



Illinois Conservation Police Bi-Weekly Report



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

DATE: January 15, 2016

(Weeks of December 29 – January 11)

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

This report represents the county that the event took place within, not the assigned county of the Conservation Police Officer.

REGION 1 – Captain Laura Petreikis

District 1 – Sgt. T. Petreikis

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

CARROLL COUNTY

CPO Jones stopped an ATV driving on the highway on Illinois Route 84 during a sleet storm. The Clinton man explained he was getting gas for his ATV to plow. The Clinton man's driver's license was revoked in Illinois. The man's ATV was towed and he was arrested for driving while revoked.

CPO Jones conducted a hunting compliance check on two archery hunters at Mississippi Palisades State Park during the late firearm deer season. Both hunters failed to wear blaze orange.

During the compliance check it was discovered a St. Charles man failed to sign his turkey and deer permit.

A Bartlett man didn't have his hunting license, habitat stamp, or deer permits with him in the field while hunting. Both hunters were issued citations for not having the required blaze orange and were issued written warnings for their other violations.

HENRY COUNTY

CPO Posateri is working on deer investigations.

MERCER COUNTY

CPO Posateri was notified of two antlered deer which had been taken during the antlerless season. The investigation is on-going.

OGLE COUNTY

A 39 year old man from Rochelle was charged with several deer and turkey violations including unlawful take, hunting over bait, no valid permits and falsification. Four deer and two turkeys were seized along with a bow and a crossbow. In

total 12 citations were issued.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

CPO Palumbo and CPOT Cox manned the Conservation Police Lodge Trailer at the Quad City Expo Center's Annual Bald Eagle Days event.

STEPHENSON COUNTY

CPO Alt is working an ongoing investigation of deer poaching near the county line from Thanksgiving weekend.

WHITESIDE COUNTY

CPO Palumbo issued multiple citations to a Fenton and Erie man for unlawfully attempting to take a deer with the use and aid of a motor vehicle. The deer was shot with a rifle at night, from the roadway, while the two were in the cab of a pickup truck.

CPO Palumbo issued a citation to a Dixon man for unlawfully taking a deer with a firearm during the closed season. The Dixon hunter did not realize that Whiteside County was closed for the Late Winter Antlerless Only Firearm Deer Season when he took a doe with his 12 gauge slug gun.

District 6 –Sgt. Hank Frazier

(Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)

BOONE COUNTY

CPO Alt assisted the Boone County Sheriff's Department in a roll-over collision on South Genoa Road over the weekend. North/South roads were sheer ice as motorists found themselves in ditches on many roads. CPO Alt closed off Genoa Road for approximately two hours, directed traffic around the collision while Sheriff's Department personnel investigated the crash and removed the vehicle.

BUREAU COUNTY

While checking ice fishermen on the Hennepin Canal, CPO Wright found a subject who did not have his fishing license in his possession. The subject's driver's license was checked and he had a warrant for his arrest for failure to appear for cannabis possession. The subject was arrested. A search of the subject produced a cannabis pipe. He was taken to Bureau County jail. He was also arrested for the drug paraphernalia. A written warning was issued for not having his fishing license in his possession.

DEKALB COUNTY

CPOs Alt and Murry completed a four hour snowmobile detail along the public snowmobile trail located at Lovell Road and Illinois Route 64 outside of Sycamore. One cannabis arrest and one drug paraphernalia arrest was made along with the issuance of four written warnings for snowmobile registration and equipment violations.

CPO Murry was patrolling DeKalb County when he observed a black pickup truck leaving a Forest Preserve and Kishwaukee Fish and Wildlife area, and mud was falling off of the vehicle. CPO Murry made traffic stop on that vehicle and determined the individual had been "mudding" in the Kishwaukee FWA and Potawatomi Forest Preserve. Ruts along the roadway were approximately two feet deep and other areas had a large amount of damage. The damage is being assessed by Site personal as well as DeKalb County officials and the case is pending.

CPO Murry was patrolling the Kishwaukee Fish and Wildlife area when he observed a vehicle parked in the roadway on an access road to hunter parking. The vehicle drove forward a short distance and again parked in the roadway. CPO Murry stopped the vehicle and inquired about the parking in the roadway. While speaking to the driver, CPO Murry

observed a coat in the passenger seat covering up what appeared to be an uncased rifle. Upon further investigation, CPO Murry observed the firearm to be a .22 caliber high powered pellet rifle which was uncased and loaded. A freshly killed squirrel was located in the vehicle along with items commonly used as deer bait. While talking with the individual CPO Murry had the subject show him where he had planned on deer hunting in the state park. Two large areas of bait were located along with seven trees being cut down as well. CPO Murry also located evidence indicating the suspect shot the squirrel approximately a mile and a half away on Forest Preserve property. In a follow up interview the individual admitted to shooting the squirrel from the roadway, sitting in his vehicle, in the Forest Preserve property. The individual was cited for uncased gun, hunting from the roadway, destruction of flora (destruction of property), hunting without permission (Forest Preserve property), unlawful take, and hunting by aid of a motor vehicle. He was issued written warnings for hunting license not on person, habitat stamp not on person, parking in the roadway, unlawful feeding of wildlife (bait), and shooting upon the roadway.

CPO Murry was conducting a snowmobile detail. CPO Alt assisted in the detail. While speaking to the driver of the snowmobile, CPO Murry suspected narcotics were present. A consent search of the operator's bag revealed a small amount of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. CPO Murry transported the operator to the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department where field sobriety was conducted. Showing no signs of impairment, the operator was not arrested for OUI. He was issued citations for unlawful possession of cannabis, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued four written warnings for snowmobile violations.

CPO N. Murry responded to a wooded area east of the Kingston Park in regards to two individuals deer hunting with rifles. Upon arrival CPO Murry observed one individual lay a rifle down before walking to his location. After getting closer to the hunter, CPO Murry located the rifle which had been set down under a bush about 5 feet from a 25 lb. apple flavored salt block. The hunter informed officers that his hunting partner had taken off when he saw the officer approach. A check of the subject's hunting privileges revealed he had none of the required licenses or stamps. Further investigation revealed he had no FOID card. The second hunter was later located at a residence a short distance away. The second hunter was hunting with a crossbow, but had none of the required licenses or stamps. The first hunter was charged with no valid hunting license, no valid habitat stamp, no valid deer tags, hunting whitetail deer over bait, unlawful attempt to take whitetail deer with illegal methods (rifle), possession of a firearm without FOID card, possession of ammunition without FOID card. The second hunter was charged with no valid hunting license, no valid habitat stamp, no valid deer permit, and hunting whitetail deer over bait.

LASALLE COUNTY

CPO Filipiak was on patrol in the Bailey Falls area and received a call of an ATV accident. Upon investigation of the accident, two individuals were arrested for: criminal trespass to real property, operation of an ATV on the roadway and reckless operation of an ATV. Multiple written warnings were issued as well.

CPO Filipiak was on patrol and observed a dirt bike riding on the roadway. Upon investigation the individual had a revoked driver's license. The individual was arrested for Operation of a dirt bike on the roadway and Operation of a dirt bike on a revoked driver's license.

CPO Wire cited a private company for renting boats without a rental permit. The company had been previously warned and previously cited for the same violation.

CPO Finn and CPO Stanbary were checking goose hunters when they observed a vehicle drive by and throw out two beer bottles. They pulled the truck over and put the driver through Field Sobriety Tests. The Kinsman man was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The passenger was cited for littering from the vehicle. The driver was issued citations for littering, illegal transportation of alcohol and driving under the influence.

PUTNAM COUNTY

CPO Wire and CPO Finn located an individual with a revoked FOID card that had been hunting deer and waterfowl with a firearm. Charges are being referred to States Attorney's Office.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

CPO Alt is working an ongoing investigation from the 2014 deer season involving a deer that was rifle shot out of a motor vehicle from a roadway. Evidence showed vehicle tracks leading into the open farm field and running over the deer which had been rifle shot prior.

CPO Schoonhoven investigated an incident involving a ginseng license violation that resulted in corrective action taken by the ginseng seller.

CPO Fraser met with a hunter who discovered a deer carcass and antlered skull while archery deer hunting. The hunter stated he wished to have the antlers mounted at a taxidermist. After seeing the carcass, which had been fully stripped of any meat or hide by scavengers, CPO Fraser issued the man a salvage permit for the rack.

While patrolling in Winnebago County, CPO Fraser conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with expired registration and two occupants not wearing safety belts. Upon stopping the vehicle CPO Fraser discovered none of the three occupants, including the driver, had a valid driver's license. The driver also stated he did not have insurance for the vehicle. The driver was issued citations for no valid driver's license, no insurance, and failure to wear a safety belt. The vehicle was legally parked in a parking lot near the stop and the driver was released with a Notice to Appear in court.

District 7, Sgt. Scott Avery

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

FULTON COUNTY

CPO Thompson addressed violations of hunting without licenses and permits during the late winter antlerless only season. A female hunter was found hunting without the proper documentation and appropriate enforcement action was taken.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY

CPO Reid investigated a complaint about unlawful snaring of wildlife in McDonough County. Evidence of the illegal activity was seized at the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

PEORIA COUNTY

During the second firearm deer season CPO Lazzell arrested a Peoria County hunter for hunting deer over bait, hunting with an unplugged shotgun and hunting without a license. Written warnings were issued for improper blaze orange, hunting deer without a habitat stamp and not having his deer permit in possession.

A second hunter located on the same property was arrested for hunting with an unplugged shotgun and hunting without a license. The second hunter received written warnings for hunting deer without a habitat stamp and not having his deer permit in possession.

TAZEWELL COUNTY

CPO VanZant issued written warnings to multiple subjects at Powerton Lake who did not have their fishing licenses.

REGION 2 – Captain Brett Scroggins

District 2 – Sgt. Rich Riedel **(Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)**

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Davis cited a snowmobile operator for operation of a snowmobile without insurance near Lakemoor (Lake County). He was also issued a written warning for operation of a snowmobile without permission.

CPO Kelley issued a citation to a man ice fishing without a valid license. When checked, the individual said he had to go to his car to get his license because "he was afraid it would get wet if he fell in." However, when the individual returned from his vehicle, he was on his cell phone and asked, "Do they send this to you in an email?" When CPO Kelley asked if the individual had just tried to purchase his license online, the individual said, "Yeah, I only planned on being out here a little while." The individual turned out to be a Wisconsin resident so, presumably, was avoiding paying the non-resident fee for a license.

CPO VanWiltenburg cited a subject for hunting deer with the use, aid of bait. He also received warnings for trapping without a license and failure to tag trap with name and address. The cage trap was just a few yards from his hunting blind and had a live raccoon in it when initially found. The hunter had several other tree stands in the area that were baited with PVC pipes (full of shelled corn) mounted to trees. He said it was getting to the end of the season and he was "getting desperate".

A subject CPO VanWiltenburg arrested for OUI in 2014 finally pleaded out in Lake County Court. He was fined \$1,956 and received 12 months supervision along with restrictions on driving and being in possession of illegal drugs

McHENRY COUNTY

CPO Davis completed a snowmobile accident investigation that occurred in Hebron (McHenry County). The operator rolled his snowmobile causing the ski to be severely damaged. He was cited for operation of a snowmobile without registration and operation of a snowmobile without proof of insurance. He was also issued written warnings for operation of a snowmobile on property without permission and operation of a snowmobile too fast for conditions.

CPO Kelley, with the assistance of CPOs VanWiltenburg, Schreiber, Winters and Sgt. Riedel, monitored a baited ground blind on ComEd property in Crystal Lake. After many hours of watching the blind, CPO Kelley finally found two subjects in the blind on the evening of January 10, despite the cold temperatures. During an interview, one subject admitted to killing a small buck on January 1 from the blind. The subject who baited the area was written multiple citations and written warnings for feeding wildlife and hunting without permission. The subject who was actively hunting was issued a citation for hunting over bait and several written warnings for failing to sign permits and hunting without permission. While on patrol near McHenry Dam, CPO Wagner made a stop for speeding. As a result of the stop the individual was cited for operation of uninsured motor vehicle and written warnings for speeding and not having a driver's license in his possession.

After investigating a call about suspicious deer hunting activity, CPO Wagner cited a Cary man for unlawful feeding of whitetail deer.

While conducting ice fish enforcement on Crystal Lake, CPO Wagner arrested an individual for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of cannabis <2.5 Grams.

CPO Wagner also issued two written warnings for speeding, one written warning for operation of a snowmobile on roadway and one written warning for no valid registration.

District 3 – Sgt. Mark Simon
(Counties: Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall & Will)

Local rivers were closed due to the flooding that occurred. District 3 officers monitored and patrolled the closed waterways.

GRUNDY COUNTY

CPO Wollgast continues to work on closing out a very complicated fatal boating accident.

CPO Wollgast investigated a complaint of a whitetail deer being unlawfully penned up. The complaint was unfounded.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

CPO Mieure is investigating a situation where photographs are circulating about two deer found locked together in Kankakee County. No requests for salvage tags have been received to-date.

CPO Mieure worked a baited area for two consecutive years and finally was able to catch the violator hunting over two troughs of corn and a mineral block. Citations were issued for baiting and for failure to wear required orange clothing.

CPO Vadbunker found two hunters at Kankakee River State Park who were hunting unlawfully from permanent stands and for hunting over bait.

KENDALL COUNTY

CPO Bergland responded to a complaint of two hunters hunting too close to a residence. Upon arrival he found that the hunters were indeed too close to the residences. He issued a citation and a warning for the violation.

CPO Bergland investigated a complaint of a hunter hunting too early for pheasants at Silver Springs State Park. He located the hunter who admitted that he had probably hunted too early. Subsequent inspection of his hunting license revealed that the hunter was in possession of a resident hunting license while also in possession of a resident hunting license and driver's license from Wisconsin. The hunter also did not display the required orange clothing. Two warnings were issued for the orange violation and for the hunting before hours violation. Further investigation is pending for the residency issue.

CPO Bergland investigated a situation where a hunter had reported hunting and harvesting a deer at Silver Springs State Park with a crossbow unlawfully. Subsequent interview of the hunter revealed that he did indeed unlawfully hunt with a crossbow. He was cited for the violation.

WILL COUNTY

CPO Reid and Honiotes utilized a fresh dusting of snow to track two hunters who unlawfully went through a dedicated nature preserve while in possession of bows and arrows. Two citations were issued for the violation and five warnings issued for hunting license not in possession, unsigned deer permits and entry into a restricted area.

District 4 – Sgt. Bill Shannon
(Counties: Cook & DuPage)

COOK COUNTY

While on patrol CPO Klemme observed an individual illegally feeding deer. A written warning was issued.

CPO Macias responded to an investigation about an individual selling turtles on Facebook. CPO Macias found the subject and spoke with her about the legalities of selling turtles in Illinois. Investigation is ongoing.

CPO Whitchurch was on patrol at a Cook County Lake when he observed a vehicle parked near the water. As CPO Whitchurch exited his patrol vehicle, the driver of the vehicle was observed exiting his vehicle and discarding something into the water. CPO Whitchurch believed the item which was discarded into the water was drugs or drug paraphernalia. The driver of the vehicle was found to possess no contraband. He was cited for unlawful pollution of a waterway.

CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger were on patrol in a State Fish and Wildlife Area when he observed a subject commit an Illinois Vehicle Code violation while operating a motor vehicle. CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at which time it was learned the subject was operating the motor vehicle while their driver's license was suspended. The subject also did not have valid proof of insurance for the vehicle. The subject was arrested for unlawful operation of a motor vehicle while license suspended and for operating a motor vehicle without valid proof of insurance. The subject's vehicle was towed from the scene.

CPO Whitchurch was on patrol enforcing sport fishing regulations at Lake Michigan. While checking a group of fishermen, CPO Whitchurch observed one fisherman hurriedly pack up his fishing gear and attempt to hide behind construction equipment which was stationed in the area. CPO Whitchurch made contact with the subject and determined he was an out of state resident who knew he was violating state law by fishing without a license. The subject was cited for unlawfully fishing without a valid non-resident sport fishing license.

CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger were on patrol in Chicago when they were first on scene of a vehicle accident involving a small passenger car and a large semi-truck. CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger secured the area of the accident and assisted Chicago Police with the accident and scene.

CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger were on patrol enforcing waterfowl laws. Waterfowl hunters were checked for compliance with both hunting and boating laws. A total of five written warnings were issued for watercraft safety violations.

CPO Whitchurch and CPO Poffenberger were on patrol when they observed a subject litter from a motor vehicle. The subject was cited for unlawful littering.

CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger were on patrol at Lake Michigan when they observed a subject fishing. The minute the subject saw the CPOs, the subject immediately placed all fishing gear on the ground and hurriedly entered a vehicle parked in the area. CPO Whitchurch and CPOT Poffenberger made contact with the subject and requested a fishing license. The subject was acting nervously and produced a 24 hour sport fishing license which had expired about one month earlier. The subject was cited for unlawfully fishing without a license.

CPO Whitchurch was patrol at Lake Michigan concentrating his patrol where numerous trout and salmon had been caught recently. CPO Whitchurch observed a subject catch one and place it in a black bag in an area of tall grass. When CPO Whitchurch checked the subject, the person did not possess a valid Lake Michigan Salmon Stamp. The subject was cited.

CPO V. Smith followed up on a deer feeding complaint and wrote a citation for illegal feeding of deer.

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Gilmer and CPOT Poffenberger saw what they thought were decoys in front of a duck and goose blind so they decided to perform a compliance check on the hunters inside the blind. It turned out after using binoculars that the blind was unoccupied. The hunters picked the wrong day to not hunt it since what we thought were decoys were actually live geese right in front of the blind. While at the lake CPO Gilmer and CPOT Poffenberger noticed a gentleman in a boat trying to break ice back to where he launched the boat after a goose hunt. The boat had not been registered since 1997. He received a citation for and was warned for not having his hunting license in possession, no type IV throwable, no sounding device and no fire extinguisher on the boat. The CPOs explained the safety hazard he could put

himself in without having all necessary safety equipment in the boat. He was completely understanding, not to mention, very thankful for only receiving one citation from the situation.

After several complaints, CPO Gilmer has been performing traffic enforcement at Illinois Beach State Park to ensure everyone is obeying the speed limit and traffic control devices. Several warnings have been issued this week following the complaints.

CPO Gilmer and CPOT Poffenberger were on patrol when they noticed a vehicle with only one tail light. They initiated a traffic stop as a courtesy to inform the motorist of the violation. After initiating the traffic stop they realized the vehicle had a registration that was expired over four months ago, since August. A citation was issued for the expired registration and a warning was given for the tail light being out. The driver said she knew about the expired registration and fully expected a ticket for it. The driver thanked the CPOs for letting her know about the tail light being out.

CPO Farber arrested a Wadsworth man for driving while license revoked. The subject was revoked for DUI. He was arrested and taken to the Zion Police Department for processing.

CPO Farber checked several archery deer hunters at Illinois Beach State Park. No violations of the Wildlife Code or Park AD Rules were discovered.

CPO Farber attended a grand jury at 26th and California in Chicago. The subject was indicted for aggravated DUI.

While working the second shotgun season in Iroquois County, CPO Farber issued a citation for hunting with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells.

CPO Farber cited a man for not meeting blaze orange requirements during the second shotgun season.

CPO Farber cited a subject for hunting without a valid firearm deer permit during the second shotgun season.

After a lengthy investigation by CPOs Vaughan and Farber, CPO Farber arrested a Wisconsin subject for unlawfully hunting by the use/aid of bait, and hunting without a valid non-resident archery deer permit. The Wisconsin man had a trash can full of corn near his ground blind. A mineral block along with more corn was found on the ground in front of the ground blind he was hunting.

CPOs Farber and Gilmer attended the 1st annual Lake Zurich Shop With a Cop. Children from all over Lake County attended the event.

CPOs Farber and Gilmer arrested a subject for hunting by the use/aid of bait. The subject was also warned for failure to report road kill deer.

CPO Farber is currently involved in an administrative permit investigation. A Tennessee game warden was contacted for assistance. The violator was issued citations for hunting without a non-resident archery deer permit and failure to tag whitetail deer immediately upon kill. He was also issued five written warnings.

CPO Farber and Sgt. Shannon responded to a call of an injured pedestrian on the Illinois Beach State Park Nature Preserve trails. The injured man was stranded in a remote area of Illinois Beach State Park. Due to heavy snow and ice EMS was unable to locate the subject. The subject fractured his ankle on the ice while photographing wildlife. Sgt. Shannon, CPO Farber, and Zion Rescue were able to locate and load the subject into the bed of CPO Farber's truck. The man was transported to a hospital in Waukegan for further examination.

CPO Farber cited a Waukegan alderman for unlawful take of a raccoon. The alderman attacked a raccoon with a tire iron in front of several residents. The Waukegan alderman stated that he had full police powers and was able to take such action.

CPO Vaughan is investigating a baited stand received from a TIPS complaint.

CPO Vaughan issued several written warnings for traffic offenses at Illinois Beach State Park

REGION 3 – Captain Jim Mayes

District 11 – Sgt. Brian McReynolds

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

CLARK COUNTY

CPO Wellum issued two citations to hunters at Lincoln Trail State Park for no blaze orange while hunting during the firearms deer season.

CPO Wellum arrested a Clark County man on a warrant out of Clark County for failure to appear on retail theft in Marshall.

COLES COUNTY

CPO Greuel cited a Mattoon man for unlawful take of whitetail deer.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CPO Greuel cited a Lerna man for unlawful take of whitetail deer.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

CPO Moody cited two Urbana men for hunting without permission on C & N Railroad property south of Tuscola.

MOULTRIE COUNTY

CPO Barnes cited two Decatur subjects for deer hunting without permission.

SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Moody cited a Bethany man for failure to tag whitetail deer and failure to report a harvested deer on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's property. The man also received written warnings for other miscellaneous violations.

District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson

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

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

CPO Graden received a complaint of two subjects hunting pheasants during the closed season. CPO Graden was unable to locate the hunters in the field but made contact with the local residents and got a license plate number. The license plates returned to a vehicle out of Leaf River, Illinois. The case remains under investigation.

CHAMPAIGN/IROQUOIS COUNTY

District 19 CPOs are investigating a case of Georgia residents illegally hunting on deer tags stolen from a local Walmart. During the investigation into the criminal violations several more wildlife violations have been detected. The investigation is ongoing.

MACON COUNTY

CPO Wright and CPOT Ausmus observed a Maroa man urinating outside of his vehicle on a country road while several vehicles passed him. While turning around the man entered his vehicle and began driving. The CPOs initiated a traffic stop and asked him to perform field sobriety tests. During the investigation the man stated that he should not have been driving. He refused all chemical tests and was arrested for DUI and taken to the Macon County jail.

VERMILION COUNTY

While on patrol CPOT Sanford and CPO Cottrell discovered two individuals upland game hunting on the Harry Babe Woodyard State Natural Area. This is a permit hunting area only and both had failed to apply for the free permit and were hunting a restricted area. Both subjects were cited for hunting without permission and advised to apply for the proper permits in the future.

CPO Cottrell completed a random deer permit investigation that showed the suspect failed to buy a bow permit prior to harvesting a deer and then checked the animal in immediately after purchasing the permit. This Danville man was cited for no valid permit and two written warnings.

REGION 4 – Captain Jamie Maul

District 9 – Sgt. Mark Wagner

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

ADAMS COUNTY

CPO Myers interviewed a hunter who reported in the Point of Sale system harvesting a deer during the closed late winter deer season. The hunter said he found out the day after he killed the deer that the season was closed.

GREENE COUNTY

CPOT Brian Snodgrass and CPO Goetten stopped two coyote hunters. They were in possession of a loaded/uncased rifle and were cited for the violation.

JERSEY COUNTY

CPOT Brian Snodgrass and CPO Michael Goetten stopped two individuals coyote hunting on a UTV. They were in possession of an uncased firearm and were cited.

CPOT Snodgrass and CPO Goetten responded to a property damage vehicle crash at Pere Marquette State Park. The vehicle ran off the roadway while looking at the scenery in the park.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

CPOT Brian Snodgrass and CPO Michael Goetten received a complaint from a landowner of hunting without permission and theft of two trail cameras. The landowner provided the CPOs with suspect information. Interviews were conducted and two subjects admitted hunting on the property without permission and stealing two trail cameras. The cameras were returned to the owner and a tree stand was seized. Criminal and wildlife enforcement action is pending consultation with the State's Attorney.

CPO Gushleff attended and taught the basics hunting laws in an hour long presentation to a hunter safety course in Girard.

District 10 – Sgt. Chris Stone

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

CASS COUNTY

CPOs Elliott and CPOT Thornley investigated a complaint of an owl flying around a small Cass County town with a leg-hold trap attached to one foot. Upon further investigation, CPO Elliott located a suspect who admitted he was using leg-hold traps set on poles to capture hawks and owls that the subject claimed was attacking his chickens. Upon further investigation, CPO Elliott learned that both the recreational and commercial hunting/trapping privileges of the suspect are currently suspended due to previous wildlife infractions. As a result, the subject was charged with trapping while hunting/trapping privileges suspended and unlawful taking of raptors.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

CPOs Cochran and CPO Tanke rescued three adults and three children from a trailer surrounded by flood waters. Officer Cochran observed one adult on the roof of the trailer completely isolated by the swollen South Fork of the Sangamon River. He quickly retrieved a boat from the Sangchris Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area and the officers were able to transport the people, and several pets, to safety. The officers had to work very quickly as the water was very cold and river levels were rising. No injuries were reported.

CPO Cochran and CPOT Tanke responded to flood waters northeast of Kincaid in search for two missing teens. CPOs Cochran and CPOT Tanke first conducted a visual search of the area along with Taylorville Fire Department. After searching for 2-3 hours in the bitter cold, snow, and raging South Fork Sangamon River waters, the two CPOs ran out of daylight and terminated the search. The next day CPO Cochran, Bettis, and CPOT Thornley used side scan sonar to locate the missing truck submerged 17 ft below the water's surface. Later on in the evening the unoccupied truck was recovered. The CPOs discovery of the truck was pivotal in eventually finding the two missing teens. Both teens were found over the course of several days and pronounced dead at the scene. The tragic accident is being investigated by the Christian County Sheriff's Department

CPO Cochran and CPOT Tanke conducted a deer permit investigation in Nokomis. An interview with the hunter in question was conducted at his residence. The hunter admitted to killing two does on the same morning and explained he properly tagged one of the does with the antlerless only tag. However, he stated he did not use the either sex tag on the other doe. Instead, the hunter let the untagged doe lay and went to a local retailer to purchase an antlerless only tag to tag the doe in order to save his buck tag. The hunter was issued a citation for failure to immediately tag white tail deer upon kill.

MASON

CPO Elliott investigated a complaint regarding trees unlawfully cut on Sand Ridge State Forest property. While checking the area of the complaint, CPO Elliott came upon two subjects using a truck to pull a log splitter. After interviewing the subjects, they admitted to CPO Elliott they had been cutting trees on state property without a permit from the site. CPO Elliott also addressed issues with the subjects involving litter and fires on the site. The subjects were issued one citation and five warnings. Both subjects agreed to cease their activities, clean up the area, and remove their equipment from the Sand Ridge State Forest.

District 13 – Sgt. Eric Manker

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

CLINTON COUNTY

CPO Tapley finished up the last quarter of Defensive Tactics training for the five regions of the state. CPO Tapley, along with CPOs Wheatley and Reeves, traveled to each region to teach the first half of Ground Fighting as it has been newly introduced to the training program.

CPO Tapley was helping the Clinton County Animal Control with a sick raccoon at the McNair Campgrounds. While there, CPO Tapley heard a gunshot come from the east side of the dam. CPO Tapley went to investigate it since no hunting is allowed in that area. CPO Tapley met a truck coming from the direction of the dam. After stopping the vehicle, CPO Tapley saw a dead turkey with no permit on it, a dead deer with a permit on it, and a dead goose. There was also a large amount of alcohol in the bed of the truck. Tapley spoke with two men dressed in camouflage in the truck. The driver admitted to shooting the turkey in Wayne County, but said his permit was at home. Tapley later found out that he did not have a permit at all for the turkey. The passenger admitted to shooting the deer in Wayne County two days prior, but had not reported the harvest. The goose was beginning to stink and the edible portions of the goose had not been cut off. After a brief interview, CPO Tapley got the passenger to confess that he had shot at a coot at the east side of the Carlyle Lake Dam. The driver then verified the story. The driver was charged with possession of an illegally taken turkey, the passenger was charged with failure to report deer harvest by 10:00 p.m. same day as kill. Both were issued written warnings for other violations. The alcohol was confiscated and disposed of in a nearby dumpster and the turkey was seized.

CPO Tapley obtained a tip from an informant about a hunter who had shot a buck deer and used his father's permit to tag the deer. CPO Tapley interviewed the hunter and his father and obtained a confession. The hunter was issued a citation and the father was issued a written warning.

CPO Tapley spent two days in Jackson County helping with flood duty.

MADISON COUNTY

CPO French arrested a Caseyville subject for driving while license suspended, talking on cell phone and failure to signal near Chouteau Island.

CPO French arrested a Granite City subject for improper lane usage and driving on a suspended license near Horseshoe Lake State Park

CPO French and CPOT Tripp arrested two Granite City subjects on Chouteau Island for possession of less than 2.5 grams of cannabis, driving without a valid license, no insurance and illegal squealing of tires.

CPO French completed several deer investigations resulting in violations such as failure to report harvest by 10 p.m., failure to tag immediately upon kill, hunting without valid deer permits and unlawful transfer of deer permits.

CPO French observed a Granite City subject enter woods on a posted private property. The area is known for individuals illegally dumping trash. CPO French met with the subject and determined he was only looking at the water on the property. However, subject had two active warrants for his arrest from Granite City Police Department (GCPD). Subject was arrested and taken to GCPD.

CPO French and CPOT Tripp were on patrol near Horseshoe Lake State Park when they observed a van cross the centerline several times. A subsequent traffic stop resulted in the apprehension of a Wood River subject on a warrant for aggravated battery out of Alton Police Department (APD). Subject was arrested transported to APD.

CPO Rolfingsmeier worked the Let's Go Fishing Show and answered fish and wildlife questions from the public.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CPO Matt Lentz cited two coon hunters Christmas night for hunting without permission.

CPO Matt Lentz assisted Illinois State Police and Montgomery County Sheriff's Department with the recent flash flooding.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

CPO Schachner and CPOT Knop were on patrol when they observed multiple trucks engaged in coyote hunting with the aid of dogs. After watching the vehicles/hunters for an extended period of time, the officers approached (on foot) one of the trucks as it left a field. The elderly driver possessed a loaded .22 mag rifle and the elderly passenger possessed an uncased .22 mag rifle. They each received citations for the uncased/loaded guns and were given verbal warnings on hunting with the aid of a vehicle. The driver (a former hunter safety course instructor) had previously been cited for the same violation by CPO Schachner several years prior.

REGION 5 – Captain Tim Daiber

District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY

CPOs Jourdan, Williams, Schoenhoff, Johnson, Diggins and Sgt. Cariens assisted with flood disaster duty in Olive Branch.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Lay issued a citation to a Waterloo man for archery hunting in Wayne Fitzgerald State Park during the controlled pheasant hunt.

CPO Lay cited a Franklin County archery hunter after it was learned through an investigation that the hunter had harvested a deer in November without first having a valid permit.

GALLATIN COUNTY

CPO Schoenhoff investigated the death of a bald eagle near power lines. The eagle's death was caused by electrocution. The eagle will be shipped to the Eagle Repository in Colorado.

WHITE COUNTY

CPO Schoenhoff investigated the death of a bald eagle along Route 141 near 1450 East. The eagle was most likely hit by a motor vehicle. The eagle will be shipped to the Eagle Repository in Colorado.

District 15 – Sgt. Dave Hyatt

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY

CPO Holland, Smith, D. Taylor and Sgt. Hyatt responded to Alexander County and assisted with flood response efforts near the town of Olive Branch

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CPO Smith and CPOT Roper, were responding to a complaint near Beecher City regarding a person hunting raccoons. CPO Smith spoke with the complainant who stated he observed an individual he recognized drive by his residence with a dog box in the bed of his truck. He said he has had issues in the past with this individual letting his coon dogs run on property he did not have permission to be on. CPO Smith was travelling westbound on 1800N and passed a vehicle fitting the description of the suspect's pickup truck. CPO Smith turned around and blacked out his headlights and followed the vehicle until it arrived at a residence. CPO Smith approached the vehicle and spoke with driver. CPO Smith asked him how he killed raccoons and he responded by saying he did not kill any. CPO Smith asked him if he had any firearms in the vehicle. The individual stated he had an air rifle behind the seat. CPO Smith looked at the air rifle and noted it was in an open gun case. The air rifle specifications were 1000 to 1100 FPS; which under Illinois statute defines it as a firearm. The subject's name was run through IWIN and was found to have a revoked FOID. CPO Smith advised the subject of the laws and took pictures of the air rifle, obtained make, model, and serial #, and let the subject go. CPO Smith met with the State's Attorney the following morning and asked his proposal on the matter. The State's Attorney advised he would charge the individual with the uncased firearm section under Conservation and not charge him with the Class 3 felony of possessing a firearm with a revoked FOID.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CPO Holland, Smith and Sgt. Hyatt assisted Lawrence County with flooding concerns along the Embarras and Wabash rivers.

District 16 – Sgt. Kris Taylor

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY

District 16 Officers assisted in flood duties in Alexander County. There was a breach on the Len Small Levee which threatened the residents of Olive Branch and Miller City. CPOs assisted residents in flood waters, assessed levee damage and provided assistance to the utility company in shutting down gas and power lines.

CPO Mohrman and CPOT Knop responded to a domestic disturbance call in Thebes. The CPOs were the closest to the call and were able to isolate the victim and her baby away from the subject who allegedly struck her. The Illinois State Police handled the call for Alexander County.

CPO Mohrman and CPOT Knop took electrical lineman out by boat to the recently flooded areas in Alexander County to reconnect the power to homes and farms. It was imperative that this was done to provide heat for the buildings with the arrival of freezing weather.

PERRY COUNTY

CPO Lewis investigated a hunting accident which occurred during the second firearm season. The hunter was exiting his homemade tree stand when the fabric of his blind blew onto his face obstructing his vision and causing him to fall 8-10 feet. Though the hunter was able to exit the woods and make it to the hospital, he ultimately succumbed to his injuries several days later.

UNION COUNTY

CPO Mohrman received a call of an injured Bald Eagle observed in the refuge portion of the Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area. The juvenile eagle was apparently injured but still able to run away from the CPO. With assistance from CPOT Knop and volunteers from Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation the eagle was captured and is now in rehab.