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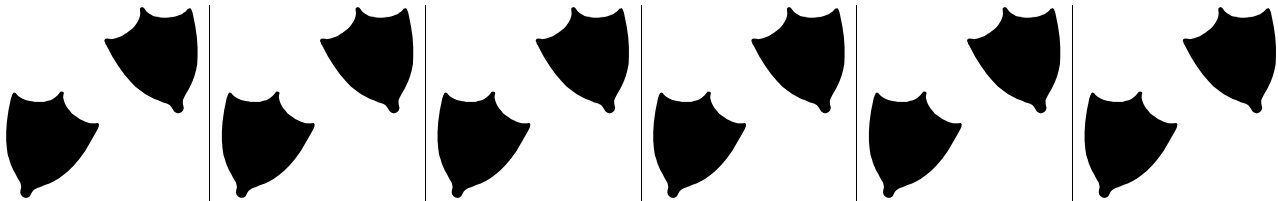
AUGUST 2008

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

MWHI News Alert



Governor Rod Blagojevich's proposed budget cuts would eliminate \$9 million from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources budget and may put 163 of its employees out of a job.

See page 5 and 7 for more information.

MWHI OFFICERS

President

Scott Bryant
217-983-2025 (home)
618-535-0151 (cell)

Vice-President

Bob Jones
Area Projects Chairman
618-498-4724
618-578-9547 (cell)

Treasurer

Larry Franklin
618-465-5686

Membership Secretary

Mike Devening
618-791-1692

Correspondence Secretary

Jeremy Maggart
618-535-4997

Recording Secretary

Jeremy Arnold
618-779-8313

MWHI DIRECTORS

John Gineris
Banquet Chairman
618-786-2596

Eric Rhuede
Golf Tournament Chairman
618-410-9853

Duane Hahnenkamp
Wood Duck Nest Box Chairman
Refuge Chairman
618-786-2053

Greg Franke
COE Chairman
618-396-2509

Chance Funk
618-917-4137

Dave Geisler
618-576-9845

Justin Wolfe
Carlyle Lake Area Projects Chairman
Catfish Tournament Chairman
618-377-0397

Josh Schneider
618-974-4328

Matt Grassle
618-550-3124

Nathan Wilson
618-535-8325

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 4, 2008

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

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 23, 2008

5th RIVERBEND CATFISH TOURNAMENT
at Alton, IL Marina 3:00 pm – 12:00 am
Please call 618-465-6676 for more information.

Monday, September 8, 2008

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

MWHI 2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RAFFLE

Craig Sondker, Membership Drive Chairman

- Every new member who signs up for a membership is put into a drawing for a Benelli Nova.
- Sign up 3 new members (delinquent member, youth, and life memberships included) and your name goes into a draw for free one-day waterfowl hunts and your name goes back into the draw for every membership you get signed after that.
- Your name automatically gets in the draw for 1-day hunts for signing up a Lifetime member.

Raffle starts October 2007 - ends October 2008

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., 2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL, 62002. The *Sentry* deadline is always the second Monday of each month.

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MWHI News Alert 7/15/2008

Governor Blagojevich's proposed budget cuts could require major staff reductions within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources faces more bad news in the wake of Governor Blagojevich's latest round of proposed budget cuts. Though nothing is set in stone yet and there are plenty of fights ahead, Blagojevich's cuts would likely require major staff reductions. Sources say the DNR cuts would include \$9 million in salaries or 11.5 percent of all DNR salary from funds. The proposed DNR head count for 2009 would be 1420. That would require a reduction of 163 positions.

Here's a possible breakdown in those cuts culled from fact sheets sent out recently by two different sources.

- Office of Realty and Environmental Planning GRF cut in personnel is \$960,000.00 or 51%. Total Personnel cut (Taking into account money from other funds) is 40%.
- The Business Services GRF personnel cut is \$227,900.00 or 25%. Total personnel cut is 22%.
- The Office of Resource Conservation GRF cut in personnel is \$960,000.00 or 43%. The total personnel cut is 7%.
- The Office of Law Enforcement GRF cut in personnel is \$781,700.00 or 12%. The total personnel cut is 6%.
- The Office of Land Management GRF cut in personnel is \$3.2 million or 22%. The total personnel cut is 13%.
- The Office of Mines and Minerals GRF cut in personnel is \$633,000.00 or 25%. The total personnel cut is 10%.
- Office of Water Resources GRF cut in personnel is \$831,700.00 or 21%. The total personnel cut is 19%.
- The Illinois State Museum GRF cut in personnel is \$484,700.00 or 14%.
- Total veto of all operation funding for the Wildlife Prairie Park in Peoria is \$828,200.00.
- Veto of two items (Lost Mound and Endangered Species totals \$480,000.00) from the Natural Areas.

Flood Year

Duane Hahnenkamp

It is mid-June, the rivers are running high and duck blind building is at a standstill. I hope by the time you read this our rivers areas are about back to normal and we can try to have a little vegetation around our duck blinds. I sure hate to have high water all summer and be working on our blinds in October, like we did back in 1993.

It looks like Carlyle and Rend Lake are flooded too, so ducks will have a hard time finding food over there this season. I was told there won't be much fed on most refuges along the upper half of the Mississippi Flyway. Sound like Jap millet or a little natural vegetation will have to be our salvation this year in order for us to hold any ducks on our refuges.

At this time, it sounds like the local duck clubs on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River took some very hard hits this year. If they have flooded and lost their corn, then they won't have time to replant this year. I guess we will have to wait and see what effect this has on the ducks in our areas. Will it push more ducks onto our side of the river looking for corn fields and therefore help our areas, or will the bulk of the ducks just fly on through the area and leave us praying for flight days?

Summer floods have always had an effect on our ducks season. With a big floods like this year's it is anybody's guess what will happen come fall. Everyone had high hopes at the duck blind draw on June 1st, but it goes to show how fast Mother Nature can change things in just three weeks time. As it stands now, everything is up to Mother Nature and we will just have to wait and see what cards she deals us come duck season. I just hope that by August 1st we are all working on our blinds and not standing around looking at tops of blinds sticking out of the water.

###

Hunters cry foul over IDNR budget cuts

By Andrew Richards, The Alton Telegraph, July 15, 2008

ALTON - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources could take a huge hit from cuts by Gov. Rod Blagojevich that would eliminate \$9 million from its budget and put 163 IDNR employees out of a job.

Blagojevich is acting to reduce state spending after the Illinois House of Representatives failed to pass three revenue bills aimed at supporting a state spending plan that was "\$2.1 billion out of whack," said the governor's spokeswoman, Katherine Ridgeway.

But the cutbacks that could save Illinois' general revenue budget won't be able to save its land management, said Craig Sondker, board advisor for the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters Inc., a private organization asked to shell out money for places that IDNR can't help.

Such places include the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge in Brussels, which is asking for \$5,500 from the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters for seed for migrating birds.

"It has been an ongoing thing of IDNR, not taking care of Illinois' natural resources," said Robert Bryant, president of the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters. "(The state government) has stripped the IDNR to the bare bones."

Bryant said he thinks the IDNR funding issues should be explored.

"The people of Illinois should know where the money (that is being cut) is going and what (Blagojevich) is going to use it for," Bryant said.

Anybody who enjoys the outdoors, such as hunters, bird-watchers or horseback riders, will be affected by the state government's legislation, Sondker said.

IDNR land management personnel will lose up to 60 jobs, he said, with an estimated \$3.2 million cut.

Sondker said if the budget cut doesn't get debated on the House floor, the IDNR won't have the equipment, fuel or personnel to maintain Illinois' hunting and refuge areas.

"If that budget gets read on the state House floor (Tuesday), it will get a vote," Sondker said. "If it doesn't get read, these budget cuts are automatic. This is why this is urgent. (The Migratory Waterfowl Hunters) want the House to debate it."

IDNR was hoping to have three weeks, but they have only 48 hours to save the funding, Sondker said.

"Outdoorsmen have fought budget cut after budget cut, to take care of the governor's little pet projects in Chicago," Sondker said. "As far as this regime is concerned, the state of Illinois ends at Interstate 80."

July 15 - SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Lawmakers in the Illinois House are headed back to work. They're expected to reconvene Tuesday in Springfield where they will have the chance to reverse some of Governor Rod Blagojevich's \$1.4 billion budget cuts.

That's no easy task. Even if the Democrat-controlled House restores some of the cuts, the Illinois Senate would have to go along and there's no sign they'll cooperate.

A House Republican budget negotiator calls the return to the Capitol an exercise in futility. The House is expected to be in session until Thursday. Blagojevich slashed the budget last week to balance it because he said it was more than \$2 billion out of whack.

IDNR News Bits 7/1/08

Squirrel Season: The Illinois squirrel hunting season opens Aug. 1 and continues through next Feb. 15 (except closed during firearm deer hunting season Nov.16-18 and Nov.29-Dec. 2). Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The daily limit is five squirrels with a possession limit of 10.



Mississippi Flyway Season Report for Illinois 2007-2008

Habitat and weather

Summer floods made poor duck foraging habitat on IL River. MS River had good to excellent habitat. Most IL river wetlands froze by early Dec. Heavy snowfall and cold weather caused Canada geese to migrate to central zone.

Duck numbers

Peak on IL and MS rivers combined was 598,965 which was 7 percent greater than 2006 and 4 percent below 5-yr avg. Southern IL peaked at 114,775 on 18 Dec. which was 24% below 2006 and -13% from avg.

Duck harvest

Public area harvest (64,037 ducks) was similar to 5-yr avg. and 17% less than 06. Hunter success was 1.03 ducks per hunter which was same as 5-yr. avg. and 17% less than 06.

Goose numbers

Midwinter Canada goose count was lowest since 1994 and 2nd lowest since 1955. S. IL peak of 46,625 on Dec. 26 was 2nd lowest recorded. Above average numbers Canada geese in central IL.

Goose harvest

North and central zone Canada goose harvest was very good while old southern quota zone may have been one of the best in last 7 years.

Comments

Overall duck harvest was likely average to above average. If not for the early Dec. snow and early freeze up duck harvest may have been excellent statewide. Canada goose harvest was very good and may exceed previous record set last year.

Note from John Mabery, Manager Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

Hi Scott, I hope you're having a good summer. As you well know, the late season flood we're experiencing is really disrupting wildlife habitat management activities all along the Mississippi and Illinois River basin. At Two Rivers NWR we would normally have moist soil units and seasonal wetlands dewatered by July 1, and drawdowns of larger units like Prairie Pond and Swan Lake would be well underway. Right now the river level at our Calhoun Division is about 13 feet above normal. The Batchtown, Gilbert Lake, and Calhoun Divisions are completely submerged. Once the flood waters recede from the Refuge, it's unlikely there will be enough growing season remaining for the typical native vegetation like smartweeds, millets, and sedges to grow to maturity. And, that will likely result in lower than normal amounts of available food for migrating and wintering waterfowl.

This scenario is occurring over a large portion of the upper Mississippi River valley and lower Illinois River valley which are also experiencing this flood.

In order to supplement available waterfowl food at Two Rivers we are planning to plant Japanese millet in several management units. I'm asking for help from Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. to accomplish this effort.

We're planning to plant (aerial seeding) up to 450 acres of Jap. millet, at the rate of 15 pounds per acre. At 80 cents/pound for seed, the 6,750 pounds needed would cost about \$5,400. The cost of aerial seeding 450 acres will be around \$2,500. Any assistance MWHI can offer in the form of funding, millet seed, or aerial planting will be greatly appreciated. We anticipate doing this seeding in late July, and need to buy the seed as soon as possible. Scott, give me a call or stop by to see me if MWHI is interested in pursuing this partnership effort.

IDNR Recommends Waterfowl Season Dates for 2008-2009

Proposals Sent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Concurrence Duck Season Length Still Under Consideration

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is recommending 60-day duck seasons in all zones, 85-day Canada goose seasons in the North and Central zones, and a 66-day Canada goose season in the South Zone for the 2008-09 waterfowl season.

The recommendations – which were reviewed by the IDNR Natural Resources Advisory Board – include opening the regular duck and Canada goose seasons on Oct. 18 in the North Zone, Oct. 25 in the Central Zone and Nov. 27 in the South Zone. The state’s proposed regulations will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for final approval later this summer.

While Illinois is recommending duck season dates based on a 60-day season, the USFWS has not yet determined whether the duck season will be 60, 45 or 30 days this fall. The USFWS Adaptive Harvest Management Report guiding regulations decisions for the 2008-09 waterfowl seasons is scheduled to be released on or about July 25.

PROPOSED 2008-2009 SEPTEMBER WATERFOWL SEASONS - STATEWIDE

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
Teal	Sept. 6 - Sept. 21	Sept. 8 - Sept. 23

2008 SEPTEMBER WATERFOWL SEASON PROPOSAL

Species	Season Date	Duration	Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Teal	Sept. 6 -21	16 days	4	8
Canada Goose	Sept. 1-15	15 days	5-Northeast, <u>North & Central</u> 2 - Remainder of State	10 - Northeast, <u>North & Central</u> 4 - Remainder of State

PROPOSED 2008-09 REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS NORTH ZONE

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Youth Hunt	Oct. 11 - Oct 12	Oct. 13 - Oct. 14
Ducks	Oct. 18 - Dec. 16	Oct. 20 - Dec. 18
Canada Geese	Oct. 18 - Jan. 10	Oct. 20 - Jan. 12
Snow Geese	Oct. 18 - Jan. 10	Oct. 20 - Jan. 12
White-fronted Geese	Oct. 31 - Jan. 10	Nov. 2 - Jan. 12

CENTRAL ZONE

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Youth Hunt	Oct. 18 - Oct. 19	Oct. 20 - Oct. 21
Ducks	Oct. 25 - Dec. 23	Oct. 27 - Dec. 25
Canada Geese	Oct. 25 - Nov. 9 & Nov. 24 – Jan 31	Oct. 27 - Nov. 8 & Nov. 21 - Jan. 31
Snow Geese	Oct. 25 - Jan. 31	Oct. 27 - Jan. 31
White-fronted Geese	Nov. 21 - Jan. 31	Nov. 21 - Jan. 31

SOUTH ZONE

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Youth Hunt	Nov. 15 - Nov. 16	Nov. 10 - Nov. 11
Ducks	Nov. 27 - Jan. 25	Nov. 22 - Jan. 20
Canada Geese	Nov. 27 - Jan. 31	Nov. 22 - Nov. 25 & Dec. 1 - Jan. 31
Snow Geese	Nov. 27 - Jan. 31	Nov. 22 - Jan. 31

Riverbend Catfish Tournament Trail - Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia River July 12th Results by Justin Wolfe

White-fronted Geese

Nov. 27 - Jan. 31

Nov. 22 - Jan. 31

On July 12th the Riverbend Catfish Tournament Trail held their 4th of 5 qualifying tournaments in Keyesport IL on Carlyle Lake and Kaskaskia River. This tournament was originally to be held in Alton IL on the Mississippi River, but with a chance of the river still being closed to boaters and access to boat ramps in question I decided to move the location of the tournament.

Carlyle Lake is one of Illinois's top cat fishing lakes. With an abundance of channel cats and record setting flatheads, the Kaskaskia River is second only to the Mississippi River for Blue cat fishing in Illinois. With that being said, this tournament was anyone's to win. Conditions for Carlyle Lake were in good shape with lake holding at 448.6 and the water temperature around 80 degrees. River condition reports from teams that were planning on fishing below the Carlyle Dam on the Kaskaskia River were not as good. Apparently the City of Carlyle was holding their annual duck race down the river for charity, so the Carlyle Dam gates were closed in the morning which dropped the Kaskaskia River level 3 to 4 feet. The gates opened up later that day, from which the first place team benefited greatly. Weather conditions played a factor in this tournament. As a cold front was trying to push through the Midwest, anglers were told they might be in for a wild ride at one point during the tournament hours -- and they were around 5pm with severe thunder storms pushing across the lake with strong winds and heavy downpours. I thought this might turn off the bite for most anglers, but a lot of teams told me they caught fish all night just not as fast as before the front pushed through.

We had 21 teams sign up for the tournament with 63 fish caught and 10 teams weighing in full limits. With Points Division looking like its going to be determined at the Classic everyone that is in the race will need every pound of catfish they can put in the boat to hopefully have a chance at the 19ft Lowe boat with the 9.9hp Mercury motor and trailer donated by Clark Boat & Motor that will be given away at the Classic in October. Here are the results of the tournament:

1st Place: Leonard Jacoby & Scott Bryant 100.7lbs. & Big Fish 26.8lbs using cut shad somewhere below the Carlyle dam on the Kaskaskia River, Leonard said "we didn't even have a fish in the boat until 8:30pm" he went on to tell me that they were trying to target Flathead for the first two hours they fished with no luck so his partner decided to change back to cut shad for bait and it paid off with a full limit of Blues.

2nd Place: Mark Farrow & Tyson Stinebaker 37.4lbs Mark said "they were drifting in 13 to 15ft of water before the rains came after that they found fish on a flat in 10ft of water." They were using cut shad all night.

3rd Place: Mat McIntyre & Jerry Cline II 34.7lbs drifting on Carlyle Lake using cut shad at 11 to 13ft. told me they caught a total of 25 Channel cats and having to throw back 5lbbers.

4th Place: Joe Ludtke & Jerry Cline I 33.9lbs using cut shad and drifting Joe said "I had know clue because I have never fished here before" also went on to say he would like to come back next year and make it a permanent stop on the trail.

Payout:

1st \$567 2nd \$284 3rd \$170 4th \$113
Big Fish \$420

I would like to give a special thanks to Bluff City

Tackle of Alton, IL for purchasing the plaques for this tournament and all other sponsors for their support!

Lead-Based Ammunition Report Spurs

Press Attention

Submitted by George Hamilton

As expected, last week's release of a new scientific study on lead-based ammunition and lead-based fishing sinkers has spurred a flurry of press attention, including a subsequent press release – issued by the U.S. Geological Survey – which is being picked up and published in newspapers, on-line magazines and journals, and Internet blogs.

One citation being republished the most is the report's statement that "Lead is a metal with no known beneficial role in biological systems" and although lead's use in gasoline, paint, pesticides, and solder in food cans has "nearly been eliminated, its use in ammunition for upland hunting, shooting sports, and in fishing tackle remains common, although lead shot was banned for waterfowl hunting in 1991."

The U.S. Geological Survey has also recorded and distributed an eleven-minute video podcast of an interview with one of the study's authors, who discusses his opinions of the negative implications of lead ammunition and lead fishing tackle on wildlife and the environment.

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An Editorial Urges: "Forget Handguns, Go After Bullets"

Submitted by George Hamilton

A newspaper editorial – which is appearing in all California newspapers owned by MediaNews Group – is urging the California Senate to pass a proposal to restrict sales of handgun ammunition in California.

- As reported in previous e-mails, this pending legislation (AB 2062) has already been passed by the California General Assembly and will now be considered by the state Senate.
- The editorial argues that ammunition should be regulated, because "guns don't kill people; bullets do" but those who are banned from possessing handguns "can buy as many rounds of bullets as they want."
- The editorial states that California legislators should not be intimidated by last month's Supreme Court decision upholding a citizen's right to own a handgun, since, "even the majority in that decision acknowledged that state governments can impose reasonable gun controls."

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: frank_watson51@sbcglobal.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

Sen. James F. Clayborne – 57th District
Tel: 618-875-1212 E-mail: clayborne@senatedem.il.us

Sen. David Luechtfeld – 58th District
Tel: 618-243-9014 E-mail: sendavel@midwest.com

Rep. Jim Watson – 97th District
Tel: 217-243-6221 E-mail: jimwatson@localnetco.com

Rep. Gary Hannig – 98th District
Tel: 217-839-2859 E-Mail: hannig@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Ron Stephens – 102nd District
Tel: 618-667-8669 E-mail: stephens@apci.net

Rep. Kurt Granberg – 107th District
Tel: 618-533-2153 E-mail: kgranberg@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Jay Hoffman – 112 District
Tel: 618-345-2176 E-mail: jayhoffman@charter.net

Rep. Thomas Holbrook – 113th District
Tel: 618-394-2211 tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us

Rep. Wyvetter Younge – 114th District
Tel: 618-875-1691

Rep. Mike Bost – 115th District
Tel: 618-457-5787 mikebost@midwestmail.com

Rep. Dan Reitz – 116th District
Tel: 618-443-5757 E-mail: dreizt@egyptian.net

Costello - jfc.il12@mail.house.gov

Durbin - dick@durbin.senate.gov

Barack Obama – <http://obama.senate.gov>

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

From the Breeding Grounds: It's Dry...Real Dry...Bad Dry

Delta Waterfowl, July 8, 2008

BISMARCK, N.D. -- What a difference a year makes.

Last year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey painted a rosy picture -- Canada had the fourth-highest pond count in recorded history and five duck species were in record or near-record territory.

The 2008 breeding population survey, released this week by the Service, shows a 39 percent decline in Canadian ponds and double-digit percentage drops for 5 of the 10 most abundant species in the traditional survey area.

"Overall, the duck numbers aren't as bad as they might have been, but don't look for much production this year," says Dr. Frank Rohwer of Louisiana State University, Delta Waterfowl's scientific director. "Those areas across the breeding grounds that are wet are not the productive areas, and the most productive areas are dry...real dry...bad dry."

The combined May pond count for the United States and Canada was 4.4 million, a drop of 37 percent from a year ago and 10 percent below the long-term average. The mallard population was surprisingly strong, down just 7 percent to 7.7 million breeding birds. Total ducks dropped 9 percent from 41.1 million to 37.3 million.

Among the biggest surprises of the survey was the canvasback, which fell 44 percent from last year's record 865,000 to just 489,000 this year.

Northern shoveler dropped 23 percent from last year's record high of 4.6 million to just 3.5 million, northern pintail fell 22 percent from 3.3 million to 2.6 million, gadwall slipped 19 percent from 3.4 million to 2.7 million and American wigeon numbers slid 11 percent from 2.8 million to 2.5 million.

On the positive side of the ledger, scaup numbers jumped 8 percent from 3.5 million to 3.7 million, making it the third most-abundant species; redheads rose 5 percent from last year's record high of 1 million to 1.1 million, and green-winged teal edged up 3 percent to 2.9 million, the second-highest population ever for the No. 2 bird in harvest.

Dry conditions across the prairie breeding grounds took a toll on mallard numbers. The eastern Dakota mallard population was down 24 percent from last year, Montana and the western Dakotas slipped 36 percent and Saskatchewan was down 12 percent. Increases in mallard numbers were seen in the "bush" regions of the northern provinces, suggesting the birds over-flew the prairies.

"When the prairies are dry, a lot of mallards will over-fly the prairies and sit out the summer up north," says Delta President Rob Olson. "We don't get a lot of production from those birds."

Olson says mallard and pintail numbers in Alberta continue to be a concern for Delta scientists. "Alberta's pond count is still 15 percent above the long-term average, but the pintail population there is down 66 percent from its long-term average and mallards are 20 percent below their long-term average. "When Alberta is the one bright spot in terms of spring habitat, we would have hoped for a better result there. We haven't seen a response for mallards or pintails in Alberta, despite good wetland conditions."

The story is different in the eastern Dakotas, where the mallard population is still 75 percent higher than its long-term average despite a 16-percent drop in wetlands long-term. "That's a function of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which put millions of acres of undisturbed grass nesting cover on the landscape," Olson says.

"The mallard breeding population across the duck factory is still above the long-term average because of CRP, but at the rate we're losing CRP, it's going to be difficult to maintain those levels."

In the eastern survey area, mallards were unchanged at 450,000, black ducks dropped 13 percent to 496,000, green-winged teal were up fractionally at 261,000, ring-necked ducks dropped 17 percent to 551,000, goldeneyes fell 7 percent to 424,000, mergansers dropped 4 percent to 412,000, wigeon lost 40 percent to 8,000, scaup rose 4 percent to 32,000, bufflehead climbed 93 percent to 30,000 and scoters lost 17 percent to 86,000.

The survey is conducted annually by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

D.C.'s new gun law a "joke"

The District, rebuffed by the Supreme Court last month in a landmark decision on its 32-year-old gun ban, could soon be headed back to court over a new gun law that could take effect as early as Wednesday. "They are doing everything that they can to not comply with the Supreme Court ruling," said Chris Cox, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, who dismissed the proposed legislation as "a joke."

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER FISH &
WILDLIFE AREA POST
REGISTRATION DRAWING
Submitted by Neil Booth, IDNR MRA
Superintendent**

Public Drawing for waterfowl blinds at the Mississippi River Area H.Q. will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2008.

This drawing is for blinds that were not taken or were not registered during the registration period.

Registration for the drawing will be from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, with the drawings to be held immediately after. To be eligible to draw, participants must be 16 years old on the day of the drawing and present a 2007 or 2008 Illinois hunting license and State Waterfowl Stamp (unless exempt by law). Illinois residents must have a valid Firearm Owner Identification Card (FOID). Those who are between the ages of 16 and 21 who do not have an FOID card must be accompanied by an adult who meets the FOID requirements.

Persons who draw blinds must register blind builders by 4:00 pm Sunday, August 3, 2008 at the Mississippi River Area H.Q. located on Rt. 200 at Rosedale.

A 2008 Illinois hunting license and State Waterfowl Stamp must be presented for each person to be listed as a blind builder. Please refer to forms which will be distributed to successful participants on the day of the drawing.

Available Blinds for August 3, 2008

Rip Rap Landing <u>None</u> Total: 0	Red's Landing <u>None</u> Total: 0
Mississippi River 173, 176 Total: 2	Batchtown 11, 48, 55, 78, 89, (104), 106 Total: 7
Godar-Diamond 428 Total: 1	Glades (396) Total: 1
Helmbold None Total: 0	Stump Lake 253 Total: 1
Fuller Lake None Total: 0	Illinois River 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 129, Total: 13 131, 133, 135, 139, 140, 144
Calhoun Point 16, 18, 22, 35, 39, 44, (91), Total: 9	Piasa None Total: 0

95, 100	
Total Blind Sites: 34	() – No Boat Hide - Pot Hole Blinds

**Illinois Announces Emergency
Regulations to Stop Spread of Fish Virus**
*Regulations impact anglers, boaters, and
aquaculture*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced emergency regulations aimed at slowing the spread of fish-killing Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) in Illinois after sampling of fish in the Illinois waters of Lake Michigan detected the presence of VHS in two species of fish sampled.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a disease of fish caused by an aquatic virus previously unidentified in the Midwest. While it does not affect humans, VHS can kill a substantial number of fish and has been spreading throughout the Great Lakes.

The new emergency regulations being implemented by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding VHS that affect **recreational anglers and boaters** include:

- Eliminating natural water from all equipment when leaving a body of water.
- Emptying and draining all bait buckets, livewells, baitwells, bilges, etc. or any other compartment capable of holding natural waters when leaving a body of water.
- Do not remove live VHS-susceptible species (Black crappie, Bluegill, Bluntnose minnow, Brown bullhead, Brown trout, Burbot, Channel catfish, Chinook salmon, Emerald shiner, Freshwater drum, Gizzard shad, Hybrid (Tiger) muskie, Lake whitefish, Largemouth bass Muskellunge, Shorthead redhorse, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow trout, Rock bass, Round goby, Silver redhorse, Smallmouth bass, Spottail shiner, Trout-Perch, Walleye, White bass, White perch, Yellow perch) from any waters. Anglers may catch and keep VHS-susceptible species, but may not transport those fish live from the waters where caught.
- Use of wild-trapped fishes from within the state as bait will be restricted to the waters where legally captured.

New emergency regulations are also being implemented immediately regarding **fish stocking and the transport of fish** in Illinois:

For more information on VHS and the new Illinois regulations aimed at slowing the spread of the virus in Illinois, check the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us> ###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2008
Dave Bennett, 218-687-2229
EA 08- 53
Chuck Traxler, 612-713-5313

CONTACT

Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne
Announces Historic Addition for
Glacial Ridge National Wildlife
Refuge in Northwest Minnesota

As part of a suite of wetlands acquisitions and conservation grant approvals, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved \$4 million to purchase more than 18,000 acres of prairie wetland and associated grassland habitat for the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Minnesota - one of the largest purchases in history using dollars generated from Federal Duck Stamp sales and import duties on firearms and ammunition.

The Commission - comprised of members of Congress and federal cabinet secretaries - authorized the Minnesota purchase along with an additional three thousand acres of waterfowl habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System in Oregon, North Carolina and Maine.

The acquisition of the 18,118 acres for the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge in Polk County, Minnesota will provide important wetland and grassland habitat for mallards, northern pintails, blue-winged teal, tundra swans, sandhill cranes, prairie chickens and many other waterfowl and grassland bird species.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Regional Director Robyn Thorson thanked members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Chaired by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and including Senators Cochran and Lincoln, Representatives Dingell and Gilchrest, Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson for their support.

"I am proud that the prestigious MBCC, which addresses North America's top migratory bird priorities, recognized the significant role of prairies in waterfowl and wetland conservation," said Thorson. "This is the largest Commission authorization in decades and it rewards a remarkable partnership with

the Polk County Board of Commissioners, The Nature Conservancy and many others who were tireless in crafting a bold plan for Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge."

The Commission also approved more than \$24 million in federal funding to protect, restore, enhance and manage more than 107,000 acres of wetlands and associated habitats in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The grants are funded by annual Congressional appropriations; fines, penalties and forfeitures levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; interest accrued on funds under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act; and excise taxes paid on small engine fuels through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund.

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge Manager Dave Bennett is excited about the opportunity this authorization brings to the area. "This action by the Commission helps solidify the efforts of more than 30 organizations and agencies who partnered to help the recovery of the tallgrass prairie, the most imperiled ecosystem in North America," said Bennett. "This will insure that restored tallgrass prairie habitats will be managed for future generations to enjoy and appreciate"

Thorson, who oversees the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operations in eight Midwest states, echoed support for the future legacy but also linked it with the past. "As a Federal official," she stated, "conserving the natural resource heritage of Polk County is a great event in my career. As a grand-daughter of an immigrant Polk County farmer, it is a great event in my life."

Bennett also mentioned the value this action and the refuge will bring to the local community. "We'll be working with local officials, residents and other partners to develop public use plans designed to protect wildlife habitat while also supporting Polk County tourism. Those of us who are privileged to live and work here have long understood the globally significant wildlife habitat this area supports," said Bennett. "I'm thankful for the Commission's reinforcement of those

values and I hope that the significance of this action will encourage many people to visit Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge and see what all the excitement is about.”

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, part of the 96-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, is open for wildlife-dependent public use opportunities such as wildlife observation, hunting, photography and more.

For more information on Midwest Region National Wildlife Refuges visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Refuges/>

More information about NAWCA grant programs and summaries of the projects approved today is available on the Web at:

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

**For Immediate Release
July 2, 2008**

Second Amendment Foundation

**12500 NE Tenth Place • Bellevue, WA 98005
(425) 454-7012 • FAX (425) 451-3959
• www.saf.org**

SAF FILES LAWSUIT CHALLENGING CHICAGO'S HANDGUN BAN

For Immediate Release: 6/27/2008

BELLEVUE, WA – Following Thursday's 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of District of Columbia v. Heller that the Second Amendment protects an individual civil right to keep and bear arms, and that a municipal gun ban violates that right, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA) filed a federal lawsuit challenging the City of Chicago's long-standing handgun ban. The case is McDonald v. City of Chicago.

“Chicago's handgun ban has failed to stop violent crime,” SAF founder Alan Gottlieb stated. “It's time to give the Constitution a chance.”

In addition to SAF and ISRA, plaintiffs include Chicago residents Otis McDonald, a retiree who has been working with police to rid his neighborhood of drug dealers, and who wants to have a handgun at his home; Adam Orlov, a former Evanston police officer; software engineer David Lawson and his wife, Colleen, a hypnotherapist, whose home has been targeted by

burglars. Attorney Alan Gura, who argued the District of Columbia challenge before the high court, and Chicago area attorney David G. Sigale, represent the plaintiffs.

“Our goal,” Gura said “is to require state and local officials to respect our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Chicago’s handgun ban, and some of its gun registration requirements, are clearly unconstitutional.”

“The right to defend our homes and families against those who would do them harm, whether a random criminal, violent ex-domestic partner, or other wrongdoer, is one of the principles upon which America was founded,” Sigale said. “It is time the City of Chicago trust its honest, law-abiding residents with this Constitutional right.”

“Chicago’s registration scheme cries out for common-sense reform,” ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson added.

Under the gun law currently in place, firearms must be re-registered annually.

“Each time,” Gura said, “a tax is imposed, forms must be filled out, photographs submitted. A person who owns more than one gun will find herself or himself constantly in the process of registering each gun as it comes due for expiration. If registration is to be required, once is enough.”

He further noted that Chicago’s bizarre requirement that guns be registered before they are acquired often times makes registration impossible. The penalty for failure to comply with the registration scheme is that a gun not re-registered on time can never be registered again. Gura likened it to a requirement to dispose of a car if it is not re-registered on time with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Find out more by visiting:
www.chicagoguncase.com

The Second Amendment Foundation
(www.saf.org) is the nations oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and

legal action group focusing on the Constitutional right and heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Founded in 1974, The Foundation has grown to more than 600,000 members and supporters and conducts many programs designed to better inform the public about the consequences of gun control. SAF has previously funded successful firearms-related suits against the cities of Los Angeles; New Haven, CT; and San Francisco on behalf of American gun owners, a lawsuit against the cities suing gun makers and an *amicus* brief and fund for the Emerson case holding the Second Amendment as an individual right.

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