State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources

Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations *2017-2018*

Illinois Best of Show
National Top 15 Finisher
2017 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Cinnamon Teal *by Jil Brevick*

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Director 1
Federal Regulations Setting Process 2
Overview and Outlook 2
Firearm Safety 2
HIP Registration 4
Licenses, Stamps and HIP 4
Ducks and Early Canada Geese 5
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days 5
Geese 6
Public Waterfowl Permit Application Dates 6
Conservation Order Light Goose Seasons 7
Don't Shoot a Swan 7
Mute Swans in Illinois 7
Waterfowl Bands 8
Wetland Management for Waterfowl 8
Waterfowl Hunting Zones and Zone Maps 9–11
Tom Roster's Non-Toxic Shot Lethality Table 12
Duck Stamps 13
Summary of State and Federal Regulations 13–16
State and Federal Waterfowl Baiting Regulations 16–19
Avian Influenza News 19
Sunrise and Sunset Times by Region . . . . . 20–Inside Back Cover
Target Illinois Poachers . . . . . Back Cover
Contact a Local Conservation Police Officer . . . . . Back Cover

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2017-2018

New Regulations are Shaded.

Pintail Daily Bag Limit Reduced to 1 5
Black Duck Daily Bag Limit Increased to 2 5
Public Waterfowl Permit Application Dates 6
Mute Swans in Illinois 7
Changes to Bird Band Reporting Protocol 8
Duck Stamps 13

On the cover: Cinnamon teal by Jil Brevick, age 15, of Hamilton, Illinois.

MESSAGE FROM ILLINOIS DNR DIRECTOR WAYNE ROSENTHAL

Thank you for reviewing the 2017-18 edition of the *Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations*. The digest includes information on Illinois waterfowl season dates, hunting hours, bag limits, federal regulations and other facts.

Thanks to an adjustment to the regulatory process begun last year, information on the previous year's waterfowl breeding populations and habitat conditions is used to set season lengths and bag limits. The process allows states to announce waterfowl season dates earlier than used to be the case.

The 2017-18 waterfowl season marks the second year of Illinois' current five-year schedule for waterfowl zone lines and season dates.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state wildlife agencies, and waterfowl management interests are working on reviewing the federal frameworks for duck seasons. These are the rules within which Illinois must set its seasons. It's been more than 20 years since frameworks have changed significantly, and in the spirit of adaptive management, now is the right time for a thorough review. Results of this process will not be known for about two years, but may impact future duck season regulations, including season lengths and bag limits.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment, Illinois continues to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and places for hunters to pursue them. Dedicated staff at our Illinois Department of Natural Resources sites are doing what they can with limited resources to manage those sites for habitat and opportunities for Illinois hunters.

Weather patterns throughout the Midwest seem to become more unpredictable all the time. They range from mild fall weather which may delay migration of some species, especially late migrating mallards and Canada geese – to above average precipitation which floods lakes and rivers, hindering management activity. Despite these challenges, Illinois' waterfowl harvest has remained strong due to the efforts of our dedicated sportsmen and women.

Thank you for supporting our Illinois waterfowl conservation and hunting programs.

Wayne Rosenthal
Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS SETTING PROCESS

The process used to set migratory bird hunting seasons changed recently. Beginning with the 2016-17 hunting season, waterfowl population estimates and other biological data from the previous year along with long-term trends and harvest strategies will provide the basis for setting harvest limits and season lengths. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) planned to publish proposed waterfowl hunting seasons and bag limits for the current hunting season in mid-December 2016 and final season frameworks in late-February, 2017. Under the new process, FWS is able to provide additional time for public comment and review of proposed hunting regulations and state agencies are able to provide season date and bag limit information to hunters much earlier than previously. A detailed account of the new process for setting annual waterfowl hunting regulations is available at: *https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/regulations/how-regulations-are-set-the-process.php*

OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK FOR 2017

Status of Waterfowl Populations and Habitat Conditions on the Breeding Grounds – The number of breeding ducks estimated on this year's North American spring waterfowl survey was 47.3 million. This estimate is 2% below last year's estimate of 48.4 million and 34% above the long term average (1955-2016; 35.2 million). Habitat conditions at the time of the survey were good and wetland numbers were estimated at 6.1 million, which is 22% above last year's estimate of 5.0 million. Additional details on the status of waterfowl species and spring habitat conditions are presented in a FWS report titled "Waterfowl Population Status, 2017", which is available at: *https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications/population-status.php*.

Canada Geese – Most of the Canada geese that occur in Illinois during fall and winter are from two distinct populations, the Mississippi Flyway Interior Population (MFIP) and the Mississippi Flyway Giant Population (MFGP). Canada geese that nest primarily near northwest James Bay and Hudson Bay in northern Ontario are part of the MFIP and represent about half of the Canada geese harvested in Illinois during the regular goose season. In 2016, breeding population surveys used to monitor Mississippi Flyway Interior Canada goose populations (Eastern Prairie Population, Mississippi Valley Population, and Southern James Bay Population) were modified and combined into a single MFIP survey. The new survey will provide comparable information on annual changes in MFIP geese in future years. Giant Canada geese that nest in Illinois make up roughly 24% of Illinois' regular season Canada goose harvest and about 22% of Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest consists of giant Canada geese that nest in surrounding states. The 2017 population estimate for giant Canada geese that nests in Illinois (123,350) was 17% higher than the number estimated last year (105,150). An early spring resulted in good nesting conditions for many giant Canada geese nesting in Illinois, but repeated flooding during incubation likely destroyed nests along major rivers in several regions of the state and production may be below average in areas where prolonged spring flooding occurred.

Snow Geese – An estimated 3.42 million Mid-continent light geese were observed on the 2017 Midwinter Waterfowl Survey, a nationwide waterfowl survey conducted by each state which occurs each year in early January. This estimate is similar to the number observed in 2016 (3.45 million), approximately 3% higher than the most recent 10-year average of 3.31 million, and about 57% above the long-term (1970-2016) average of 2.18 million.

White-fronted Geese – White-fronted geese ("specklebellies" or "specs") that make up the Mid-continent Population (MCP) concentrate on staging areas in the southern Canadian prairies each fall. Biologists conduct fall aerial inventories during peak of white-front migration to monitor changes in population status. In fall 2016, slightly more than 1 million MCP white-fronted geese were observed (1,000,132), which is 2 percent more than the number observed in 2015 (977,090) and 24 percent above the 10-year average (806,156).

For additional information on waterfowl harvests, population trends, aerial surveys, and hunter opinions please see the websites below:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: *https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php*
Illinois Natural History Survey: *http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/*
Illinois Department of Natural Resources: *https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/WaterfowlHunting.aspx*

FIREARMS SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU

1. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it before you pull the trigger.
2. Do not shoot towards homes, buildings, people or animals that may be hit by your shot, especially when using large shot sizes.
3. Use caution when shooting over water or ice to avoid ricochet.
4. Set up a safe shooting corridor in front of your blind and do not shoot outside it.
5. You are responsible for what your shot strikes. Hunters who damage property or injure others can be charged with reckless conduct and face criminal and financial penalties.

JOIN THE FIGHT!

96% of Illinois waterfowl hunters are already fighting the spread of aquatic invaders.*

After hunting in any waterbody:

BE A HERO TRANSPORT ZERO

- **REMOVE** plants, animals and mud from all equipment.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat and gear.
- **DRY** everything thoroughly with a towel.
- **BRUSH** hunting dogs, and hose down their gear and kennels with tap water.

*Based on a survey of boat show attendees.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THESE AREAS:

TRANSPORTZERO.ORG

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Sea Grant ILLINOIS · INDIANA

Great Lakes RESTORATION

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2017-2018 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION

New Regulations are Shaded.

LICENSES, STAMPS AND HIP

Hunters must have a current, valid hunting license, Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration/certification and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. Federal stamps must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. Please refer to the **2017-2018 Digest of Hunting & Trapping Regulations** for exemptions and further information.

Annual Fees Are ***(including agent's fees)***:

Resident Hunting License $12.50
Veteran Resident . . . . . $6.50 [a]
Non-resident Hunting License 5-day/regular . . . . . $35.75 / $57.75
Resident Senior Hunting License (65 to 74) $6.50
Resident >75 Years Old Hunting License . . . . . $1.00 [b]
Resident >75 Years Old Sportsman Combination Hunt/Fish License . . . . . $2.00 [b]
Apprentice Hunting License (Resident or Non-resident) . . . . . $7.50 [c]
Youth Hunting License . . . . . $7.00 [d]
State Waterfowl Stamp $15.50
Federal Waterfowl Stamp . . . . . $25.00 [e]
Sportsman's License (hunt-fish) $26.25

[a] Illinois and disabled veterans may not need a license or may qualify for a half-price license. See details at www.dnr.illinois.gov or call (217) 782-2965.
[b] These licenses are available to any Illinois resident over 75 years of age. A state Waterfowl Stamp is required, but is free with this license.
[c] This is a one-time, non-renewable license. It allows those age 17 and under to hunt with a validly licensed parent, grandparent or guardian. Those age 18 and older can hunt with any valid license holder who is over 21. No hunter safety course required.
[d] Any resident youth hunter age 18 and under may purchase a Youth Hunting License, which does not require the hunter to have a Hunter Education Card. A youth hunter with this license must hunt while supervised by a parent, grandparent, or guardian who is 21 years of age or older and has a valid Illinois hunting license. The youth hunter shall not hunt or carry a hunting device unless the youth is accompanied by and under close personal supervision of these individuals. As of January 1, 2016 a resident youth hunter age 18 and under may purchase a Youth Hunting License.
[e] Does not include agent's fee or other charges.

A State Habitat Stamp is **NOT** required to hunt waterfowl.

IF YOU WANT TO HUNT WATERFOWL IN ILLINOIS AND YOU ARE:

YOU NEED:	under 16	16 – 18	19 – 64	65 & Older	Disabled[c]	Serviceman[c]	Landowner[c]	Lifetime License Holder
Hunting License[a]	X	X	X	X				
Federal Waterfowl Stamp		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
State Waterfowl Stamp		X	X	X				X
Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration/Certification[b]	X	X	X	X				X

[a] Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed a Hunter Education Course by Illinois DNR or their resident state or must show a previous hunting license.
[b] To hunt migratory game birds (doves, ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, woodcock, snipe and rails). Lifetime license holders must register with HIP.
[c] For the purpose of this section, "DISABLED" = disabled American veterans with at least 10% service-related disabilities or disabled persons certified under the Illinois Identification Card Act as having a Type 1 or Type 4, Class 2 disability. "SERVICEMAN" = persons on leave from the Armed Services, having entered the military as an Illinois resident. "LANDOWNER" (or tenant) = those persons and their children, parents, brothers and sisters **permanently residing** on their land and **hunting on that land**.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP)

Waterfowl, Dove and Other Migratory Gamebird Hunters

This important program is designed to produce more accurate federal harvest estimates which will ultimately improve our ability to maximize hunting opportunity without detriment to the waterfowl resource. Registration with **HIP** (National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program) is required **annually** to hunt migratory game birds in Illinois. For waterfowl, dove and other migratory gamebird hunters, register with HIP at the license vendor when you purchase your hunting license and state duck stamp. Hunters can register with HIP online at ***www.dnr.illinois.gov*** or by calling **1-888-6PERMIT** (1-888-673-7648). A $3.08 convenience fee will be charged for phone sales if you do not register for HIP at the time of license purchase. If you get your HIP certification by phone, record the transaction number on your license. Remember, registration is **MANDATORY**, not optional.

DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sep. 9 – Sep. 24 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	6	18
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 21 – Dec. 19 **Central Zone** Oct. 28 – Dec. 26 **South Central Zone** Nov. 11 – Jan. 9 **South Zone** Nov. 23 – Jan. 21	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** **(See section on Bag Limits)**	18 (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers			5 (See section on Bag Limits)	15 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots			15	45
Early Canada Geese	Sep. 1 – Sep. 15 (North and Central Zones)		5	15
Early Canada Geese	Sep. 1 – Sep. 15 (South Central and South Zones)		2	6

Bag Limit – DUCKS – Bag limits on ducks are as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, and not more than 1 pintail and 1 mottled duck. In addition to the daily bag limit for ducks, the daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three (3) times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 14 – Oct. 15 **Central Zone** Oct. 21 – Oct. 22 **South Central Zone** Nov. 4 – Nov. 5 **South Zone** Nov. 11 – Nov. 12	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** **(See section on Bag Limits)**
Mergansers			5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots			15
Canada Geese			2
Snow Geese			20
White-fronted Geese			2
Brant			1

***Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations**

1. Youth hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration/certification unless hunting on property where they reside. No stamps are required for youths under 16. State and federal waterfowl stamps are required for all hunters age 16 and older, even those hunting with a Youth License, unless exempt (see page 4). **Hunters aged 18 years and older may not hunt waterfowl and coots during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, even if hunting with a Youth License.**
2. Only geese, ducks, mergansers and coots may be taken in addition to other game in season.
3. An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult cannot hunt geese, ducks, coots or mergansers but can participate in other open seasons.
4. Zone lines for Youth Waterfowl Hunt follow duck zone lines.

GEESE

	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Geese		1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	6
North Zone	Oct. 21 – Jan. 18			
Central Zone	Oct. 28 – Nov. 5 & Nov. 12 – Jan. 31			
South Central Zone	Nov. 11 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23 – Jan. 31			
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant			20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 3 Brant
North Zone	Oct. 21 – Jan. 18			
Central Zone	Oct. 28 – Jan. 31			
South Central Zone	Nov. 11 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23 – Jan. 31			
White-fronted Geese			2	6
North Zone	Oct. 23 – Jan. 18			
Central Zone	Nov. 5 – Jan. 31			
South Central Zone	Nov. 11 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23 – Jan. 31			

PUBLIC WATERFOWL PERMIT APPLICATION DATES

What	Who May Apply	Application Period
First Lottery	Online only - Residents only	Aug. 16 - 31, 2017
Second Lottery	Online only - Unsuccessful residents, residents that did not apply in first lottery, non-residents	Sept. 1 - 14, 2017
Third Lottery	Online only - All applicants	Sept. 15 - 28, 2017
First-Come, First-Serve	Online only - All applicants, permits remaining after lotteries	Begins Oct. 1, 2017
Youth Waterfowl	Paper application – Hunters age 10–17	Aug. 31 - Oct. 1, 2017

For more information and applications: *https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/Pages/OnlinePermitApplication.aspx*

CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese		1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset	None	None
North Zone	Jan. 19 – Mar. 31			
Central Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			
South Central Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			
South Zone	Feb. 1 – Mar. 31			

CONSERVATION ORDER SEASON REGULATIONS

1. Unplugged shotguns may be used. There is no limit to the number of shells that may be placed in a shotgun.
2. Electronic calling devices may be used.
3. No federal duck stamp required.
4. State duck stamp and hunting license required.

DON'T SHOOT A SWAN

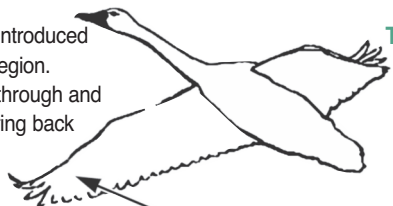
DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE! ALL WILD SWANS ARE PROTECTED IN ILLINOIS

Several Midwestern states have reintroduced the native Trumpeter Swan to the region. Some of these birds are migrating through and wintering in Illinois. You can help bring back this magnificent swan by:

- Learning the difference between swans and snow geese.
- Reporting observations of marked swans with wing tags, neck collars, bands.
- Protecting wetland habitat.
- Reporting any harassment of Trumpeter Swans.

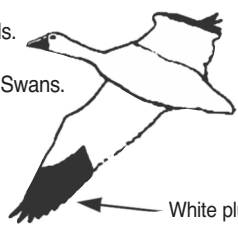
Please report swan sightings to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Waterfowl Program,
700 South 10th Street,
Havana, IL 62644
309/543-3065



TRUMPETER SWAN
Protected Species.
Long neck
Length: 4 ft.
Wingspan: 7 ft.
Weight: 20 - 30 lbs.

ALL WHITE PLUMAGE



SNOW GOOSE
Legally hunted.
Short neck
Length: 1 1/2 ft.
Wingspan: 3 1/2 ft.
Weight: 3 - 6 lbs.

White plumage, but BLACK WING TIPS.
CAUTION-White Pelicans have black wing tips, but their wingspan is 8-9 1/2 ft.

MUTE SWANS IN ILLINOIS

Unlike native trumpeter and tundra swans that occur in Illinois and other Midwestern states, the mute swan is an exotic species that was introduced to many areas of North America from the mid-1800's through the early 1900's. This non-native species, which has few natural predators, is often aggressive towards native wildlife, including native swans, and may alter some aquatic vegetation communities, exclude some bird species from preferred habitats, and may even be aggressive towards humans. Currently, mute swans are protected in Illinois.

WATERFOWL BANDS

The U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory maintains a website for reporting all migratory bird bands, including waterfowl. If you take a banded bird, please visit **www.reportband.gov** and provide information about when and where you shot the bird. The 1-800 call-in number is no longer available for reporting bird bands. The phone number will direct you to the **www.reportband.gov** website. All federal bird bands, even those without a web address printed on them, can be reported online. Old bands with numbers worn off may still be reported by emailing: **bandreports@usgs.gov** for instructions. The band may need to be sent in, but the process does not destroy the band, and it will be returned to you. Band reporters will be emailed a Certificate of Appreciation with information about when and where the bird was banded. Your cooperation on reporting band numbers gives waterfowl biologists a wealth of information useful in managing the resource to provide hunters with maximum recreational opportunities while protecting waterfowl populations.

WETLAND MANAGEMENT FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER WILDLIFE

Waterfowl and other wetland wildlife are a diverse group of animals with widely varying habitat needs. Factors that must be considered when managing wetlands to attract waterfowl are; water depth, food, and vegetative cover. For instance, most dabbling ducks, like mallards and pintails, prefer water depths of less than 18 inches. Diving ducks, like scaup, ring-necked ducks, and canvasbacks, prefer deeper water. These differences are related to species' preferred food and body structure.

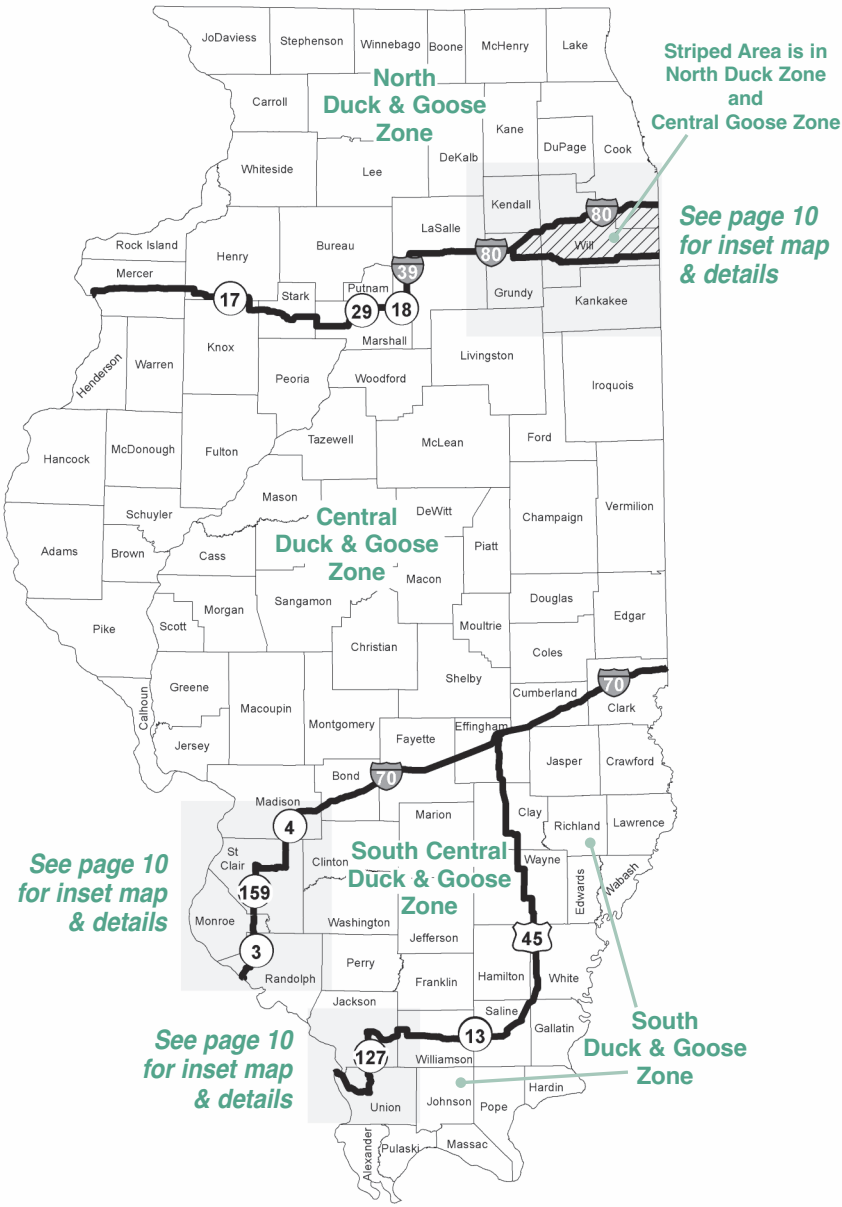
Dabbling ducks prefer the seeds and parts of aquatic vegetation, but because they are poorly equipped to dive deeply, they tend to eat the food that they can easily reach by feeding at the surface or "tipping up". Diving ducks are equipped to dive to greater depths in part because their feet are positioned farther towards the rear of their body. This allows them to dive more efficiently, and as a result they can eat the food items found in deeper water. Diversity of vegetation around wetland edges can be important as well. Thick vegetation may provide hiding places for broods in summer and thermal cover in winter, other waterfowl may prefer the safety bare mudflats provide.

Managers should attempt to provide as diverse an array of habitat types as possible. On large wetland complexes, wetland managers should strive to vary management practices and water levels. Alternatively, complexes of separate and smaller wetlands can achieve the same goals when managed in different manners. These habitats aren't just good for waterfowl and other wildlife; they are good for hunters too. Past studies have shown that hunter success increases when duck numbers in the surrounding area increase. With many waterfowl species populations at or near all-time highs, providing habitat to attract a variety of duck species should increase duck abundance, which should increase hunter success in the area.

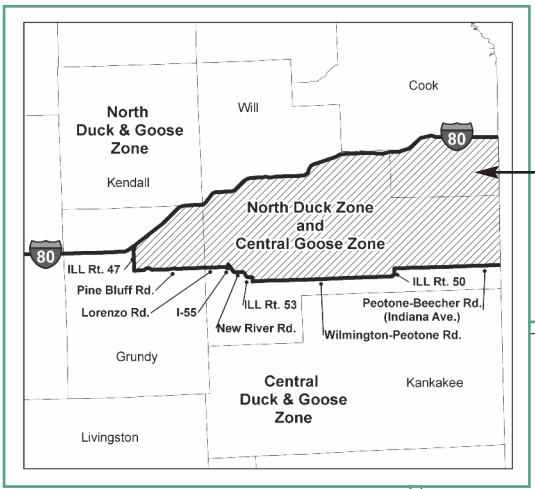
It's also important to leave wetlands flooded in the spring to provide habitat for ducks returning to the breeding grounds. Most waterfowl foods grow in the summer and are eaten during fall migration, often leaving little for spring migrants, a critical time period for ducks as they prepare to nest. Delaying draining of managed wetlands until March and April will ensure ducks returning north have an adequate food supply. There will still be time to plant crops for waterfowl food and for moist-soil plants to produce natural food. More ducks in better condition returning in spring will lead to better production and a greater fall flight. Contact your local District Wildlife Biologist for more information on managing wetlands in your area for waterfowl.

ILLINOIS WATERFOWL ZONES

Inset maps for zone borders are found on page 10.

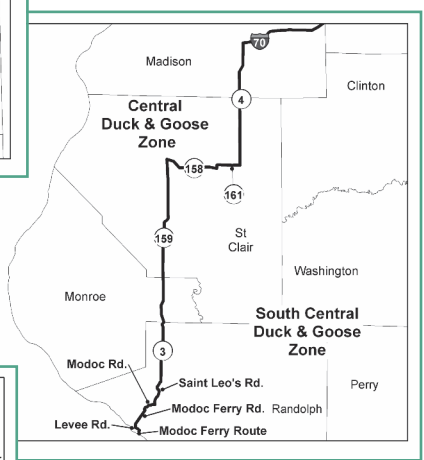


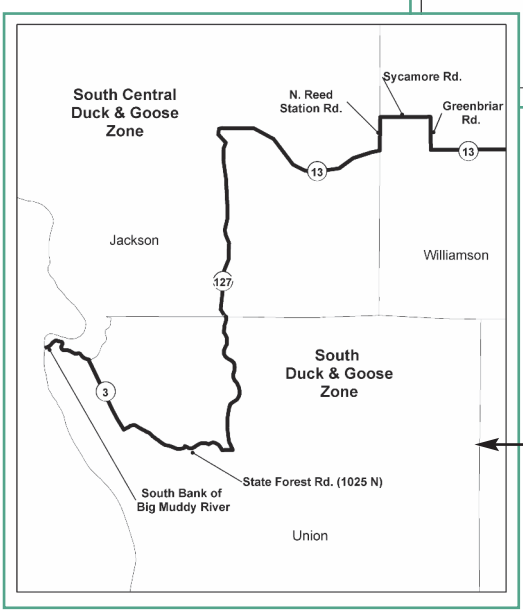
ILLINOIS WATERFOWL ZONES
Inset Maps



Striped Area is in the North Duck Zone and Central Goose Zone

Boundary for the Central Duck & Goose Zone and the South Central Duck & Goose Zone





Boundary for the South Central Duck & Goose Zone and the South Duck & Goose Zone

WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots

North Duck Zone: That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Peotone-Beecher Road to Illinois Route 50, south along Illinois Route 50 to Wilmington-Peotone Road, west along Wilmington-Peotone Road to Illinois Route 53, north along Illinois Route 53 to New River Road, northwest along New River Road to Interstate Highway 55, south along I-55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to I-80, west along I-80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

Central Duck Zone: That portion of the state south of the North Duck Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Duck Zone: That portion of the state south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Central Duck Zone: The remainder of the state between the south border of the Central Zone and the North border of the South Zone.

Geese

North Goose Zone: That portion of the state north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

Central Goose Zone: That portion of the state south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Goose Zone: Same zones as for ducks.

South Central Goose Zone: Same zones as for ducks.

TOM ROSTER'S 2012 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE©

Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads For Waterfowl & Upland Game Birds[1] *Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,450 FPS* ACTIVITY	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under the First Column Entitled ACTIVITY	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most EffectiveChoke(s) (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)
Large Geese At Long Range	**50-65**	**Steel BBB to T**	**1-1/4**	**1-2**	**50-55**	**Improved Modified**
Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	**50-70**	**HEVI-Shot 2 to B**	**1-1/2**	**1-2**	**50-55**	**Improved Modified, Full**
Large Geese Over Decoys	**35-50**	**Steel BB to BBB**	**1-1/4**	**1-2**	**50-55**	**Improved Cylinder, Modified**
	35-50	**HEVI-Shot 2 to B**	**1-1/2**	**1-2**	**50-55**	**Improved Cylinder, Modified**
Medium/Small Geese Long Range	**50-65**	**Steel BB to BBB**	**1-1/4**	**1-2**	**60-65**	**Improved Modified**
Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	**50-65**	**HEVI-Shot 2**	**1-1/2**	**1-2**	**60-65**	**Improved Modified, Full**
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	**35-50**	**Steel 2 to BB**	**1-1/8**	**1-2**	**60-65**	**Light Modified, Modified**
	35-50	**HEVI-Shot 4 to 2**	**1-1/4**	**1-2**	**60-65**	**Improved Cylinder, Modified**
Large Ducks At Long Range	**45-65**	**Steel 2 to 1**	**1-1/8**	**1-2**	**85-90**	**Improved Modified, Full**
Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	**45-65**	**HEVI-Shot 4**	**1-1/4**	**1-2**	**85-90**	**Improved Modified, Full**
Large Ducks Over Decoys	**20-45**	**Steel 6 to 2**	**¾ - 1**	**1-2**	**85-90**	**I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)**
	20-45	**HEVI-Shot 6 to 4**	**1-1/8**	**1-2**	**85-90**	**I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)**
Medium Ducks Over Decoys	**20-45**	**Steel 6 to 3**	**1**	**1-2**	**115-120**	**I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)**
Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	**20-45**	**HEVI-Shot 6 to 4**	**1-1/8**	**1-2**	**115-120**	**I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)**
Small Ducks Over Decoys	**20-45**	**Steel 6 to 4**	**1**	**1-2**	**135-145**	**Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)**
Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	**20-45**	**HEVI-Shot 6**	**1-1/8**	**1-2**	**135-145**	**Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)**
Ring-Necked Pheasants	**20-50**	**Steel 3 to 2**	**1**	**2-3**	**90-95**	**I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)**
	20-50	**HEVI-Shot 4**	**1-1/8**	**2-3**	**90-95**	**I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)**
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	**20-40**	**Steel 4**	**1-1/4**	**3-4**	**210-230**	**Full or Extra Full**
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	**20-30**	**Steel 7 to 6**	**1**	**1**	**175**	**Improved Modified, Full**

NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and slightly harder than traditional steel pellets.

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the waterfowl lethality data bases for certain of the 15 U.S. steel versus lead waterfowl shooting tests run between 1968 & 1982 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP organization.

Note: Steel #BBB (.190") and HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; and steel #2 and HEVI-Shot #4 the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants.

[1]These findings are derived from testing 3" 20 gauge; 2¾", 3" and 3½" 12 gauge; and 3½" 10 gauge steel loads; plus 3" 20 gauge and 2¾" and 3" 12 gauge HEVI-Shot loads.

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DUCK STAMPS

Each year waterfowl hunters purchase Migratory Waterfowl Stamps, or "duck stamps" as a requirement to hunt migratory waterfowl. Authorization for a federal duck stamp came in 1934 from passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, which was largely driven by waterfowl hunters' concern over habitat loss and declining waterfowl populations. Funds from the purchase of these stamps are directed towards the purchase or lease of lands for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System, providing critical breeding, migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and a variety of other species, and recreation opportunity in many areas. With an initial cost of $1 and current cost of $25, Federal Duck Stamp funds to date have totaled over $800 million to protect more than 5.7 million acres of wildlife habitat nationwide.

Similar to the federal duck stamp, Illinois hunters initiated the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund, which was established in 1975. The stamps originally cost $5, increasing to $10 in 1991 and to $15.50 in 2011. Over the life of the fund, stamp purchases have led to over $24 million deposited in this fund, with current average sales of about 60,000 stamps annually, leading to nearly $1 million annual revenue. Physical paper Illinois stamps affixed to hunters' licenses were discontinued in 2011 and now only appear as a line item on printed licenses.

Illinois Duck Stamp funds are divided four ways each year based on specifications in the law that established the fund (520 ILCS 5/1.29). A state Duck Stamp Committee, which meets at least twice annually, is made up of representatives from various branches within IDNR and non-profit waterfowl organizations helps guide how funds are used. One quarter of the funds are used for habitat projects within Illinois. Examples include water management infrastructure such as levees and water control structures, equipment to manage sites such as pumps or heavy equipment, and land acquisition to increase hunting opportunity or waterfowl habitat capacity. Another quarter of the annual funds is dedicated to maintenance of existing waterfowl habitat in Illinois, typically at IDNR owned or managed sites. These funds attempt to provide a source for repairs and replacement of infrastructure and equipment at waterfowl management sites. Floods, ice, and age all take their toll on levees, pumps, culverts, water control structures and nearly anything else used to manage for wetland habitat. Typical projects include repairs or replacement of existing infrastructure or equipment or protection of existing infrastructure used to manage waterfowl habitat and undesirable vegetation control.

The final two categories, equaling one half of annual Illinois Duck Stamp funds, are dedicated to waterfowl production on the breeding grounds. One category is dedicated toward meeting the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, while the other specifies providing habitat for ducks that migrate to the Mississippi Flyway (i.e., an administrative region that closely conforms to the boundaries of 14 states and three Canadian provinces, approximately running from Minnesota and Michigan in the north to Louisiana and Alabama in the south). Many of the ducks that visit Illinois, or are harvested by Illinois hunters, come from the traditional Prairie Pothole Region breeding grounds in Saskatchewan and Manitoba Canada and the Dakotas with Minnesota and Wisconsin also providing some ducks to Illinois. Because of the way funds originating in the U.S. can be leveraged (matched) in Canada, Illinois gets the greatest value by sending funds to non-profit organizations doing habitat conservation work in Canada. Funds are used to permanently protect, restore or establish the important wetlands and grasslands that make up the "Duck Factory" that will provide migrating ducks to hunters in Illinois and beyond well into the future.

SUMMARY OF STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to statewide regulations, the following regulations apply to MIGRATORY WATERFOWL HUNTERS (ducks, geese, mergansers, coots).

NOTE: Material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, Chapter 520 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and IL Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations - 2017-2018 or talk with a local Conservation Police Officer or a Division of

Wildlife Resources Biologist. For additional information on federal regulations call the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Springfield, Illinois at 217-793-9554.

Non-Toxic Shot Requirements
Non-toxic shot is required for hunting waterfowl. Most commercially available shot shells from major manufactures are approved non-toxic options. A list of non-toxic shot currently approved by the USFWS can be found at: ***https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php***

Shot Size Requirements
It is unlawful to hunt with or have in your possession while hunting waterfowl a shotgun shell with shot larger than steel size T or larger than BBB of any other non-toxic shot.

Hunting Devices & Ammunition Restrictions
It is unlawful to use a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance. Crossbows may be used to take waterfowl in accordance with Illinois and federal laws.

It is unlawful to hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, UNLESS it is plugged with a one-piece filler which limits its total shell capacity to three and which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. This does not apply during Conservation Order light goose seasons (snow/blue and Ross' geese) that occur after Canada goose season has closed. (see page 7).

Hunting From Floating Blinds, Boats & Scull Boats
It is unlawful to hunt from a floating blind that is not anchored EXCEPT a scull boat may be used on certain public waters and waterfowl may be taken from a boat not mechanically powered and not camouflaged or disguised. A boat merely painted camouflage is not considered camouflaged.

Live Decoys
It is unlawful to hunt by the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

Electronic Calling Devices
It is unlawful to use a recording or electronic calling device to hunt migratory birds other than crows, except during Conservation Order light goose seasons that occur after Canada goose season such electronic call devices may be used to hunt snow/blue and Ross' geese. (see page 7).

Shooting Crippled Waterfowl From Boats
It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl from a moving watercraft propelled by mechanical power or sails. NOTE: However, waterfowl hunters may have an uncased and unloaded gun in their boat for the purpose of pursuing crippled migratory waterfowl incapable of normal flight in an attempt to reduce said bird to possession, provided that the attempt is made immediately upon downing the bird and is done within 400 yards of the blind from which the bird was downed. The gun cannot be loaded unless the motor has been completely shut off and the crippled birds may not be shot from such a boat until the motor has been completely shut off and its progress therefrom has ceased.

Driving or Chasing Birds
It is unlawful to hunt by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.

Possession of Live Birds
It is unlawful to retain live waterfowl taken while hunting. Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become part of the daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit
It is unlawful to possess, have in custody, or transport more than one daily bag limit tagged or not tagged while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

Wanton Waste – Retrieval of Downed Game Birds
It is unlawful to kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the

bird and retain it in your actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and your automobile or personal abode or temporary place of lodging or a migratory bird preservation facility or a post office or a common carrier facility. ***Birds must remain in your possession while in the field.*** NOTE: You need permission to enter private property. It is unlawful to wantonly waste or destroy the useable meat (defined as the breast meat of a migratory game bird) of any game bird or migratory game bird that has a bag limit, and to leave, dump or abandon a wildlife carcass or its parts along or upon a public right-of-way or highway or on public or private property, including a waterway or stream without permission.

Tagging Requirements
It is unlawful to give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than his personal abode) or in the custody of another person UNLESS the birds are tagged by the hunter with the hunter's signature and address, the total number of birds involved, by species, and the dates such birds were killed. Refer to the waterfowl section of the DNR website for printable tags for gifting or transporting waterfowl. ***https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/WaterfowlHunting.aspx***

Gift of Migratory Game Birds
No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly-killed migratory game bird as a gift, except at the personal abode of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached (see tagging requirements).

Custody of Birds of Another
It is unlawful to receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person UNLESS such birds are properly tagged.

Species Identification Requirement
It is unlawful to completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or commercial preservation facility.

Termination of Possession
The possession of birds taken by any hunter ceases when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Shipment – Marking Package
It is unlawful to ship migratory game birds UNLESS the package is marked clearly and conspicuously on the outside with the name and address of the person sending the birds, the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Importation
It is unlawful to import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, UNLESS such birds are dressed (except as required below), drawn and the head and feet are removed. NOTE: One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person. For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66.

Sink Box
It is unlawful to hunt from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

Aquatic Transport Laws
The Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act has been amended to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals by boats, trailers and vehicles. It is now illegal to enter OR leave a waterbody with aquatic plants (except duckweed) and animals attached to your boat, trailer, or gear (example; decoys). Travel on Illinois highways with aquatic plants (except duckweed) or animals attached is also prohibited. Always **Remove, Drain, and Dry** to comply with the new law.

Outfitter and Guide Regulations
Waterfowl outfitting and guiding is now included in the outfitter administrative rule making it consistent with deer and turkey outfitting services, while eliminating the reporting requirements for many hunting clubs and individuals who previously had to report annually under the Commercial Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Area Permit. Administrative Rule 640 defines an outfitter as a person (as defined in the Wildlife Code [520 ILCS 5/1.2*l*]), including an officer or employee of a person, who provides or offers to provide outfitting services for waterfowl, deer or wild turkey hunting.

Outfitting Services are defined as any service that, for financial or other consideration, offers or promises waterfowl, deer and/or wild turkey hunting access, assistance, guidance or opportunity on private or leased lands by way of one or more of the following:

- guides, guide services, or bringing or retrieving equipment, stands, blinds, decoys or a client to or from the field; or
- access to property that the person providing access leases or rents for waterfowl, deer and/or wild turkey hunting; or
- access to property subleased, at least in part, for waterfowl, deer or wild turkey hunting; or
- an individual or business that solicits or secures waterfowl, deer and/or turkey hunting clients for a landowner or tenant or another outfitter.

A guide is defined as any person who provides any of the following services to the client of an outfitter: providing advice to the hunter while hunting about how and/or where to conduct his/her hunt, setting decoys, calling, stalking, pursuing, tracking, retrieving game, field dressing, caring for meat, field preparation of trophies including skinning or capeing, carriage of hunters in the field, carriage of hunter's equipment in the field or carriage of waterfowl, deer or turkey harvested by hunters.

The following are not considered outfitting services:

- a hunting lease granted by a landowner to a hunter or group of hunters;
- providing transportation to or from a place of accommodation or a hub of public transportation;
- for the purpose of waterfowl hunting, landowners or waterfowl hunting clubs or organizations that:
  - do not take compensation or fees other than annual membership and annual maintenance fees;
  - do not accept paying hunters on a day-to-day basis and are otherwise closed to the public; or
  - provide only waterfowl blinds or pits

If you have any questions on outfitter and guide regulations please call IDNR Law Enforcement at 217-782-6431 or see the IDNR website at ***https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LawEnforcement/Pages/OutfitterRegulationInformation.aspx***

STATE AND FEDERAL BAITING REGULATIONS

Federal baiting regulations define key terms for hunters and land managers, and clarify conditions under which you may legally hunt waterfowl and other migratory game birds. As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all Federal and State laws that govern the sport. Rules that affect waterfowl hunting also apply to hunting coots and all references to waterfowl encompass these birds as well. Federal regulations are more restrictive for waterfowl hunting than for dove hunting.

For further information, go to ***www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/waterfowl_baiting.htm.***

Excerpts from Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.21(i)

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

(i) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. <u>However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits:</u>

(1) The taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl and coots, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas —

(i) Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

(ii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
(iii) From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
(iv) Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

What Part 20.21(i) of the Code of Federal Regulations Means

You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

The 10-Day Rule
A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain, or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

Waterfowl Hunting on Agricultural Lands
Agricultural lands may offer prime waterfowl hunting opportunities. You can hunt waterfowl in fields of unharvested standing crops. You can also hunt over standing crops that have been flooded. You can flood fields after crops are harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting.

The presence of seed or grain in an agricultural area rules out waterfowl hunting unless the seed or grain is scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation, or normal agricultural soil stabilization practice, or solely as the result of hunter entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. A normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken to produce and gather a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain. These activities must be conducted in accordance with official recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Planting and Harvesting
A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing **and** gathering a crop. Normal agricultural plantings do not involve the placement of seeds in piles or other concentrations. Relevant factors include recommended planting dates, proper seed distribution, seed bed preparation, application rate, and seed viability. A normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of USDA State Extension Specialists. Lands planted by means of top sowing or aerial seeding can **only** be hunted if seeds are present solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting or normal soil stabilization practice. Lands planted as part of normal soil stabilization practices may be hunted over even if there is no intent to gather a crop.

<u>Seeds that remain on the surface of the ground as the result of planting wildlife food plots, planting a "goose field," or planting for erosion control on a construction site are examples of activities that constitute baiting</u> since they are not plantings undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, <u>agricultural</u> soil erosion control, or post-mining land reclamation. You cannot hunt waterfowl over such areas.

A normal agricultural harvest is undertaken for the purpose of gathering a crop. The arrangement of harvested grain in long rows or piles should raise questions about the legality of the area for waterfowl hunting. A normal post-harvest manipulation first requires a normal agricultural harvest and removal of grain before any manipulation of remaining agricultural vegetation, such as corn stubble or rice stubble. You should be aware that although you can hunt doves over manipulated agricultural crops, <u>you cannot</u>

hunt waterfowl over manipulated agricultural crops except after the field has been subject to a normal harvest and removal of grain (i.e., post-harvest manipulation).

If, for whatever reason, an agricultural crop or a portion of an agricultural crop has not been harvested (i.e., equipment failure, weather, insect infestation, disease, etc.) and the crop or remaining portion of the crop has been manipulated, then the area is a baited area and cannot be hunted for waterfowl. For example, no hunting could occur on or over a field of sweet corn that has been partially harvested and the remainder manipulated. To be considered normal, an agricultural planting, agricultural harvesting, and agricultural post-harvest manipulation must be conducted in accordance with official recommendations of USDA State Extension Specialists. However, the Service will continue to make final determinations about whether official recommendations were followed.

Hunting Over Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation is any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet because of its use as both an agricultural crop and a species of natural vegetation for moist soil management. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years is considered natural vegetation.

If you restore and manage wetlands as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, you can manipulate the natural vegetation in these areas and make them available for hunting. Activities that fall within the definition of "manipulation" include mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, and herbicide treatments.

Natural vegetation is not intended to include plants grown as agricultural crops.

Problem Areas

Feeding waterfowl. Many people feed waterfowl for the pleasure of birdwatching. It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds in an area where such feeding has occurred that could lure or attract birds to, on, or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them. The 10-day rule applies to such areas, and any salt, grain, or feed must be gone 10 days before hunting. The use of sand, shell grit, and artificial corn is not prohibited.

Distance. How close to bait can you hunt without breaking the law? There is no set distance. Court rulings vary depending on the circumstances. The influence of bait will increase or decrease depending on such factors as topography, weather, and waterfowl flight patterns. The question of distance can only be answered on a case-by-case basis. Remember, however, that the law prohibits hunting if bait is present that could lure or attract birds "to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them."

Manipulation of crops and other agricultural practices. Although you can hunt waterfowl over natural vegetation that has been manipulated, you cannot hunt waterfowl over any manipulations of agricultural crops that occur before harvest and removal of grain. You cannot hunt waterfowl on or over areas where farmers feed grain to livestock, store grain, or engage in other normal agricultural practices. You cannot hunt waterfowl on or over ponds or other waters where fish farmers feed food to their fish, or on or over areas where wildlife is being fed.

The Hunter's Responsibility

As a hunter, you are responsible for determining whether your proposed hunting area is baited. Before hunting, you should:

- Familiarize yourself with Federal and State migratory game bird hunting regulations.
- Ask the landowner, your host or guide, and your hunting partners if the area has been baited.
- Suspect the presence of bait if you see waterfowl feeding in a particular area in unusual concentrations or displaying a lack of caution.
- Look for grain or other feed in the water, along the shore, and on the field. Pay particular attention to the presence of spilled grain on harvested fields and seeds planted by means of top-sowing.
- Confirm that scattered seeds or grains on agricultural lands are present solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, normal agricultural harvesting, normal agricultural post-harvest manipula-

tion, or normal soil stabilization practice by consulting with USDA State Extension Specialists.

- Abandon the hunting site if you find grain or feed in an area and are uncertain about why it is there.

Other Responsibilities

If you prepare lands for hunting, participate in such preparations, or direct such preparations, it is important for you to know and understand what practices constitute baiting. You should know **prior to hunting** what activities constitute baiting and when lands or other areas would be considered baited. If you bait or direct that an area be baited and allow hunting to proceed, you risk being charged with an offense that carries significant penalties.

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt with the aid of bait "if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is a baited area." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has incorporated this "knows or reasonably should know" standard in the baiting regulation to promote public understanding of the law. Hunters are responsible for ensuring that no bait is present before they begin hunting. They should thoroughly inspect the field or marsh, question landowners and guides, and take other reasonable steps to verify the legality of their hunt.

AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWS

Avian influenza or bird flu is a respiratory disease caused by a type A influenza virus. Avian influenza (AI) viruses commonly circulate in wild birds and usually do not cause sickness or death. Certain types of AI, however, can evolve into highly-pathogenic forms which can cause mass die-offs in domestic poultry. In December of 2014, highly-pathogenic AI (HPAI) was discovered during a wild duck mortality event in the state of Washington. Between December 2014 and June 2015, 21 HPAI positives were detected in wild birds in the Mississippi Flyway. However, between July 2015 and June 2017 only 4 confirmed positives were recorded in wild birds nationwide. As of this writing, no HPAI positives have been recorded in wild birds in Illinois. However, these viruses continue to circulate in Eurasia and transmission to wild birds in North America could be possible.

It is important to note that these forms of highly-pathogenic AI are not the same form as the Asian H5N1 strain which has caused human mortality in other parts of the world. Asian H5N1 **has not been** detected in North America. The Centers for Disease Control consider the risk to human health from these recent forms of AI to be **low**. No human infections with these forms of AI have been known to have occurred, however, similar viruses have infected people in the past and it's possible that people can be infected with these viruses. For these reasons, it is important to consider the following safety guidelines.

Hunters should follow these routine precautions provided by the National Wildlife Health Center when handling game and their tissues or parts:

a) Do not handle or eat sick game.
b) Prepare game in a well-ventilated area.
c) Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game.
d) Wash hands thoroughly with soap or disinfectant, clean knives, equipment, and surfaces that come in contact with game.
e) Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling animals.
f) All game should be thoroughly cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.
g) Additional guidance for hunters is provided by USDA APHIS at the following website: ***http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2015/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf***

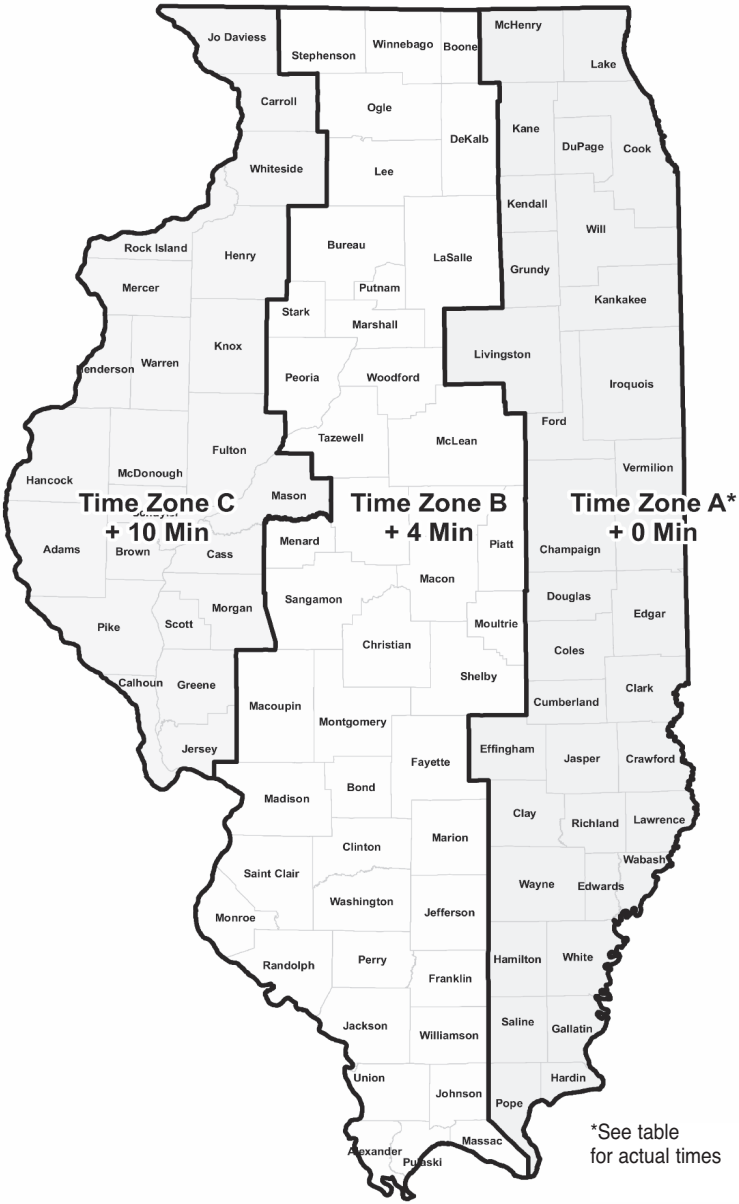
Hunters are also being asked to be vigilant for signs of waterbird (ducks, geese, coots, herons, egrets, grebes, cormorants) mortality when hunting this fall. Please report mortality events involving 5 or more dead waterbirds and any waterbirds that show unusual behavior such as swimming in circles, moving the head in a "jerky" motion, and holding the head and neck in an unusual position. Please report any such events to IDNR, Doug Dufford, 815-369-2414; or USDA Wildlife Services, Dan Skinner, at 866-487-3297.

More information about AI and other wildlife diseases can be found at the National Wildlife Health Center's website ***http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/*** and the Centers for Disease Control website ***http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm***

SUNRISE–SUNSET TIME TABLE

The map and table provide Central Standard Time sunrise and sunset times by region from September through March.

Match month and date with the zone you hunt in and add the appropriate number of minutes for the sunrise/sunset time. These times have been adjusted to reflect the correct time on all dates, including Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time. This table is also available at ***www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting***.



*See table for actual times

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SUNRISE–SUNSET TIME TABLE

	September		October		November		December		January		February		March	
Day	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**	**Rise**	**Set**
1	6:21	7:24	6:50	6:35	7:23	5:50	6:56	4:28	7:15	4:38	7:02	5:12	6:26	5:45
2	6:22	7:22	6:51	6:33	7:24	5:49	6:57	4:28	7:15	4:39	7:01	5:13	6:25	5:46
3	6:23	7:21	6:52	6:32	7:25	5:48	6:58	4:28	7:15	4:40	7:00	5:14	6:23	5:47
4	6:24	7:19	6:53	6:30	7:26	5:47	6:59	4:27	7:15	4:41	6:59	5:16	6:22	5:48
5	6:25	7:18	6:54	6:28	6:27	4:46	7:00	4:27	7:15	4:42	6:58	5:17	6:20	5:49
6	6:26	7:16	6:55	6:27	6:28	4:45	7:01	4:27	7:15	4:43	6:57	5:18	6:19	5:50
7	6:27	7:14	6:56	6:25	6:30	4:43	7:02	4:27	7:15	4:44	6:55	5:19	6:17	5:51
8	6:28	7:13	6:57	6:24	6:31	4:42	7:03	4:27	7:15	4:45	6:54	5:20	6:16	5:52
9	6:29	7:11	6:58	6:22	6:32	4:41	7:04	4:27	7:15	4:46	6:53	5:22	6:14	5:54
10	6:29	7:09	6:59	6:20	6:33	4:41	7:04	4:27	7:15	4:47	6:52	5:23	6:12	5:55
11	6:30	7:08	7:00	6:19	6:34	4:40	7:05	4:28	7:15	4:48	6:51	5:24	7:11	6:56
12	6:31	7:06	7:01	6:17	6:35	4:39	7:06	4:28	7:14	4:49	6:50	5:25	7:09	6:57
13	6:32	7:05	7:02	6:16	6:36	4:38	7:07	4:28	7:14	4:50	6:48	5:26	7:08	6:58
14	6:33	7:03	7:03	6:14	6:38	4:37	7:07	4:28	7:14	4:51	6:47	5:28	7:06	6:59
15	6:34	7:01	7:04	6:13	6:39	4:36	7:08	4:28	7:13	4:52	6:46	5:29	7:04	7:00
16	6:35	7:00	7:05	6:11	6:40	4:35	7:09	4:29	7:13	4:53	6:45	5:30	7:03	7:01
17	6:36	6:58	7:06	6:10	6:41	4:35	7:10	4:29	7:12	4:54	6:43	5:31	7:01	7:02
18	6:37	6:56	7:07	6:08	6:42	4:34	7:10	4:29	7:12	4:55	6:42	5:32	7:00	7:03
19	6:38	6:55	7:08	6:07	6:43	4:33	7:11	4:30	7:11	4:57	6:41	5:34	6:58	7:04
20	6:39	6:53	7:09	6:06	6:44	4:33	7:11	4:30	7:11	4:58	6:39	5:35	6:56	7:05
21	6:40	6:51	7:10	6:04	6:46	4:32	7:12	4:31	7:10	4:59	6:38	5:36	6:55	7:06
22	6:41	6:50	7:11	6:03	6:47	4:32	7:12	4:31	7:10	5:00	6:37	5:37	6:53	7:07
23	6:42	6:48	7:13	6:01	6:48	4:31	7:13	4:32	7:09	5:01	6:35	5:38	6:52	7:08
24	6:43	6:46	7:14	6:00	6:49	4:30	7:13	4:33	7:08	5:02	6:34	5:39	6:50	7:09
25	6:44	6:45	7:15	5:59	6:50	4:30	7:14	4:33	7:08	5:04	6:32	5:40	6:48	7:10
26	6:45	6:43	7:16	5:58	6:51	4:30	7:14	4:34	7:07	5:05	6:31	5:42	6:47	7:11
27	6:46	6:41	7:17	5:56	6:52	4:29	7:14	4:34	7:06	5:06	6:29	5:43	6:45	7:12
28	6:47	6:40	7:18	5:55	6:53	4:29	7:14	4:35	7:05	5:07	6:28	5:44	6:43	7:13
29	6:48	6:38	7:19	5:54	6:54	4:28	7:15	4:36	7:04	5:08			6:42	7:14
30	6:49	6:36	7:20	5:52	6:55	4:28	7:15	4:37	7:03	5:10			6:40	7:15
31			7:21	5:51			7:15	4:37	7:03	5:11			6:39	7:16

Source data for Champaign Illinois: ***http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php***. Times have been adjusted to reflect the correct time on all dates, including during Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time. Hunters and Trappers using these tables DO NOT NEED TO ADD OR SUBTRACT AN HOUR.

Contacting a Conservation Police Officer

The Department of Natural Resources' Office of Law Enforcement developed the "Target Illinois Poachers" program to encourage any concerned citizen who witnesses a poaching offense to report the violation. The toll-free number is 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529). Simply defined, "poaching" is the illegal taking or possession of game and non-game animals, fish or other resources. Hunting out of season and hunting at night with spotlights are two of the most obvious signs of poaching. Hunters and fishermen possessing more than the legal limit is another. Slow moving or partially hidden vehicles, shots heard at unusual hours or game being concealed are all suspect.

But there is another serious problem that affects everyone: pollution. DNR is teaming up with the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to investigate and bring to prosecution those who would intentionally pollute our land, water and air. If you are aware of improper dumping of discarded chemical or petroleum barrels or of any other potential environmental crime, please report it. If you locate an environmental hazard, keep a safe distance and call the TIP hotline with the details at 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529).

Remember good law enforcement is everybody's responsibility. If you see a violation, report it. **Let's Target Illinois' Poachers and Polluters!**

For a list of Illinois Conservation Police officers and contact information by county, follow this link: ***http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LawEnforcement/Documents/DistrictCPOPhonesAndEmails.pdf***

T.I.P.

Target Illinois POACHERS

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Call Toll-Free

1-877-2DNR-LAW

1-877-236-7529

The Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Operates 24 hrs./day - 7 days/week.

Ameritech Relay 1-800-526-0644 for the deaf and hearing impaired.

For all other requests for an Illinois Conservation Police Officer (CPO) after regular business hours, contact your Illinois State Police District HQ dispatch Center.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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To order additional copies of this booklet, contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.

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