

P.O. Box 8009, Alton, IL 62002

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 08

SEPTEMBER 2006

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2006 Teal Season



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 p.m

Sunday, September 17, 2006

St. Mary's School Brussels Shoot
At Otter Creek Hunting Club, Jerseyville, IL
Call the club for more information 618-376-7601

Monday, October 18, 2006

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 p.m

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

MWHI GENERAL MEETING
at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 p.m

CORRECTION!

Last month's *Sentry* showed on the front page:

Issue 06 JULY 2006

It should have read:

Issue 07 AUGUST 2006

I apologize for this mistake. Rosi

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., P.O. Box 8009, Alton, IL, 62002. The *Sentry* deadline is always the second Monday of each month.

Statements and opinions expressed in the *Sentry* are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the views of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. Officers, Directors, Advisors, Members or the Editor. The appearance of an ad in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of a product or service. We encourage our members to take note of those businesses advertising in our newsletter and shop with them when they are in the market for their product or service

STATE OF CHICAGO

Duane Hahnenkamm

On July 12, MWHI President Scott Bryant called a special meeting because of proposed changes to our duck season. Since there was a possibility of duck season starting the second weekend in November, Scotty wanted the local duck hunters to know what the State was trying to do to us and what we should do to stop it. We had a great turnout and I believe that the phone calls were made. Judging by my own phone calls I made to the lawmakers, I could tell that the State of Illinois was getting a lot of calls and they heard from us.

But before the meeting started, I was outside in the parking lot talking to several club members. Everyone was discussing what they had heard and what they believed should be done. I made the comment, "It's a shame that it has to come down to this. All a guy like me wants to do is be left alone and go duck hunting on his day off, but we can't even do that without the screwing it up."

A few days later I was thinking about the meeting and remembered what I had said outside that night. Then I remembered what I wrote in an article a couple of years ago, regarding the southern half of the State being the unwanted stepchild and that no one up north was caring what we wanted.

The more I thought about this, the more it burnt me up. You know, I really don't care what they got up in Chicago, or how much the State spends on that area. I just want them stop doing it at our expense.

The IDNR has been cut to the bone because what they do is being considered a low priority by the Governor and his people. If you go to the State parks, you'll see a lot of weeds and tall grass because the parks don't have the personnel and funding to maintain them. Our own State wildlife and hunting areas are surviving by the skin of their teeth, other than that there is no management at all.

Now I understand that the State has had a budget crunch for the last three years. Yet, it seems that every

few days now, I hear that the Governor is announcing another new funding or grants program for a city related project. I can't believe that the IDNR department and the outdoor world is that low on the Governor's radar screen because I thought that he was a self-proclaimed "Green person." The only thing I can come up with for the Governor's reasoning is that the bulk of the IDNR lands and expenditures are in the lower two-thirds of the State, which means no one in Chicago gives a damn about it.

What we do get from the State is raises on feed from everything from boat stickers, car license plates, to business inspections fees. I have already been told that all hunting and fishing licenses will double next year, and I very much doubt that we will see any of this money come back to our areas.

Instead, we will get is more laws and rules made for Chicago's problems. If you ever saw all of the pending bills that your State government is trying to pass, it would make you sick. If these laws and rules would only apply to the Chicago area, it wouldn't be so bad. But these bills will affect your life in southern Illinois on everything from animal pet control to gang-banger gun laws.

Please don't penalize the downstate or rural people because you can't or won't control some of your city dwellers for fear of ticking off your urban voters.

Honestly, it really seems no one up north cares about the southern half of the State. I'm really surprised that the State Capitol hasn't been officially moved to Chicago and the State's name changed to State of Chicago. You know, all the good people of southern Illinois want is to make a living, be left alone and possibly go hunting and fishing without the State screwing it up. Is that too much to ask for in the Land of Chicago?

Sadly enough, I really believe we already lost our State and we'll never see it back again.

Duane's Waterfowl Update

If your plan is to hunt in the Dakotas this fall, you may want to talk to your contacts up there before you go. Both, North and South Dakota have had a dry spring and an unbelievable hot summer.

Overall consensus is that most ducks moved on up into Canada this spring because of the poor water conditions in the Dakotas. In Canada, the conditions started out to be in very good shape and supposedly they had an excellent hatch. First reports were that almost all duck hatch numbers were up and that things looked great. The Fish and Wildlife Service now estimates the Mallard flight at near 1995 fall record of 9.8 million birds. Almost all duck numbers are up and at the 1995 level. If you remember, 1995 was the year of the 'Great Grand Passage' flight that shut down aviation radar throughout the Midwest. This left us with good duck hunting for most of the season.

Illinois Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Announced

September Canada goose, Teal seasons set

IDNR, July 28, 2006

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Considering Regular Duck and Goose Hunting Seasons

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposals for a 60-day duck hunting season statewide, along with 79-day Canada goose seasons in the North and Central zones and a 57-day Canada goose season in the South Zone for the 2006-2007 waterfowl season, have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for concurrence later this summer. The proposals were endorsed this week by the USFWS Service Regulations Committee.

The proposals include an end to Canada goose hunting harvest quotas in Illinois beginning this fall. As a result, waterfowl hunters will no longer receive Canada goose permits when they purchase their annual state waterfowl stamps. With Illinois eliminating Canada goose quota zones, hunters will no longer be required to phone in their Canada goose harvest as they have in the past. The elimination of goose quotas is part of a five-year experiment that other Mississippi Valley states will join in 2007. Illinois was approved to begin the experiment this season. It is subject to annual review, and harvest and population conditions may require that quotas be reestablished if a significant decline in the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) of Canada geese occurs.

We are very pleased with the response from waterfowl hunters to our plan to experiment with eliminating goose quotas and quota zones," said IDNR Acting Director Sam Flood. "Hunters buying Illinois waterfowl stamps will no longer receive goose permits, since marking those permits and calling in their goose harvest are no longer required. Hunters who have already purchased waterfowl stamps with goose permits won't need to mark them this hunting season."

Hunters are still required to register with the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). The program is designed to produce more accurate federal waterfowl harvest estimates. Hunters should receive their HIP certification when they purchase their hunting license or sportsmen's combination license. Hunters can also register for HIP online at www.wetland.net or by phone toll-free at 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). Registration each year with HIP is mandatory.

Illinois Duck Season Recommendations for 2006-07

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year is allowing a 60-day duck season with a daily bag limit of six ducks. This marks the tenth consecutive year in which hunters in Illinois have been offered a 60-day duck season. Federal regulations will allow pintails and canvasbacks to be hunted during the regular 60-day duck seasons.

The proposed Illinois duck season dates are as follows:

North Zone - Saturday, Oct. 21 - Tuesday, Dec. 19

Central Zone - Saturday, Oct. 28 - Tuesday, Dec. 26

South Zone - Thursday, Nov. 23 - Sunday, Jan. 21

The daily limit is six ducks, which may include no more than four mallards (two hens), two wood ducks, two redheads, two scaup, one pintail, one canvasback and one black duck. In addition, hunters may harvest up to five mergansers per day, of which two can be hooded mergansers. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annual survey of key nesting areas indicated a total population of 36.2 million breeding ducks, an increase of 14 percent compared with last year and up 9 percent compared with the 1956-2005 long-term average. The mid-continent mallard fall flight forecast is 9.8 million, compared to 9.3 million last year.

Teal Season for 2006

The statewide 16 - day teal season is Sept. 9-24 from sunrise to sunset. The daily bag limit is four teal with a possession limit of eight.

Illinois Goose Season Recommendations for 2006-07

The proposed Canada goose season dates in Illinois are:

North Zone (79 days) – Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sunday,

Nov. 12 and Monday, Nov. 20 - Sunday, Jan. 14

Central Zone (79 days) – Saturday, Oct. 28 - Sunday, Nov. 5 and Thursday, Nov. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

South Zone (57 days) – Thursday, Nov. 23 - Sunday, Nov. 26 and Sunday, Dec. 10 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

The Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) of Canada geese spring population estimate was 704,954, a 9 percent increase compared with the 1989-2006 average. Early spring conditions in MVP breeding grounds should have resulted in an excellent production year for MVP geese.

During the regular Canada goose season in Illinois, the statewide daily bag limit will be two geese with a possession limit of four geese. Because Illinois is eliminating quota zones and Canada goose harvest quotas, Illinois must adhere to the federally mandated daily Canada goose harvest possession limit of twice the daily bag limit for geese.

September Canada goose season for 2006

The statewide September Canada goose season in all zones will be Sept. 1-15. **During the September season only, Illinois will retain a Northeast Illinois Canada Goose Zone.** That zone includes Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. During the September season only, the daily harvest bag limit for the Northeast Zone will be five geese (possession limit is 10 for the Northeast Zone only), with a daily bag limit of two geese (possession limit of four geese) for the North, Central and South zones.

White-fronted Goose Season – 2006-07

(Bag limit is one in the North and Central zones and two in the South Zone. By Federal rules, zones that are open more than 72 days must reduce the bag limit to one. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit)

North Zone – Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sunday, Jan. 14

Central Zone – Saturday, Oct. 28 - Sunday, Nov. 5 and Thursday, Nov. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

South Zone – Thursday, Nov. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

Snow Goose and Brant Season – 2006-07

(Bag limit 20 snow geese with no possession limit; one brant in all zones, possession limit is two)

North Zone – Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sunday, Jan. 14

Central Zone – Saturday, Oct. 28 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

South Zone – Thursday, Nov. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 31

Conservation Order Snow Goose Season - 2007

(No bag limit, unplugged guns, hunting until one-half hour after sunset, electronic calls allowed)

North Zone – Monday, Jan. 15 - Saturday, March 31

Central Zone – Thursday, Feb. 1 - Saturday, March 31

South Zone – Thursday, Feb. 1 - Saturday, March 31

Illinois Youth Hunt Recommendations for 2006

The Youth Waterfowl Hunt seasons for 2006 are listed below for each zone.

(Bag limits are the same as during regular seasons for all species of waterfowl and coots)

North Zone – Saturday, Oct. 14 - Sunday, Oct. 15

Central Zone – Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sunday, Oct. 22

South Zone – Saturday, Nov. 11 - Sunday, Nov. 12

Hunters in Illinois are encouraged to take a qualifying young person hunting during the Youth Hunt as well as during the regular waterfowl seasons.

Waterfowl Hunting Zones in Illinois for 2006-2010

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires that states select duck hunting zones as part of their regulatory framework every five years. Illinois has submitted changes in the existing boundary lines for its three zones that include moving farther south segments of both the dividing lines between the North and Central zones and the Central and South zones. It also adjusts farther north the existing Central-South zone line near the Mississippi River in southwest Illinois (see description and map below).

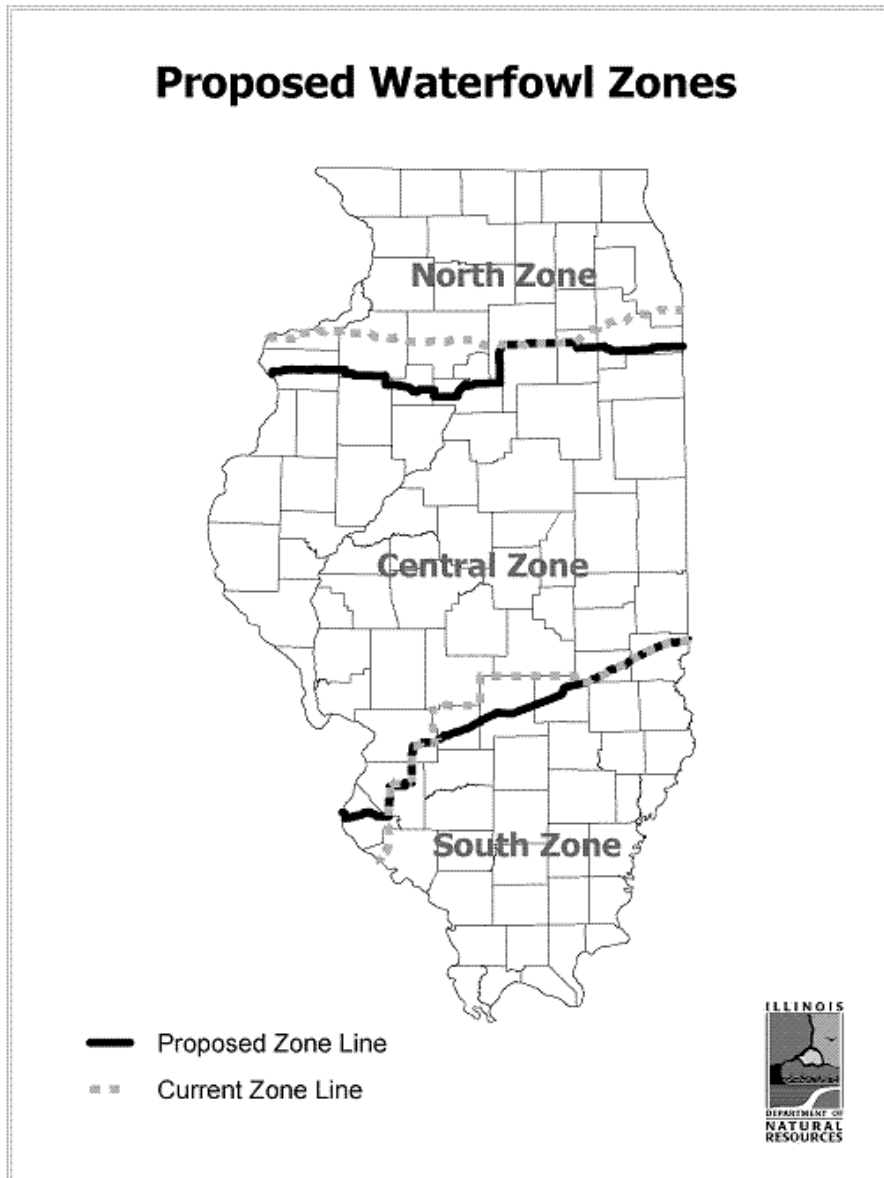
Illinois Duck and Goose Zone Line Description for 2006 – 2010 Seasons

North Zone - That portion of the state north of a line from the Indiana border continuing west 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 U.S. Interstate 55, south along U.S. Interstate 55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff - Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to U.S. Interstate 80, west along U.S. Interstate 80 to U.S. Interstate 39, south along U.S. Interstate 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 Zone - That portion of the state south of the North Zone boundary to a line beginning at the Indiana border and continuing west along U.S. Interstate 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 156, west along Illinois Route 156 to A Road, north and west on A Road to Levee Road, north on Levee Road to the south shore of New Fountain Creek, west along the south shore of New Fountain Creek to the Mississippi River, and due west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

South Zone – The south zone extends from the southern boundary of the central zone south to the remainder of the state.

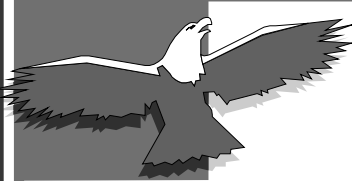
For more information on Illinois waterfowl hunting seasons, prospects, zone line details and other information, pick up a copy of the *Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations* available in print or online at <http://dnr.state.il.us> beginning in September.



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IDNR News Bits, August 8 2006

Dove Hunting Changes at Rend Lake and Mt. Vernon Game Propagation Center: At Rend Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area lands and Corps of Engineers managed areas of Rend Lake, dove hunting will be allowed on opening day (Sept. 1), then on Wednesdays and Saturdays only during the dove season. Dove hunting hours will be noon to 5 p.m. during each open day. At the Mt. Vernon Game Propagation Center, the season opens Sept. 1 and the hunting hours are from sunrise until 11:30 a.m. daily from Sept. 1 - 5. Dove hunting will be during the statewide hours (sunrise to sunset) from Sept. 5 through Sept. 30 when the dove season closes at the Mt. Vernon Propagation Center. The changes in the dove hunting program at these sites are being implemented to improve the quality of dove hunting. A reminder that at these sites dove hunters must use non-toxic shot only.



Legislation Update

John Popov

Nothing much has changed on gun legislation. The issues on the Federal level are the same, but more important than ever. These are the NRA top priorities:

1. Reform BTAF punishment and investigation procedure.
2. Stop illegal gun confiscation during a state of emergency.
3. Allow the inter-state sale of handguns to law abiding citizens.
4. The Washington, S.C. Personal Protection Act.

In Illinois, look for a rebirth of HB2414 type legislation. This, as you know, is a ban on assault type weapons semi automatics, and also the 50 cal. firearms. This could affect your 12 ga. Shotgun.

Hunters in Florida and Michigan are fighting anti-hunters. Folks in Michigan are trying to save dove hunting. The Humane Society of America has an anti-dove hunting initiative on the 2006 ballot. In Florida they are trying to ban black bear hunting. In New York an anti-trapping bill passes general assembly.

The only reason the antis are spending money on these issues is to exploit the weakness in the hunters ability to stand together and use their own money and time to kick some legislative butts. They pick on the trappers and bear hunters because they are the smallest of the hunter community, and the antis have enough money now to go after all of us.

United we stand, divided we fall.

If it is to be, it is up to you and me!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

NRA Update on Gun Bills **1-800-392-8683**

Federal Senate Office **1-202-224-3121**

Federal House Offices **1-202-225-3121**

Illinois State Rifle Association **1-815-635-3198** www.isra.org

Illinois Senate Information **1-217-782-4517**

Illinois House Information **1-217-782-8223**

Sen. Deana Demuzio – 49th District
Tel: 217-854-4441 Fax: 217-854-5311

Sen. Frank Watson – 51st District
Tel: 618-664-9108 E-mail: watson@gvc.net

Sen. John O. Jones – 54th District
Tel: 618-242-9511 E-mail: jojones@mvn.net

Sen. William R. Haine – 56th District
Tel: 618-465-4764 E-mail: haine@senatedem.state.il.us

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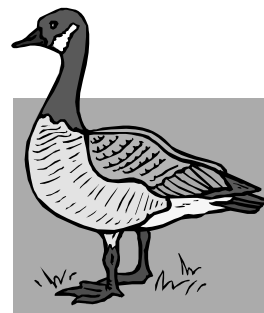
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Shimkus - <http://www.house.gov/shimkus>



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ISSUES FINAL DECISION ON RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT

The Service action is in response to growing impacts from overabundant populations of resident Canada geese, which can damage property, agriculture, and natural resources in parks and other areas.

"The Service worked closely with State fish and wildlife agencies and the Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to provide a full range of options for managing resident Canada goose populations consistent with health, safety and environmental demands," said Service Director H. Dale Hall. "This final rule offers the essential flexibility needed for effective natural resource management."

Resident Canada geese typically stay in the same area or migrate for short distances. There is no evidence that resident Canada geese breed with migratory Canada geese that nest in northern Canada and Alaska. The rapid rise of resident Canada goose populations has been attributed to a number of factors. Key among them is that most resident Canada geese live in temperate climates with relatively stable breeding habitat conditions. They tolerate human and other disturbances, have a relative abundance of habitat such as mowed grass and waterways, and fly short distances for winter compared with migratory Canada goose populations. The absence of waterfowl hunting and natural predators in urban areas has also contributed to perpetuating overabundance.

In the Atlantic Flyway, the resident Canada goose population has increased an average of 2 percent per year over the last four years and was estimated at 1.15 million resident Canada geese this past spring. In the Mississippi Flyway, giant Canada geese have increased an average of 5 percent per year since 1997 and this year almost 1.7 million were tallied, a 7 percent increase from last year.

The new regulatory program consists of three components. The first creates control and depredation orders for airports, landowners, agricultural producers and public health officials that are designed to address resident Canada goose depredation and damage while managing conflict. This component will allow take of resident Canada geese without a federal permit provided certain reporting and monitoring requirements are fulfilled.

The second component consists of expanded hunting methods and opportunities and is designed to increase the sport harvest of resident Canada geese. Under this component, States could choose to expand shooting hours and allow hunters the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns during a portion of early September resident Canada goose seasons.

The third component consists of a new regulation authorizing the Director to implement a resident Canada goose population control program, or "management take". Management take is defined as a special management action that is needed to reduce certain wildlife populations when traditional and otherwise authorized management measures are unsuccessful, not feasible, or not applicable in preventing injury to property, agricultural crops, public health, and other interests. Under Management Take, the take of resident Canada geese outside the existing sport hunting seasons (September 1 to March 10) would be authorized and would enable States to authorize a harvest of resident Canada geese between August 1 and August 31. Management take would be available to States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways following the first full operational year of the other new regulations.

Some of the new regulations will not apply to Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and Utah and parts of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and New Mexico. Specifically, only the airport control order, the nest and egg depredation order, and the public health control order will be available to the Pacific Flyway states. The Pacific Flyway requested these States not be included because they have fewer issues with resident Canada geese. For agricultural issues, States in the Pacific Flyway will continue to apply for Federal permits. Only State wildlife agencies and Tribal entities in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyways are eligible to implement all of the new components for resident Canada goose management.

Small Talk: Squirrel Hunting

by Don Bekeleski, ISRA 8/15/2006

The first of this year's hunting seasons has opened and that is squirrels. Most hunters will wait till the mornings get cooler, as it is not fun when you're sweating and hunting. Now I know a lot of you may say what kind of challenge is that. Let me tell you it is quite a challenge!

Wild squirrels do not behave like urban squirrels. I know around the house and in the parks you can probably feed them by hand. The wild squirrel however considers you a predator and will hide or lay very motionless on a branch till you have disappeared.

The adventure starts with finding some woods that have visible nests in the treetops. Although, if there are not a lot of nests, there still may be squirrels present as many use holes in trees for nests. The next item is to find some nut trees and sit near them. Notice I did not say under them as the squirrel will surely spot you as he approaches for morning breakfast. You want to be a ways away so you can observe him without him doing the same to you.

Camouflage is a definite must for this hunting. You will be playing the role similar to an infantryman sniper waiting for your target. You want to get into the woods in the dark if possible and watch where you step. The crackling of twigs and dry leaves will definitely alert them, just as it alerts deer. Once you find a nice tree to sit against with a pretty good view of the treetops, move all debris from around you just as you would in your deer spot. The perfect day for squirrels is a sunny day with no wind at all. As you sit there patiently waiting, there is a great thrill that gives you goose bumps when you see the first tree limb bounce up and down.

Now the hunt and stalking begin. Move very slowly and only when the squirrel seems preoccupied with his jumping around and feeding. Believe me if he spots you at all, you may not see him again for a couple of hours. It's that tense! Once you're able to get close enough in range, move your gun just as you do when you deer hunt. I used to take a 22 rifle and a shotgun with me. If I were able to get him with the 22 I would use that. Make sure you use hollow points! I have seen squirrels get hit with regular round nose bullets and keep going. Hollow points seem to do the job well. If he takes off running definitely open up with the shotgun. If you think you're going to blow him apart with a shotgun, believe me you will not. First off all he is probably 30 to 50 yards away from you and you'll be surprised at how much of that shot is absorbed by the tree and leaves. I'll bet you end up with only 2—4 pellets in the squirrel.

Two people together can also be a benefit. Squirrels tend to hide on the opposite side of the tree once they have spotted you. If you have a partner, one person stands still, while the other slowly circles the tree. This will cause the squirrel to move to your side and provide the shot you need. In the middle of the day squirrels like to lay still on top of high branches and sun themselves. Here again two people can be very effective. Get about 30 yds apart. One person moves up slowly while the other watches the treetops. He stops and then signals you to move. Besides movement as you walk in the middle of the day, watch for that fuzzy tail to be hanging down off a limb. When squirrels sunbathe they tend to just drop their tails like in a deep sleep. It's a dead giveaway to the hunter.

I have also heard people say, "How can you eat squirrel? It's nothing but a rat with a bushy tail." Well let me tell you squirrel is excellent eating and it is more tender than rabbit. I cook it in water with onions added. Add some flour to it and it makes a watery type of gravy, which I love to dip Italian bread into along with the meal. As they once told Mikey, "Try it, you'll like it."

I no longer have a place to do this and I really miss the fun and excitement of a squirrel hunt. If you want to start a youngster out on good deer hunting training and build a great bonding relationship, this can be just the ticket! I guarantee you will have some great laughs and excitement during this hunt. ###

Wildlife Refuge Funding Cuts Hitting Home

At Congressional Hearing, NWRA Details Growing Refuge Funding Crisis
News Release, July 20, 2006

At a hearing today in the U.S. House of Representatives, the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) detailed the mounting budget crisis facing national wildlife refuges (NWR) and urged Congress to take swift action to address funding shortfalls for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Noting the escalating operations and maintenance (O&M) backlog of \$3.1 billion, the Refuge Association voiced concern about a declining budget that hurts wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) employees and volunteers working for the Refuge System, as well as the more than 40 million Americans who visit and appreciate national wildlife refuges each year.

“The Refuge System already suffers from a crippling \$3 billion backlog in top priority operations and maintenance needs. Continued funding cuts for refuges harm our ability as a nation to conserve America’s unique wildlife heritage,” said Michael Woodbridge, Director of Government Affairs for the NWRA. “Without modest funding increases from Congress, refuges will continue closing their gates, and the public will be the ones who pay the price.”

The president’s fiscal year 2007 budget requests \$381.7 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System’s O&M account, approximately \$11 million less than last year’s request. Compounding the \$11 million cut, the Refuge System requires an annual budget increase of approximately \$16 million just to stay level due to increased costs for salaries, energy and other needs. The House of Representatives passed a \$388.7 million budget for refuges in May. While more than the president’s request, this funding level still falls far short of covering fixed cost increases for the Refuge System. Refuges are currently managed at a cost of less than \$4.00 per acre. By comparison, the National Park System receives more than \$20.00 per acre for management.

Refuges across the country enjoy strong support from eager and enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom belong to the approximately 250 volunteer refuge “Friends” groups, located across the country, that are dedicated to supporting their local refuge and the Refuge System. In fact, the Refuge System depends on these volunteers for more than 20 percent of the refuge workload.

However, without FWS staff to work with Friends organizations, volunteers and supporters will be turned away. Volunteers are already giving 110 percent—without adequate funding, this tremendous contribution will be lost.

Established in 1975, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is the only organization dedicated exclusively to protecting, enhancing and expanding the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands and waters set aside by the American people to protect our country's diverse wildlife heritage. A national membership organization, the organization benefits from the support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife professionals, more than 115 refuge “Friends” group affiliates, and thousands of individual members in all states. For more information, visit www.refugenet.org.

New Publication on Bobwhite Quail: Individuals with an interest in bobwhite quail may enjoy picking up a copy of a new IDNR publication entitled *The Bobwhite in Illinois: Its Past, Present, and Future*, written by John L. Roseberry and John Cole. The 93-page booklet contains a wealth of information regarding the life history, ecology and management of bobwhite in the Prairie State. John Roseberry, an emeritus wildlife scientist at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, summarizes more than 40 years of research in the publication. John Cole, the Upland Wildlife Program Manager for the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources, has been involved in habitat restoration in agricultural landscapes for 35 years. The booklet is written in a reader-friendly style that provides the scientific background necessary to appreciate the dramatic impacts on bobwhite of land use changes from the time of settlement to the present. It also offers practical guidelines for restoring habitat on both public and private lands. This publication will be useful to biologists, sportsmen, farmers and other land managers with an interest in understanding how changing land use has impacted bobwhite and the desire to take steps to restore and increase bobwhite numbers throughout the state. The publication is available free of charge from IDNR Wildlife Resources offices throughout the state or by calling 217/782-6384.

Blagojevich Ally Calls for House to House Gun Searches

ISRA Press Release, July 17, 2006

The ISRA-PVF is asking Governor Blagojevich to explain why one of his political allies is calling for house-to-house searches to locate and confiscate legally-owned firearms.

Earlier this month, Cook County Board member Joseph Moreno stood before the county board and called for "...house to house searches to pull every gun out of Cook County." Moreno's statement comes within days of Blagojevich claiming that anyone in Chicago who owns a gun is a "gang banger" and is "...up to no good."

"I think the timing of the Blagojevich and Moreno remarks is more than just coincidence," commented ISRA-PVF spokesman, Richard Pearson. "During the July 6th dedication of the Sparta shooting complex, Blagojevich didn't mince any words when he essentially declared that any gun-owner north of I-80 is a criminal. Then, days later, a powerful member of the Cook County Board calls for police sweeps against the homes of lawful gun owners. These statements didn't happen by accident -- the intent is clear."

"Normally, the Blagojevich and Moreno statements would be laughable," continued Pearson. "However, Blagojevich has the potential means for authorizing police raids on gun-owning homes. House Bill 2414 remains alive in a House committee awaiting a call for a vote. If passed into law, HB2414 would result in the banning and forced confiscation of millions of lawfully-acquired firearms from law-abiding Illinois citizens. The raids would be aided by a database of firearm owners being maintained illegally by the Illinois State Police."

"Blagojevich is fond of saying that gun owners have nothing to fear from him," said Pearson. "If vilification of gun owners and wild-eyed calls for house to house gun searches aren't reasons to fear this administration, then I don't know what are. It's time for the governor to address the gun owners of this state and tell us why we should trust him."

The ISRA-PVF is a political action committee affiliated with the Illinois State Rifle Association. A copy of its report is available for a fee from the Illinois state board of elections. ###

IDNR News Bits 8/8/2006

Digest Available: The 2006-07 Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations is now available at Illinois Department of Natural Resources offices and will be available online on the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/admin/systems/digest/> in mid-August. Copies of the free booklet will also be available at Conservation World during the Illinois State Fair, Aug. 11-20.

Archery Deer Hunting Changes at Rend Lake: Starting this fall, archery deer hunters hunting on Rend Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area lands and Corps of Engineers managed areas of Rend Lake must harvest an antlerless deer on site before an antlered deer can be harvested. This change is being implemented to help better manage the deer herd.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of

Floyd 'Jake' Kringer

Floyd "Jake" Kringer passed away at this home on Sunday, 06 August 2006. Jake had been fighting a long bout with cancer. Jake worked for the Wildlife Division for over 41 years starting in 1948 for the agency. He was instrumental in several important land acquisition projects and early developments of both major reservoir projects - Carlyle and Rend Lake SFWA's. He was a recipient of the Governors Award, Shikar Safari international Award (twice) and numerous other commendations for his work in the natural resources field. He was always known for his intense enthusiasm and dedication to the wildlife management profession. He was a true friend to sportsmen in general and the hunting community more specifically. He was a true champion of the natural resources of Illinois.

Bird Flu Update

Submitted by George Hamilton

The U.S. government announced this week that it has expanded its monitoring of wild migratory birds for the deadly H5N1 strain of the avian flu to the entire nation and U.S. territories in the Pacific. As previously reported, monitoring began just before summer in Alaska, where the first migratory birds from Asia began arriving. To date, the high pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian flu has not been detected in North America.

"This move to test thousands more wild birds throughout the country will help us to quickly identify, respond and control the virus if it arrives in the United States," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "Because we cannot control wild birds, our best protection is an early warning system."

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said more coordinated monitoring by federal agencies, states and universities "will be important this fall as birds now nesting in Alaska and Canada begin their migration south through the continental United States."

The Agriculture and Interior departments are providing \$4 million to state agencies to collect samples from specific species of migratory birds winging along four major U.S. migratory bird flyways. Congress budgeted \$29 million for monitoring for the highly pathogenic strain of bird flu.

As reported in previous e-mails, if bird flu does reach the United States this year, hunters' fears of infection -- whether real or perceived -- could deter waterfowl and dove hunting -- and could also possibly reduce the hunting of turkey and other game bird species -- which would, obviously, have a negative impact on shotshell sales this fall. It is very encouraging, however, that thousands of samples collected from both live and harvested migratory birds have so far tested negative for the H5N1 avian flu virus, according to government officials.