

*Human*Dimensions  
Research Program



ILLINOIS  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SURVEY



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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

Federal Aid Project  
Number W-112-R-11  
Job Number 102.1  
Wildlife Restoration

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# Results of the Homeowners and Wildlife Survey: Champaign-Urbana 2001



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**RESULTS OF THE HOMEOWNERS AND WILDLIFE  
SURVEY:  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA 2001**

**JOB COMPLETION REPORT**

**WILDLIFE HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-11  
STUDY 102  
JOB NO. 102.1**

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## **ABSTRACT**

A total of 1,095 (54%) homeowners responded to the Homeowners and Wildlife Survey: Champaign-Urbana 2001. The usable sample was 1,070, because 25 of the returned questionnaires were flawed. More than one-half (56%) of the homeowners had fed wildlife (primarily birds and squirrels) on their property within the past 12 months, and 84% said it was important to see wildlife on a regular basis. However, 57% of the homeowners had experienced problems with wildlife around their home in the past 12 months. Most (73%) of the homeowners thought the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) should provide information about preventing or controlling unwanted wildlife, but only 6% thought the IDNR should require homeowners to get a permit before removing problem wildlife themselves. Homeowners thought the raccoon was the wildlife species that presented the highest level of threat to human health and safety, whereas squirrels were viewed as presenting the highest level of threat to property. Attitudes of homeowners toward controlling problem wildlife are presented, and some personal characteristics of Champaign-Urbana homeowners are profiled.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this study was to determine public attitudes toward wildlife issues, participation in wildlife related activities, and the importance of those activities to the general public.

## **Methods**

A random sample of 2,100 single-family homeowners was selected from the population of homeowners in the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois. The sample was purchased from

Survey Sampling, Inc., Fairfield, CT. These homeowners were mailed a 12-page, self-administered questionnaire, letter of explanation, and pre-paid business-reply envelope on 5 September 2001 (Appendices A and B). The questionnaire solicited information on attitudes toward wildlife, participation in wildlife related activities, and the importance of those activities to the homeowners. Recipients were sent a follow-up postcard 14 days after the questionnaire, thanking them for participating in the survey and reminding nonrespondents to return the completed questionnaire. Nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and another letter (Appendix C) on 4 October, followed 14 days later with another postcard. The process was repeated for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, beginning with the mailing of another copy of the questionnaire on 1 November.

There were 79 homeowners who were not reached by the U.S. Postal Service--thus, the mailing list was reduced to 2,021 potential participants. As of 13 December 2001, we received 1,095 questionnaires for a response of 54.2%. Because 25 of the questionnaires were flawed, the usable sample was reduced to 1,070 respondents. Coded data were transferred from the questionnaires to a computer file and analyzed using SPSS 10.0. The tables in this report are numbered in the same sequence and format as the questions in the questionnaire. For example, Table 1.1 refers to Section 1, Question 1; Table 1.1a refers to Section 1, Question 1a; etc. The only exceptions are Tables 5.5 and 5.6, which have corresponding questions that are inferred but explicitly identified in Section 5 of the questionnaire.

## **RESULTS**

The results of this survey are organized into 7 subheadings, which correspond to the 7 sections of the questionnaire (Appendix A).

## Living With Wildlife

Slightly more than one-half (56%) of the homeowners who responded to this survey had fed wildlife on their property within the past 12 months (Table 1.1). The vast majority (84%) of the homeowners who fed wildlife, primarily birds and squirrels, were doing so at the time they filled out the questionnaire (Table 1.1a). Each of these homeowners spent, on average, \$43 to feed wildlife during the previous 12 months (Table 1.1b). One-half (49%) of them fed wildlife all year long, whereas 24% fed wildlife during the winter only (Table 1.1c).

When asked whether any of their neighbors fed wildlife on their property, 61% of the participating homeowners said “Yes” (Table 1.2). Two-thirds (67%) of the homeowners claimed that the neighbors who fed wildlife did so all year long (Table 1.2a).

Slightly less than one-half (42%) of the homeowners indicated they planted flowers, shrubs, or provided water on their property specifically to benefit wildlife (Table 1.3). When asked to rate the importance of seeing wildlife on a regular basis during day-to-day activities, 84% of the homeowners reported that such experiences were somewhat to very important (Table 1.4).

## Problems With Wildlife

Slightly more than one-half (57%) of the homeowners said they had experienced problems with wildlife around their home in the past 12 months (Table 2.1). The most common types of problems were “Digging or burrowing on property” (45% of homeowners with problems), “Damage to shrubs, yard, or landscaping” (42%), “Droppings” (35%), and “Nesting on property” (31%) (Table 2.2).

Sixty percent of the homeowners who experienced problems with wildlife took action to

correct the situation (Table 2.3). Of those who took action, 29% said they “Removed the animal myself” (Table 2.4). In addition, 26% “Installed devices on house (such as chimney caps, wire mesh, etc.),” 24% “Closed up cracks and crevices,” and 21% “Built devices to keep animals out (such as frames around trash cans, fences, etc.)”. On average, the homeowners who took action spent an estimated \$61 in the past 12 months to cope with wildlife problems (Table 2.5).

The homeowners who hired a private service to remove problem animals were asked to rate the quality of the service. Three-fourths (74%) of these homeowners thought the service was either good or excellent (Table 2.6). The remaining 26% rated the service as either fair or poor.

#### Information About Problems With Wildlife

A mere 11% of the homeowners reported that they had received information about removing or preventing damage from wildlife (Table 3.1). For those who received information, the most frequent sources were the “City or county animal control agency” (33%), “University of Illinois Extension Office” (29%), and the “Illinois Department of Natural Resources” (27%) (Table 3.1a).

When asked whether they had ever requested information about wildlife from the IDNR, only 5% said “Yes” (Table 3.2). Of those who received information from the IDNR, 82% rated the information as good or excellent (Table 3.2a). When asked to indicate the role the IDNR should play in helping people solve problems with wildlife, an overwhelming majority (73%) said, “Provide information about preventing or controlling unwanted wildlife” (Table 3.3). However, 41% of the homeowners thought the IDNR should “Provide direct assistance to property owners (such as removing animals)”. By a margin of 11 to 1 (65% vs. 6%), the

homeowners reacted negatively to the IDNR requiring homeowners to get a permit before removing wildlife themselves (Table 3.4).

### Opinions About Wildlife on Their Property

The homeowners who participated in this survey were presented with a statement that read, “There should be a law requiring commercial, city, or county animal control personnel to humanely destroy wild animals they capture if there is a risk of the animal...” The homeowners were then given a variety of circumstances (i.e., phrases) to complete the statement and asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the completed statement (Table 4.1). A majority of the homeowners agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, regardless of circumstance. The highest levels of support were evident for circumstances that involved the spreading of diseases to people (84%), pets (79%), endangered species (77%), and other wildlife (73%). Between 57% and 69% of the homeowners agreed or strongly agreed with the remaining circumstances, which involved wildlife creating problems or safety hazards for people or pets.

In the opinion of the homeowners, the raccoon was the wildlife species that presented the highest level of threat to human health and safety in the Champaign-Urbana area (Table 4.2). Eighty percent of the homeowners voiced this opinion - i.e., said the threat from raccoons was slight, moderate, or severe. Deer (78%) were a close 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by coyotes (75%) and opossums (72%). At the other end of the spectrum, 43% of the homeowners thought rabbits presented a slight/moderate/severe threat to human health and safety.

Similarly, in the opinion of the homeowners, squirrels presented the highest level of threat (i.e., presented slight/moderate/severe threat) to property damage around the home (Table 4.3). Sixty-seven percent of the homeowners were of this opinion. Raccoons showed the second



highest level of threat (61%), followed by opossums (56%), and rabbits (50%). Foxes (24%), coyotes (27%), muskrats (29%), and bats (30%) were viewed as presenting the least threat to property.

One-fourth (26%) of the homeowners indicated they enjoyed all wildlife around their home (Table 4.4). However, a majority (59%) of the homeowners said they enjoyed most wildlife species, but not all of them. Only 8% of the homeowners did not like most or all wildlife around their homes.

The vast majority (83%) of homeowners felt that the threat of wildlife damage to home or property was negligible or slight (Table 4.5). The homeowners expressed similar views of the threat of wildlife to themselves or their family's health or safety (Table 4.6).

### Reducing Wildlife Damage

Majorities (54%-60%) of the homeowners supported the removal of nests or dens containing young of raccoons, bats, or coyotes (Table 5.1). The homeowners expressed less support (46%-49%) for removing nests or dens containing young Canada geese, deer, or foxes.

Regardless of species, majorities (65%-86%) of the homeowners also supported destroying adults if the animal was a threat to humans (Table 5.2) or pets (Table 5.3). High levels of support were expressed by majorities (84%-89%) of the homeowners for trapping and transferring an animal to another location if it was a threat to property (Table 5.4).

The homeowners were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with each of several statements that expressed varying degrees of tolerance for wildlife (Table 5.5). Majorities (85% and 66%) agreed with the following: "Seeing wildlife in my day-to-day routine gives me a positive feeling", and "Some wildlife populations are out of control and need to be reduced".

Conversely, a majority (61%) disagreed with, “I feel there is a place for wildlife but not around where people live”. The homeowners were divided on the other two statements: “I feel people should just adapt to wildlife living near them and accept some damage as the cost for having wild animals around” and “Wild animals have as much right to live in our neighborhood as we do”.

When asked whether they would like to see the populations of various wildlife species decrease, increase, or not change, majorities (51%-61%) of the homeowners preferred no change for Canada geese, deer, raccoons, skunks, birds, coyotes, and foxes (Table 5.6). In the case of rabbits, a plurality (48%) voted for no change.

#### Wildlife in Parks and Other Public Areas

One-half (49%) of the homeowners said they had encounters with wildlife in parks or other public areas in Champaign-Urbana in the past 12 months (Table 6.1). The encounters were most likely to occur in summer and least likely to occur in winter. The encounters were usually positive when they involved deer in parks or forest preserves, geese looking for food, and deer along roads (Table 6.2). Encounters were usually negative for raccoons looking for food and geese on golf courses or beaches.

Majorities (56%-59%) of the homeowners agreed with the following statements: “Seeing wildlife is one of the main reasons I visit parks and preserves” and “I feel the mess from wildlife is a small price to pay for the enjoyment they give me” (Table 6. 3-10). Conversely, a majority (68%) of the homeowners disagreed with “Sometimes the wildlife makes it hard to enjoy my visit to public areas”. The homeowners were ambivalent about the other statements listed in (Table 6. 3-10).

The homeowners were presented with a list of control measures that might be used when wildlife create problems, and then asked whether they supported these measures for controlling a variety of wildlife species (Table 6.11). The responses suggest that a majority (>50%) of the homeowners did not support any of the control measures, regardless of the wildlife species targeted. However, the construct of question 11 in section 6 casts doubts about the validity of these findings - i.e., a positive response necessitated making a check mark, whereas a negative response is implied if no mark is made. Did the respondents who did not make a check mark respond negatively or did they simply fail to respond at all?

The vast majority of homeowners in Champaign-Urbana said they live within 1 mile of a city park (Table 6.12). However,  $\leq 10\%$  of the homeowners said they live within 1 mile of a county park, county forest preserve, or wildlife refuge. Almost one-half (47%) of the homeowners indicated they live within 1 mile of a public or private golf course, and one-fifth (21%) said they live within 1 mile of an industrial park.

When asked how satisfied they were with the job city, county, state, and federal agencies have done in controlling wildlife problems, majorities (50%-59%) of the homeowners said they “Don’t know” (Table 6.13). Of those homeowners who did have an opinion, majorities responded by checking “Good”.

When asked which wildlife species causes the most problems in the area where they live, a plurality (34%) of the homeowners said “Squirrels” (Table 6.14). Rabbits (18%) ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Canada geese (16%), raccoons (9%), birds (7%), opossums (5%), and deer (4%).

### Background Information

The Champaign-Urbana homeowners who participated in this survey had lived in their

present home for an average of 15 years (Table 7. 1-8). Fifty-two percent of them were male and 48% females. A majority (71%) of the homeowners was married, and 40% had children living at home. Their mean annual household income was approximately \$68,000. The homeowners were, on average, 54 years of age, with 63% being between 31 and 60 years.

Fifty-eight percent of the homeowners said they participated in gardening (Table 7. 1-8). Next in popularity were hiking (36%), fishing (32%), bird watching (31%), photography (29%), camping (26%), swimming (26%), cycling (25%), golf (23%), and boating/canoeing (22%). Ten percent of the homeowners participated in hunting.

Table 1.1. Have you fed wildlife (birds, deer, squirrels, etc.) on your property within the past 12 months? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,067)

Fed Wildlife	Percent Response
Yes	56
No	44

Table 1.1a. If “Yes,” do you currently feed wildlife? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=579)

Currently Feed	Percent Response
Yes	84
No	16
<u>What animals do you feed?</u>	<u>Percent Response<sup>a</sup></u>
	(n=488)
Birds	94
Squirrels	36
Rabbits	6
Opossum	1
Raccoons	1
Deer	<1
Geese	<1

<sup>a</sup> Total is greater than 100% because some respondents chose >1 answer.

Table 1.1b. How much money would you estimate you have spent feeding wildlife in the past 12 months? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=582)

Money	Percent Response
Less than \$10	28
\$10 - \$49	41
\$50 - \$100	20
More than \$100	11
Mean	\$43

Table 1.1c. How often during the year do you feed wildlife? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=572)

How Often	Percent Response
All year long	49
During the winter only	24
Fall and winter	10
Fall, winter, and spring	17

Table 1.2. Do any of your neighbors feed wildlife on their property? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=915)

Feed Wildlife	Percent Response
Yes	61
No	39

Table 1.2a. If “Yes,” how often do they feed wildlife? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=486)

How Often	Percent Response
All year long	67
During the winter only	16
Fall and winter	8
Fall, winter, and spring	10

Table 1.3. Do you plant flowers, shrubs, or provide water on your property specifically to benefit wildlife? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,054)

Provide Plants or Water	Percent Response
Yes	42
No	58

Table 1.4. How important to you is seeing wildlife on a regular basis during day-to-day activities? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,050)

Importance	Percent Response
Not important	16
Somewhat important	31
Important	29
Very important	24

Table 2.1. Have you experienced problems with wildlife around your home in the past 12 months? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,065)

Experienced Problems	Percent Response
Yes	57
No	43

Table 2.2. If “Yes,” what type of problems did you experience? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=603)

Type of Problem	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Digging or burrowing on property	45
Damage to shrubs, yard, or landscaping	42
Droppings	35
Nesting on property	31
Living in attic, chimney, or other parts of house	21
Living in garage, shed, or other outbuildings on property	17
Noise	16
Scattering garbage	16
Damage to house or other buildings	15
Harm/disturbance to pets	8
Other <sup>b</sup>	13

<sup>a</sup>Total is greater than 100% because some respondents chose >1 answer.

<sup>b</sup>See Appendix D.

Table 2.3. Did you take any action to correct the problem? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=592)

Take Action	Percent Response
Yes	60
No	40

Table 2.4. If “Yes,” what steps did you take? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=356)

Steps Taken	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Removed animals myself	29
Installed devices on house (such as chimney caps, wire mesh, etc.)	26
Closed up cracks and crevices	24
Built devices to keep animals out (such as frames around trash cans, fences, etc.)	21
Used household chemicals such as mothballs or ammonia to drive animals away	18
Used commercial repellents (hot sauce, Ro-Pel, etc.) to drive animals away	18
Removed food sources such as pet food, bird food, etc.	14
Called city or county animal control agent to remove animal	11
Called private animal removal service to remove animal	10
Changed landscaping to make property less attractive to wildlife	4
Reported problem to homeowners/neighborhood association	3
Other <sup>b</sup>	10

<sup>a</sup> Total is greater than 100% because some respondents chose >1 answer.

<sup>b</sup> See Appendix D.



Table 2.5. How much money would you estimate you have spent on wildlife problems in the past 12 months? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=398)

Money Spent	Percent Response
Less than \$50	74
\$50 - \$99	11
\$100 - \$199	7
\$200 or more	8
Mean	\$61

Table 2.6. If you or someone else hired a private animal removal service to remove the animal, please rate the services they provided. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=51)

Rating	Percent Response
Poor	12
Fair	14
Good	31
Excellent	43

Table 3.1. Have you ever received information about removing or preventing damage from wildlife? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, 1,044)

Received Information	Percent Response
Yes	11
No	89

Table 3.1a. If “Yes,” from which of the following did you receive information? Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=110)

Source of Information	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
City or County Animal Control Agency	33
University of Illinois Extension Office	29
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	27
Humane Society	12
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	6
U.S. Department of Agriculture	5
Wildlife Rehabilitator	3
Other <sup>b</sup>	20

<sup>a</sup>Total is greater than 100% because some respondents chose >1 answer.

<sup>b</sup>See Appendix D.

Table 3.2. Have you ever requested information about wildlife from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,049)

Requested Information	Percent Response
Yes	5
No	67
I did not know about IDNR information	28

Table 3.2a. If you received information from Illinois DNR, please rate the quality of the information you received. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=67)

Rating	Percent Response
Poor	10
Fair	8
Good	54
Excellent	28

Table 3.3. Which of the following roles do you feel the Illinois Department of Natural Resources should play in helping people solve problems with wildlife. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,070)

Role IDNR Should Play	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Provide information about preventing or controlling unwanted wildlife	73
Provide direct assistance to property owners (such as removing animals)	41
Establish animal welfare standards for methods to remove animals	37
Establish animal welfare standards for methods to destroy animals	33
Require private animal removal services to have permits or licenses	32
Refer property owners to private animal removal services licensed to deal with unwanted wildlife	30
Limit types of equipment and methods that can be used legally	29
Require animal removal services to provide proof of insurance	22

<sup>a</sup> Total is greater than 100% because some respondents chose >1 answer.

Table 3.4. Should the Illinois Department of Natural Resources require homeowners to get a permit before removing wildlife themselves? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,019)

Require Permit	Percent Response
Yes	6
No	65
Not sure	29

Table 4.1. Please complete the following sentence with the statements below and give your opinion by circling the number that matches your response. (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Circumstance	(n)	Percent Response				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
There should be a law requiring commercial, city, or county animal control personnel to humanely destroy wild animals they capture if there is a risk of the animals.....						
spreading diseases to people.	(1,016)	5	3	8	36	48
spreading diseases to pets.	(993)	5	4	11	41	38
spreading diseases to other wildlife.	(986)	5	5	17	38	35
spreading diseases to endangered species.	(967)	5	4	14	35	42
creating problems for people living near the place they are released.	(983)	7	14	21	31	26
creating safety hazards for people.	(994)	6	7	18	37	32
creating safety hazards for pets.	(985)	6	10	21	36	27

Table 4.2. Please give your opinion of the species below and their threat to human health and safety (danger from attack, spreading diseases, auto collisions, etc.) (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response			
		No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
Raccoons	(990)	20	43	27	10
Bats	(972)	31	38	18	13
Coyotes	(942)	25	34	25	16
Canada Geese	(963)	45	32	17	6
Deer	(976)	22	32	32	14
Foxes	(951)	39	39	15	7
Opossums	(978)	28	38	24	10
Squirrels	(999)	44	31	17	8
Rabbits	(990)	56	28	11	4
Skunks	(960)	32	38	19	11
Muskrats	(932)	46	34	14	6
Birds (other than geese)	(992)	59	28	10	3

Table 4.3. Please give your opinion of the species below and their threat to property damage around your home. (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response			
		No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
Raccoons	(975)	39	32	22	7
Bats	(957)	70	20	8	2
Coyotes	(942)	74	17	6	4
Canada Geese	(959)	67	22	8	3
Deer	(956)	63	24	10	3
Foxes	(953)	76	17	5	2
Opossums	(972)	44	36	13	7
Squirrels	(1,009)	33	35	19	13
Rabbits	(993)	50	29	15	6
Skunks	(954)	65	23	8	4
Muskrats	(943)	71	19	7	3
Birds (other than geese)	(975)	65	24	8	3

Table 4.4. Which of the following statements describes how you feel about wildlife (birds, squirrels, deer, raccoon, etc.) around your home? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,051)

How Feel	Percent Response
I enjoy most wildlife species, but not all of them	59
I enjoy all wildlife around my home	26
I don't care either way	7
I don't like most of the wildlife around my home	6
I don't like any wildlife around my home	2

Table 4.5. Please rate your opinion of the threat of wildlife damage to home or property using the scale below. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,050)

Threat	Percent Response
No threat	33
Slight threat	50
Moderate threat	14
Severe threat	3

Table 4.6. Please rate your opinion of the threat of wildlife to you or your family's health or safety using the scale below. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,044)

Threat	Percent Response
No threat	42
Slight threat	47
Moderate threat	10
Severe threat	2

Table 5.1. For each of the species below, would you support the removal of nests or dens containing young? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response				
		Unacceptable in all cases	Unacceptable in some cases	Unsure	Acceptable in some cases	Acceptable in all cases
Raccoons	(1,006)	15	13	12	37	23
Bats	(998)	19	14	14	29	25
Coyotes	(994)	16	12	14	32	26
Canada Geese	(985)	21	15	17	32	15
Deer	(988)	22	15	17	31	15
Foxes	(993)	21	15	15	30	19

Table 5.2. For each of the species below, would you support destroying adults if the animal was a threat (through disease or attack) to humans? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response				
		Unacceptable in all cases	Unacceptable in some cases	Unsure	Acceptable in some cases	Acceptable in all cases
Raccoons	(1,021)	5	6	4	34	52
Bats	(1,012)	5	6	5	31	52
Coyotes	(1,004)	5	6	5	33	51
Canada Geese	(999)	8	6	9	32	45
Deer	(1,004)	7	8	7	33	45
Foxes	(1,006)	6	8	7	32	47



Table 5.3. For each of the species below, would you support destroying adults if the animal was a threat (through disease or attack) to pets? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response				
		Unacceptable in all cases	Unacceptable in some cases	Unsure	Acceptable in some cases	Acceptable in all cases
Raccoons	(1,016)	7	9	10	37	37
Bats	(1,005)	8	10	11	35	37
Coyotes	(1,008)	8	9	10	36	37
Canada Geese	(995)	9	10	15	36	30
Deer	(999)	10	11	14	36	29
Foxes	(1,006)	9	10	12	35	34

Table 5.4. For each of the species below, would you support trapping and transferring the animal to another location if it was a threat to your property? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Wildlife Species	(n)	Percent Response				
		Unacceptable in all cases	Unacceptable in some cases	Unsure	Acceptable in some cases	Acceptable in all cases
Raccoons	(1,019)	5	3	4	28	61
Bats	(1,012)	7	3	6	25	59
Coyotes	(1,008)	6	3	5	25	62
Canada Geese	(1,006)	6	4	6	27	57
Deer	(1,007)	5	4	5	27	59
Foxes	(1,007)	5	4	5	27	59

Table 5.5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.  
(Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Statement	(n)	Percent Response				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Seeing wildlife in my day-to-day routine gives me a positive feeling.	(1,019)	2	4	9	45	40
Some wildlife populations are out of control and need to be reduced.	(1,024)	4	9	21	41	25
I feel people should just adapt to wildlife living near them and accept some damage as the cost for having wild animals around.	(1,020)	10	24	22	34	11
I feel there is a place for wildlife, but not around where people live.	(1,023)	16	45	16	15	8
Wild animals have as much right to live in our neighborhoods as we do.	(1,017)	12	28	20	28	11

Table 5.6. Would you like to see the population of the following species in Champaign-Urbana change, and if so, how? (2001)

Species	(n)	Percent Response				
		Great Decrease	Slight Decrease	No Change	Slight Increase	Great Increase
Canada Geese	(984)	12	26	51	8	3
White-tailed Deer	(961)	7	19	61	11	3
Raccoons	(975)	15	27	53	3	2
Skunks	(958)	21	23	51	3	2
Birds	(970)	6	12	55	16	11
Coyotes	(951)	20	18	55	5	2
Foxes	(955)	12	16	59	9	4
Rabbits	(994)	17	27	48	4	3

Table 6.1. Have you had any encounters with wildlife in parks or other public areas in Champaign-Urbana in the past 12 months? (2001, n=1,044)

Encounters	Percent Response
Yes	49
No	51
<u>If “Yes,” what times of year?</u>	<u>Percent Response</u> (n=833)
Spring	24
Summer	37
Fall	25
Winter	14

Table 6.2. If “Yes,” what type of encounter did you experience and did you view the contact as positive or negative? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Type of Encounter	(n)	Percent Response	
		Positive	Negative
Deer in parks or forest preserves	(155)	95	5
Geese looking for food at lakes, ponds, or picnic areas	(436)	75	25
Deer along the road while driving	(346)	70	30
Raccoons looking for food at picnic areas	(304)	43	57
Geese on golf courses or beaches	(238)	41	59

Table 6. 3-10. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildlife in Champaign-Urbana. (2001)

Statement	(n)	Percent Response				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Seeing wildlife is one of the main reasons I visit parks and preserves.	(1,003)	4	22	14	44	15
I feel the number of geese in the parks pose a health hazard.	(1,008)	7	26	37	22	8
I enjoy feeding geese and ducks at the parks.	(985)	14	32	18	31	5
The deer population is too high and needs to be brought under control.	(1,004)	7	20	43	22	8
I feel the mess from wildlife is a small price to pay for the enjoyment they give me.	(1,006)	5	16	23	43	13
The goose population is too large and needs to be brought under control.	(1,011)	7	19	40	24	11
Problems with wildlife in public areas has increased in recent years.	(1,006)	3	13	51	25	8
Sometimes the wildlife makes it hard to enjoy my visit to public areas.	(1,002)	20	48	16	12	4

Table 6.11. Please tell us what control measures you would support when wildlife create problems. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=1,070)

Control Measure	Percent Response				
	Canada Geese	Deer	Beaver	Raccoons	Squirrels
Feeding Bans	44	32	29	40	38
Taste Repellents	28	27	22	29	31
Birth Control	27	29	21	27	30
Egg/Nest/Den Destruction	16	7	12	18	18
Special Purpose Kill Permits (parks, airports, golf courses, etc.)	29	25	18	22	23
Kill for Food Bank	33	36	-- <sup>a</sup>	-- <sup>a</sup>	-- <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Not applicable.

Table 6.12. Do you live within one mile of any of the following types of public areas? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Public Area	(n)	Percent Response	
		Yes	No
City Park	(1,023)	86	14
County Park	(845)	10	90
County Forest Preserve	(841)	6	94
Public or Private Golf Course	(918)	47	53
Industrial Park	(847)	21	79
Wildlife Refuge	(845)	6	94

Table 6.13. How satisfied are you with the job city, county, state, and federal agencies have done in controlling wildlife problems? (Champaign-Urbana 2001)

Officials	(n)	Percent Response				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Don't know
City Officials	(996)	8	10	27	5	50
County Officials	(989)	6	11	26	4	53
State Officials	(984)	4	10	24	5	57
Federal Officials	(983)	5	9	23	4	59

Table 6.14. In your opinion, which one of the following wildlife species causes the most problems in the area where you live? (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=945)

Species	Percent Response
Squirrels	34
Rabbits	18
Canada geese	16
Raccoons	9
Birds	7
Opossums	5
Deer	4
Bats	1
Coyotes	1
Muskrats	1
Skunks	1
Beavers	<1
Foxes	0
Other <sup>a</sup>	3

<sup>a</sup>Groundhogs, mice/rats, stray/wild cats, moles, chipmunks/gophers, snakes.

Table 7.1-8. Background information for participants in the Homeowners and Wildlife Survey: Champaign-Urbana 2001.

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How long have you lived in your present home? (n=1,031)

Mean	15 years
Distribution: $\leq 5$ years	29%
6-10 “	20
11-15 “	14
16-20 “	9
20-30 “	13
$\geq 31$ “	15

What is your gender? (n=1,044)

Male	52%
Female	48

What is your marital status? (n=1,034)

Single (never married)	9%
Married	71
Divorced/separated/widowed	20

Do you have children living at home? (n=1,035)

Yes	40%
No	60%

What is your county of residence? (n=1,070)

Champaign	100%
-----------	------

What is your approximate total (gross) household income? (n=863)

<\$20,000	7%	\$100,000-\$119,999	7%
\$20,000-\$39,999	20	\$120,000-\$139,999	3
\$40,000-\$59,999	24	\$140,000-\$159,999	3
\$60,000-\$79,999	17	>\$159,999	5
\$80,000-\$99,999	14	Mean	\$68,000

Please give your age. (n=988)

Mean	54 years
Distribution: $\leq 20$ years	0%
21-30 “	5
31-40 “	16
41-50 “	25
51-60 “	22
61-64 “	5
$\geq 65$ “	27

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Table 7.1-8 continued.



Table 7.1-8. Continued – page 2.

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In what recreation activities do you participate? (n=1,070)

Gardening	58%	Hunting	10%
Hiking	36	Tennis	10
Fishing	32	Dog training	9
Bird watching	31	Mushroom hunting	8
Photography	29	Snow skiing	8
Camping	26	Sport shooting	7
Swimming	26	Horseback riding	6
Cycling	25	In-line skating	6
Golf	23	Water skiing	6
Boating/canoeing	22	ATV riding	3
Running	16	Snowmobiling	2
Bowling	12	Trapping	1
		Other <sup>a</sup>	13

---

<sup>a</sup>Quilting, scuba diving/snorkeling, aerobics/exercising, weight training, reading, motorcycling, sight seeing, Tae Kahn Do/martial arts, artist, travel, computers, racket ball, wildflower identification, auto racing, concerts/events in parks.

Appendix A

# **Illinois Homeowners and Wildlife**

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided

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**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
and the  
Illinois Natural History Survey**

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

**The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is conducting a study of homeowners and wildlife. By wildlife, we mean raccoons, deer, geese, and other wild animals. Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about wildlife in Illinois neighborhoods.**

**Section 1. Living with wildlife.** Please give your response to the following questions about your interaction with wildlife, including attracting wildlife to your home or property.

1. Have you fed wildlife (birds, deer, squirrels, etc.) on your property within the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to **Question 2**)

1a. If "Yes," do you currently feed wildlife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

What animals do you feed (for example birds, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No

1b. How much money would you estimate you have spent feeding wildlife in the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) less than \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) \$50 – \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \$10 – \$49

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) more than \$100

1c. How often during the year do you feed wildlife? Please check only **one**.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) all year long

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) during the winter only

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) fall and winter

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) fall, winter, and spring

2. Do any of your neighbors feed wildlife on their property?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

2a. How often do they feed wildlife? Please check only **one**.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) all year long

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) during the winter only

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) fall and winter

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) fall, winter, and spring

3. Do you plant flowers, shrubs, or provide water on your property specifically to benefit wildlife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

4. How important to you is seeing wildlife on a regular basis during your day-to-day activities? Please circle the number that matches your response.

Not  
Important

Somewhat  
Important

Important

Very  
Important

1

2

3

4

**Section 2. Problems with wildlife.** Please answer the following questions about wildlife damage on your property. Please confine your answers to your property alone.

1. Have you experienced problems with wildlife around your home in the past 12 months?

Yes  No (please go to **Section 3**)

2. If "Yes," what type of problems did you experience? Please check all that apply.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living in attic, chimney, or other parts of house         | <input type="checkbox"/> Nesting on property      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living in garage, shed, or other outbuildings on property | <input type="checkbox"/> Droppings                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damage to house or other buildings                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digging or burrowing on property                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Harm/disturbance to pets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damage to shrubs, yard, or landscaping                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Scattering garbage       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please identify): _____                            |   |

3. Did you take any action to correct the problem?

Yes  No (Please go to Section 3)

4. What steps did you take? Please check all that apply.

- Removed animals myself
- Reported problem to homeowners/neighborhood association
- Called city or county animal control agent to remove animal
- Called private animal removal service to remove animal
- Used household chemicals such as mothballs or ammonia to drive animals away
- Used commercial repellents (Hot Sauce, Ro-Pel, etc.) to drive animals away
- Removed food sources such as pet food, bird food, etc.
- Installed devices on house (such as chimney caps, wire mesh, etc.)
- Closed up cracks and crevices
- Built devices to keep animals out (such as frames around trash cans, fences, etc.)
- Changed landscaping to make property less attractive to wildlife
- Other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

5. How much money would you estimate you have spent on wildlife problems in the past 12 months?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) less than \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3) \$100 – \$199 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2) \$50 – \$99    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) \$200 or more |

6. If you or someone else hired a private animal removal service to remove the animal, please rate the services they provided. Please circle the number that matches your response.

Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1	2	3	4

**Section 3. Information about problems with wildlife.** Please answer the following questions about information on wildlife in and around your home.

1. Have you ever received information about removing or preventing damage from wildlife?

Yes  No

1a. If "Yes," from which of the following did you receive information? Please check all that apply.

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
 City or County Animal Control Agency  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Humane Society  
 Wildlife Rehabilitator  
 University of Illinois Extension Office  
 Other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever requested information about wildlife from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources?

Yes  No  I did not know about IDNR information

2a. If you received information from Illinois DNR, please rate the quality of the information you received.

Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1	2	3	4

3. Which of the following roles do you feel the Illinois Department of Natural Resources should play in helping people solve problems with wildlife? Please check all that apply.

- provide information about preventing or controlling unwanted wildlife  
 provide direct assistance to property owners (such as removing animals)  
 refer property owners to private animal removal services licensed to deal with unwanted wildlife  
 require private animal removal services to have permits or licenses  
 require animal removal services to provide proof of insurance  
 establish animal welfare standards for methods to remove animals  
 limit types of equipment and methods that can be used legally  
 establish animal welfare standards for methods to destroy animals

4. Should the Illinois Department of Natural Resources require homeowners to get a permit before removing wildlife themselves?

Yes  No  Not sure

**Section 4. Opinions about wildlife on your property.** Please give your opinions to the following statements.

1. Please complete the following sentence with the statements below and give your opinion by circling the number that matches your response.

-----  
 There should be a law requiring commercial, city, or county animal control personnel to humanely destroy wild animals they capture if there is a risk of the animals ...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
spreading diseases to people.	1	2	3	4	5
spreading diseases to pets.	1	2	3	4	5
spreading diseases to other wildlife.	1	2	3	4	5
spreading diseases to endangered species.	1	2	3	4	5
creating problems for people living near the place they are released.	1	2	3	4	5
creating safety hazards for people.	1	2	3	4	5
creating safety hazards for pets.	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please give your opinion of the species below and **their threat to human health and safety** (danger from attack, spreading diseases, auto collisions, etc.). Please circle the number that matches your opinion.

Wildlife Species	No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
Raccoons	1	2	3	4
Bats	1	2	3	4
Coyotes	1	2	3	4
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4
Deer	1	2	3	4
Foxes	1	2	3	4
Opossums	1	2	3	4
Squirrels	1	2	3	4
Beavers	1	2	3	4
Skunks	1	2	3	4
Muskrats	1	2	3	4
Birds (Other than geese)	1	2	3	4

3. Please give your opinion of the species below and **their threat to property damage around your home.**  
 Circle the number that matches your opinion.

Wildlife Species	No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
Raccoons	1	2	3	4
Bats	1	2	3	4
Coyotes	1	2	3	4
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4
Deer	1	2	3	4
Foxes	1	2	3	4
Opossums	1	2	3	4
Squirrels	1	2	3	4
Beavers	1	2	3	4
Skunks	1	2	3	4
Muskrats	1	2	3	4
Birds (Other than geese)	1	2	3	4

4. Which of the following statements describes how you feel about wildlife (birds, squirrels, deer, raccoons, etc.) around your home? Please choose **one** response.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) I enjoy all wildlife around my home
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) I enjoy most wildlife species, but not all of them
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) I don't care either way
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) I don't like most of the wildlife around my home
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) I don't like any wildlife around my home

5. Please rate your opinion of the **threat of wildlife damage to your home or property** using the scale below.  
 Please circle the number that matches your response.

No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
1	2	3	4

6. Please rate your opinion of the **threat of wildlife to you or your family's health or safety** using the scale below. Please circle the number that matches your response.

No Threat	Slight Threat	Moderate Threat	Severe Threat
1	2	3	4

**Section 5. Reducing animal damage.** Please respond to the following questions about reducing or controlling unwanted wildlife in and around your home.

1. For each of the species below, would you **support the removal of nests or dens containing young?**  
Please circle the number that matches your response.

<i>Wildlife Species</i>	<i>Unacceptable in all cases</i>	<i>Unacceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Acceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Acceptable in all cases</i>
Raccoons	1	2	3	4	5
Bats	1	2	3	4	5
Coyotes	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4	5
Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Foxes	1	2	3	4	5

2. For each of the species below, would you **support destroying adults if the animal was a threat (through disease or attack) to humans?** Please circle the number that matches your response.

<i>Wildlife Species</i>	<i>Unacceptable in all cases</i>	<i>Unacceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Acceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Acceptable in all cases</i>
Raccoons	1	2	3	4	5
Bats	1	2	3	4	5
Coyotes	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4	5
Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Foxes	1	2	3	4	5

3. For each of the species below, would you **support destroying adults if the animal was a threat (through disease or attack) to pets?** Please circle the number that matches your response.

<i>Wildlife Species</i>	<i>Unacceptable in all cases</i>	<i>Unacceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Acceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Acceptable in all cases</i>
Raccoons	1	2	3	4	5
Bats	1	2	3	4	5
Coyotes	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4	5
Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Foxes	1	2	3	4	5



4. For each of the species below, would you **support trapping and transferring the animal to another location if it was a threat to your property?** Please circle the number that matches your response.

<i>Wildlife Species</i>	<i>Unacceptable in all cases</i>	<i>Unacceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Acceptable in some cases</i>	<i>Acceptable in all cases</i>
Raccoons	1	2	3	4	5
Bats	1	2	3	4	5
Coyotes	1	2	3	4	5
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4	5
Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Foxes	1	2	3	4	5

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
1. Seeing wildlife in my day-to-day routine gives me a positive feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Some wildlife populations are out of control and need to be reduced.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I feel people should just adapt to wildlife living near them and accept some damage as the cost for having wild animals around.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I feel there is a place for wildlife, but not around where people live.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Wild animals have as much right to live in our neighborhoods as we do.	1	2	3	4	5

Would you like to see the population of the following species in Champaign-Urbana change, and if so, how? Please circle the number that matches your response.

	<u>Great Decrease</u>	<u>Slight Decrease</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Slight Increase</u>	<u>Great Increase</u>
Canada Geese	1	2	3	4	5
White-tailed Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Raccoons	1	2	3	4	5
Skunks	1	2	3	4	5
Birds	1	2	3	4	5
Coyotes	1	2	3	4	5
Foxes	1	2	3	4	5
Rabbits	1	2	3	4	5

**Section 6. Wildlife in parks and other public areas.** Please answer the following questions about your experiences with wildlife in parks, forest preserves, beaches, and other public areas.

1. Have you had any encounters with wildlife in parks or other public areas in Champaign-Urbana in the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (please go to **Question 3**)

If "Yes," what times of the year? (summer, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

2. If "Yes," what type of encounter did you experience and did you view the contact as positive or negative? Please check all that apply and circle the letter "P" for "Positive" or "N" for "Negative" experience.

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
_____ geese looking for food at lakes, ponds, or picnic areas	P	N
_____ deer along the road while driving	P	N
_____ raccoons looking for food at picnic areas	P	N
_____ geese on golf courses or beaches	P	N
_____ deer in parks or forest preserves	P	N

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildlife in Champaign-Urbana by circling the number that matches your response.

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
3. Seeing wildlife is one of the main reasons I visit parks and preserves.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I feel the number of geese in the parks pose a health hazard.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I enjoy feeding geese and ducks at the parks.	1	2	3	4	5
6. The deer population is too high and needs to be brought under control.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I feel the mess from wildlife is a small price to pay for the enjoyment they give me.	1	2	3	4	5
8. The goose population is too large and needs to be brought under control.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Problems with wildlife in public areas has increased in recent years.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Sometimes the wildlife makes it hard to enjoy my visit to public areas.	1	2	3	4	5

11. Please tell us what control measures you would support when wildlife create problems. Please check the box under the animal if you favor the control measure for that species.

	Canada Geese	Deer	Beaver	Raccoons	Squirrels
Feeding Bans					
Taste Repellents					
Birth Control					
Egg/Nest/Den Destruction					
Special Purpose Kill Permits (parks, airports, golf courses, etc.)					
Kill for Food Bank			Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

12. Do you live within one mile of any of the following types of public areas? Please circle the letter that matches your answer.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
City Park	Y	N
County Park	Y	N
County Forest Preserve	Y	N
Public or Private Golf Course	Y	N
Industrial Park	Y	N
Wildlife Refuge	Y	N

13. How satisfied are you with the job city, county, state, and federal agencies have done in controlling wildlife problems? Please circle the number that matches your level of satisfaction.

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
City Officials	1	2	3	4	5
County Officials	1	2	3	4	5
State Officials	1	2	3	4	5
Federal Officials	1	2	3	4	5

14. In your opinion, which **one** of the following wildlife species causes the **most problems in the area where you live?** Please check **one**.

- |                    |                                      |                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| _____ Canada geese | _____ deer                           | _____ beavers  |
| _____ raccoons     | _____ skunks                         | _____ opossums |
| _____ squirrels    | _____ rabbits                        | _____ birds    |
| _____ foxes        | _____ coyotes                        | _____ bats     |
| _____ muskrats     | _____ Other (Please identify): _____ |                |

**Section 7. Background Information.** Please tell us a little about yourself to help us understand homeowners with problem wildlife in Illinois.

1. How long have you lived in your present home? \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. What is your gender? \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

3. What is your marital status?

\_\_\_\_\_ Single (never married)

\_\_\_\_\_ Married

\_\_\_\_\_ Divorced/Separated/ Widowed

4. Do you have children living at home with you?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

5. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your approximate total (gross) household income?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) less than \$20,000

\_\_\_\_\_ 6) \$100,000 to 119,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) \$20,000 to \$39,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 7) \$120,000 to 139,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) \$40,000 to \$59,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 8) \$140,000 to 159,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) \$60,000 to \$79,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 9) over \$159,999

\_\_\_\_\_ 5) \$80,000 to \$99,999

7. Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ years

8. In what recreation activities do you participate? (Please check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ fishing \_\_\_\_\_ snowmobiling \_\_\_\_\_ snow skiing \_\_\_\_\_ bird watching

\_\_\_\_\_ hunting \_\_\_\_\_ water skiing \_\_\_\_\_ hiking \_\_\_\_\_ camping

\_\_\_\_\_ golf \_\_\_\_\_ tennis \_\_\_\_\_ horseback riding \_\_\_\_\_ sport shooting

\_\_\_\_\_ ATV riding \_\_\_\_\_ mushroom hunting \_\_\_\_\_ boating/canoeing \_\_\_\_\_ cycling

\_\_\_\_\_ trapping \_\_\_\_\_ running \_\_\_\_\_ dog training \_\_\_\_\_ bowling

\_\_\_\_\_ photography \_\_\_\_\_ swimming \_\_\_\_\_ gardening \_\_\_\_\_ in-line skating

\_\_\_\_\_ other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMMENTS**

**RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!**

Your input will help us understand more about homeowners and wildlife in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Homeowner,

Wildlife populations have increased in many urban areas throughout the United States. Wild animals provide many benefits to us; however, they can also become a problem. In an effort to understand how residents and wildlife interact in Illinois we are undertaking a survey of homeowners in urban areas throughout Illinois.

You are one of a select group of homeowners in the Champaign-Urbana area asked to provide information about wildlife around your home. We are seeking information concerning your wildlife encounters and problems you may have experienced with wildlife on your property or in your home. Even if you have not had interactions with wildlife around your home, we ask you to please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire to us as soon as possible. A postage-paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire.

The information you and other homeowners furnish our biologists is vital for proper wildlife management and allows us to safeguard homeowners while managing wildlife populations. Responses from homeowners are also important in developing information about dealing with nuisance wildlife.

This survey is limited to those homeowners selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. If you have questions regarding this survey, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.  
Program Leader  
Human Dimensions Research Program  
Illinois Natural History Survey

Dear Homeowner,

You recently received a survey questionnaire that asked for information about wildlife around your home. We have not received your questionnaire. Perhaps you mailed it recently and it has not yet reached us. If so, we thank you. **If you have not completed your questionnaire, we have provided an additional copy for you.** Please complete this questionnaire as soon as possible and return it in the envelope provided **even if you have not had interactions with wildlife around your home.**

Homeowners throughout Illinois and the nation are encountering wildlife with increasing frequency. Your response will help us evaluate the types of interactions and problems homeowners have with wildlife, and assist in developing efforts to help where problems exist.

Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. If you have questions regarding this survey, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.  
Program Leader  
Human Dimensions Research Program  
Illinois Natural History Survey

## Appendix D

Section 2, Question 2. Other types of wildlife problems experienced by homeowners. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=603)

Problem	Percent Response
Damage to trees/fruits/garden/vegetables	8
Damage by chewing	2
General disturbance	1
Damage to phone and electrical wires	1
Odor problem, health hazard	1
Killing songbirds	<1
Damage to car, living under hood	<1
Snakes	<1

Section 2, Question 4. Other steps taken to correct wildlife problems. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=356)

Action	Percent Response
Played music/made noises/scare devices	4
Used natural repellents	3
Cover/secure garbage	2
Landscape cloth/chicken wire	1
Filled holes/burrows	<1
Electrical device, motion detector lights, ultrasonic device	<1
Flooded holes, put poison in burrows	<1



Section 3, Question 1a. Other sources of information about removing or preventing damage from wildlife. (Champaign-Urbana 2001, n=110)

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Source of Information	Percent Response
Newspapers and magazines	10
Gardening center, feed store, hardware store	2
Internet	2
Pest control service	2
Neighborhood/homeowner associations	1
Catalogues	1
Independent source/friend	1
Called a taxidermist	1
Illinois Power	1

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