

*Human*Dimensions  
Research Program



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Job Number 101.1  
Wildlife Restoration

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# 2000-2001 Illinois Hunter Harvest Report



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December 31, 2001

# **Results of the 2000-2001 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey**

**Federal Aid Project Number W-112-R-10  
Job Number 101.1  
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<sup>a</sup> WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

<sup>b</sup> AR = Administrative Region

## **2000-2001 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey**

### **Objective**

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

### **Abstract**

A random sample of 3,000 hunters was selected from the 2000 Illinois Habitat Stamp stubs and license sales. The sample was evenly divided between each sample frame (1,500 from each frame). Of the sample of 3,000 hunters, 2,912 questionnaires were deliverable. We received 2,142 (74%) returned questionnaires. License sales declined 1.4% from 1999 (294,000) to the 2000 season (290,000). From 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, harvests increased for 7 game animal categories (rabbit, pheasant, dove, gray partridge, squirrel, red fox, and coyote), decreased for 4 game animal categories (quail, woodcock, raccoon, and opossum), and did not change for 1 category (gray fox). Activities of upland hunters were profiled, as were attitudes toward hunting and general information about hunters.

### **Methods**

Hunters were selected for this survey by a systematic random sampling of purchasers of Illinois resident hunting licenses and state habitat stamps. Of the 3,000 hunters sampled, 1,500 each were selected from license sales and habitat stamp sales. From this sample of 3,000, 88 were deleted due to lack of forwarding address, incorrect address, or death. Participants received a self-administered return mail questionnaire accompanied with cover letter and return envelope, mailed March 2, 2001. This mailing was followed 17 days later with a thank you/reminder

postcard to nonrespondents. On March 27, a second questionnaire, cover letter, and return envelope were mailed to nonrespondents. The second mailing was followed 17 days later with a postcard thank you/reminder. A total of 2,142 (74%) hunters responded. Methods for survey questionnaire mailings and follow-up reminders followed those of Miller et al. (1999). Data were entered into an SPSS 10.0 file and analyzed using SPSS 10.0. Estimates for species harvests, hunters, and days afield were made using the formulas discussed by Anderson et al. (1993).

## **Results**

### **License Sales**

Resident license sales for the 2000-2001 hunting season totaled 290,000 (290,175 before rounding) and represented a 1.4% decline from the 1999-2000 sales. Hunting license sales have been in a steady decline since 1994 (Table 1). The 2000-2001 license sales represented the second lowest recorded since 1938.

Of the respondents who reported purchasing a resident hunting license, 26% obtained a regular license without habitat stamp, 9% obtained a regular license with habitat stamp printed on license, 31% chose a sportsmen's combination hunting and sport fishing license without habitat stamp, 23% chose a sportsmen's combination license with habitat stamp printed on license, and 11% were eligible for a senior citizen's hunting license (Appendix G, Section 1).

### **Harvest**

Harvest estimates represent game species harvested by Illinois resident hunters and do not include harvests by nonresidents. Including harvests by nonresidents for species such as

mourning doves may result in larger total harvests. Harvest of big game species (i.e., white-tailed deer and eastern wild turkey) are not included in this report. The reader is directed to Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) publications specific to these species.

Results suggest increases in harvests for 7 game animal categories from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001: rabbit, pheasant, dove, gray partridge, squirrel, red fox, and coyote. Conversely, decreases in harvests were noted for 4 categories: quail, woodcock, raccoon, and opossum. The harvest of gray fox did not change from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001.

### **Hunting Activities**

*General.* Of the 2,142 residents surveyed, 1,967 (92%) reported they hunted in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season. Almost one-fourth (23%) of the respondents said they hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2000-2001 (Appendix G, Section 1).

One respondent in 5 (20%) used the DNR's internet website for information during the past year. Most of them (71%) accessed the internet at home. Of those who did not use the DNR internet website, most (51%) did not have internet access.

*Upland Hunting.* Pluralities (35-41%) of rabbit, pheasant, and quail hunters were afield 1-2 days each month of the 2000-2001 season (Appendix G, Section 2). Only 13-21% of them were afield >5 days per month. Sizeable percentages (27-35%) of the upland hunters did not go afield during January.

One-third to one-half (31-51%) of rabbit, pheasant, and quail hunters never took their daily bag limit during the 2000-2001 season. At the other extreme, 9% of rabbit hunters, 13% of

pheasant hunters, and 3% of quail hunters often achieved their daily limits.

When asked if they would favor a low bag limit on quail to provide more opportunities for hunters to harvest birds, majorities of both quail hunters (52%) and all respondents (63%) said "yes".

*Squirrel Hunting*. - Separate Report.

### **Attitudes Toward Hunting**

Attitudes of respondents toward hunting are profiled in Appendix G, Section 4. Examination of the data indicate it is important to hunters to spend time outdoors interacting with nature, engaging in hunting activities, and learning more about wildlife. The hunters ranked harvesting a trophy among the least important of their reasons for hunting.

### **General Information**

Respondents to this survey were 97% male, averaged 46 years of age, and had hunted in Illinois for an average of 29 years. They represented 101 of the 102 counties in the state.

### **References**

- Anderson, W.L., and L.K. Campbell. Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey, 1992. Ill. Dep. Nat. Res., Fed. Aid in Wildl. Restoration Project W-112-R, Job 1, Job Completion Rep. 65pp.
- Miller, C.A., L.K. Campbell and K.D. Caldwell. [1999]. 1998-99 Hunter Harvest Survey Report. Ill. Dep. Nat. Res., Fed. Aid in Wildl. Restoration Project W-112-R-8, Job 1, Job Completion Rep. 77pp.

Table 1. Number of resident hunting licenses purchased in Illinois, 1938-2000.

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

<sup>a</sup> Includes Sportsmen's (combination hunting/fishing) licenses beginning in 1979, which was the 1<sup>st</sup> year for this license.

<sup>b</sup> Includes senior citizen ( $\geq 65$  years) hunting licenses beginning in 1994, which was the 1<sup>st</sup> year for this license.



Table 2. Summary of Statewide Data from the 2000 Hunter Harvest Survey (n=2,142).

Species	Total Estimated Hunters	Percent of License Sales	Average Bag		Total Estimated Harvest	Days Afield	
			Daily	Season		Average	Total
Rabbit	88,461	30.49%	1.07	5.94	525,891	5.56	491,482
Quail	44,298	15.27%	1.16	6.55	290,310	5.63	249,398
Pheasant	53,375	18.39%	0.62	3.22	171,639	5.17	275,950
Dove	61,367	21.15%	4.54	19.84	1,217,324	4.37	268,093
Gray Partridge	271	0.09%	1.25	2.50	677	2.00	542
Woodcock	1,355	0.47%	0.43	1.70	2,303	4.00	5,419
Squirrel <sup>a</sup>	96,048	33.10%	1.47	11.71	1,125,070	7.96	764,316
Raccoon	15,985	5.51%	1.26	16.66	266,332	13.19	210,790
Red Fox	4,200	1.45%	0.18	1.61	6,773	8.84	37,119
Gray Fox	813	0.28%	0.00	0.00	0	10.50	8,535
Coyote	35,899	12.37%	0.29	2.92	104,718	10.10	362,651
Opossum	3,387	1.17%	0.26	3.08	10,431	11.80	39,963
Snipe	406	0.14%	0.79	3.67	1,490	4.67	1,897
Rail	271	0.09%	1.57	5.50	1,490	3.50	948
Crow	11,244	3.87%	1.39	6.20	69,767	4.45	49,988
Ground Hog	5,148	1.77%	0.60	3.50	18,017	5.79	29,803
Turkey-Spring	60,555	20.87%	0.10	0.44	26,552	4.61	279,202
Turkey-Fall Shotgun	15,037	5.18%	0.12	0.41	6,232	3.41	51,207
Turkey-Fall Archery	17,069	5.88%	0.01	0.09	1,490	15.89	271,209
Deer-Shotgun	171,639	59.15%	0.16	0.72	124,361	4.47	767,703
Deer-Muzzleloader	14,766	5.09%	0.13	0.37	5,419	2.90	42,808
Deer-Archery	102,821	35.43%	0.03	0.58	60,013	22.01	2,262,739
Deer-Handgun	15,443	5.32%	0.09	0.21	3,251	2.23	34,409

<sup>a</sup>Fox squirrel harvest was 628,576 (55.9%) and gray squirrel harvest was 496,494 (44.1%).

Table 3. Estimated Number ( $\pm$  95% confidence interval) of Resident Licensed Hunters and Harvest in Illinois, 2000 (n=2,142).

Species	Total Estimated Hunters			Estimated Average Season Bag			Total Estimated Harvest		
Rabbit	88,461	$\pm$	5,773	5.94	$\pm$	0.79	525,891	$\pm$	78,696
Quail	44,298	$\pm$	4,510	6.55	$\pm$	1.43	290,310	$\pm$	70,768
Pheasant	53,375	$\pm$	4,858	3.22	$\pm$	0.53	171,639	$\pm$	32,684
Dove	61,367	$\pm$	5,121	19.84	$\pm$	2.25	1,217,324	$\pm$	173,526
Gray Partridge	271	$\pm$	383	2.50	$\pm$	4.91	677	$\pm$	1,379
Woodcock	1,355	$\pm$	855	1.70	$\pm$	0.97	2,303	$\pm$	1,881
Squirrel	96,048	$\pm$	5,901	11.71	$\pm$	1.45	1,125,070	$\pm$	157,987
Raccoon	15,985	$\pm$	2,861	16.66	$\pm$	4.37	266,332	$\pm$	85,485
Red Fox	4,200	$\pm$	1,498	1.61	$\pm$	1.04	6,773	$\pm$	5,015
Gray Fox	813	$\pm$	663	0.00	$\pm$	0.00	0	$\pm$	0
Coyote	35,899	$\pm$	4,129	2.92	$\pm$	0.83	104,718	$\pm$	32,573
Opossum	3,387	$\pm$	1,347	3.08	$\pm$	1.38	10,431	$\pm$	6,269

Table 4. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Rabbit (653)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily Season		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	6,638	7.50	1.36	6.80	45,111	33,190
Northeast Moraine	1,490	1.68	0.30	1.45	2,168	7,180
Mississippi Border-North	3,658	4.13	1.15	7.74	28,313	24,655
Mississippi Border-South	15,714	17.76	1.53	7.50	117,858	77,082
Western Prairie/Forest	8,941	10.11	0.95	4.50	40,234	42,402
Central Sand Prairie	3,251	3.68	1.13	4.67	15,173	13,411
Grand Prairie	25,062	28.33	0.73	3.85	96,589	133,166
Southern Plain	17,476	19.75	1.09	7.14	124,767	114,742
Wabash Border	4,335	4.90	1.11	8.19	35,493	31,835
Shawnee Hills	1,761	1.99	1.62	11.46	20,185	12,463
Unknown	135	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,355

Table 5. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Quail (327)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent		Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
		of Hunters	of Hunters	Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	1,490	3.36	1.02	4.45	6,638	6,503	
Northeast Moraine	406	0.92	0.77	3.33	1,355	1,761	
Mississippi Border-North	2,845	6.42	1.18	5.05	14,360	12,192	
Mississippi Border-South	8,128	18.35	1.17	4.78	38,880	33,325	
Western Prairie/Forest	4,741	10.70	0.89	4.97	23,572	26,416	
Central Sand Prairie	2,303	5.20	1.11	6.18	14,224	12,870	
Grand Prairie	10,702	24.16	0.52	3.15	33,732	64,890	
Southern Plain	9,618	21.71	1.50	9.25	89,003	59,335	
Wabash Border	2,980	6.73	2.22	16.77	49,988	22,488	
Shawnee Hills	813	1.83	2.33	22.50	18,288	7,857	
Unknown	271	0.61	0.15	1.00	271	1,761	

Table 6. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Pheasant (394)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily Season		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	5,690	10.66	0.54	3.00	17,069	31,429
Northeast Moraine	3,793	7.11	0.89	3.61	13,682	15,443
Mississippi Border-North	1,355	2.54	0.88	2.90	3,929	4,470
Mississippi Border-South	406	0.76	0.25	0.33	135	542
Western Prairie/Forest	3,387	6.35	0.26	1.00	3,387	12,870
Central Sand Prairie	3,793	7.11	0.95	4.18	15,850	16,663
Grand Prairie	32,919	61.68	0.61	3.44	113,252	186,676
Southern Plain	1,355	2.54	0.62	2.40	3,251	5,283
Wabash Border	135	0.25	2.00	4.00	542	271
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	542	1.02	0.24	1.00	542	2,303

Table 7. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Dove (453)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Season		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	1,897	3.09	2.01	12.79	24,249	12,057
Northeast Moraine	2,438	3.97	2.44	7.44	18,153	7,451
Mississippi Border-North	3,793	6.18	3.54	15.29	57,981	16,392
Mississippi Border-South	10,160	16.56	4.56	20.81	211,467	46,330
Western Prairie/Forest	5,554	9.05	4.66	19.44	107,969	23,165
Central Sand Prairie	4,470	7.28	5.38	18.58	83,042	15,443
Grand Prairie	17,882	29.14	4.52	21.12	377,688	83,584
Southern Plain	10,838	17.66	5.47	23.18	251,160	45,924
Wabash Border	2,438	3.97	5.04	13.72	33,461	6,638
Shawnee Hills	1,490	2.43	5.14	32.27	48,091	9,347
Unknown	406	0.66	2.31	10.00	4,064	1,761

Table 8. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Gray Partridge (2)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily	Season	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	135	50.00	1.67	5.00	677	406
Northeast Moraine	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Grand Prairie	135	50.00	0.00	0.00	0	135
Southern Plain	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 9. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Woodcock (10)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Northeast Moraine	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Western Prairie/Forest	135	10.00	1.67	5.00	677	406
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Grand Prairie	948	70.00	0.31	1.43	1,355	4,335
Southern Plain	271	20.00	0.40	1.00	271	677
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0



Table 10. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Squirrel (709)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	7,993	8.32	1.39	6.17	49,311	35,493
Northeast Moraine	1,219	1.27	0.58	3.22	3,929	6,773
Mississippi Border-North	5,961	6.21	1.76	15.34	91,442	51,885
Mississippi Border-South	16,392	17.07	1.83	15.31	251,024	136,824
Western Prairie/Forest	13,411	13.96	1.08	7.58	101,602	94,015
Central Sand Prairie	4,200	4.37	1.35	7.52	31,564	23,436
Grand Prairie	20,591	21.44	1.15	8.95	184,238	160,802
Southern Plain	17,069	17.77	1.63	16.98	289,904	177,329
Wabash Border	4,877	5.08	1.77	13.89	67,735	38,338
Shawnee Hills	3,116	3.24	1.71	14.96	46,601	27,229
Unknown	1,219	1.27	0.63	6.33	7,722	12,192

<sup>a</sup>Fox squirrel harvest was 628,576 (55.9%) and gray squirrel harvest was 496,494 (44.1%).

Table 11. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Raccoon (118)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily Season		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	2,845	17.80	2.28	21.48	61,097	26,823
Northeast Moraine	271	1.69	1.13	13.50	3,658	3,251
Mississippi Border-North	948	5.93	1.91	19.14	18,153	9,483
Mississippi Border-South	1,761	11.02	1.51	20.85	36,712	24,384
Western Prairie/Forest	2,845	17.80	1.26	14.90	42,402	33,732
Central Sand Prairie	542	3.39	0.48	6.75	3,658	7,586
Grand Prairie	4,335	27.12	0.77	10.53	45,653	59,064
Southern Plain	1,897	11.86	1.06	16.79	31,835	29,939
Wabash Border	542	3.39	1.40	42.75	23,165	16,527
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 12. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Red Fox (31)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily	Average Bag Season	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	1,084	25.81	0.27	1.63	1,761	6,638
Northeast Moraine	135	3.23	0.00	0.00	0	677
Mississippi Border-North	271	6.45	0.21	1.50	406	1,897
Mississippi Border-South	135	3.23	0.00	0.00	0	135
Western Prairie/Forest	271	6.45	0.43	1.50	406	948
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Grand Prairie	1,626	38.71	0.19	2.33	3,793	20,185
Southern Plain	406	9.68	0.02	0.33	135	6,232
Wabash Border	135	3.23	0.50	1.00	135	271
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	135	3.23	1.00	1.00	135	135

Table 13. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Gray Fox (6)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	677
Northeast Moraine	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	677
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Grand Prairie	271	33.33	0.00	0.00	0	2,980
Southern Plain	271	33.33	0.00	0.00	0	4,200
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 14. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Coyote (265)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag Daily	Season	Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
Northwest Hills	5,012	13.96	0.48	5.78	28,990	60,419
Northeast Moraine	948	2.64	0.13	1.14	1,084	8,264
Mississippi Border-North	2,980	8.30	0.32	3.91	11,650	35,899
Mississippi Border-South	3,522	9.81	0.19	1.08	3,793	19,508
Western Prairie/Forest	4,470	12.45	0.17	1.64	7,315	42,673
Central Sand Prairie	948	2.64	0.15	0.71	677	4,606
Grand Prairie	12,192	33.96	0.30	2.33	28,448	96,318
Southern Plain	3,793	10.57	0.22	5.00	18,966	85,075
Wabash Border	1,219	3.40	0.69	2.00	2,438	3,522
Shawnee Hills	135	0.38	0.80	8.00	1,084	1,355
Unknown	677	1.89	0.05	0.40	271	5,012

Table 15. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Wildlife Management Units in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Opossum (25)

Wildlife Management Units	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Northwest Hills	677	20.00	0.43	3.40	2,303	5,419
Northeast Moraine	135	4.00	0.01	1.00	135	12,192
Mississippi Border-North	271	8.00	0.40	4.00	1,084	2,709
Mississippi Border-South	406	12.00	0.30	2.00	813	2,709
Western Prairie/Forest	542	16.00	0.83	2.50	1,355	1,626
Central Sand Prairie	135	4.00	2.00	2.00	271	135
Grand Prairie	677	20.00	0.19	3.60	2,438	12,734
Southern Plain	406	12.00	0.85	3.67	1,490	1,761
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	135	4.00	0.80	4.00	542	677



Table 16. Percent change in harvests from 1999 to 2000 in Wildlife Management Units for selected species.

Wildlife Management Unit	Rabbit	Quail	Pheasant	Squirrels <sup>a</sup>	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Northwest Hills	20	-23	-28	-15	102	-5	261	---	135
Northeast Moraine	48	178	50	-56	27	---	---	---	-5
Mississippi Border-North	54	-29	-7	68	4	-45	---	---	-13
Mississippi Border-South	54	-40	-96	21	-1	15	-100	---	-29
Western Prairie Forest	-9	-22	-31	-34	128	-23	---	---	0
Central Sand Prairie	46	35	214	96	-15	2	---	---	315
Grand Prairie	16	26	53	24	17	15	56	---	-13
Southern Plain	26	-49	-54	26	43	40	---	---	171
Wabash Border	34	16	---	93	-25	110	---	---	-56
Shawnee Hills	134	-59	---	58	88	-100	---	---	---



Table 17. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Rabbit (653)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	22,217	25.11	0.99	5.35	118,942	119,619
Region 2	3,929	4.44	0.35	1.59	6,232	17,882
Region 3	11,921	13.48	0.76	4.05	48,227	63,670
Region 4	32,648	36.91	1.20	6.47	211,196	176,245
Region 5	17,611	19.91	1.25	8.02	141,294	112,710
Unknown	135	0.15	0.00	0.00	0	1,355

Table 18. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Quail (327)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	9,212	20.80	0.60	3.74	34,409	56,897
Region 2	1,355	3.06	1.10	6.40	8,670	7,857
Region 3	4,606	10.40	0.48	2.35	10,838	22,759
Region 4	18,559	41.90	1.15	5.82	108,104	93,609
Region 5	10,296	23.24	1.92	12.43	128,018	66,515
Unknown	271	0.61	0.15	1.00	271	1,761

Table 19. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Pheasant (394)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	21,404	40.10	0.55	3.01	64,348	117,181
Region 2	8,805	16.50	1.00	5.38	47,414	47,414
Region 3	14,495	27.16	0.54	2.75	39,828	73,966
Region 4	7,993	14.97	0.56	2.42	19,372	34,545
Region 5	135	0.25	0.25	1.00	135	542
Unknown	542	1.02	0.24	1.00	542	2,303

Table 20. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Dove (453)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	12,870	20.97	3.31	13.61	175,161	52,968
Region 2	5,283	8.61	3.25	10.85	57,303	17,611
Region 3	8,264	13.47	4.78	25.69	212,280	44,434
Region 4	23,707	38.63	4.95	21.06	499,203	100,924
Region 5	10,838	17.66	5.34	24.85	269,312	50,394
Unknown	406	0.66	2.31	10.00	4,064	1,761

Table 21. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Gray Partridge (2)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	271	100.00	1.25	2.50	677	542
Region 2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Region 3	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Region 4	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Region 5	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 22. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Woodcock (10)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Region 2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0
Region 3	813	60.00	0.23	1.17	948	4,200
Region 4	406	30.00	1.43	3.33	1,355	948
Region 5	135	10.00	0.00	0.00	0	271
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 23. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Squirrel (709)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	26,823	27.93	1.08	7.27	194,940	181,122
Region 2	2,168	2.26	0.93	4.63	10,025	10,838
Region 3	10,702	11.14	1.23	10.13	108,375	88,055
Region 4	33,732	35.12	1.79	14.82	499,881	279,879
Region 5	21,404	22.28	1.58	14.21	304,128	192,231
Unknown	1,219	1.27	0.63	6.33	7,722	12,192

<sup>a</sup>Fox squirrel harvest was 628,576 (55.9%) and gray squirrel harvest was 496,494 (44.1%).

Table 24. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Raccoon (118)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	8,264	51.69	1.43	16.21	133,979	93,880
Region 2	406	2.54	1.08	9.00	3,658	3,387
Region 3	1,355	8.47	0.57	9.50	12,870	22,759
Region 4	4,200	26.27	1.20	16.45	69,089	57,439
Region 5	1,761	11.02	1.40	26.54	46,737	33,325
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 25. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Red Fox (31)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	2,438	58.06	0.1452	1.50	3,658	25,197
Region 2	271	6.45	0.00	0.00	0	948
Region 3	271	6.45	0.80	8.00	2,168	2,709
Region 4	813	19.35	0.09	0.83	677	7,722
Region 5	271	6.45	0.33	0.50	135	406
Unknown	135	3.23	1.00	1.00	135	135

Table 26. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Gray Fox (6)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	271	33.33	0.00	0.00	0	2,303
Region 2	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	677
Region 3	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	1,355
Region 4	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	4,064
Region 5	135	16.67	0.00	0.00	0	135
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0

Table 27. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Coyote (265)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	16,256	45.28	0.36	3.74	60,826	170,555
Region 2	2,032	5.66	0.17	1.27	2,574	14,766
Region 3	4,335	12.08	0.25	1.34	5,825	23,707
Region 4	8,399	23.40	0.18	1.90	15,985	91,306
Region 5	4,200	11.70	0.34	4.58	19,237	57,303
Unknown	677	1.89	0.05	0.40	271	5,012

Table 28. Summary of 2000 Hunting Effort and Success in Administrative Regions in Illinois for the Species Listed Below.

Opossum (25)

Administrative Region	Estimated Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Average Bag		Estimated Total Harvest	Estimated Days Afield
			Daily	Season		
Region 1	1,626	48.00	0.29	3.50	5,690	19,778
Region 2	135	4.00	0.01	1.00	135	12,192
Region 3	271	8.00	0.50	0.50	135	271
Region 4	813	24.00	0.46	3.00	2,438	5,283
Region 5	406	12.00	0.85	3.67	1,490	1,761
Unknown	135	4.00	0.80	4.00	542	677

Table 29. Percent change in harvest from 1999-2000 in Administrative Regions for selected species.

Administrative Regions	Rabbit	Quail	Pheasant	Squirrels <sup>a</sup>	Dove	Raccoon	Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote
Region 1	24	31	16	4	24	31	25	--	21
Region 2	4	167	72	-45	12	221	--	--	76
Region 3	6	-10	55	41	56	-58	100	--	-6
Region 4	32	-31	-10	11	2	-32	315	--	-6
Region 5	44	-44	-83	45	40	15	100	--	88

Table 30. Distribution of hunting effort and success among resident Illinois hunters in 2000.

<u>Days Afield</u>		<u>Animals Harvested</u>	
<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>
Rabbit			
---	....	---	....
		0	.....25.0
1-5	....70.8	1-5	.....43.5
6-10	....18.5	6-10	.....17.4
11-14	.... 2.6	11-14	..... 4.0
15-19	.... 2.6	15-19	..... 3.5
20-24	.... 3.2	20-24	..... 2.3
25+	.... 2.3	25+	..... 4.3
Quail			
---	....	---	....
		0	.....33.9
1-5	....68.8	1-5	.....35.2
6-10	....20.5	6-10	.....13.5
11-14	.... 2.7	11-14	..... 5.2
15-19	.... 2.8	15-19	..... 3.3
20-24	.... 2.4	20-24	..... 3.1
25+	.... 2.8	25+	..... 5.8
Pheasant			
---	....	---	....
		0	.....36.8
1-5	....69.0	1-5	.....44.7
6-10	....21.6	6-10	.....11.6
11-14	.... 3.3	11-14	..... 2.6
15-19	.... 3.3	15-19	..... 1.8
20-24	.... 2.3	20-24	..... 1.7
25+	.... 0.5	25+	..... 0.8
Dove			
---	....	---	....
		0	.....11.7
1-5	....77.9	1-5	.....17.6
6-10	....16.4	6-10	.....18.6
11-14	.... 1.3	11-14	..... 6.0
15-19	.... 2.4	15-19	.....10.1
20-24	.... 1.3	20-24	..... 8.4
25+	.... 0.7	25+	.....27.6



Table 30. Continued - page 2.

<u>Days Afield</u>		<u>Animals Harvested</u>	
<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>
Gray Partridge			
---	---	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			
---	---	0	20.0
1-5	70.0	1-5	80.0
6-10	30.0	6-10	---
11-14	---	11-14	---
15-19	---	15-19	---
20-24	---	20-24	---
25+	---	25+	---
Squirrels			
---	---	---	13.3
1-5	60.1	1-5	34.9
6-10	21.6	6-10	20.9
11-14	3.6	11-14	8.2
15-19	4.7	15-19	6.5
20-24	4.4	20-24	3.2
25+	5.6	25+	13.0
Raccoon			
---	---	0	5.1
1-5	48.3	1-5	40.7
6-10	21.2	6-10	13.5
11-14	5.1	11-14	1.7
15-19	5.9	15-19	10.2
20-24	4.2	20-24	7.6
25+	15.3	25+	21.2

Table 30. Continued - page 3.

<u>Days Afield</u>		<u>Animals Harvested</u>	
<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Percent of Hunters</u>
Red Fox			
---	---	0	32.3
1-5	60.0	1-5	64.5
6-10	23.3	6-10	---
11-14	3.4	11-14	---
15-19	3.3	15-19	3.2
20-24	---	20-24	---
25+	10.0	25+	---
Gray Fox			
---	---	0	100
1-5	50.0	1-5	---
6-10	16.7	6-10	---
11-14	16.6	11-14	---
15-19	---	15-19	---
20-24	---	20-24	---
25+	16.7	25+	---
Coyote			
---	---	0	38.5
1-5	59.8	1-5	48.3
6-10	17.5	6-10	8.3
11-14	3.4	11-14	1.5
15-19	3.0	15-19	0.8
20-24	4.9	20-24	---
25+	11.4	25+	2.6
Opossum			
---	---	0	20.0
1-5	56.0	1-5	64.0
6-10	32.0	6-10	12.0
11-14	4.0	11-14	---
15-19	---	15-19	4.0
20-24	---	20-24	---
25+	8.0	25+	---

## 31. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 1990-2000.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Estimated Total Days Afield
RABBIT						
1990	162,560	1.34	7.95	1,293,154	5.95	966,626
1991	161,293	1.17	7.32	1,180,618	6.25	1,007,512
1992	129,272	1.05	6.20	802,045	5.90	762,290
1993	130,374	1.13	6.72	875,688	5.96	777,425
1994	141,659	1.06	6.25	884,850	5.92	838,808
1995	128,673	1.10	6.52	838,322	5.94	763,831
1996	109,758	0.94	4.75	521,424	5.08	557,535
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
QUAIL						
1990	84,989	1.69	10.90	926,432	6.45	548,252
1991	84,281	1.64	10.99	926,411	6.70	564,866
1992	71,964	1.54	10.49	755,181	6.82	490,933
1993	67,791	1.68	11.26	763,057	6.70	454,092
1994	75,407	1.61	11.19	843,974	6.94	523,677
1995	72,244	1.43	9.78	706,278	6.84	494,040
1996	56,542	1.22	7.54	426,585	6.20	350,372
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
PHEASANT						
1990	97,761	0.61	3.81	372,920	6.22	608,261
1991	94,845	0.64	4.13	391,419	6.50	616,661
1992	78,985	0.59	3.32	262,229	5.67	447,580
1993	83,123	0.60	3.66	304,239	6.09	505,972
1994	89,727	0.54	3.27	293,560	6.05	542,439
1995	85,811	0.62	3.91	335,208	6.28	539,149
1996	77,069	0.57	3.08	237,382	5.42	417,367
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

Table 31. Continued - page 2. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 1990-2000.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Estimated Total Days Afield
DOVE						
1990	79,449	3.70	19.69	1,564,275	5.32	422,975
1991	84,054	3.83	18.08	1,519,787	4.71	396,303
1992	73,631	3.86	20.48	1,507,817	5.30	390,272
1993	71,455	4.28	20.99	1,499,884	4.91	350,719
1994	68,700	3.95	18.82	1,293,242	4.77	327,729
1995	73,626	3.95	19.34	1,424,136	4.90	360,441
1996	67,756	3.57	18.43	1,248,586	5.17	350,277
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
GRAY PARTRIDGE						
1990	2,348	0.09	0.60	1,409	6.88	16,153
1991	2,612	0.08	0.65	1,704	8.57	22,377
1992	1,492	0.08	0.47	702	5.65	8,425
1993	1,157	0.09	1.25	1,446	13.67	15,815
1994	816	0.06	0.44	363	7.78	6,344
1995	1,469	0.61	3.24	4,753	5.29	7,777
1996	665	1.37	3.71	2,471	2.71	1,806
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
WOODCOCK						
1990	6,104	0.33	1.85	11,269	5.68	34,653
1991	7,724	0.39	1.75	13,517	4.54	35,098
1992	5,266	0.47	1.98	10,444	4.20	22,116
1993	4,532	0.47	1.77	8,004	3.77	17,068
1994	2,810	0.38	2.68	7,523	7.00	19,667
1995	3,111	0.31	1.64	5,099	5.31	16,505
1996	2,661	0.30	1.96	5,227	6.50	17,295
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

Table 31. Continued - page 3. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 1990-2000.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Estimated Total Days Afield
FOX SQUIRREL						
1990	116,731	1.55	9.23	1,076,971	5.97	696,726
1991	127,558	1.42	8.29	1,057,717	5.84	745,355
1992	113,211	1.60	8.65	979,585	5.41	612,394
1993	104,627	1.39	8.04	841,551	5.77	603,560
1994	108,760	1.38	7.56	821,769	5.48	595,821
1995	97,909	1.36	7.84	767,201	5.75	562,655
1996	91,703	1.32	8.05	738,280	6.08	557,820
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
GRAY SQUIRREL						
1990	72,969	1.46	8.79	641,130	6.01	438,564
1991	84,622	1.47	7.55	638,697	5.12	433,560
1992	75,738	1.49	8.08	611,604	5.42	410,545
1993	71,552	1.38	7.75	554,670	5.63	403,177
1994	75,950	1.57	8.89	675,488	5.65	429,329
1995	67,923	1.38	7.72	524,372	5.60	380,662
1996	65,380	1.46	8.93	583,858	6.13	400,642
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
Squirrels <sup>a</sup> (Fox & Gray) 2000	96,048	1.47	11.71	1,125,070	7.96	764,316
RACCOON						
1990	20,379	0.98	9.37	191,015	9.54	194,490
1991	21,695	1.20	17.95	389,488	14.97	324,744
1992	19,483	1.25	19.95	388,692	15.95	310,848
1993	18,129	1.36	15.84	287,171	11.68	211,762
1994	22,749	1.14	14.12	321,113	12.42	282,503
1995	19,789	1.32	17.18	340,047	13.00	257,260
1996	19,861	1.66	20.05	398,267	12.05	239,283
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,

Table 31. Continued - page 4. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 1990-2000.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Estimated Total Days Afield
RED FOX						
1990	8,734	0.27	2.47	21,600	9.04	78,979
1991	6,815	0.14	1.27	8,633	8.83	60,201
1992	7,109	0.14	1.70	12,111	12.57	89,340
1993	4,436	0.13	1.24	5,497	9.50	42,140
1994	6,979	0.14	1.30	9,063	9.10	63,534
1995	4,062	0.18	1.40	5,703	7.77	31,542
1996	3,611	0.10	0.66	2,376	6.79	24,517
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
GRAY FOX						
1990	2,348	0.25	2.52	5,916	10.08	23,666
1991	3,408	0.08	0.77	2,612	9.97	33,962
1992	2,721	0.05	0.52	1,404	11.23	30,541
1993	1,446	0.13	1.13	1,639	8.87	12,825
1994	2,991	0.08	0.73	2,175	8.91	26,646
1995	1,469	0.06	0.41	605	6.35	9,333
1996	1,520	0.00	0.00	0	5.94	9,028
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
COYOTE						
1990	34,277	0.32	2.78	95,226	8.58	294,129
1991	35,439	0.28	2.69	95,299	9.52	337,352
1992	33,349	0.23	2.84	94,606	12.48	416,161
1993	33,751	0.23	3.03	102,120	13.17	444,449
1994	38,066	0.23	2.43	92,536	10.80	411,021
1995	32,233	0.24	2.66	85,898	11.08	357,244
1996	33,640	0.22	2.45	82,485	11.24	378,215
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

Table 31. Continued - page 5. Statewide data from resident Illinois hunters, 1990-2000.

Species and Seasons	Estimated Total Hunters	Average Daily Bag	Average Season Bag	Estimated Total Harvest	Average Days Afield	Estimated Total Days Afield
OPOSSUM						
1990	6,010	0.65	3.27	19,627	5.05	30,333
1991	5,679	0.47	4.28	24,308	9.08	51,568
1992	5,617	0.52	3.42	19,220	6.56	36,860
1993	4,822	0.63	3.38	16,297	5.38	25,940
1994	4,985	0.33	3.05	15,226	9.38	46,767
1995	5,099	0.47	3.53	17,975	7.58	38,628
1996	4,466	0.31	3.79	16,915	12.15	54,262
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

<sup>a</sup>Fox squirrel harvest was 628,576 (55.9%) and gray squirrel harvest was 496,494 (44.1%).

Table 32. Percent change in statewide harvest.

Species	2000 Estimated Harvest	% Change 1 Year <sup>a</sup>	% Change 5 Years <sup>a</sup>	% Change 10 Years <sup>a</sup>
Rabbit	525,891	28	-37	-59
Quail	290,310	-32	-59	-69
Pheasant	171,639	24	-49	-54
Dove	1,217,324	19	-15	-22
Gray Partridge	677	39	-86	-52
Woodcock	2,303	-54	-55	-80
Squirrel	1,125,070	17	-13	-35
Raccoon	266,332	-4	-22	39
Red Fox	6,773	119	19	-69
Gray Fox	0	--	--	--
Coyote	104,718	17	22	10
Opossum	10,431	-13	-42	-47

<sup>a</sup>From 1999, 1995, and 1990, respectively; see also Table 31.



## Appendix A

Illinois hunting season dates and bag limits, 2000-2001 .

<u>Species</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Bag Limit Daily</u>	<u>Bag Limit Possession</u>
<u>Upland Wildlife</u>				
Rabbit	North	Nov. 4-Jan. 8	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
	South	Nov. 4-Jan. 22	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
Quail	North	Nov. 4-Jan. 8	8	20 <sup>a</sup>
	South	Nov. 4-Jan. 15	8	20 <sup>a</sup>
Pheasant	North	Nov. 4-Jan. 8	2	6 <sup>a</sup>
	South	Nov. 4-Jan. 15	2	6 <sup>a</sup>
Gray Partridge	North	Nov. 4-Jan. 8	2	6 <sup>a</sup>
	South	Nov. 4-Jan. 15	2	6 <sup>a</sup>
<u>Migratory Wildlife</u>				
Dove	Statewide	Sept. 1-Oct. 17 & Nov 4-16	15	30
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 21-Dec 4	3	6
<u>Forest Wildlife</u>				
Squirrel (Fox & Gray)	Statewide	Aug. 1-Dec. 31 <sup>b</sup>	5	10 <sup>a</sup>
<u>Furbearers</u>				
Raccoon	North	Nov. 5-Feb 10 <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit
	South	Nov. 10-Feb 15 <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit
Opossum	North	Nov. 5-Feb 10 <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit
	South	Nov. 10-Feb 15 <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit
Fox	Statewide	Nov. 10-Jan 31 <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit
Coyote	Statewide	Year-Round <sup>b</sup>	No Limit	No Limit

<sup>a</sup>On the 2nd day of the hunting season, you may possess no more than twice the daily bag limit.

<sup>b</sup>Closed Nov. 17-19; Nov. 30 -Dec. 1-3 in counties open for firearm deer hunting.

Appendix B

# Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey

## 2000 – 2001 Season



ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided

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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.

Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about Illinois hunters and how you feel about important issues facing hunters in Illinois.

**Section 1. Hunter harvest and days afield.** Please complete the following questionnaire for the past hunting season (February 2000 - January 2001). **Include only the game harvested and days hunted IN ILLINOIS.** List only your retrieved kill, not those hit and not found. **DO NOT** list any upland game harvested or days hunted on licensed shooting preserves or controlled (put-and-take) hunting areas. Count part of a day as a whole day.

1. Did you hunt in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No (please go to question 3)

Please provide the days hunted, harvest and counties hunted for the following species.

<u>Game Species</u>	Number of Days Hunted	Number Harvested	County Hunted <u>Most Often</u>
Rabbit	_____	_____	_____
Quail	_____	_____	_____
Pheasant	_____	_____	_____
Dove	_____	_____	_____
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	_____	_____	_____
Woodcock	_____	_____	_____
Snipe	_____	_____	_____
Rail	_____	_____	_____
Crow	_____	_____	_____
Ground Hog	_____	_____	_____
Squirrel	_____	Fox _____ Gray _____	_____
Turkey – Spring	_____	_____	_____
Turkey – Fall Shotgun	_____	_____	_____
Turkey – Fall Archery	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Shotgun	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Muzzleloader	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Archery	_____	_____	_____
Deer – Handgun	_____	_____	_____
<b><u>Furbearers (Hunted <u>only</u> – not trapped)</u></b>			
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____

2. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

3. Which of the following resident Illinois hunting license types did you purchase for your personal use for the 2000-2001 season? Please indicate the number of each you purchased.

- Regular hunting license without Habitat Stamp
- Separate Habitat Stamp to be affixed to license
- Regular hunting license with Habitat Stamp printed on license
- Sportsman's combination license without Habitat Stamp
- Sportsman's combination license with Habitat Stamp printed on license
- Senior citizen's hunting license

4. Did you use the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Internet website for any information in the past year?

- Yes (Please go to question 4a)
- No (Please go to question 5)

4a. How did you access the Internet?

- Access at home
- Access at work
- Access through friends or relatives
- Access through a local public library
- I do not have access to the Internet, but used information from it given to me by someone else

4b. How did you use the DNR Internet website? Please check all that apply.

- Buying a license
- Printing a permit application
- Information on seasons and bag limits
- Deer harvest reports
- Hunting information about a state site
- DNR press releases
- Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you have **not** used the Illinois DNR Internet website, please give reasons why.

- I do not have Internet access
- I do not use the Internet for purchases
- I did not know about the Illinois DNR website
- Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2. Upland Hunting.** Please answer the following questions about upland hunting in Illinois.

1. Please indicate your hunting efforts for the following game species by circling the proper response.

	Never	Rarely (1 to 2 days)	Sometimes (3 to 5 days)	Often (more than 5 days)
<b>Rabbits</b>				
November	1	2	3	4
December	1	2	3	4
January	1	2	3	4

<b>Pheasants</b>				
November	1	2	3	4
December	1	2	3	4
January	1	2	3	4

<b>Quail</b>				
November	1	2	3	4
December	1	2	3	4
January	1	2	3	4

2. During **the past 5 years** how often have you gotten daily bag limits for the following?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Rabbits	1	2	3	4
Pheasants	1	2	3	4
Quail	1	2	3	4

3. Would you favor a low limit on quail to provide more opportunities for hunters to harvest birds?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

**Section 3. Squirrel Hunting.** Please answer the following questions about squirrel hunting in Illinois.

1. Did you hunt gray or fox squirrels during the 2000-2001 season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (go to question 1a)                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

1a. If you hunted squirrels, how did you hunt them **most often**? (please choose one)

\_\_\_\_\_ as the main species of the hunt                      \_\_\_\_\_ incidental to other species

2. How has your squirrel hunting effort changed in the past 5 years?

\_\_\_\_\_ increased

\_\_\_\_\_ stayed the same

\_\_\_\_\_ decreased

3. In your opinion, how have squirrel populations changed in the past 5 years (gray or fox squirrels)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Lower

\_\_\_\_\_ Same

\_\_\_\_\_ Higher

\_\_\_\_\_ Not sure

4. In what part of the small game season did **most** of your squirrel hunting take place? (**Choose one**)

\_\_\_\_\_ August

\_\_\_\_\_ between September 1 and October 31

\_\_\_\_\_ after October 31

5. Which of the following **best** describes those who **usually** accompany you squirrel hunting? (**Choose one**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friends

\_\_\_\_\_ Family

\_\_\_\_\_ Co-workers

\_\_\_\_\_ Neighbors

\_\_\_\_\_ I usually hunt alone

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do any of the hunters who accompany you squirrel hunting include youths?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

7. If there was no effect on the population would you favor a season in May for squirrels?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (**please go to question 8**)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (**please go to question 9**)

8. Please give the reason you would **favor** a May season for squirrels. (Check all that apply).

- extended hunting opportunities
- give me something to hunt during spring
- other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please give the reason you would **NOT favor** a May season for squirrels. (Check all that apply).

- present season is long enough
- its never been done before
- it's not part of our hunting tradition in Illinois
- other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

10. If a season for squirrels was offered in May, would you take part in it?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

11. How do you rate the quality of squirrel hunting in Illinois? (Please circle the number)

<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1	2	3	4	5

12. How important are the following as reasons why you hunt squirrels?

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Extremely Important</u>
To harvest squirrels to eat	1	2	3	4	5
To extend my hunting opportunities earlier in the season	1	2	3	4	5
To spend time outdoors in summer and early fall	1	2	3	4	5
To scout for deer hunting	1	2	3	4	5
To practice my shooting skills	1	2	3	4	5
To spend time with other hunters	1	2	3	4	5
To pass along skills to young hunters	1	2	3	4	5

**Section 4. Attitudes Toward Hunting** Please rate the following reasons why you hunt on a scale of “Not Important” to “Extremely Important”. Circle the number that matches your response.

	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Slightly Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Extremely Important</u>
Hunting is a central part of my life	1	2	3	4	5
To learn about wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
To control wildlife populations	1	2	3	4	5
To harvest a trophy	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is a fun activity	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
To share my experience with friends	1	2	3	4	5
To feel close to nature and the land	1	2	3	4	5
To get away from day-to-day life	1	2	3	4	5
To remain a part of the heritage of hunting	1	2	3	4	5
To share my skills and knowledge with others	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
For the independence	1	2	3	4	5
To share my experience with family	1	2	3	4	5
To observe wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a rural American tradition	1	2	3	4	5
For the challenge	1	2	3	4	5
To provide meat for myself and family	1	2	3	4	5
<hr/>					
To provide a service to landowners	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting is my favorite activity	1	2	3	4	5
To develop my skills	1	2	3	4	5
To maintain a family tradition	1	2	3	4	5
To interact with other hunters	1	2	3	4	5
To spend time outdoors	1	2	3	4	5



**Section 5:** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in hunting in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses that apply.

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ Years
2. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County
3. What is your gender? \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female
4. Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ years

**COMMENTS**

**RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!**

Your input will help us understand more about hunters and hunting in Illinois.

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, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Appendix C

Dear Illinois Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2000-2001 hunting season. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us as soon as possible. The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows us to safeguard wildlife populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful**. A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief, Wildlife Resources

## Appendix D

Dear Illinois Hunter,

As one of a select group of Illinois hunters during the 2000-2001 season, you have been asked to provide information about your hunting activities. We recently mailed you a survey questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season. We have not received your completed questionnaire. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

**If you have not returned your completed questionnaire to us, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy of the questionnaire.** The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows us to safeguard wildlife populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful**. A postage-paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

**In order for your opinions and information to be recorded, we must receive your completed questionnaire by April 28, 2000.**

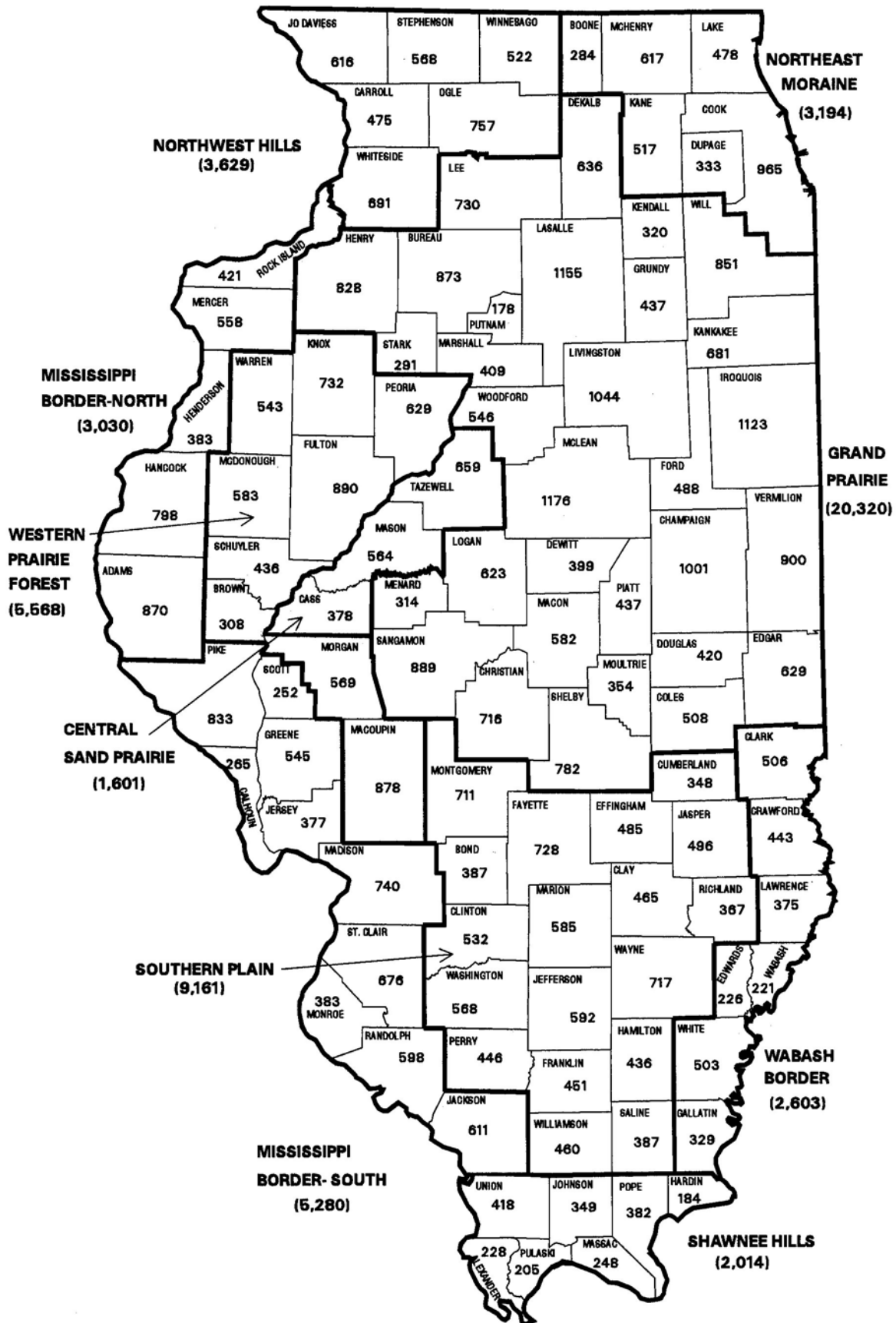
Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief, Wildlife Resources

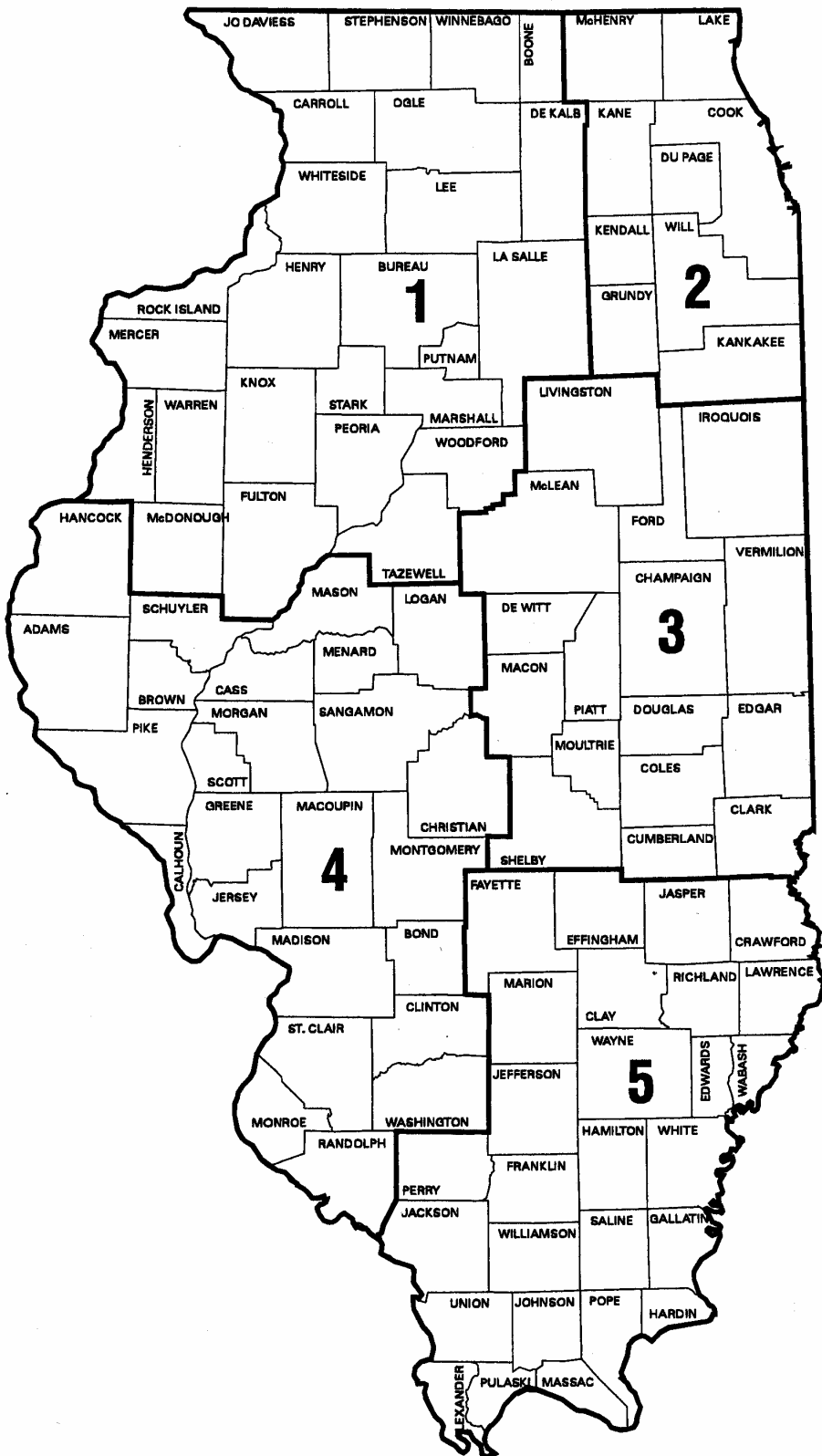
## Appendix E

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



# Appendix F

Administrative regions in Illinois.



## Appendix G

### Itemized Responses to the 2000-2001 Hunter Harvest Questionnaire

#### Section 1.

2. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2000-01 season?

Hunt Waterfowl in Illinois	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
Yes	334	23%
No	1131	77%

3. Which of the following resident Illinois hunting license types did you purchase for your personal use for the 2000-2001 season (n = 2142)?

Hunting License Types	Number of Hunters Buying:		
	1 license	2 licenses	3 licenses
Regular hunting license without Habitat Stamp	514	4	1
Separate Habitat Stamp to be affixed to license	987	6	2
Regular hunting license with Habitat Stamp printed on license	189	0	0
Sportsman's combination license without Habitat Stamp	622	2	0
Sportsman's combination license with Habitat Stamp printed on license	464	0	0
Senior citizen's hunting license	225	0	0

4. Did you use the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Internet website for any information in the past year?

	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
Yes	429	20%
No	1686	80%

4a. How did you access the Internet?

	Number of Respondents
Access at home	349
Access at work	111
Access through friends or relatives	24
Access through a local public library	4
I do not have access to the internet, but used information from it given to me by someone else	5

4b. How did you use the DNR Internet website?

	Number of Respondents
Buying a license	28
Printing a permit application	124
Information on seasons and bag limits	297
Deer harvest reports	169
Hunting information about a state site	161
DNR press releases	116
Other <sup>a</sup>	63

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix H

5. If you have not used the Illinois DNR Internet website, please give reasons why.

Reason	Number of Respondents
I do not have Internet access	911
I do not use the Internet for purchases	276
I did not know about the Illinois DNR website	539
Other <sup>a</sup>	49

<sup>a</sup>See Appendix H

**Section 2. Upland Hunting**

1. Please indicate your hunting efforts for the following game species.<sup>a</sup>

Species	Month	n	Never	Rarely (1 to 2 days)	Sometimes (3 to 5 days)	Often (more than 5 days)
Rabbits	November	(538)	19%	41%	25%	15%
	December	(558)	12%	41%	32%	15%
	January	(449)	27%	37%	22%	13%
Pheasants	November	(360)	12%	37%	31%	20%
	December	(351)	13%	37%	29%	21%
	January	(280)	35%	32%	22%	11%
Quail	November	(272)	17%	36%	26%	21%
	December	(278)	14%	39%	28%	18%
	January	(214)	30%	35%	21%	14%

<sup>a</sup>Responses only from hunters who hunted each game species.

2. During the past 5 years how often have you gotten daily bag limits for the following?<sup>a</sup>

Species	n	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Rabbits	(640)	39%	28%	24%	9%
Pheasants	(402)	31%	29%	27%	13%
Quail	(317)	51%	28%	18%	3%

<sup>a</sup>Responses only from hunters who hunted each game species.

3. Would you favor a low limit on quail to provide more opportunities for hunters to harvest birds?

	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
<u>Response from all hunters surveyed:</u>		
Yes	1154	63%
No	685	37%
<u>Response from quail hunters only:</u>		
Yes	165	52%
No	150	48%

**Section 3. Squirrel Hunting** – Separate Report



#### **Section 4. Attitudes Toward Hunting**

Please rate the following reason why you hunt.

Reasons	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Hunting is a central part of my life	5%	11%	25%	28%	31%
To learn about wildlife	5%	8%	25%	38%	24%
To control wildlife populations	12%	13%	28%	27%	20%
To harvest a trophy	37%	17%	23%	12%	11%
Hunting is a fun activity	2%	2%	12%	32%	52%
To share my experience with friends	8%	12%	26%	30%	24%
To feel close to nature and the land	3%	5%	18%	33%	41%
To get away from day-to-day life	4%	5%	16%	31%	44%
To remain a part of the heritage of hunting	5%	7%	17%	30%	41%
To share my skills and knowledge with others	9%	12%	27%	26%	25%
For the independence	8%	10%	25%	27%	30%
To share my experience with family	8%	10%	22%	28%	33%
To observe wildlife	2%	3%	17%	35%	43%
To maintain a rural American tradition	6%	10%	21%	28%	35%
For the challenge	6%	7%	21%	30%	35%
To provide meat for myself and family	18%	19%	28%	17%	18%
To provide a service to landowners	25%	21%	28%	16%	11%
Hunting is my favorite activity	5%	9%	22%	26%	38%
To develop my skills	8%	12%	28%	29%	23%
To maintain a family tradition	14%	14%	25%	23%	24%
To interact with other hunters	12%	16%	27%	27%	18%
To spend time outdoors	2%	2%	11%	29%	56%

**Section 5. General Information**

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? Mean = 29 Years

2. County of residence for respondents of the 2000-2001 Hunter Harvest Survey

County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents
Adams	53	Hardin	0	Morgan	20
Alexander	9	Henderson	9	Moultrie	15
Bond	9	Henry	52	Ogle	12
Boone	6	Iroquois	13	Peoria	40
Brown	11	Jackson	31	Perry	19
Bureau	14	Jasper	13	Piatt	7
Calhoun	10	Jefferson	17	Pike	10
Carroll	15	Jersey	33	Pope	5
Cass	25	JoDaviess	42	Pulaski	8
Champaign	21	Johnson	3	Putnam	5
Christian	26	Kane	22	Randolph	29
Clark	6	Kankakee	12	Richland	17
Clay	3	Kendall	9	Rock Island	35
Clinton	27	Knox	44	St. Clair	101
Coles	27	Lake	31	Saline	7
Cook	82	LaSalle	51	Sangamon	25
Crawford	23	Lawrence	23	Schuyler	29
Cumberland	10	Lee	5	Scott	9
DeKalb	32	Livingston	21	Shelby	21
DeWitt	8	Logan	17	Stark	8
Douglas	7	McDonough	7	Stephenson	14
DuPage	28	McHenry	19	Tazewell	45
Edgar	10	McLean	39	Union	6
Edwards	12	Macon	35	Vermilion	27
Effingham	12	Macoupin	40	Wabash	15
Fayette	7	Madison	122	Warren	3
Ford	2	Marion	27	Washington	18
Franklin	35	Marshall	6	Wayne	8
Fulton	33	Mason	13	White	4
Gallatin	1	Massac	2	Whiteside	23
Greene	16	Menard	8	Will	47
Grundy	3	Mercer	12	Williamson	36
Hamilton	6	Monroe	10	Winnebago	30
Hancock	26	Montgomery	17	Woodford	24

3. What is your gender?

Gender	Percent Response
Male	97%
Female	3%

4. Please give your age. Mean = 46 Years

## Appendix H

Write in responses to the selected items from the 2000-2001 Illinois Hunter Harvest Survey.

### Section 1.

Question 4b other: How did you use the DNR Internet website?

	Number of Respondents
Check on status of permits	22
General information	10
Check on waterfowl harvest numbers	10
Hunter education course information	6
Turkey harvest reports	5
To see what the website contained	4
Purchase Habitat Stamp	2
To get information on wild hogs	1
Register for dove hunting	1
Employment	1
Find public hunting areas	1

Question 5 other: If you have not used the Illinois DNR Internet website, please give reasons why.

Reason	Number of Respondents
Do not need too	20
Not interested	18
Do not know how to use a computer	5
Too hard to use	3
Never took the time	2
Forgot about it	1

**Section 2.** – No write in responses.

**Section 3.** – Separate Report.

**Section 4.** – No write in responses.

### **Section 3.**

Question 8 other: Please give the reason you would favor a May season for squirrels.

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
Reduce numbers/control population	44
Nice weather, less insects	24
Reason to be outdoors, enjoy nature	10
Encourage others to hunt squirrels	8
Meat	7
Does not conflict with bow hunting	3
Hunt while doing other spring activities such as mushroom hunting	2
Train dogs	1

Question 9 other: Please give the reason you would not favor a May season for squirrels.

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
Young squirrels too small, unable to fend for themselves	65
Weather too warm	63
Do not want to hurt population during mating season, disrupt reproduction	43
Disturb other species	41
Conflict with other activities such as spring turkey hunting, fishing and mushroom hunting	12
Too early in the year	6
Poor quality hunt	6
Bad idea	4
Cut down on the number of squirrels in the fall season	3
No free time during that season	3
Do not hunt squirrels	2