
SURVEY



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Marc Miller, Director
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources

Paul Vehlow
Federal Aid Coordinator

John E. Buhnerkempe
Chief, Division of Wildlife
Resources



Stacy A. Lischka
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
William L. Anderson, Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Prepared by
Stacy A. Lischka,
Linda K. Campbell and
Samantha K. Carpenter



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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b AR = Administrative Region

RESULTS OF THE 2007-2008
ILLINOIS HUNTER HARVEST SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-17
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.1

Prepared by
Stacy A. Lischka, Linda K. Campbell, and Samantha K. Carpenter
Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
April 24, 2009

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-17

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Marc Miller, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

John E. Buhnerkempe, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

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ABSTRACT

A random sample of 3,000 potential hunters was selected from among 2007 Illinois Habitat Stamp and hunting license purchasers. An 8-page questionnaire was successfully mailed to 2,906 of the 3,000 individuals. We received 1,625 returned questionnaires, 1,620 of which were usable, for a 56% response rate. Comparisons of harvest estimates from the 2006-2007 season to the 2007-2008 season suggest harvest decreased for 10 game animal categories (rabbit, quail, pheasant, dove, gray partridge, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, red fox, gray fox, and opossum), and increased for 3 categories (woodcock, raccoon, and coyote). License sales increased 0.4% from 282,000 sold for the 2006 season to 283,000 sold in the 2007 season. This represents a recovery in license sales of less than 1% since the lowest level on record (since 1938) in 2005. Low license sales may be related to increasing difficulty in finding land to hunt. Resident hunters pursuing deer (61%) and small game species (51%) reported little difficulty in gaining access to hunting lands. However, all other seasons were associated with more difficulty in accessing land. Efforts should be undertaken to ensure that hunters are aware of the locations of public hunting lands associated with these seasons. Few residents reported leasing land (4%) or hiring outfitters (1%) to access land.

OBJECTIVE

To survey resident hunters (18-24 game hunting categories) annually to determine their activities and harvests in Illinois as well as their characteristics, attitudes and opinions toward specific wildlife issues.

METHODS

A random sample of 3,000 addresses was selected from Illinois resident hunting license and state habitat stamp purchaser data (1,500 addresses of resident hunting license purchasers and 1,500

addresses of resident habitat stamp purchasers). Methods for survey questionnaire mailings and follow-up reminders followed those of Miller et al. (1999). Recipients were mailed a self-administered, 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), a cover letter (Appendix B) and postage-paid return envelope on 3 April 2008. A thank you/reminder postcard was sent to non-respondents on 23 April 2008 (Appendix C). On 12 May 2008 a second questionnaire, cover letter (Appendix D), and return envelope were mailed to non-respondents. The second questionnaire was followed by a postcard thank you/reminder on 27 May 2008. Data were coded, entered, and analyzed using SPSS 14.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

Estimates of the number of hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days hunted ($Days_{sp}$), and harvest ($Harv_{sp}$) by species were made as follows:

$$Hunt_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Hunt_r,$$

$$Days_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Days_r,$$

$$Harv_{sp} = \frac{L_t}{n} Harv_r,$$

where L_t = total number of resident hunting licenses sold in 2007-2008, n = number of respondents to 2006-2007 Illinois Hunter Harvest survey, $Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest survey who reported hunting for each species, $Harv_r$ = total harvest of each species reported by respondents to 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest survey, and $Days_r$ = total number of days spent hunting each species reported by respondents to 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest survey.

Estimated number of hunters, harvest and days hunted were used to calculate the percent of license holders pursuing each species (Lic_{sp}), average daily ($\overline{Bag}_{sp,day}$) and season bags ($\overline{Bag}_{sp,season}$), and average days hunting by species (\overline{Days}_{sp}) as follows:

$$Lic_{sp} = \frac{Hunt_{sp}}{L_t} \times 100,$$

$$\overline{Bag}_{sp,day} = \frac{Harv_{sp}}{Days_{sp}},$$

$$\overline{Bag}_{sp,season} = \frac{Harv_{sp}}{Hunt_{sp}},$$

$$\overline{Days}_{sp} = \frac{Days_{sp}}{Hunt_{sp}}.$$

Confidence intervals were also calculated for species harvests, hunters, and days hunted as follows:

$$95\% \text{ CI } [Hunt_{sp}] = \pm 2L_t \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}},$$

$$95\% \text{ CI } [Days_{sp}] = \pm \frac{1.96s}{\sqrt{Hunt_r}},$$

$$95\% \text{ CI } [Harv_{sp}] = \pm 2L_t \left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \left(\frac{L_t - Hunt_r}{L_t} \right),$$

where p = proportion of n who hunted referent species, $q = (1-p)$, and s = standard deviation of $\overline{Bag}_{sp,season}$.

A summary of survey results is presented in Appendix A. Season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours for the 2007-2008 hunting seasons are presented in Appendix E. Maps of wildlife management units and administrative regions in Illinois are presented in Appendices F and G.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Survey Response

Of the original 3,000 surveys sent, 94 were undeliverable, leaving a usable sample of 2,906 addresses. A total of 1,625 respondents returned questionnaires, 1,620 of which were valid, for a 56% response rate. Nearly all respondents were male (95%). Respondents had a mean age of 47 years ($n = 1,585$, range: 10-92) as of October 1, 2007. Respondents resided in all of the 102 counties in the state (Appendix H). Most respondents currently reside in rural areas (49%) or small towns (26%).

License Sales

Resident hunting license sales for the 2007-2008 hunting seasons totaled 283,000; this represents a 0.4% increase from 2006-2007 sales (Table 1). In 2005-2006 license sales dropped to the lowest level on record since 1938, and since have recovered by less than 1%, from 280,000 in 2005-2006 to 283,000 in 2007-2008. This trend could be a result of hunters losing access to land they currently hunt.

A majority (59%) of respondents purchased their Illinois hunting license or habitat stamp at a chain retail store such as Wal-mart or Dick's Sporting Goods. In addition, 28% purchased their license or stamp at an independent retail store such as a local grocery or bait store, and 17% used the IDNR website to purchase their license or stamp. Few respondents purchased licenses or stamps at IDNR central or regional offices (1.5%) or over the phone (0.1%). Almost all respondents (95%) purchased a license or stamp without problems; this represents a 3% decline from 2006. Of the 5% of respondents who did report problems with purchase, most were related to lack of knowledge of hunting regulations by individuals selling licenses, store staff lacking efficiency, machine malfunction in stores, and objections to providing a social security number to obtain a license.

Harvest

Of the 1,620 respondents to the hunter harvest survey, 1,449 (89%) reported hunting in Illinois during the 2007-2008 season. Harvest estimates represent game species harvested by Illinois resident hunters and do not include harvests by non-residents. Including harvest by non-resident hunters, especially for species such as white-tailed deer and mourning doves, may result in larger, but more accurate, estimates of total harvest. Except for statewide estimates (Table 2), data for big game species (i.e., white-tailed deer and wild turkey) are not included in this report. See Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) publications specific to these species for detailed information (e.g. Lischka et al. 2006).

Statewide estimates of harvest for the 24 game animals included in this survey are presented in Table 2, and confidence intervals are provided for 13 of these species in Table 3. Harvest estimates for these same 13 species are summarized by wildlife management unit (WMU), administrative region, and year (1997 to 2007) in Tables 4-34. Comparisons of harvest estimates suggest statewide harvest during the 2007-2008 season decreased from 2006-2007 levels for 10 game species: rabbit, quail, pheasant, dove, gray partridge, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, red fox, gray fox, and opossum. Increases in harvest occurred for woodcock, raccoon, and coyote (Table 34). Sample size for several species (gray partridge, woodcock, snipe, rail, crow, ground hog, raccoon, red fox, gray fox and opossum) was very small, and limits the confidence placed on estimates of harvest, effort and hunters for these species.

Squirrel Hunting Participation

Among respondents who reported hunting squirrels (22%) in the 2007-2008 season, 42% were unaware the squirrel season in Illinois was extended to 15 February in 2008. Among all survey respondents (whether or not they hunted squirrels in 2007-2008), 61% were unaware the squirrel season in Illinois was extended. Despite a lengthened squirrel hunting season in Illinois, estimated harvest for gray

squirrels in 2007 was 395,401, a 40% decrease from 2006. In addition, fox squirrel harvest was estimated at 348,791, representing a 25% decrease from 2006. Squirrel hunting occurred most often in September ($n=190$) and least often during the two extended months of January ($n=32$) and February ($n=17$). Extended season dates should be emphasized on the IDNR hunting website (<http://dnr.state.il.us/admin/>), as well as the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations, in order to increase awareness of and participation in the extended months.

Access to Hunting Land in Illinois

A majority (85%) of resident hunters did not hunt on any controlled hunting areas or shooting preserves during the 2007-2008 hunting seasons. Of the 15% of hunters who did hunt on these lands, most hunted for pheasants ($n = 172$), quail ($n = 49$) or doves ($n = 46$). These three species also represented the most commonly hunted on controlled hunting areas or shooting preserves during the 2006-2007 season. Estimated harvest and effort for controlled hunting areas is summarized in Table 35. Resident hunters hunted in controlled hunting areas most commonly in Iroquois, McHenry, and Cass counties (Table 36). In the previous year, respondents utilized controlled hunting areas of Will, McHenry, and Clinton counties most commonly.

Most (55%) resident hunters in Illinois hunt on land owned by a family member or friend. Despite the majority of hunters hunting on land owned by someone they know, many report difficulty finding a place to hunt in Illinois (Table 37). This was especially true for upland game (66%) and waterfowl (67%) hunters. A majority of deer hunters (61%) and small game hunters (51%) reported no difficulty finding hunting land.

Few resident hunters (4%) leased land to hunt in Illinois. Of those respondents who did report leasing land, deer (30%), waterfowl (18%), and turkey (15%) were the most commonly pursued species on leased land. Another 12% of respondents were able to hunt any species they liked on land

they leased. Hunters who leased land paid an average of \$682 per person ($n = 40$, range: \$65-\$3,000) and \$2,917 per party ($n = 35$, range: \$200-\$11,000) to lease hunting land.

Nearly all resident hunters (99%) hunted without the assistance of an outfitter in Illinois. Of the 1% ($n = 11$) of hunters who did hire an outfitter, most used the outfitter to hunt deer (28%), upland game birds (28%) or waterfowl (20%). Hunters who hired an outfitter paid an average of \$827 ($n = 10$, range: \$50-\$3,700) for services provided.

More than half of hunters in all species groups except deer and small game reported some difficulty finding hunting land. Challenges in land access appear not to have reached a point that leasing and outfitting have become common; however, total resident license sales in the past three years have been the lowest on record. In the 2002 report, *Hunter Access to Private Lands in Illinois*, a majority of hunters (57%) reported that losing access to the lands they currently hunt would result in decreased hunting effort, and 15% of hunters indicated they would be forced to give up hunting if they lost access to the lands they currently hunt (Miller et al. 2002). Efforts to ensure that hunters have access to information regarding public hunting lands should be sustained in order to provide alternatives when hunting lands become unavailable. Additionally, continued and increased efforts to provide free access to public and private land in Illinois for hunting may help discourage resident hunters from going out of state to hunt or dropping out of the hunting population.

Future surveys should inquire into specific reasons why hunters are finding land to be less accessible and/or why private land owners are decreasing accessibility of their lands. Hunters would benefit from a link with private landowners provided through regional offices or the IDNR website.

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TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1938-2007.

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

^a Includes Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1979.

^b Includes senior citizen (≥ 65 years) hunting licenses beginning in 1994.

Table 2. Summary of statewide hunter participation, harvest, and days hunting for 24 species from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 1,620$).

Species	n	Total Estimated Hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$)	Percent of License Sales ^a (Lic_{sp})	Average Bag		Total Estimated Harvest ($Harv_{sp}$)	Days Hunting	
				Daily ($Bag_{sp,day}$)	Season ($Bag_{sp,season}$)		Average ($Days_{sp}$)	Total Estimated ($Days_{sp}$)
Rabbit	281	49,054	17.35%	0.90	4.97	243,874	5.53	271,107
Quail	141	24,614	8.70%	1.34	7.67	188,710	5.74	141,227
Pheasant	206	35,961	12.72%	0.58	2.86	102,822	4.95	177,887
Dove	297	51,847	18.33%	5.38	21.62	1,120,739	4.02	208,437
Gray Partridge	2	349	0.12%	1.50	1.50	524	1.00	349
Woodcock	3	524	0.19%	0.60	1.00	524	1.67	873
Snipe	2	349	0.12%	1.00	2.50	873	2.50	873
Rail	0	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0
Crow	30	5,237	1.85%	3.38	8.90	46,610	2.63	13,791
Ground Hog	9	1,571	0.56%	0.62	8.11	12,744	13.00	20,425
Fox Squirrel	288	50,276	17.78%	1.15	6.94	348,791	6.01	302,355
Gray Squirrel	252	43,992	15.56%	1.40	8.99	395,401	6.44	283,327
Turkey-Spring	299	52,196	18.46%	0.12	0.52	27,058	4.30	224,322
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	61	10,649	3.77%	0.07	0.21	2,269	2.82	30,026
Turkey-Fall Archery	109	19,028	6.73%	0.01	0.16	2,968	17.01	323,653
Deer-Regular Firearm	1,032	180,156	63.70%	0.18	0.77	139,132	4.31	776,662
Deer-Muzzleloader	165	28,804	10.19%	0.18	0.42	12,045	2.38	68,606
Deer-Archery	608	106,139	37.53%	0.03	0.62	65,289	20.25	2,149,480
Deer-Late winter antlerless	318	55,513	19.63%	0.15	0.32	17,632	2.08	115,740
Raccoon	52	9,078	3.21%	1.02	13.46	122,199	13.15	119,406
Red Fox	12	2,095	0.74%	0.08	0.58	1,222	7.42	15,537
Gray Fox	2	349	0.12%	0.00	0.00	0	15.00	5,237
Coyote	196	34,216	12.10%	0.26	3.02	103,345	11.41	390,513
Opossum	11	1,920	0.68%	0.76	4.82	9,252	6.36	12,220

^a Sum across species > 100% because many respondents reported hunting >1 species.

Table 3. 95% confidence intervals for estimates of number of hunters, season bag and harvest, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 1,620$).

Species	n	Total Estimated Hunters	Estimated Average			Total Estimated Harvest
			Season Bag			
Rabbit	281	49,054 ± 5,321	4.97	± 1.11	243,874 ± 61,489	
Quail	141	24,614 ± 3,961	7.67	± 3.14	188,710 ± 84,274	
Pheasant	206	35,961 ± 4,682	2.86	± 0.53	102,822 ± 23,451	
Dove	297	51,847 ± 5,438	21.62	± 3.61	1,120,739 ± 223,903	
Gray Partridge	2	349 ± 493	1.50	± 2.94	524 ± 984	
Woodcock	3	524 ± 604	1.00	± 0.00	524 ± 562	
Fox Squirrel	288	50,276 ± 5,373	6.94	± 1.13	348,791 ± 68,647	
Gray Squirrel	252	43,992 ± 5,093	8.99	± 1.96	395,401 ± 99,123	
Raccoon	52	9,078 ± 2,477	13.46	± 4.48	122,199 ± 52,969	
Red Fox	12	2,095 ± 1,205	0.58	± 0.51	1,222 ± 1,124	
Gray Fox	2	349 ± 493	0.00	± 0.00	0 ± 0	
Coyote	196	34,216 ± 4,583	3.02	± 0.72	103,345 ± 28,507	
Opossum	11	1,920 ± 1,154	4.82	± 1.81	9,252 ± 6,464	

Table 4. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for rabbits by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 281$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	19	3,317	6.76	0.78	6.00	19,901	25,487
Northeast Moraine	5	873	1.78	0.38	3.00	2,619	6,983
Mississippi Border-North	11	1,920	3.91	0.55	3.64	6,983	12,744
Mississippi Border-South	34	5,935	12.10	1.34	8.03	47,658	35,612
Western Prairie/Forest	26	4,539	9.25	0.83	4.69	21,298	25,662
Central Sand Prairie	5	873	1.78	1.68	11.40	9,950	5,935
Grand Prairie	86	15,013	30.60	0.60	2.63	39,453	65,813
Southern Plain	67	11,696	23.84	1.09	6.78	79,255	72,447
Wabash Border	20	3,491	7.12	0.83	3.20	11,172	13,442
Shawnee Hills	8	1,397	2.85	0.80	4.00	5,586	6,983

Table 5. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for quail by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 141$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	6	1,047	4.26	0.48	1.67	1,746	3,666
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	10	1,746	7.09	1.40	14.30	24,964	17,806
Mississippi Border-South	16	2,793	11.35	1.78	9.44	26,360	14,838
Western Prairie/Forest	12	2,095	8.51	0.76	4.67	9,776	12,918
Central Sand Prairie	5	873	3.55	3.21	15.40	13,442	4,190
Grand Prairie	32	5,586	22.70	0.56	2.31	12,918	23,043
Southern Plain	40	6,983	28.37	1.59	11.75	82,048	51,673
Wabash Border	16	2,793	11.35	1.31	5.81	16,235	12,394
Shawnee Hills	4	698	2.84	1.75	1.75	1,222	698
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for pheasants by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 206$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	26	4,539	12.62	0.48	2.77	12,569	26,186
Northeast Moraine	14	2,444	6.80	1.11	3.64	8,903	8,030
Mississippi Border-North	6	1,047	2.91	0.58	6.50	6,808	11,696
Mississippi Border-South	1	175	0.49	2.00	10.00	1,746	873
Western Prairie/Forest	7	1,222	3.40	0.36	2.57	3,142	8,729
Central Sand Prairie	10	1,746	4.85	1.19	6.30	10,998	9,252
Grand Prairie	125	21,821	60.68	0.53	2.30	50,102	95,315
Southern Plain	16	2,793	7.77	0.51	3.06	8,554	16,933
Wabash Border	1	175	0.49	0.00	0.00	0	873
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 7. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for doves by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 297$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	13	2,269	4.38	4.59	13.08	29,677	6,459
Northeast Moraine	15	2,619	5.05	5.12	17.73	46,436	9,078
Mississippi Border-North	12	2,095	4.04	2.64	14.08	29,502	11,172
Mississippi Border-South	40	6,983	13.47	4.69	18.40	128,484	27,407
Western Prairie/Forest	25	4,364	8.42	7.63	33.88	147,861	19,377
Central Sand Prairie	13	2,269	4.38	8.10	39.23	89,031	10,998
Grand Prairie	109	19,028	36.70	5.09	21.32	405,701	79,778
Southern Plain	55	9,601	18.52	4.78	16.87	162,001	33,867
Wabash Border	12	2,095	4.04	8.61	36.58	76,636	8,903
Shawnee Hills	3	524	1.01	3.88	10.33	5,412	1,397
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 8. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray partridge by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 2$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	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	1	175	0.50	0.02	3.00	524	175
Grand Prairie	1	175	0.50	0.00	0.00	0	175
Southern Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabash Border	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 9. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for woodcock by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 3$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	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	1	175	33.33	1.00	1.00	175	175
Southern Plain	1	175	33.33	0.33	1.00	175	524
Wabash Border	1	175	33.33	1.00	1.00	175	175
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 10. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for fox squirrel by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 288$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	11	1,920	3.82	0.76	6.00	11,522	15,188
Northeast Moraine	3	524	1.04	2.67	5.33	2,793	1,047
Mississippi Border-North	12	2,095	4.17	1.38	8.75	18,330	13,267
Mississippi Border-South	39	6,808	13.54	0.84	5.38	36,660	43,468
Western Prairie/Forest	39	6,808	13.54	1.22	6.03	41,024	33,517
Central Sand Prairie	8	1,397	2.78	2.05	5.38	7,507	3,666
Grand Prairie	73	12,744	25.35	1.41	7.79	99,330	70,526
Southern Plain	69	12,045	23.96	1.24	9.38	112,947	90,951
Wabash Border	17	2,968	5.90	0.75	4.41	13,093	17,457
Shawnee Hills	17	2,968	5.90	0.42	1.88	5,586	13,267
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 11. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray squirrels by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 252$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	13	2,269	5.16	0.71	4.85	10,998	15,537
Northeast Moraine	6	1,047	2.38	1.67	3.33	3,491	2,095
Mississippi Border-North	8	1,397	3.17	0.94	6.00	8,379	8,903
Mississippi Border-South	43	7,507	17.06	1.51	11.35	85,190	56,561
Western Prairie/Forest	22	3,841	8.73	1.08	4.27	16,410	15,188
Central Sand Prairie	5	873	1.98	0.88	4.40	3,841	4,364
Grand Prairie	43	7,507	17.06	0.99	6.23	46,785	47,483
Southern Plain	72	12,569	28.57	1.81	13.88	174,395	96,363
Wabash Border	17	2,968	6.75	1.11	6.76	20,076	18,155
Shawnee Hills	23	4,015	9.13	1.38	6.43	25,836	18,679
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 12. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for raccoons by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 52$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	4	698	7.69	1.16	36.25	25,313	21,821
Northeast Moraine	2	349	3.85	0.39	7.00	2,444	6,285
Mississippi Border-North	5	873	9.62	1.28	17.40	15,188	11,871
Mississippi Border-South	3	524	5.77	1.39	8.33	4,364	3,142
Western Prairie/Forest	8	1,397	15.38	1.45	14.13	19,726	13,616
Central Sand Prairie	2	349	3.85	1.50	3.00	1,047	698
Grand Prairie	14	2,444	26.92	0.96	7.86	19,203	20,076
Southern Plain	10	1,746	19.23	0.97	16.10	28,106	28,979
Wabash Border	2	349	3.85	0.22	1.00	349	1,571
Shawnee Hills	2	349	3.85	0.57	18.50	6,459	11,347
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 13. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for red fox by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 12$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	2	349	16.67	0.04	0.50	175	4,713
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	1	175	8.33	1.00	1.00	175	175
Mississippi Border-South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Prairie/Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	5	873	41.67	0.15	0.40	349	2,269
Southern Plain	3	524	25.00	0.00	0.00	0	5,761
Wabash Border	1	175	8.33	0.20	3.00	524	2,619
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 14. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray fox by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 2$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Plain	1	175	50.00	0.00	0.00	0	2,619
Wabash Border	1	175	50.00	0.00	0.00	0	2,619
Shawnee Hills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 15. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for coyote by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 196$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	17	2,968	8.67	0.33	4.12	12,220	37,358
Northeast Moraine	10	1,746	5.10	0.24	2.50	4,364	18,155
Mississippi Border-North	14	2,444	7.14	0.44	6.93	16,933	38,231
Mississippi Border-South	15	2,619	7.65	0.18	1.60	4,190	23,916
Western Prairie/Forest	25	4,364	12.76	0.21	2.56	11,172	52,196
Central Sand Prairie	5	873	2.55	0.33	3.20	2,793	8,554
Grand Prairie	67	11,696	34.18	0.25	1.94	22,694	91,824
Southern Plain	29	5,063	14.80	0.21	4.24	21,472	100,727
Wabash Border	8	1,397	4.08	0.29	2.75	3,841	13,267
Shawnee Hills	6	1,047	3.06	0.58	3.50	3,666	6,285
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 16. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for opossum by Wildlife Management Unit in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 11$).

Wildlife Management Units	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1	175	9.09	0.20	2.00	349	1,746
Northeast Moraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi Border-North	1	175	9.09	6.00	6.00	1,047	175
Mississippi Border-South	1	175	9.09	1.00	1.00	175	175
Western Prairie/Forest	1	175	9.09	4.00	8.00	1,397	349
Central Sand Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Prairie	4	698	36.36	0.42	4.50	3,142	7,507
Southern Plain	1	175	9.09	2.00	2.00	349	175
Wabash Border	1	175	9.09	1.29	9.00	1,571	1,222
Shawnee Hills	1	175	9.09	1.40	7.00	1,222	873
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 17. Percent change in harvest from 2006 to 2007 in Wildlife Management Units for selected species, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

Wildlife Management Unit	Rabbit	Quail	Pheasant	Fox Squirrel	Gray Squirrel	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northwest Hills	-32	20	-31	-26	-28	-26	65	---	---	122
Northeast Moraine	-40	-100	-36	33	-83	-9	1409	---	---	93
Mississippi Border-North	-20	114	251	30	-50	-66	65	-73	---	128
Mississippi Border-South	34	-33	---	-29	-27	-59	59	---	---	-67
Western Prairie Forest	-33	73	177	-21	-72	41	139	---	---	97
Central Sand Prairie	-20	278	33	-64	40	-37	---	---	---	-48
Grand Prairie	-49	-60	-29	-30	-38	-4	11	-57	-100	78
Southern Plain	45	4	152	1	-16	-29	-41	-100	---	279
Wabash Border	5	48	-100	-57	-50	59	-100	---	---	137
Shawnee Hills	64	-90	---	-73	-74	-64	3887	---	---	183

Note: For Red and Gray fox, percentage change could not be calculated in certain WMUs due to no harvest in 2006 in those units.

Table 18. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for rabbit by Administrative Region in Illinois, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n=281$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	68	11,871	24.20	0.73	4.46	52,895	72,097
Region 2	16	2,793	5.69	0.59	2.69	7,507	12,744
Region 3	40	6,983	14.23	0.51	2.30	16,060	31,423
Region 4	82	14,315	29.18	1.04	5.32	76,113	72,970
Region 5	75	13,093	26.69	1.12	6.97	91,300	81,873

Table 19. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for quail by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n=141$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	32	5,586	22.70	1.18	6.44	35,961	30,550
Region 2	4	698	2.84	0.11	1.00	698	6,110
Region 3	10	1,746	7.09	0.14	0.50	873	6,285
Region 4	44	7,681	31.21	1.25	6.61	50,800	40,675
Region 5	51	8,903	36.17	1.74	11.27	100,378	57,608

Table 20. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for pheasant by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n=206$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	71	12,394	34.47	0.51	2.82	34,914	68,082
Region 2	33	5,761	16.02	0.91	3.58	20,599	22,694
Region 3	64	11,172	31.07	0.44	2.03	22,694	51,847
Region 4	31	5,412	15.05	0.96	4.35	23,567	24,614
Region 5	7	1,222	3.40	0.10	0.86	1,047	10,649

Table 21. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for doves by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey (n=297).

Administrative Region	<i>n</i>	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	70	12,220	23.57	5.31	26.80	327,493	61,623
Region 2	25	4,364	8.42	3.42	12.60	54,990	16,060
Region 3	53	9,252	17.85	5.34	20.47	189,408	35,438
Region 4	93	16,235	31.31	6.07	21.61	350,886	57,783
Region 5	56	9,776	18.86	5.27	20.25	197,962	37,533
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 22. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray partridge by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey (n = 2).

Administrative Region	<i>n</i>	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	2	349	100.00	1.50	1.50	524	349
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 23. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for woodcock by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey (n = 7).

Administrative Region	<i>n</i>	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	1	175	33.33	1.00	1.00	175	175
Region 5	2	349	66.67	0.50	1.00	349	698
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 24. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for fox squirrels by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 288$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	65	11,347	22.57	1.24	7.00	79,429	64,242
Region 2	7	1,222	2.43	1.91	11.71	14,315	7,507
Region 3	35	6,110	12.15	1.09	5.09	31,073	28,629
Region 4	85	14,838	29.51	1.24	7.08	105,091	84,841
Region 5	96	16,759	33.33	1.01	7.09	118,882	117,136
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 25. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray squirrel by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 252$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	38	6,634	15.08	0.99	5.63	37,358	37,707
Region 2	12	2,095	4.76	1.44	12.25	25,662	17,806
Region 3	22	3,841	8.73	0.40	1.82	6,983	17,457
Region 4	76	13,267	30.16	1.36	8.70	115,391	85,016
Region 5	104	18,155	41.27	1.68	11.57	210,008	125,341
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 26. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for raccoon by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 52$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	19	3,317	36.54	1.20	18.37	60,925	50,800
Region 2	3	524	5.77	0.00	0.00	2619	6,459
Region 3	5	873	9.62	0.58	4.20	3,666	6,285
Region 4	14	2,444	26.92	1.47	10.50	25,662	17,457
Region 5	11	1,920	21.15	0.76	15.27	29,328	38,405

Table 27. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for red fox by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 12$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	6	1,047	50.00	0.10	0.67	698	6,808
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	3	524	25.00	0.00	0.00	0	1,746
Region 5	3	524	25.00	0.08	1.00	524	6,983
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 28. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for gray fox by Administrative Region in Illinois , from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 2$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 5	2	349	100.00	0.00	0.00	0	5,237
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 29. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for coyote by Administrative Region in Illinois, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 196$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	68	11,871	34.69	0.31	3.84	45,563	147,686
Region 2	16	2,793	8.16	0.15	0.75	2,095	13,616
Region 3	26	4,539	13.27	0.19	1.23	5,586	29,677
Region 4	53	9,252	27.04	0.28	2.70	24,964	89,380
Region 5	33	5,761	16.84	0.23	4.36	25,138	110,154
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 30. Summary of 2007 hunting effort and harvest for opossum by Administrative Region in Illinois, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n = 11$).

Administrative Region	n	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
				Daily	Season		
Region 1	3	524	27.27	0.38	6.00	3,142	8,205
Region 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region 3	1	175	9.09	1.00	3.00	524	524
Region 4	4	698	36.36	2.00	3.50	2,444	1,222
Region 5	3	524	27.27	1.38	6.00	3,142	2,269

Table 31. Percent change in harvest from 2006 to 2007 in Administrative Regions for selected species.

Administrative Regions	Rabbit	Quail	Pheasant	Fox Squirrel	Gray Squirrel	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Region 1	-19	129	-2	10	14	31	134	---	---	139
Region 2	-46	-92	-34	-18	-41	-54	1517	---	---	-58
Region 3	-63	-96	-40	-43	-84	15	-77	-100	-100	-25
Region 4	-14	-25	97	-43	-51	-51	101	-100	---	13
Region 5	62	17	-54	-10	-30	3	-36	223	---	279

Note: Percentage change could not be calculated in certain regions due to no harvest in 2006 in those regions.

Table 32. Distribution of hunting effort and harvest among resident Illinois hunters in 2007, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

		Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
		Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
RABBIT	<i>n</i> =281	---		0	27.4
		1-5	73.0	1-5	50.2
		6-10	16.0	6-10	11.7
		11-14	1.7	11-14	2.2
		15-19	1.8	15-19	2.5
		20-24	3.6	20-24	2.1
		25+	3.9	25+	3.9
QUAIL	<i>n</i> =141	---		0	34.0
		1-5	68.8	1-5	37.6
		6-10	19.9	6-10	11.4
		11-14	1.4	11-14	2.1
		15-19	2.1	15-19	3.6
		20-24	6.4	20-24	2.8
		25+	1.4	25+	8.5
PHEASANT	<i>n</i> =206	---		0	28.6
		1-5	76.2	1-5	54.9
		6-10	15.1	6-10	12.1
		11-14	1.4	11-14	2.0
		15-19	2.0	15-19	1.9
		20-24	2.9	20-24	0.0
		25+	2.4	25+	0.5
DOVE	<i>n</i> =297	---		0	8.8
		1-5	83.8	1-5	17.5
		6-10	12.5	6-10	17.5
		11-14	1.0	11-14	9.7
		15-19	0.7	15-19	11.1
		20-24	0.7	20-24	7.8
		25+	1.3	25+	27.6
GRAY PARTRIDGE	<i>n</i> =2	---		0	50.0
		1-5	100	1-5	50.0
		6-10	---	6-10	---
		11-14	---	11-14	---
		15-19	---	15-19	---
		20-24	---	20-24	---
		25+	---	25+	---
WOODCOCK	<i>n</i> =3	---		0	0.0
		1-5	100.0	1-5	100.0
		6-10	---	6-10	---
		11-14	---	11-14	---
		15-19	---	15-19	---
		20-24	---	20-24	---
		25+	---	25+	---

Table 32 – continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
FOX SQUIRREL <i>n</i> =288	---		0	16.0
	1-5	66.0	1-5	52.4
	6-10	20.8	6-10	13.2
	11-14	3.8	11-14	3.8
	15-19	3.2	15-19	4.5
	20-24	3.1	20-24	3.5
	25+	3.1	25+	6.6
GRAY SQUIRREL <i>n</i> =252	---		0	19.4
	1-5	63.9	1-5	39.7
	6-10	20.2	6-10	17.9
	11-14	4.4	11-14	4.3
	15-19	4.8	15-19	7.2
	20-24	3.9	20-24	4.0
	25+	2.8	25+	7.5
RACCOON <i>n</i> =52	---		0	13.5
	1-5	53.8	1-5	34.6
	6-10	13.5	6-10	13.4
	11-14	---	11-14	3.9
	15-19	5.8	15-19	5.8
	20-24	3.8	20-24	3.8
	25+	23.1	25+	25.0
RED FOX <i>n</i> =12	---		0	58.3
	1-5	50.0	1-5	41.7
	6-10	16.7	6-10	---
	11-14	8.3	11-14	---
	15-19	25.0	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---
GRAY FOX <i>n</i> =2	---		0	100.0
	1-5	---	1-5	---
	6-10	---	6-10	---
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	100.0	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	---	25+	---
COYOTE <i>n</i> =196	---		0	37.2
	1-5	49.5	1-5	45.5
	6-10	28.1	6-10	8.6
	11-14	4.0	11-14	3.6
	15-19	5.6	15-19	3.1
	20-24	2.1	20-24	1.5
	25+	10.7	25+	0.5

Table 32 - continued.

	Days Hunting		Animals Harvested	
	Range	Percent of Hunters	Range	Percent of Hunters
OPOSSUM <i>n</i> =11	---		0	0.0
	1-5	72.7	1-5	45.5
	6-10	18.2	6-10	54.5
	11-14	---	11-14	---
	15-19	---	15-19	---
	20-24	---	20-24	---
	25+	9.1	25+	---

Table 33. Statewide estimates of effort, harvest and days hunting by species for resident Illinois hunters, 1997-2007.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
RABBIT						
1997	102,842	1.02	5.35	550,602	5.22	536,802
1998	98,190	1.07	6.20	608,878	5.78	567,079
1999	86,826	0.96	4.73	411,040	4.93	427,787
2000	88,461	1.07	5.94	525,891	5.56	491,482
2001	82,136	0.88	4.82	395,604	5.50	451,670
2002	72,672	0.86	4.81	349,614	5.57	404,908
2003	64,758	0.85	4.99	323,167	5.87	379,830
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
QUAIL						
1997	55,958	1.36	8.37	468,272	6.14	343,595
1998	55,618	1.42	9.35	519,786	6.57	365,292
1999	47,803	1.33	8.91	425,836	6.68	319,174
2000	44,298	1.16	6.55	290,310	5.63	249,398
2001	40,518	1.04	6.70	271,536	6.47	262,270
2002	34,124	1.13	6.83	233,181	6.06	206,640
2003	30,044	1.15	6.80	204,236	5.91	177,617
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
PHEASANT						
1997	66,734	0.57	3.23	215,326	5.70	380,459
1998	68,149	0.52	2.77	188,740	5.29	360,486
1999	54,469	0.48	2.54	138,368	5.24	285,517
2000	53,375	0.62	3.22	171,639	5.17	275,950
2001	59,050	0.53	2.68	158,304	5.03	297,292
2002	50,080	0.52	2.84	142,026	5.46	273,625
2003	50,592	0.66	3.60	181,976	5.42	274,287
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
DOVE						
1997	77,132	4.31	19.89	1,534,030	4.62	355,977
1998	61,798	4.11	19.31	1,193,380	4.69	290,020
1999	58,209	3.98	17.56	1,022,235	4.41	256,575
2000	61,367	4.54	19.84	1,217,324	4.37	268,093
2001	59,207	3.77	17.93	1,061,802	4.76	281,587
2002	58,295	4.03	18.29	1,066,379	4.54	264,620
2003	54,172	4.84	23.53	1,274,765	4.86	263,390
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

Table 33 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
GRAY PARTRIDGE						
1997	189	0.15	1.00	189	6.50	1,229
1998	944	0.13	1.18	1,116	8.82	8,326
1999	650	0.18	0.75	488	4.25	2,764
2000	271	1.25	2.50	677	2.00	542
2001	471	0.14	0.67	314	4.67	2,199
2002	158	0.00	0.00	0	1.00	158
2003	623	0.44	1.00	623	2.25	1,401
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
WOODCOCK						
1997	1,701	0.76	2.33	3,970	3.06	5,199
1998	1,974	0.68	2.09	4,120	3.09	6,094
1999	2,114	0.46	2.38	5,040	5.15	10,894
2000	1,355	0.43	1.70	2,303	4.00	5,419
2001	1,570	0.53	2.40	3,769	4.50	7,067
2002	1,738	0.15	0.73	1,264	4.82	8,373
2003	1,090	0.41	1.57	1,712	3.86	4,203
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
FOX SQUIRREL						
1997	85,166	1.39	7.22	615,162	5.18	441,238
1998	82,998	1.13	9.48	786,460	8.40	697,111
1999	83,411	1.14	7.28	607,618	6.39	532,986
2001	68,316	1.00	8.19	559,562	8.21	560,975
2002	63,667	1.09	7.56	481,213	6.95	442,508
2003	62,267	1.16	7.59	472,608	6.55	407,539
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
GRAY SQUIRREL						
1997	60,779	1.31	7.46	453,432	5.70	346,620
1998	60,682	1.07	8.92	541,416	8.31	504,080
1999	56,095	0.90	6.35	356,083	7.05	395,268
2001	54,182	1.11	9.17	496,900	8.26	447,273
2002	49,606	1.15	8.96	444,719	7.78	385,792
2003	51,059	1.32	8.96	457,664	6.80	346,984
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
SQUIRRELS ^a (FOX & GRAY)						
2000	96,048	1.47	11.71	1,125,070	7.96	764,316

Table 33 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
RACCOON						
1997	24,482	1.51	23.19	567,711	15.33	375,260
1998	16,308	1.33	17.96	292,852	13.53	220,669
1999	15,447	1.26	17.88	276,249	14.17	218,853
2000	15,985	1.26	16.66	266,332	13.19	210,790
2001	16,176	1.24	20.73	335,297	16.75	270,908
2002	13,428	1.24	17.81	239,185	14.36	192,896
2003	11,675	1.25	19.39	226,341	15.53	181,353
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
RED FOX						
1997	3,308	0.08	1.11	3,686	13.74	45,466
1998	3,176	0.11	1.38	4,377	12.19	38,709
1999	3,089	0.12	1.00	3,089	8.68	26,828
2000	4,200	0.18	1.61	6,773	8.84	37,119
2001	2,827	0.04	0.33	942	7.44	21,044
2002	2,528	0.08	1.50	3,792	19.00	48,027
2003	1,712	0.22	1.91	3,269	8.82	15,100
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
GRAY FOX						
1997	1,418	0.18	3.60	5,104	19.80	28,074
1998	1,631	0.03	0.37	601	13.00	21,200
1999	813	0.00	0.00	0	6.20	5,040
2000	813	0.00	0.00	0	10.50	8,535
2001	942	0.00	0.00	0	6.17	5,811
2002	632	0.09	1.75	1,106	20.25	12,797
2003	778	0.05	0.60	467	11.40	8,873
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
COYOTE						
1997	33,272	0.26	3.13	104,165	11.83	393,598
1998	31,414	0.34	3.53	110,807	10.35	325,124
1999	31,056	0.31	2.89	89,752	9.43	292,834
2000	35,899	0.29	2.92	104,718	10.10	362,651
2001	32,823	0.23	3.68	120,927	16.25	533,335
2002	26,383	0.25	2.90	76,463	11.79	311,067
2003	26,775	0.28	3.48	93,245	12.39	331,729
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

Table 33 - continued.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Hunting	Estimated Total Days Hunting
OPOSSUM						
1997	5,955	0.57	5.90	35,163	10.38	61,819
1998	2,918	0.39	4.41	12,875	11.18	32,615
1999	2,276	0.53	5.29	12,032	9.93	22,601
2000	3,387	0.26	3.08	10,431	11.80	39,963
2001	2,984	0.66	2.95	8,795	4.47	13,349
2002	3,160	0.42	3.95	12,481	9.30	29,385
2003	778	0.50	3.40	2,646	6.80	5,293
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

^a For the year 2000 fox squirrel harvest was 628,576 (55.9%) and gray squirrel harvest was 496,494 (44.1%).

Table 34. Percent change in statewide harvest by species for 1, 5 and 10 year time periods, from the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

Species	2007 Estimated Harvest	% Change		
		1 Year ^a	5 Years ^a	10 Years ^a
Rabbit	243,874	-9	-30	-56
Quail	188,710	-5	-19	-60
Pheasant	102,822	-13	-28	-52
Dove	1,120,739	-23	5	-27
Gray Partridge	524	-19	--	177
Woodcock	524	8	-59	-87
Fox Squirrel	348,791	-25	-28	-43
Gray Squirrel	395,401	-40	-11	-13
Raccoon	122,199	21	-49	-78
Red Fox	1,222	-24	-68	-67
Gray Fox	0	-100	-100	-100
Coyote	103,345	72	35	-1
Opossum	9,252	-19	-26	-74

^a From 2006, 2002, and 1997, respectively; see also Table 33.

Table 35. Days hunted and harvest on licensed shooting preserves or controlled hunting areas in Illinois between March 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008. Data reported by respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

Species	<i>n</i>	Days Hunted	\bar{x}_{days}	Harvest	\bar{x}_{harvest}
Quail	49	173	3.53	606	12.37
Pheasant	172	706	4.10	1,343	7.81
Doves	46	143	3.11	604	13.13
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	4	4	1.00	17	4.25
Chuckar Partridge	21	69	3.29	262	12.48
Turkey	14	49	3.50	17	1.21

Table 36. Counties in which resident hunters hunted in controlled hunting areas or shooting preserves, as reported by respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey (*n* = 306).

County	<i>n</i>	%	County	<i>n</i>	%
Adams	1	0.3%	Kendall	8	2.6%
Bond	3	1.0%	Knox	2	0.7%
Boone	1	0.3%	Lake	15	4.9%
Bureau	12	3.9%	LaSalle	7	2.3%
Carroll	3	1.0%	Lee	2	0.7%
Cass	16	5.2%	Logan	4	1.3%
Christian	1	0.3%	McHenry	18	5.9%
Clark	8	2.6%	McLean	15	4.9%
Clinton	6	2.0%	Macoupin	5	1.6%
Coles	1	0.3%	Madison	10	3.3%
Cook	2	0.7%	Mason	3	1.0%
Cumberland	3	1.0%	Montgomery	2	0.7%
De Kalb	5	1.6%	Moultrie	2	0.7%
Douglas	1	0.3%	Ogle	3	1.0%
Edwards	3	1.0%	Peoria	3	1.0%
Effingham	3	1.0%	Perry	3	1.0%
Fayette	2	0.7%	Pike	1	0.3%
Ford	2	0.7%	Putnam	3	1.0%
Franklin	5	1.6%	Randolph	2	0.7%
Fulton	3	1.0%	Rock Island	1	0.3%
Gallatin	1	0.3%	St. Clair	3	1.0%
Green	3	1.0%	Saline	2	0.7%
Grundy	11	3.6%	Sangamon	4	1.3%
Hamilton	4	1.3%	Schuyler	2	0.7%
Hancock	1	0.3%	Shelby	4	1.3%
Henry	4	1.3%	Stephenson	2	0.7%
Iroquois	20	6.5%	Tazewell	10	3.3%
Jackson	1	0.3%	Union	1	0.3%
Jasper	4	1.3%	Vermilion	2	0.7%
Jefferson	2	0.7%	Washington	1	0.3%
Jersey	1	0.3%	Whiteside	1	0.3%
JoDaviess	1	0.3%	Will	12	3.9%
Kane	6	2.0%	Winnebago	4	1.3%
Kankakee	9	2.9%			

Table 37. Difficulty encountered in finding a place to hunt in the specified hunting season. Data as reported by respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

Season	<i>n</i>	Very difficult		Somewhat difficult		Not at all difficult	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Deer hunting	1295	231	17.8	281	21.7	783	60.5
Small game hunting	658	152	23.1	172	26.1	334	50.8
Upland bird hunting	575	211	36.7	170	29.6	194	33.7
Turkey hunting	551	157	28.5	136	24.7	258	46.8
Dove hunting	461	114	24.7	131	28.4	216	46.9
Waterfowl hunting	403	151	37.5	118	29.3	134	33.3
Furbearer hunting	276	85	30.8	75	27.2	116	42.0

Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey: 2007-2008 Seasons Results Summary



Your comments are welcome! Please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

All of your responses will be kept confidential.

Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and
Illinois Natural History Survey



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.

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.

- Did you hunt any wildlife species in Illinois between March 2007 and February 2008? $n = 1,620$
89.4% Yes
10.6% No (*Please skip to question 3.*)
- Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois for the following species between March 1, 2007-February 29, 2008. 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. If you hunted for a species, but did not harvest any animals, enter zero. **Do not count days hunted or harvest on licensed shooting preserves or controlled hunting areas.** Count part of 1 day as 1 day.

Species	n	Average Number of Days Hunted	Average Number Harvested	County Hunted Most Often
Rabbit	281	5.5	5.0	
Quail	141	5.7	7.7	
Pheasant	206	5.0	2.9	
Dove	297	4.0	21.6	
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	2	1.0	1.5	
Woodcock	3	1.7	1.0	
Snipe	2	2.5	2.5	
Rail	0	0.0	0.0	
Crow	30	2.6	8.9	
Ground Hog (Woodchuck)	9	13.0	8.1	
Gray Squirrel	252	6.4	9.0	
Fox Squirrel	288	6.0	6.9	
Turkey – Spring	299	4.3	0.5	
Turkey – Fall Shotgun	61	2.8	0.2	
Turkey – Fall Archery	109	17.0	0.2	
Deer – Regular Firearm	1,032	4.3	0.8	
Deer – Muzzleloader-Only	165	2.4	0.4	
Deer – Archery Season	608	20.3	0.6	
Deer – Late Winter Firearm	318	2.1	0.3	
Raccoon	52	13.2	13.5	
Red Fox	12	7.4	0.6	
Gray Fox	2	15.0	0.0	
Coyote	196	11.4	3.0	
Opossum	11	6.4	4.8	

3. Did you hunt on a licensed shooting preserve or controlled hunting area between March 2007 and February 2008? *n* = 1,600

- 14.8% Yes
- 85.2% No (*Please skip to question 5.*)

4. Please report your hunting effort and harvest on licensed shooting preserves or controlled hunting areas in Illinois between March 1, 2007 and February 28, 2008 for the following species. 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. Count part of 1 day as 1 day.

Species	<i>n</i>	Average Days Hunted	Average Harvested	County Hunted Most Often
Quail	49	3.5	12.4	See Table 36.
Pheasant	172	4.1	7.8	See Table 36.
Doves	46	3.1	13.1	See Table 36.
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	4	1.0	4.3	See Table 36.
Chuckar Partridge	21	3.3	12.5	See Table 36.
Turkey	14	3.5	1.2	See Table 36.

5. Where did you purchase your 2007 hunting license and/or habitat stamp? (*Please check one.*)
n = 1,576

- 1.5% DNR regional or central office
- 58.8% Chain retail store (e.g. Wal-mart, Dick's Sporting Goods)
- 20.8% Independent retail store (e.g. local bait shop, local grocery store)
- 16.8% IDNR website
- 0.1% Over the phone
- 2.0% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

6. Did you encounter any problems purchasing your 2007 hunting license or habitat stamp? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 1,602

- 4.7% Yes
- 95.3% No (*Please skip to question 8.*)

7. Please describe any problems you encountered while purchasing your hunting license or habitat stamp in the space below. *n* = 67

- 19.4%** Chain retail stores are not very knowledgeable about required permits and stamps.
- 13.4%** Store staff very slow, somewhat disorganized, unprofessional.
- 11.9%** Equipment did not work, machine locked up, had to be rebooted, store had to call help line.
- 9.0%** Don't believe we should have to give SSN for license to hunt.
- 7.5%** Lack of stamps, having to add stamps instead of one license with everything.
- 38.8%** 26 miscellaneous answers

8. Did you hunt squirrels in Illinois during the 2007-2008 hunting season? (*Please check one.*)
n = 1,605

- 21.9%** Yes
- 78.1%** No (*Please skip to question 11.*)

9. Were you aware that the squirrel hunting season in Illinois was extended from an end date of Dec. 31 to an end date of Feb. 15 in 2008? (*Please check one.*) *n* = 344

- 57.8%** Yes
- 42.2%** No

10. Please report your squirrel harvest and hunting effort in each of the following months during the 2007-2008 squirrel hunting season. If you hunted squirrels during a listed month, but did not harvest any, enter zero.

	<i>n</i>	Average Number of days hunted	Average Number of squirrels harvested
August	131	4.9	8.2
September	190	4.5	7.4
October	128	4.7	7.2
November	72	4.3	5.1
December	42	4.1	4.3
January	32	3.8	4.3
February	17	3.4	3.7

11. Who owned the land on which you hunted during 2007-2008? (Please check all that apply.)

n = 1,944

- 16.3%** I hunted on public land.
- 19.9%** I hunted on private land I own.
- 54.7%** I hunted on private land owned by a friend or member of my family.
- 4.1%** I hunted on private land owned by a person I did not previously know.
- 3.1%** I hunted on private land I leased.
- 0.4%** I hunted on private land I hired an outfitter to access.
- 1.5%** Other (Please indicate. _____)

12. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in Illinois during each of the following seasons? (Please check one for each season.)

Season	n	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not at all difficult	I did not hunt these species.
a. Deer hunting	1,465	15.8	19.2	53.4	11.6
b. Small game hunting (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)	1,237	12.3	13.9	27.0	46.8
c. Upland bird hunting (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)	1,233	17.1	13.8	15.7	53.4
d. Turkey hunting	1,205	13.0	11.3	21.4	54.3
e. Dove hunting	1,164	9.8	11.3	18.6	60.4
f. Waterfowl hunting	1,166	13.0	10.1	11.5	65.4
g. Furbearer hunting (fox, raccoon, etc.)	1,133	7.5	6.6	10.2	75.6

13. Did you lease any land on which you hunted in Illinois during 2007-2008? Please do not consider licensed shooting preserves or commercial hunt clubs. (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,588**

4.3% Yes

95.7% No (*Please skip to question 16.*)

14. If you did lease land to hunt in Illinois, which species did your lease give you access to hunt? (*Please check all that apply.*) **n = 138**

30.4% Deer

15.2% Turkeys

9.4% Small game (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)

5.8% Upland birds (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)

8.0% Doves

18.1% Waterfowl

0.7% Furbearers (fox, raccoon, etc.)

12.3% All species I wanted to hunt

0.0% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

15. If you did lease land to hunt in Illinois, how much money did you pay in leasing fees, in total? If you leased land individually, as opposed to part of a group of hunters, skip part b.

a. I personally paid **Ave. \$682.25** to lease hunting land in Illinois. **n = 40**

b. My hunting party paid **Ave. \$2,916.86**, in total, to lease hunting land in Illinois. **n = 35**

16. Did you contract with an outfitter in Illinois during 2007-2008? Please do not consider licensed shooting preserves or commercial hunt clubs. (*Please check one.*) **n = 1,569**

0.7% Yes

99.3% No (*Please skip to question 19.*)

17. If you did hire an outfitter to hunt in Illinois, which species did your outfitting services allow you to hunt? (*Please check all that apply.*) **n = 25**

28.0% Deer

16.0% Turkeys

4.0% Small game (squirrel, rabbit, etc.)

28.0% Upland birds (pheasant, partridge, quail, etc.)

4.0% Doves

20.0% Waterfowl

0.0% Furbearers (fox, raccoon, etc.)

0.0% All species I wanted to hunt

0.0% Other (*Please indicate.* _____)

18. If you paid outfitting fees to hunt in Illinois in 2007-2008, how much did you pay in outfitting fees, in total? If you shared costs with other hunters, please indicate only the amount you personally paid. **n = 10**

I paid **Ave. \$826.50** for outfitting services in Illinois.

Information about you. The following questions provide important information to help us understand more about the people who hunt in Illinois. Please tell us about yourself by completing the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential.

19. As of October 1, 2007, what was your age? **n = 1,585 Ave. 46.9 years**

20. Please indicate your county of residence. **See Appendix G.**

21. What is your approximate annual household income? (Please check one.) n = 1,419

- 9.1%** Less than \$20,000 per year
- 19.6%** \$20,000 to \$39,999 per year
- 24.9%** \$40,000 to \$59,999 per year
- 19.7%** \$60,000 to \$79,999 per year
- 10.2%** \$80,000 to \$99,999 per year
- 11.6%** \$100,000 to \$149,999 per year
- 4.9%** Over \$150,000 per year

22. Are you 94.5% male or 5.5% female? (Please check one.) n = 1,581

23. How would you describe the area where you currently live? (Please check one.) n = 1,576

- 19.7%** Rural setting, on a farm
- 20.6%** Rural setting, not on a farm
- 8.3%** Rural subdivision
- 11.2%** Suburban area at the edge of a town or city
- 25.6%** Within a small town (Population less than 25,000)
- 9.1%** Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
- 5.5%** Within a metropolitan area (Population greater than 100,000)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B. Cover letter that accompanied the first mailing of the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.



ILLINOIS NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY



April 4, 2008

Dear Illinois Hunter,

I am writing to ask for your help in a study of Illinois hunters. This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about your hunting activities in Illinois and the factors that motivate hunters to take to Illinois forests and fields to hunt many varieties of game. Results of this study will guide wildlife management decisions to optimize hunting opportunity, maintain or improve hunter satisfaction, and allow for effective management of Illinois's game populations.

You are part of a random sample of resident hunters we have selected to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2007-2008 hunting seasons in Illinois. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire, even if you did not hunt in Illinois during the 2007-2008 season. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be associated in any way with your name or address. While your response to this questionnaire and any of the questions is completely voluntary, you can help us effectively manage wildlife and hunting in Illinois by sharing your experiences and views. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to call Linda Campbell, Survey Administrator, at (217) 244-5121 or write her at the address listed below. You may access the results of this and other studies of wildlife use in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/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/>.

Thank you very much for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist
Illinois Natural History Survey

Appendix C. Reminder postcard for the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.



Dear Illinois Hunter,

You have been selected to participate in the Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey. A survey questionnaire was recently mailed to you. We have not received your questionnaire at this time. **If you have returned the questionnaire, we thank you and please disregard this reminder. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.** Your input is very important!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D. Cover letter that accompanied the second mailing of the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.



ILLINOIS NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY



May 9, 2008

Dear Illinois Hunter,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a questionnaire asking about your hunting activities in Illinois during 2007-2008. To the best of our knowledge, the questionnaire has not yet been returned. If this letter and your completed questionnaire have crossed in the mail, please accept our sincere thanks for your participation in this study!

Your views are crucially important, even if you did not hunt in Illinois during 2007-2008. The comments of hunters who have already responded show that Illinois hunters desire different types of hunting experiences and take to the field for many different reasons. The results of this study will help Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologists make informed decisions about how to manage wildlife and hunting in Illinois.

If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. The enclosed questionnaire is a duplicate copy of the one you received earlier. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be associated in any way with your name or address. While your response to this questionnaire and any of the questions is completely voluntary, you can help us effectively manage game populations in Illinois by sharing your experiences and views. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to call Linda Campbell, Survey Administrator, at (217) 244-5121 or write her at the address listed below. You may access the results of this and other studies of wildlife use in Illinois at <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/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/>.

Thank you very much for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist
Illinois Natural History Survey

Appendix E. Season dates, bag limits and shooting hours for the 2007-2008 hunting seasons in Illinois.

2007-2008 Season Dates and Limits Information

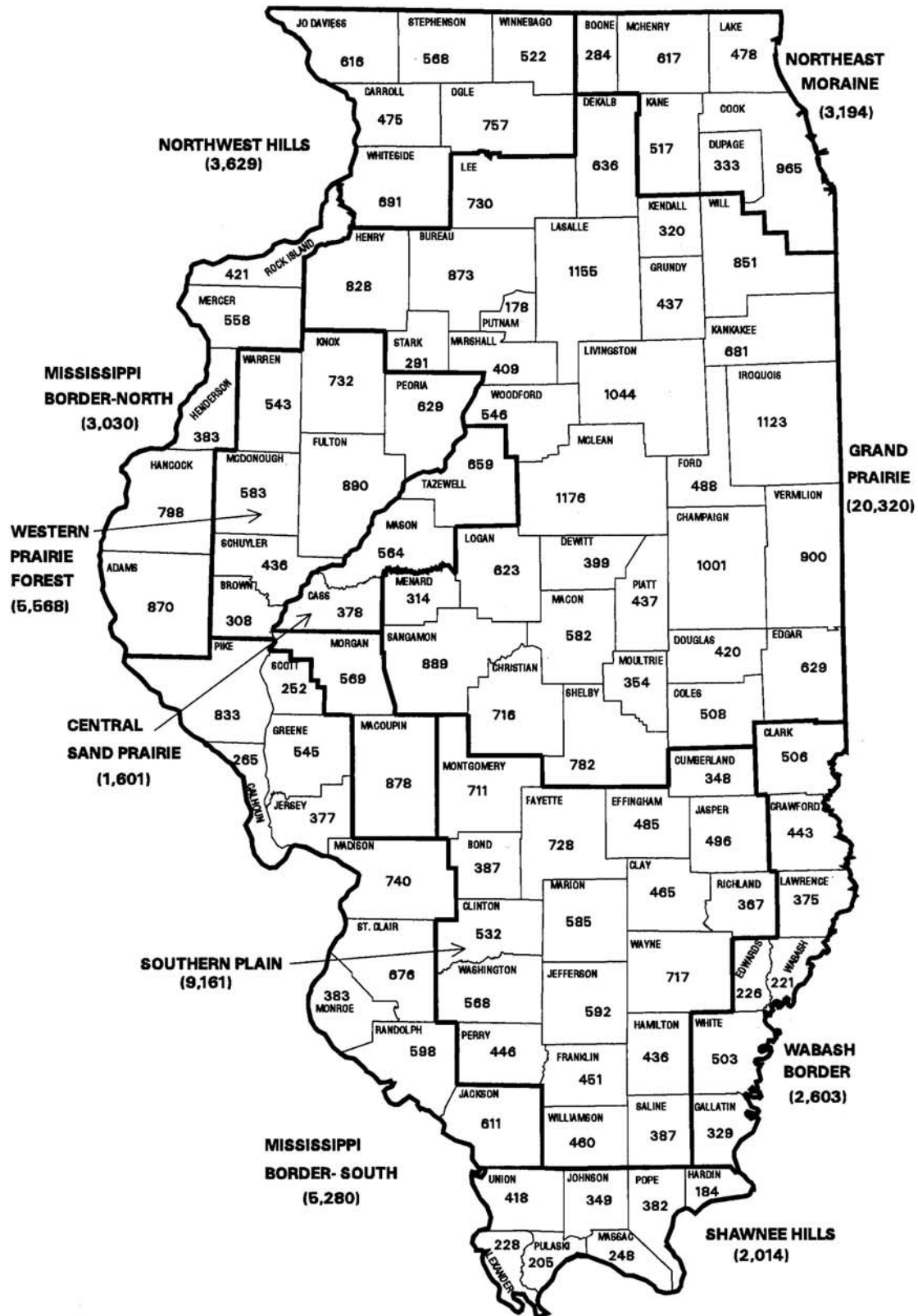
SMALL GAME					
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	
Rabbit (Cottontail & Swamp)	Nov. 3, 2007 - Jan. 8, 2008 (North) Nov. 3, 2007 - Jan. 22, 2008 (South)	Sunrise to sunset	4	10 ^a	
Cock Pheasant	Nov. 3, 2007 - Jan. 8, 2008 (North) Nov. 3, 2007 - Jan. 15, 2008 (South)		2	6 ^a	
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge			2	6 ^a	
Quail (Bobwhite)			8	20 ^a	
Squirrel (Fox and Gray)	Aug. 1 - Feb. 15, 2008 (Statewide) Closed Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 29 - Dec. 2 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, 2007 - March 31, 2008. Closed Nov. 16-18; Nov. 29 - Dec. 2 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. 16-18; Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 2007	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One deer per firearm permit ^f		
Deer (Muzzleloading rifles only)	Dec. 7-9, 2007 (also allowed Nov. 29 - Dec. 2)		One deer per muzzle-loading rifle permit ^f		
Special CWD Deer Season	Jan. 18-20, 2008		One deer per valid deer permit ^h		
Late-Winter Antlerless Deer (Handgun, Muzzleloader, & Shotgun)	Jan. 18-20, 2008		One antlerless deer per permit		
Deer (Archery in counties with a firearm season and west of Rt. 47 in Kane Co.)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15, Nov. 19 - Nov. 28, Dec. 3, 2007 - Jan. 17, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One deer per archery permit ^f		
Deer (Archery in Cook, DuPage, Kane [east of Route 47] and Lake counties)	Oct. 1, 2007 - Jan. 17, 2008				
Youth Firearm Deer Season	Oct. 6-7, 2007	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One antlerless deer		
Youth Turkey Season	Mar. 29 - Mar. 30, 2008 (South); April 5-6, 2008 (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen		
Turkey (Spring Shotgun or Archery)	April 7 - May 8, 2008 ^b (South) April 14 - May 15, 2008 ^b (North)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One gobbler or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3		
Turkey (Fall Shotgun Season)	Oct. 20 - Oct. 28, 2007	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	One turkey per permit, maximum of 2		
Turkey (Fall Archery)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15, Nov. 19 - Nov. 28, Dec. 3, 2007 - Jan. 17, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	One turkey per permit, maximum of 2		
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS					
SPECIES	DATES and ZONES	HOURS	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	
Dovec	Sept. 1 - Oct. 21; Nov. 3-11, 2007	Sunrise to sunset	15 ^c	30 ^c	
Teal	Sept. 8-23, 2007	Sunrise to sunset	4	8	
Early Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15, 2007	Northeast Zone	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5g	10
		North, Central & South Zone		2g	4
Rail (Sora & Virginia Only)	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16, 2007	Sunrise to sunset	25	25	
Common Snipe	Sept. 8 - Dec. 23, 2007	Sunrise to sunset	8	16	
Woodcock	Oct. 20 - Dec. 3, 2007	Sunrise to sunset	3	6	
Crow	Oct. 28, 2007 - Feb. 28, 2008	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit		
The season dates for Migratory Waterfowl seasons that occur after October 1 will be available in September. See 2007-2008 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations.					
FURBEARERS - HUNTING					
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT		
Raccoon and Opossum	Nov. 5, 2007 - Feb. 10, 2008 (North); Nov. 10, 2007 - Feb. 15, 2008 (South) Closed Nov. 16, 17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 5 (North) and Nov. 10 (South) Opens at sunrise	No Limit		
Fox (Red and Gray)	Nov. 10, 2007 - Jan. 31, 2008 (Statewide). Closed Nov. 16, 17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting	Unrestricted Except Nov. 10 Opens at sunrise	No Limit		
Coyote ^e and Striped Skunk	Year round (Statewide). Closed Nov. 16, 17 and through 6 p.m. Nov. 18 and closed Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 and through 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in counties open for firearm deer hunting ^{d,e}	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hr. after sunset; open 24 hours during Nov. 10, 2007-Feb. 15, 2008 ^{d,e}	No Limit		
TRAPPING					
SPECIES	DATES (inclusive) and ZONES	HOURS	LIMIT		
Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Mink Muskrat, Fox (Red and Gray), Coyote, Badger	Nov. 5, 2007 - Jan. 20, 2008 (North) Nov. 10, 2007 - Jan. 25, 2008 (South)	Unrestricted except opening days start at sunrise and closing days end at sunset	No Limit except for badger, which is limited to two per season in the north zone and one per season in the south zone		
Beaver	Nov. 5, 2007 - March 31, 2008 (North) Nov. 10, 2007 - March 31, 2008 (South)				
Woodchuck (Groundhog)	June 1 - Sept. 30 (Statewide)				

^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 7-11; 2nd season—April 12-17; 3rd season—April 18-23; 4th season—April 24-30; 5th season—May 1-8
North — 1st season—April 14-18; 2nd season—April 19-24; 3rd season—April 25-30; 4th season—May 1-7; 5th season—May 8-15
^c The daily bag and possession limits include mourning doves, Eurasian collared doves, ringed turtle doves and white-winged doves in the aggregate.
^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 sunset.
^f No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the archery, muzzleloader, and 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 Daily bag limit is 5 in Northeast Canada Goose Zone and 2 in Southern Zone, and that portion of the North and Central Zones outside the Northeast Canada Goose Zone.
^h Antlered Deer bag limit does not apply to this season.



Appendix F. Map of IDNR Wildlife Management Units in Illinois.

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



Appendix G. Map of IDNR Administrative regions for wildlife management in Illinois.
 Administrative regions in Illinois.



Appendix H. County of residence for respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey ($n= 1,620$).

County	<i>n</i>	%	County	<i>n</i>	%	County	<i>n</i>	%
Adams	25	1.5	Hardin	4	0.2	Morgan	12	0.7
Alexander	5	0.3	Henderson	3	0.2	Moultrie	8	0.5
Bond	12	0.7	Henry	23	1.4	Ogle	16	1.0
Boone	8	0.5	Iroquois	15	0.9	Peoria	50	3.1
Brown	8	0.5	Jackson	21	1.3	Perry	14	0.9
Bureau	22	1.4	Jasper	6	0.4	Piatt	1	0.1
Calhoun	6	0.4	Jefferson	20	1.2	Pike	11	0.7
Carroll	7	0.4	Jersey	18	1.1	Pope	4	0.2
Cass	6	0.4	JoDavieess	11	0.7	Pulaski	4	0.2
Champaign	27	1.7	Johnson	6	0.4	Putnam	4	0.2
Christian	16	1.0	Kane	18	1.1	Randolph	22	1.4
Clark	7	0.4	Kankakee	9	0.6	Richland	13	0.8
Clay	14	0.9	Kendall	8	0.5	Rock Island	24	1.5
Clinton	23	1.4	Knox	15	0.9	St. Clair	44	2.7
Coles	10	0.6	Lake	24	1.5	Saline	15	0.9
Cook	105	6.5	LaSalle	24	1.5	Sangamon	42	2.6
Crawford	15	0.9	Lawrence	17	1.0	Schuyler	8	0.5
Cumberland	8	0.5	Lee	8	0.5	Scott	2	0.1
DeKalb	16	1.0	Livingston	7	0.4	Shelby	12	0.7
DeWitt	9	0.6	Logan	15	0.9	Stark	4	0.2
Douglas	11	0.7	McDonough	14	0.9	Stephenson	12	0.7
DuPage	33	2.0	McHenry	33	2.0	Tazewell	29	1.8
Edgar	10	0.6	McLean	33	2.0	Union	14	0.9
Edwards	7	0.4	Macon	12	0.7	Vermilion	19	1.2
Effingham	34	2.1	Macoupin	22	1.4	Wabash	5	0.3
Fayette	16	1.0	Madison	55	3.4	Warren	7	0.4
Ford	5	0.3	Marion	12	0.7	Washington	16	1.0
Franklin	17	1.0	Marshall	11	0.7	Wayne	12	0.7
Fulton	15	0.9	Mason	11	0.7	White	15	0.9
Gallatin	6	0.4	Massac	5	0.3	Whiteside	16	1.0
Greene	9	0.6	Menard	7	0.4	Will	41	2.5
Grundy	7	0.4	Mercer	9	0.6	Williamson	23	1.4
Hamilton	6	0.4	Monroe	15	0.9	Winnebago	22	1.4
Hancock	12	0.7	Montgomery	12	0.7	Woodford	19	1.2