



Illinois Conservation Police Bi-Weekly Report



Vision Statement: As vigilant guardians we will protect the citizens and natural resources of Illinois.

DATE: January 23, 2018
(Weeks of January 1 – 15, 2018)

This report represents some events the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) handled over the last couple of weeks; however, it does not include all actions taken by the OLE.

Northwest Zone – Captain Laura Petreikis

District 1 – Sgt. Tony Petreikis

(Counties: Carroll, Henry, JoDaviess, Lee, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson & Whiteside)

CARROLL COUNTY

CPO Jones cited a Bettendorf, Iowa woman for speeding – 70 mph in a 55-mph zone.

HENRY COUNTY

CPO Posateri received a call from a concerned citizen who witnessed a hunter shooting too close to his residence. The hunter was located and admitted to killing a coyote with a rifle. The Kewanee man was issued a citation for the violation. It is unlawful to hunt or allow a dog to hunt within 300 yards of an inhabited dwelling without first obtaining permission of the owner or tenant of the dwelling; except, a 100-yard restriction shall apply while trapping, hunting with bow and arrow, or hunting with shotgun using shot shells only.

CPOs Teas, Beltran, and Posateri conducted a pheasant hunting detail at Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreation Area. During the detail, violations of possession and use of toxic shot, unplugged shotgun, insufficient blaze orange, and uncased gun, along with license violations, were discovered and addressed with citations and warnings.

CPO Beltran checked pheasant hunters at Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreation Area and issued two written warnings for an unplugged shotgun and not enough blaze orange clothing.

JODAVIESS COUNTY

CPO Jones cited a Michigan man for hunting without a nonresident license during the first CWD season. He was issued a written warning for no habitat stamp.

CPO Jones cited a Hanover man for illegal possession of an unlawfully taken deer.

LEE COUNTY

CPO Teas investigated a personal injury snowmobile accident. The operator was riding in the ditch and drove off a large road culvert. The operator sustained a broken rib, broken hand, and facial injuries. The operator was issued citations for an unregistered snowmobile and no insurance. Several warnings for registration and rules of the road violations were also issued.

MERCER COUNTY

CPO Posateri and Sgt. A. Petreikis cited a New Windsor man for allowing his teenage son to deer hunt with an unplugged shotgun. In addition, the father was cited for no valid deer permit since the son was using a youth permit during the second firearm season.

OGLE COUNTY

CPO Teas cited a hunter for taking an antlered deer with an antlerless only permit.

While on patrol, CPO Teas observed a vehicle enter a restricted area of State property. The vehicle was stopped, and the passenger was found to be in possession of cannabis. The passenger was cited for the cannabis, and the occupants were warned for entering the restricted area.

CPO Beltran investigated a subject for not properly checking in his deer during the firearm deer season. It was discovered the man had killed two deer and had only one tag. The man went to the store and purchased a tag after the kill. The man was issued a citation and three warnings for the violations.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

CPO Teas attended Bald Eagle Days.

A fatal snowmobile accident occurred near Coal Valley.

CPO Francisko conducted numerous snowmobile compliance checks resulting in several citations and written warnings for various violations (registration, insurance, and equipment).

CPO Francisko responded to a motorist assist request. A woman and her small child were stranded on the side of the road because the vehicle was out of gas. It was obvious the mother was out of money, very upset, and in a bad situation. The CPO calmed her down and assured her everything was going to be all right. She was advised that he would be right back with enough fuel to get her by for a day or two until she got paid. The CPO went to a gas station, purchased a gas can full of fuel, then put it in the woman's vehicle. The woman thanked the CPO, and she went on her way.

STEPHENSON COUNTY

CPO Jones attended a presentation at Pear City High School. A student she mentored gave a presentation on what he learned about becoming a CPO.

CPO Alt completed a boat registration and title investigation. An individual sold a motorboat to another individual without providing a watercraft title as required.

WHITESIDE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 6 – Sgt. Phil Wire **(Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)**

BOONE COUNTY

CPO Fraser completed an investigation regarding a resident who was found to have harvested a buck in McHenry County without a hunting license and without first purchasing an either sex deer permit. The hunter was issued a citation and warnings. The deer rack was seized.

CPO Alt investigated a Boone County man who recorded a Johnson County archery deer harvest 22 minutes after purchasing archery deer permit(s) back in October. The interview revealed the man unlawfully hunted and harvested a white-tailed buck without a deer permit or habitat stamp. Violations for unlawful taking and/or possession of white-tailed deer, unlawful hunting white-tailed deer without a deer permit, unlawful hunting white-tailed deer without a habitat stamp, and falsification and/or misrepresentation of deer harvest record violations were addressed. An accessory charge to the unlawful taking of white-tailed deer was also addressed to a friend, and fellow hunter, who was in the field at the time and assisted in this unlawful hunt.

CPO Alt inspected sport ice fishermen at Candlewick Lake Association for compliance to the Illinois Fishing Code. No violations were detected.

CPO Alt completed a boat registration and title investigation where an individual sold a motorboat to another individual without providing a watercraft title as required.

BUREAU COUNTY

CPO Wagner conducted two separate investigations involving individuals improperly tagging and reporting harvests of white-tailed deer. One man was cited for failure to tag immediately upon kill and failure to report by 10:00 p.m. of the same calendar day. The other man was cited on two counts of failure to report deer harvest and one count of failure to report road kill deer.

While checking ice fishermen at Mautino State Fish and Wildlife Area, CPO Wagner noticed a vehicle with an open container of whiskey and what appeared to be a gun case for a small hand gun. As the fishermen returned to the vehicle, they were questioned about the open container and the gun case. CPO Wagner requested permission to search vehicle. Consent was given, and a bong was found in the center console of the vehicle. The men claimed the case was used for a small propane torch which was later found on the passenger floorboard. The operator was issued citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

CPO Kaufman handled a complaint of an individual trapping squirrels.

CPO Kaufman conducted safety compliance checks on six snowmobiles on the I&M Canal. No violations were found.

DEKALB COUNTY

CPO Murry assisted the Illinois State Police with handling many accidents and vehicles in the ditch during the severe weather.

CPO Murry assisted CPO Fraser in trying to locate a white-tailed deer (buck) that had gotten its leg caught in a leg hold trap. Multiple sightings of the deer have been reported, but officers have been unable to locate it.

LASALLE COUNTY

CPOs Filipiak and Finn were checking permitted hunters at Starved Rock State Park when they encountered two individuals hunting in a firearm only lot with no blaze orange, no firearm deer permits, and had trespassed on private property. The individuals were issued multiple citations and written warnings.

CPO Finn received a report of a Peru man taking over his limit of ducks. The hunter was reported to be hunting in one county in the morning and hunting in another county in the afternoon. Interviews were conducted, and it was found the hunter had taken over the legal limit of ducks on one day. The hunter received a total of four citations and two warnings for unlawful take of migratory waterfowl and possession of over the legal daily limit of ducks.

CPO Jansen investigated a theft of jewelry from a guest at the Starved Rock Lodge. The investigation is ongoing.

PUTNAM COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

CPO Alt inspected sport ice fishermen at Pierce and Olson lakes for compliance to the Illinois Aquatic Life Code. Two individuals were found to be fishing without a valid sport fishing license.

CPO Alt inspected sport ice fishermen at Lake Summerset for compliance to the Illinois Aquatic Life Code. Four individuals were found fishing without a valid sport fishing license in possession.

CPO Alt inspected sport ice fishermen at Westlake Association Lake for compliance to the Illinois Aquatic Life Code. Two individuals were found fishing without a valid sport fishing license in possession. Four violations of unattended sport fishing devices (tip-ups) were observed and addressed.

While checking snowmobilers for compliance of the Snowmobile Registration Act, Officer Schoonhoven arrested an individual for failing to secure registration or insurance for his sled.

District 7 – Sgt. Scott Avery

(Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Warren & Woodford)

FULTON COUNTY

CPO Thompson responded to a complaint of property damage at Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area. The complainant alleged someone had removed and destroyed brush on his duck blind on Rice Lake Complex. Additionally, the complainant alleged decoys had been shot multiple times. CPO Thompson met with all the blind members to discuss the occurrence. Evidence collection regarding the shooting of the decoys and the destruction of the blind was conducted. The investigation is ongoing.

CPO Thompson responded to a trespassing complaint. An investigation into this ongoing issue is pending.

HENDERSON COUNTY

CPOs Thompson and Reid continued to investigate the illegal taking of a white-tailed deer. Three individuals killed an off-white colored deer near Big River State Forest. The deer had become a local favorite over the past four years. Multiple charges are pending.

KNOX COUNTY

CPOs Elliott and Thompson conducted a detail in furtherance of several complaints received in the area regarding deer poaching activities at night. A vehicle was observed traveling in the area just before 6:00 p.m. The CPOs observed several fields being shined by a handheld light through both the driver and passenger side of that vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted. The two occupants were in possession of an uncased, loaded shotgun, a loaded 9mm handgun, two spotlights, range finders, and other items. The items associated with the illegal hunting activities, including a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun and Springfield XD 9mm, were seized on scene; and the driver was transported to the Knox County Jail. Each suspect received multiple citations for violations, including unlawful hunting by use or aid of a conveyance, shining from a vehicle, hunting from the roadway, hunting without permission, hunting during the closed season, and obstruction of a CPO.

CPOs Gerard and Lazzell attended the Prairie Drifters Snowmobile Club Annual Radar Run at Lake Storey in Galesburg. No snowmobile registration or safety violations were observed, and the event was a success with many participants and spectators in attendance. The fastest snowmobile of the day had a recorded speed of 143 mph.

MARSHALL COUNTY

CPO Finn received a disposition of a court case where three men were hunting ducks in a federal refuge. The State's Attorney for Marshall County dismissed all six citations for the three men because there were no markings (signs) showing the hunters they were in a federal refuge. The hunters, during the encounter, admitted they were hunting in the refuge and that they killed ducks while in the refuge.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

PEORIA COUNTY

CPO Lazzell conducted sport fishing compliance checks of ice fishermen at Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area. Three written warnings were issued for unlawfully fishing in a closed area.

STARK COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

TAZEWELL COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WARREN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WOODFORD COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 9 – Sgt. Eric Myers

(Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Pike & Schuyler)

ADAMS COUNTY

CPO Wheatley conducted investigations on two men hunting without deer permits. A Quincy man was found to have shot a deer without an archery permit. A Fowler man was found to have shot one deer without a firearm permit and a second deer without a muzzle loader only permit. Both men were charged for hunting without a permit and failure to immediately tag the deer they killed.

CPO Blazinic is investigating several administrative deer hunting complaints.

CPO Blazinic received a court disposition regarding an operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol (OUI) arrest from the summer of 2017. The OUI charge was amended to a reckless operation of a watercraft. The subject pled guilty in Adams County Court and was given 12 months conditional discharge and a total fine/court costs of \$1,055.

BROWN COUNTY

CPO Blakeley obtained a conviction on an outfitter and his guide. They pled guilty to multiple counts of illegally feeding deer and paid a total of \$1,500 in fines and fees.

CPO Blakeley obtained a conviction on two Missouri brothers for hunting turkeys in the spring with the aid of bait. One brother paid \$830, and the other paid \$765 in fines and fees.

CALHOUN COUNTY

CPO Goetten investigated a hunting without permission complaint. Two suspects were identified and charged with hunting on property without permission.

CPO Weishaupt conducted deer enforcement. One subject received a citation for an 11-point deer rack. He pled guilty in Calhoun County Court and paid a fine and costs totaling \$824. The European mount deer skull and antlers were turned over to the Department.

GREENE COUNTY

CPO Goetten conducted an interview with a subject regarding illegal hunting. The interview led to a search of the subject's vehicle. A search revealed controlled substances and cannabis. The subject was arrested for the unlawful possession of a controlled substance, and he was transported to the Greene County jail.

CPO Goetten stopped a suspicious vehicle in an unincorporated area. The driver had a suspended driver's license and was arrested.

CPO Gushleff is investigating a complaint from a Texas resident who leases land in Greene County. The subject stated that he cannot keep a trespasser from hunting and killing deer on his leased ground. Deer carcasses are being left in front of his hunting blind.

CPOs Weishaupt and Gushleff checked coyote hunters.

HANCOCK COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JERSEY COUNTY

CPOs Weishaupt and Gushleff checked coyote hunters.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

CPOs Weishaupt and Gushleff checked coyote hunters.

CPO Gushleff investigated a hunting incident where a subject shot a buck and only had an antlerless only permit. After interviewing the subject, he admitted to shooting a buck and using his "buddy's" permit. Two citations were issued, and the subject who gave him the permit was cited. CPO Gushleff is also investigating another similar incident.

CPO Gushleff cited a hunter at Beaver Dam State Park for violating a site-specific regulation of taking a doe before taking a buck. The hunter shot a buck before killing the required doe.

PIKE COUNTY

CPO Blakeley obtained a conviction on an Adams County resident for illegally harvesting a bobcat out of season and without a permit. The subject paid a total of \$892 in fines and fees.

CPO Blazinic received a court disposition regarding a hunting white-tailed deer over bait arrest from the fall of 2017. Subject one pled guilty in Pike County Court to unlawfully hunting white-tailed deer over bait and was assessed a total fine and court costs of \$407. Subject two pled guilty in Pike County Court to unlawfully hunting white-tailed deer over bait and was assessed a total fine and court costs of \$342.

SCHUYLER COUNTY

CPO Blakeley obtained a conviction on two hunters from Alabama for hunting deer with the aid of bait. Each hunter paid \$1,097 in fines and fees.

District 10 – Sgt. Chris Stone

(Counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)

CASS COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LOGAN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MASON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MENARD COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MORGAN COUNTY

CPO Wichern investigated a hunting accident east of Lake Jacksonville involving two area Canada goose hunters. While attempting to shoot at a group of approaching Canada geese from lay-out blinds, one of the hunters shot himself in the left foot with a 12-gauge shotgun. The incident was deemed an accident due to the operational error of the gun safety which was disengaged prior to completely removing the gun from the lay-out blind. Low temperatures were a contributing factor.

SANGAMON COUNTY

CPO Macias held a hunter safety education course for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students at Pana Junior High School. IDNR instructor, Matt Miller, also participated in the event.

CPO Macias was called by the Chatham Police Department about dead hawks found in the Village of Chatham. The cause of death is unknown, and the birds will be turned over to IDNR biologists.

SCOTT COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

Northeast Zone – Captain Brett Scroggins

District 2 – Sgt. Eric Schreiber

(Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)

KANE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Winters, Kelley, and Vaughan conducted a snowmobile enforcement detail on the Chain O' Lakes and Fox River. A total of seven citations and nine written warnings were issued for various snowmobile violations.

CPOs Kelley and VanWiltburg conducted a snowmobile enforcement detail on Channel Lake. Seven citations and multiple warnings were issued for snowmobiling violations.

CPOs Kelley and VanWiltburg, acting on a complaint from the district heritage biologist, discussed fat-tire bicycle damage at Illinois Beach State Park with a local bicycling group. The group had been spotted going off-trail in a preserve area. After talking to the individual coordinating the rides, it appeared the infractions were unintentional and will be curtailed in the future.

CPOs Vaughan, Kelley, Knop, and Winters conducted snowmobile details on the Chain O' Lakes and the Fox River in Lake and McHenry counties. Numerous citations were issued for registration and insurance violations.

CPOs Vaughan and Winters responded to a call for a snowmobile that went through the ice on the Chain O' Lakes. The operator was located and had no injuries from the accident.

CPO Knop worked in conjunction with multiple other Region 2 CPOs to check ice fishermen and snowmobiles. Some of the most common violations encountered were no fishing license, short fish, no valid snowmobile registration, and failure to have snowmobile insurance.

CPO Knop responded to a call about a snowmobile rider who had fallen through the ice on the lower Fox River. CPO Knop found the rider who was shaken and wet, but otherwise unharmed. A good Samaritan gave the rider dry clothes and allowed him to stay in their residence while his snowmobile was recovered.

MCHENRY COUNTY

CPOs Winters, Vaughan, and Knop conducted a snowmobile detail on the lower Fox River. A total of 13 citations and 10 written warnings were issued for various snowmobile violations.

CPO Semenik arrested a Spring Grove man for deer hunting without permission, deer hunting by the aid of bait, and no blaze orange as required by state law.

District 3 – Sgt. Dave Wollgast **(Counties: Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall & Will)**

GRUNDY COUNTY

A Humane Society Investigator responded to a complaint of a dog being left outside in the cold during the sub-zero temperatures. Despite finding the dog inside the residence when she got there, the Investigator barged her way into the home and threatened to seize the dog and several rabbits that were being raised for food. Sgt. Wollgast was called by the Grundy County Sheriff's Office to assist. The Investigator was told to leave the residence without the animals, as they were all found in good health and care. A follow up investigation by the Department of Agriculture and Grundy County Animal Control found the animals in adequate care. Several charges against the Investigator are pending with the Grundy County State's Attorney's Office.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

CPO Farber conducted compliance checks on pheasant hunters at Kankakee River State Park. CPO Farber located an over limit of pheasants while inspecting a subject's birds. Two roosters were discovered in a plastic bag in the rear of his van. An additional hen pheasant was found under a blanket in the rear of the van. The subject was issued a citation for an over limit of pheasants.

CPO Farber set up surveillance on three hunters during the CWD firearm season in rural Pembroke Township. The first subject exited the timber with a crossbow, wearing only a blaze orange hat. The subject did not have his deer permits/hunting license in possession. Thirty minutes later, after legal shooting time, two more people exited the

timber not wearing any blaze orange. CPO Farber identified himself as a CPO. One of the hunters immediately placed his shotgun out of sight in front of his vehicle. Both hunters had blaze orange vests in their bag and decided not to wear them. A compliance check was completed, and it was determined that one of the subject's FOID card had been revoked. All three subjects were issued citations for failure to wear blaze orange. The investigation regarding the subject's FOID card is currently pending.

KENDALL COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WILL COUNTY

CPO Reid located a vehicle parked on private property which is owned by an absentee landowner. Deer hunters commonly sneak onto this property to hunt. A crossbow hunter was found smoking cannabis while sitting in an abandon shed. The hunter did not have permission to be on the property, but he argued that he was doing his part to alleviate the highly concentrated deer number to reduce the number of traffic accidents on the nearby interstate. Several citations and written warnings were issued, and the hunter was removed from the property.

CPO Anderson located two archery deer hunters who were hunting Des Plaines Conservation Area while the property was closed for pheasant hunting. During the check, he found several permit violations. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

District 4 – Sgt. Jed Whitchurch **(Counties: Cook & DuPage)**

COOK COUNTY

CPO Snodgrass conducted a taxidermist inspection and found several violations. The subject had several fish in his possession which were not properly tagged or labeled in accordance with state law. CPO Snodgrass explained the applicable laws to the taxidermist and issued a citation, along with a written warning, for the violations observed.

CPOs Snodgrass and Thornley made a traffic stop on a vehicle with no taillights after dark traveling on I-55. After running the person's information, it was found the driver had a suspended driver's license. The driver was arrested and bonded for the violation. The person will appear in court at a later date. The vehicle was released to a valid driver.

CPO Ausmus was patrolling near William W. Powers State Recreation Area when he was flagged down about a dog running at large. CPO Ausmus befriended the German Shepard and read his tag. The dog was reunited with his owner. The owner was warned of the dangerously low temperatures and allowing his dog to run at large.

CPO Ausmus inspected two snowmobiles. One snowmobile was found to not have an operational taillight. The owner was issued a written warning.

CPO Ausmus completed a deer investigation that revealed an Orland Park man harvested a Will County deer without archery deer permits. The subject stated he purchased what he thought were all his required licenses and tags in April and harvested a deer in October. The subject stated he realized, after he shot the deer, he did not have permits. The subject then purchased deer tags, tagged the deer, and reported the harvest. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Ausmus checked ice fishermen at Wampum Lake, Powerderhorn Lake, Green Lake, and Wolf Lake. Several violations for fishing license not in possession were addressed with written warnings.

CPOs Ausmus and Thornley responded to a TIP complaint of a subject taking an over limit of yellow perch at DuSable Harbor. The caller provided a detailed description of the suspect. The CPOs arrived shortly after receiving the TIP

complaint. They were unable to locate the suspect, but several ice fishermen were checked. Warnings were issued for fishing license not in possession and unlabeled ice shelters.

CPO Ausmus cited a subject for fishing without a license. The subject stated he had his license in his vehicle and returned to his vehicle with CPO Ausmus. The subject could not locate his fishing license in his vehicle. A records check revealed the subject had not purchased a fishing license for this year.

CPOs Stanbary and Thornley are investigating a poaching complaint at a cemetery. The CPOs located a wounded, mature buck which is suspected to have been unlawfully shot within the cemetery property. The CPOs also discovered additional evidence of poaching activity while at the location. The investigation is ongoing.

CPOs Stanbary and Thornley checked multiple ice fishermen throughout the Cook County Forest Preserve District and issued several written warnings for minor violations.

CPO Stanbary conducted random taxidermy inspections at several locations. During his inspections, two citations and two written warnings for violations were issued. One taxidermist was operating without a license; and another failed to keep proper inventory and documentation of wildlife, birds, and fish that he had received from customers.

CPOs from Region 2 attended the annual Chicago Boat Show at the McCormick Center. The CPOs and fishery biologists fielded questions from many attendees throughout the event. The CPOs shared valuable information with the public on boating and fishing regulations, while fishery biologists shared their valuable knowledge on Illinois fish and invasive species.

CPO Sanford observed a vehicle run through a red light near the intersection of 126th and Avenue O. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a citation for disobeying a traffic control device.

CPO Sanford located a subject utilizing four fishing devices at Wolf Lake. There is a two-device limit at this location. The individual was issued a written warning for the violation and educated on the sport fishing rules and regulations.

CPO Sanford located an individual ice fishing without a valid sport fishing license at Tampier Lake - North. The individual was issued a citation for the violation.

CPO Sanford conducted a boat registration investigation in Alsip.

CPO Thornley checked fishermen at Papoose Lake. Two fishermen did not have their fishing licenses in possession, and the shelter they were in did not have a name and address. The two men were issued written warnings for license not in possession and for name and address not on the shelter.

CPO Thornley conducted perimeter checks of Stephen Douglas Tomb and Pullman Historic Site.

CPO Thornley stopped two vehicles driving without taillights when required. CPO Thornley informed the drivers the vehicles' taillights were not on and issued written warnings.

CPO Thornley issued a written warning to a fisherman for not having his fishing license in possession while fishing at Lake Michigan.

CPOs Thornley and Ausmus conducted a deer investigation. CPO Thornley interviewed the hunter and issued a citation for no habitat stamp. A written warning was also issued for not having deer permits in possession while in the field.

DUPAGE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson

(Counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Piatt & Vermilion)

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

CPO Reeves investigated the possible unlawful taking of a white-tailed deer, and an interview was conducted with the male suspect who shot the deer. During the interview, it was discovered that the suspect did harvest the buck well after legal hunting hours. The man was issued a citation for the unlawful take of the deer after legal hunting hours, and the buck was seized.

CPO Cottrell cited a Mahomet resident for unlawfully bow hunting white-tailed deer over a baited area. CPO Reeves had received a call from another hunter that corn had been piled up near his blind on an adjoining property. After an investigation, it was found that each of his stands had been baited.

CPO Cottrell issued two written warnings to an individual for hunting without permission. The individual was unlawfully hunting upland game on the portion of the Rails to Trails property that had not yet been improved.

DEWITT COUNTY

Sgt. Williamson conducted waterfowl enforcement. He observed a group of hunters shoot four Canada geese. After shooting the geese, the hunters unloaded and started casing their guns. Sgt. Williamson drove to the hunters' location and found there had been nine individuals that had been hunting. When he asked one of the hunters how many geese they had shot, he stated, "Should have been 18." Sgt. Williamson found that they harvested 20 geese. After interviews, it was found that two of the hunters shot at the last four geese. One hunter admitted that he may have shot two with one shot, but neither of the hunters would admit to shooting the fourth goose. The Clinton man and LeRoy man were each issued a citation, and two geese were taken as evidence.

FORD COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

IROQUOIS COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MACON COUNTY

CPO Wright conducted a traffic stop on a Decatur man who had a warrant out of Douglas County. The man also had a suspended driver's license, and open alcohol and cannabis were found in the vehicle. The man was taken to the Macon County Jail.

CPO Wright investigated a two-hour window permit violation. The subject had an either-sex permit but had shot two does at the same time. The Mt. Zion man then went and bought two over the counter antlerless-only permits and tagged the deer. Only 36 minutes had elapsed by the time he bought the permits and reported his harvest. The subject was very truthful and was given one citation and four written warnings.

MCLEAN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

PIATT COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

VERMILION COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

South Zone – Captain Jim Mayes

District 11 – Sgt. Brian McReynolds

(Counties: Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie & Shelby)

CLARK COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

COLES COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

CPO Mieure, while patrolling Walnut Point State Park, issued a written warning to a deer hunter for no hunting license.

EDGAR COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MOULTRIE COUNTY

CPO Barnes cited a Mattoon subject for deer hunting without a valid deer permit.

CPO Moody cited a Chesterville man for hunting with no hunting license.

CPOs Moody and Barnes cited a Mattoon man for archery hunting with no license or deer tags on property owned by the US Army Corp of Engineers. The subject received citations and multiple warnings.

SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Barnes cited a Blue Mound subject for fishing at the Lake Shelbyville spillway without a valid fishing license.

CPOs Greuel and Mieure investigated a complaint of subjects unlawfully taking a coyote out of a trapper's leg hold trap. After identifying one of the subjects and interviewing him, two men from Effingham were issued two citations for unlawfully disturbing traps without written authorization, one citation for hunting without permission of landowner, and written warnings for hunting by aid of a motor vehicle, unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor, illegal transportation of alcohol, hunting without permission of landowner, unlawful possession of wildlife taken within the state, and unlawful take of furbearing mammal. The subject under the age of 21 was required to dispose of the remaining alcohol in his possession following the interview.

District 13 – Sgt. Eric Manker

(Counties: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair &

Washington)

BOND COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

CLINTON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MADISON COUNTY

CPO Liebl was checking hunters at a state-owned property when he encountered a man archery deer hunting without wearing the required blaze orange. A check of the hunter also showed that he did not have archery deer tags and did not have the required site permit. Citations and warning were issued for the violations.

CPO Liebl attended the Let's Go Fishing Show in Collinsville and answered numerous questions from local sportsmen.

CPO French completed an investigation on a Collinsville subject for harvesting a white-tailed deer without permits.

MONROE COUNTY

CPO Schachner was on foot patrol during the late-winter deer season when he encountered a truck parked in a remote soybean field. The small, un-picked bean field was surrounded by timber and not visible from any roadway. CPO Schachner observed a subject with blaze orange sitting in the truck. The truck remained stationary for a considerable length of time until it slowly drove along the edge of the field and across a frozen slough to another long narrow field. Shortly thereafter, CPO Schachner stopped the subject and cited him for deer hunting with the aid of a vehicle.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

CPO Sievers was contacted by a railroad company because their locomotive stuck a bald eagle approximately two miles north of Chester. It was reported that the eagle was stuck on the train. The train stopped in Chester, but the eagle was no longer on the locomotive. CPO Sievers walked the stretch of tracks where the train had stopped, but he did not locate the eagle.

CPO Sievers completed his investigation regarding the unlawful tree stands in Turkey Bluffs Fish and Wildlife Area. Eight illegal tree stands were removed from the Department property. Four hunters claimed five of the stands, and the five stands were returned to the hunters. The hunters received a total of four citations and one written warning. The three remaining tree stands are considered abandoned property and will be disposed of by the IDNR.

CPO Sievers responded to an injured bird of prey in Sparta. The injured bird was a Barred owl, and the tail feathers had been eaten off. Due to the bird's condition, the bird was euthanized.

CPO Sievers responded to Chester to assist the Chester Police with a man riding an ATV on the city street with two buckets containing corn. Since November, CPO Sievers has been checking on a tree stand that was directly behind the man's residence because a large pile of corn had been placed in front of the stand. The subject stated that he was placing corn out in his backyard for birds and squirrels. The subject stated that the corn was not for deer, but he liked watching the deer eat the corn. There were two areas of corn on the ground in the backyard with many deer tracks in the mud. The corn by the tree stand was gone. The subject was issued a citation for unlawfully placing feed out that deer could eat.

An investigation by CPO Lewis resulted in a Randolph County deer hunter being cited for taking a deer without a valid

permit. The hunter had harvested a buck in October. He did not purchase a second either sex permit, and he shot a second buck in November. The hunter advised he thought the combo archery permit included two either sex tags like they used to.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens

(Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline & White)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Somers assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service on a joint investigation involving unlawful take of an over limit of Canada geese.

CPO Lay investigated a harvest report of an archery deer hunter. It was determined the hunter had harvested a buck deer without possessing a permit for the deer until after it was killed. The hunter was issued a ticket for no valid permit.

CPO Lay closed a disorderly conduct case and a hunter harassment case after the State's Attorney elected not to file charges in either case.

CPO Folden is investigating a complaint of several hunters taking over limits of Canada geese.

CPO Williams handled a report of an antlered deer on the ice at the West Frankfort Old City Lake. The deer was removed from the ice; and it recovered on shore, then left the area.

GALLATIN COUNTY

CPO Diggins conducted upland game patrols. He checked several hunters, and no violations were found.

HAMILTON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

HARDIN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

CPO Jourdan observed two men in camouflage exiting a field at Ten Mile Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area. Both men had portable tree stands on their backs, but only one had a bow. The man without a bow claimed he was not hunting. His partner claimed he picked him up to help track a deer he wounded. The man without a bow had no hunting license or deer permits. After the men drove off, CPO Jourdan walked to area where he first saw the men walking. A nice compound bow was concealed in the brush. CPO Jourdan could still hear the truck they departed in on an access road to the south. The men were presumably waiting for the officer to leave the area. CPO Jourdan met the men exiting the access area and presented the found bow. The passenger admitted the bow belonged to him, and he did not have a deer permit or hunting license. The man was cited for the offenses and given a notice to appear in court.

CPO Lay issued a waterfowl hunter hunting on Rend Lake a citation for his boat registration being expired since 2006.

POPE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

SALINE COUNTY

CPO Diggins conducted upland game and archery deer enforcement patrols.

WHITE COUNTY

While on patrol, CPO Schoenhoff observed a hunter returning to his vehicle after hunting. A compliance check was performed, and it was found the hunter did not have a valid nonresident hunting license or habitat stamp. A citation was issued to the hunter for hunting without a valid nonresident hunting license, and a written warning was issued for no habitat stamp.

CPO Folden received information from a nonresident landowner claiming an oil company has been pumping oil from her property for 10 years. The subject claims she has never received any payment for the oil. CPO Folden forwarded the information to the Department's Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management.

District 15 – Sgt. Dave Hyatt

(Counties: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion Richland, Wabash & Wayne)

CLAY COUNTY

Following a two-hour harvest report investigation, CPO Smith issued one citation to a hunter for failing to tag deer immediately upon kill (parental responsibility). Father and son were deer hunting, and the father was supervising his son while hunting. The son shot and killed a doe, and he had in his possession an either sex permit. The father did not want the son to use the either sex permit and went to town to purchase an antlerless only permit. The deer was then later tagged with the previously purchased permit.

CPO Smith issued a written warning to a deer hunter for dumping a deer carcass on another person's property without permission from the landowner.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

CPO Mieure conducted an interview with an Oakland man regarding deer violations. Three written warnings were issued to the subject for failure to report the deer harvest by 10 p.m., no valid deer permit, and failure to tag deer immediately upon kill.

CPO Roper received information about a hunting without permission complaint. Upon speaking with the individual in the complaint, it was determined the hunter had, in fact, hunted without the permission of the landowner. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting on property without permission of the landowner.

CPO Roper and Sgt. Hyatt were on patrol when they observed several waterfowl hunters on the Wabash River near the Palestine Boat Launch. While completing a hunter compliance check on all 18 individuals, it was discovered all harvested waterfowl was laying together and could not be identified by their respective hunters. The 18 hunters harvested 35 Canada geese and two white fronted geese. It was also discovered the boat being used to carry hunters across the River to the hunting area had an insufficient number of lifejackets aboard the boat. The boat registration was also expired. The owner of the boat claims to have applied for registration, but there was no proof of application. All 18 individuals were issued written warnings for failure to maintain separate bags while in the field. The owner of the boat was issued a written warning for failure to provide proof of application for boat registration, and a citation for the insufficient number of flotation devices was issued.

EDWARDS COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CPO Smith issued a citation to a firearm deer hunter for failing to tag deer immediately upon kill. A written warning was also issued for hunting without a permit. The deer hunter killed a doe, then shot a buck later the same day, without having two deer permits in his possession. The hunter went and purchased a permit after he killed the deer.

CPO Smith issued two written warnings to an inexperienced deer hunter who shot a small buck and only had an antlerless only permit.

FAYETTE COUNTY

CPO Compton charged a subject with the unlawful take of a 11-point buck. The deer was seized, and the subject has a February court date.

JASPER COUNTY

CPO Taylor investigated a deer dumping case where deer parts were thrown into a creek. A deer permit was found on the ear of one of the deer heads. The permit holder was contacted, and he admitted to throwing the deer hide and head on the edge of the creek. The subject was issued a citation for pollution of waterways and told to retrieve the deer parts for proper disposal.

While on patrol at Newton Lake, CPO Roper observed two individuals coming back to the boat launch from waterfowl hunting. A compliance check on the individuals was conducted, and all harvested waterfowl were lying in one single pile. Both hunters were issued written warnings for failure to maintain separate bags.

CPO Smith conducted waterfowl enforcement. A compliance check of a boat's emergency equipment was performed, and it was found to be short one life jacket. Also, a child under the age of 13 was not wearing a life jacket. A citation was issued to the boat operator for the offense. A second boat was checked, and the registration was expired. A written warning was issued.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CPO Taylor observed a deer hanging at a residence with a male subject standing near it. After interviewing him, he stated he never tagged or reported the harvest. The subject was issued a citation for failure to call in the harvest by 10 p.m. and written warning for failure to tag.

MARION COUNTY

CPO Buhnerkempe investigated a subject for using another's deer permit to unlawfully harvest and report a deer. The investigation resulted in the arrest of two individuals. Nine citations for various wildlife violations were issued, including unlawful use of another's deer permit, falsification of a harvest record, and multiple counts of unlawful take of a deer. One subject also had a Washington County felony burglary warrant.

CPO Buhnerkempe cited an individual for failure to immediately tag a deer for a violation committed by the individual's son during the first firearm deer season.

RICHLAND COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WABASH COUNTY

CPO Buhnerkempe cited a hunter for unlawful transportation of an uncased firearm on an ATV.

WAYNE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 16 – Sgt. Kris Taylor

(Counties: Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Union & Williamson)

ALEXANDER COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JACKSON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JOHNSON COUNTY

CPO Johnson investigated a littering case where a subject dumped multiple bags of trash on the Tunnel Hill trail. The subject was cited for the offense.

CPO Johnson investigated a subject who was putting household trash into the Cache River Wildlife Area dumpster. The subject was interviewed, and it was discovered she had picked up trash along the road and placed it into the dumpster along with household trash. She was issued a written warning.

MASSAC COUNTY

CPO Johnson continues working on an ongoing deer case involving two Alabama hunters who have used landowner permits since 2014.

PERRY COUNTY

CPO Lewis was patrolling Pyramid State Recreation Area when he located a truck trailering a duck hunting boat parked and blocking the boat launch of a small lake. This lake is known to be excellent for duck hunting late in the season because it does not freeze as quickly as other area lakes. Upon speaking to the occupants of the truck, they advised they were parked there to discourage other hunters from hunting the lake the following morning. They said that they had done so on other occasions. They were advised that the park closes at 10:00 p.m. and does not reopen to waterfowl hunters until 5:30 a.m. Written warnings were issued to the hunters violating the previous night's hours. Early the following morning, CPO Lewis returned to the location to see if anyone was violating the 5:30 a.m. law. There were five hunters present at 3:30 a.m. Two of the hunters were the same two that were warned the afternoon prior, and they had not even moved. All hunters advised they had been there the entire night. All five hunters were cited for entering the park prior to 5:30 a.m. The two hunters that had been previously warned were cited for camping in an area not designated as a camping area.

PULASKI COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

UNION COUNTY

CPO Vasicek's case involving three nonresident subjects who had multiple permit and licensing violations for deer hunting, along with other associated violations, has been closed. The individuals pled guilty in Union County Court. Fines and fees totaled \$4,868, including over \$1,000 toward the Conservation Police Operations Fund. The seized firearm was also forfeited to the IDNR.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CPO Johnson received a call regarding a subject hunting without permission. The subject had been warned the night before but returned the next morning to hunt. He left on his ATV, but he was later apprehended at his mother's house. He admitted to not having permission to hunt on the property and unlawfully taking a deer from that property. He was

issued nine citations for two counts of hunting without permission, having an uncased bow, no deer permit, failure to tag, failure to report harvest, two counts of operating an ATV on property without permission, and unlawful take of deer. He was issued a written warning for no hunting license in possession.