

*Human*Dimensions  
Research Program



ILLINOIS  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
SURVEY



Federal Aid Project  
Number  
Job Number 103.2  
Wildlife Restoration

**Joel Brunsvold**, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural  
Resources

Federal Aid Project Number 103.2, Job Number 103.2, Wildlife Restoration, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State University, Urbana, Illinois

**Suggested Citation:**

**RESULTS OF THE 2001 ILLINOIS  
BECOMING AN OUTDOOR-WOMAN SURVEY**

**JOB COMPLETION REPORT**

**WILDLIFE HARVEST AND  
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-10  
STUDY 103  
JOB NO. 103.2**

Prepared by

## **ABSTRACT**

A total of 321 (73%) women responded to the 2001 Illinois Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Survey. All of these women had signed up for and/or participated in BOW workshops. Eighty-three percent of the women had attended  $\geq 1$  workshops, with most doing so to develop or improve their skills in outdoor activities. During the previous 12 months, 72% of the women participated in hiking, compared to 60% who fished and 19% who hunted. Three-fourths (73%) of the women conduct their outdoor activities with their husband/boyfriend. "No one to go with" was identified by participants as the most important constraint hindering women from participating in outdoor activities. The most important inducements for participation included "Training to develop skills", "Someone to go with", and "More time". Experience in hunting and other outdoor activities are profiled, as are some personal characteristics of BOW women.

## **METHODS**

mailing list was based on information for this same time period. Two-thirds of the participants had heard about the workshops by word-of-mouth (35%) or via newspapers (33%) (Table 1.3).

One-half (51%) of the participants in the BOW workshops had someone, usually a friend, accompany them to the workshops (Table 1.4-4a). Participants gave multiple reasons for attending the workshops (Table 1.5). The top 3 reasons were: “To develop or improve my skills in outdoor activities (79%)”, “It seemed like a fun activity (48%)”, and “To learn about the outdoors (40%)”.

The women were asked to indicate the types of outdoor activities they had participated in before and after attending the BOW workshops (Table 1.6 and 1.7). Of the 143 women in the BOW workshops, 106 (74%) had participated in outdoor activities before attending the workshops. Of the 143 women in the BOW workshops, 106 (74%) had participated in outdoor activities after attending the workshops. Of the 143 women in the BOW workshops, 106 (74%) had participated in outdoor activities before and after attending the workshops. Of the 143 women in the BOW workshops, 106 (74%) had participated in outdoor activities before and after attending the workshops.

was followed by fishing (60%), camping (54%), boating (45%), and canoeing (35%). The

Participants in this survey were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of



most frequently engaged in these activities in the company of their father (72%), followed by their brother/sister (37%) and mother (34%) (Table 3.2a).

More than one-third (37%) of the BOW women were raised in a rural area or small town (Table 3.3). At the other extreme, 30% were raised in a medium or large city.

### Hunting Activities

One-fourth (25%) of the BOW women indicated they hunted (Table 4.1), and 18% said they hunted during the 2000-2001 season (Table 4.2-2a). In descending order, the game species pursued were deer--firearm (63%), small game (43%), turkey--spring (30%), deer--archery (19%), and doves (19%). Other species included ducks (17%), geese (17%), deer--muzzleloader (7%), furbearers (6%), and turkey--fall (4%).

One-half (50%) of the women said their total hunting effort had increased in the last 5 years, whereas 29% said it decreased (Table 4.3). The most frequently listed reasons for hunting effort to increase were "Hunting partners" (50%) and "Availability of land" (45%) (Table 4.4). By a wide margin, the most frequent reason for hunting effort to decrease was "Lack of time" (67%) (Table 4.5). "No one to hunt with" (29%) and "No land to hunt on" (29%) were the second most common responses.

Three-fourths (68%) of the respondents stated that other members of their family hunted (Table 4.6). Family members included husband (

### Background Information

Respondents to this survey were 98% Illinois residents and 2% nonresidents (Table 5.1-6). The residents had lived in Illinois for an average of 38 years. A majority (61%) of the respondents were married, and 40% had children living at home. More than one-third (39%) of the women reported living in a rural area or small town, compared to 26% who reside in a medium or large city. The women averaged 46 years of age, with 65% being between 31 and 50 years.

Table 1.1. How many BOW workshops have you attended? (Illinois 2001, n=321)

Number of Workshops Attended	Percent Response
0	17
1	54
2	16
3	6
4	5
5	1
6	1

Table 1.2. In what year did you first attend a BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=250)

Year            Percent Response

Table 1.3. How did you hear about the BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=267)  
Percent Response<sup>a</sup>

Table 1.5. What prompted you to take part in the BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=267)

Reason	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
To develop or improve my skills in outdoor activities	79
It seemed like a fun activity	48
To learn about the outdoors	40
For the social interactions at the workshop	20
To find people to join me in outdoor activities	10
Other <sup>b</sup>	6

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

<sup>b</sup>Other reasons include: to learn about handling firearms, gun safety, marksmanship (3%), to enjoy a weekend away (2%), to write an article about BOW (1%), and to become more involved with husband outdoors (<1%).

Table 1.6. In what outdoor activities have you participated before taking the BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=267)

Activity	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Camping	76
Fishing	74
Hiking	73
Canoeing/kayaking	57
Boating	50
Archery	30
Shotgun shooting	24
Rifle shooting	23
Hunting	20
Pistol shooting	16
Other <sup>b</sup>	15

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

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

Table 1.7. In what outdoor activities have you participated after taking the BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=267)

Activity	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Hiking	63
Fishing	57
Camping	53
Canoeing/kayaking	40
Boating	38
Shotgun shooting	29
Hunting	20
Rifle shooting	20
Archery	20
Pistol shooting	15
Other <sup>b</sup>	14

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

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

Table 1.8. How would you rate the BOW workshop for prepariHiking 63

Table 2.1 Approximately how many days did you take part in the following activities in

Table 2.3. What do you consider to be the most important factor that hinders women from participating in outdoor activities? (Illinois 2001, n=307)

Factor	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
No one to go with	55
Not enough time	51
No clubs or groups devoted to women's involvement	29
Too male dominated	18
No places to go	11
Too expensive	7
Other <sup>b</sup>	9

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

<sup>b</sup>Others include: no knowledge of activity, intimidation, no interest, weather/outdoor conditions, lack of exposure to outdoors, health, lack of equipment.

Table 2.4-4a. Are there any activities you would like to try, but haven't yet? (Illinois 2001, n=308)

	Percent Response
Yes	86%
No	14%
<u>If "Yes," what are they?</u>	<u>Percent Response<sup>a</sup></u> (n=267)
Kayaking	43
Archery	34
Pistol shooting	27
Rifle shooting	23
Canoeing	23
Shotgun shooting	18
Fishing	15
Hunting	14
Camping	12
Hiking	9
Other <sup>b</sup>	17

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

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



Table 2.4b. What would it take for you to participate in the activities you selected in question 4a? (Illinois 2001, n=273)

	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Training to develop skills	67

Table 2.10. In the past five years, have you purchased any of the following specifically for outdoor recreation? (Illinois 2001, n=321)

Item Purchased	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Clothing	71
Fishing rod/reel	44
Fishing equipment other than rod/reel	36

Table 3.2. Did you take part in any of the following activities as a youth? (Illinois 2001, n=321)

Activity	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Fishing	64
Camping	53
Hiking	50
Boating	38
Canoeing/kayaking	25
Archery	24
Hunting	12
Rifle shooting	12
Shotgun shooting	9
Pistol shooting	7
Other <sup>b</sup>	5

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

<sup>b</sup>

Table 3.3. Which of the following best describes the area where you were raised?

Table 4.3. In the last five years, has your total hunting effort....  
(Illinois 2001, n=84)

<hr/>	
Percent Response	
<hr/>	
Increased	50

Table 4.5. If your total hunting effort decreased has it been due to.....  
(Illinois 2001, n=24)

Reason	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Lack of time	67

Table 4.7. Which of the following species did you hunt during your first year of hunting?  
(Illinois 2001, n=78)

Species	Percent Response <sup>a</sup>
Small game (pheasant, rabbit, etc.)	40
Deer (firearm)	33
Doves	9
Deer (archery)	9
Ducks	8
Geese	5
Turkey (spring)	5
Furbearers	4
Turkey (fall)	3
Deer (muzzleloader)	0

Table 5.1-6. Background information for participants in the BOW survey (Illinois 2001).

---

How many years have you lived in Illinois? (n=315)

Mean		38 years
Distribution:	≤10 years	9%
	11-20 “	5
	21-30 “	12
	31-40 “	24
	41-50 “	30
	≥51 “	20

What is your marital status? (n=317)

Single (never married)	15%
Married	61
Divorced/separated/widowed	24

Do you have children living at home? (n=317)

Yes	40%
No	60

What is your county of residence? (n=321)<sup>a</sup>

Illinois counties	98%
Other states	2

Which of the following best describes the area where you now live? (n=318)

Rural area	25%
Small town	14
Suburb of medium or large city	17
Small city (5,000 to 49,999)	18





**Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about women and the outdoors in Illinois .**

**Section 1. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop.** Please tell us about your interests in participating in the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program.

1. How many BOW workshops have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_ workshops

7. In what outdoor activities have you participated **after taking the BOW workshop**?

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ fishing                        | _____ hunting           |
| _____ rifle shooting                 | _____ canoeing/kayaking |
| _____ shotgun shooting               | _____ boating           |
| _____ pistol shooting                | _____ hiking            |
| _____ archery                        | _____ camping           |
| _____ other (please identify): _____ |                         |

8. How would you rate the BOW workshop for preparing you to take part in the outdoor activities you checked in question 7 above? Please circle the number that matches your response.

- |      |      |      |           |
|------|------|------|-----------|
| Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| 1    | 2    | 3    | 4         |

**Section 2. Participation in Outdoor Activities.** Please tell us about your outdoor activities during the past 12 months and your experiences related to outdoor recreation.

1. Approximately how many days did you take part in the following activities in the **past 12 months**? Please check the appropriate days for each activity.

Activity	Days of Participation			
	none	1 day	2 – 4 days	5 days or more
Fishing				
Canoeing				
Kayaking				
Boating				
Hunting				
Shooting (rifle)				
Shooting (shotgun)				
Shooting (pistol)				
Archery				
Hiking				
Camping				
Other (please identify):				

2. Which of the following describes the people you usually do outdoor activities with now? Choose all that apply.

The following statements concern the influence of the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop on your outdoor activities. Please circle the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. I plan to increase my participation in outdoor activities.	1	2	3	4	5
6. My closest friends are involved in the same outdoor activities I am.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I now have a greater appreciation of hunting than before I attended BOW.	1	2	3	4	5
8. If I cannot find someone to do outdoor activities with me, I go alone.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Outdoor activities presented in BOW are important to my family.	1	2	3	4	5

10. In the past five years, have you purchased any of the following specifically for outdoor recreation? Check all that apply.

2. Did you take part in any of the following activities as a youth?

fishing  hunting  
 rifle shooting  canoeing/kayaking  
 shotgun shooting  boating  
 pistol shooting  hiking  
 archery  camping  
 other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

2a. If "Yes," with whom did you do the activities **most often**? Please check all that apply.

father  mother  grandparent  
 uncle/aunt  brother/sister  friend of family  
 friend of mine  other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the following best describes the area **where you were raised**?

rural area  small city (5,000 to 49,999)  
 small town  medium city (50,000 to 500,000)  
 suburb of medium or large city  large city (over 500,000)

<b>Section 4. Hunting.</b> Please answer the following questions for <u>all species</u> hunted in Illinois.
---

1. Do you hunt?

Yes  No (Please go to Section 5)

2. Did you hunt during the 2000-2001 hunting seasons?

Yes  No

2a. If "Yes," which of the following did you hunt? Please check all that apply.

geese  ducks  small game (pheasant, rabbit, etc.)  
 doves  turkey (spring)  turkey (fall)  
 furbearers  deer (archery)  deer (firearm)  
 deer (muzzleloader)  other (Please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. In **the last five years**, has your total hunting effort

Increased (please go to **question 4**)  
 Stayed the same (please go to **question 6**)  
 Decreased (please go to **question 5**)

4. If your total hunting effort **increased the last five years**, has it been due to (please check all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> increased free time            | <input type="checkbox"/> more game                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> greater financial resources    | <input type="checkbox"/> hunting partners                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> better seasons/regulations     | <input type="checkbox"/> availability of land            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> better health/fitness          | <input type="checkbox"/> involved in new type of hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> better equipment               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please identify): _____ |  |

5. If your total hunting effort **decreased**, has it been due to (please check all that apply):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of time                   | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of interest          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of financial resources    | <input type="checkbox"/> no one to hunt with       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> too many regulations           | <input type="checkbox"/> seasons too short         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no land to hunt on             | <input type="checkbox"/> not enough game           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> health problems                | <input type="checkbox"/> too much equipment needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please identify): _____ |  |

6. Do other members of your family hunt?

- Yes  
 No

6a. What other members in your family hunt? Please check all that apply.

- |                                     |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> father     | <input type="checkbox"/> mother                         | <input type="checkbox"/> grandparent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> uncle/aunt | <input type="checkbox"/> brother/sister                 | <input type="checkbox"/> cousin      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in-law(s)  | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please identify): _____ |                                      |

7. Which of the following species did you hunt **during your first year of hunting**? Please check all that apply.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> geese               | <input type="checkbox"/> ducks                          | <input type="checkbox"/> small game (pheasant, rabbit, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doves               | <input type="checkbox"/> turkey (spring)                | <input type="checkbox"/> turkey (fall)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> furbearers          | <input type="checkbox"/> deer (archery)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> deer (firearm)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deer (muzzleloader) | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please identify): _____ |  |

**Section 5. Background Information.** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in hunting in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses



## Appendix B

Dear BOW Workshop Participant,

You are one of a select group of BOW Workshop participants asked to provide information about your outdoor activities and the BOW Workshop you attended. Please

## Appendix C

Dear BOW Workshop Participant,

You were recently mailed a survey questionnaire that asked to provide information about your outdoor activities and the BOW Workshop you attended. We have not received your completed questionnaire at this time. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire



Section 1, Question 7. In what outdoor activities have you participated after taking the BOW workshop? (Illinois 2001, n=267)

Activity	Percent Response	Activity	Percent Response
White water rafting	1	Biking	2
Watching wildlife	4	Cross county skiing	1
Plant/wildlife identification	1	Rock climbing	<1
Horseback riding	2	Nature photography	2
Scuba diving	<1	Fossil hunting	<1
Caving	<1	Foraging for wild edibles	<1
Outdoor cooking	2		

Section 2, Question 4a. What activities would you like to try but haven't? (Illinois 2001, n=267)

Activity	Percent Response	Activity	Percent Response
Snow skiing	1	Snow shoeing	1
Rock climbing	3	Outdoor cooking	1
Boating	2	Survival training	2
Repelling	2	Scuba diving	<1
Mushroom picking	<1	Wood cutting	<1
Plant/wildlife identification	2	Outdoor photography	1
Sailing	2	Windsurfing	<1
Clean and dress harvested game	1	Snow mobiling	<1
Backpacking	2	Scoring antlers	<1
Caning	<1	Taxidermy	<1
Orienteering	3	Biking	<1
Horseback riding	1		

Appendix E

County of residence of women who participated in the Becoming an Outdoor-Woman Survey (Illinois 2001) (n=321).

County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents	County	Number of Residents
<u>Region 1</u>		<u>Region 3</u>		<u>Region 5</u>	
Boone	0	Champaign	7	Alexander	0
Bureau	0	Clark	0	Clay	0
Carroll	0	Coles	1	Crawford	1
DeKalb	4	Cumberland	1	Edwards	1
Fulton	0	Dewitt	2	Effingham	2
Henderson	0	Douglas	0	Fayette	0
Henry	3	Edgar	0	Franklin	2
JoDaviess	1	Ford	1	Gallatin	0
Knox	2	Iroquois	0	Hamilton	0
LaSalle	2	Livingston	1	Hardin	0
Lee	3	Macon	8	Jackson	2
Marshall	1	McLean	3	Jasper	1
McDonough	0	Moultrie	2	Jefferson	0
Mercer	2	Piatt	1	Johnson	2
Ogle	4	Shelby	2	Lawrence	0
Peoria	8	Vermilion	2	Marion	2
Putnam	1	Subtotal	31	Massac	3
Rock Island	10			Perry	2
Stark	0	<u>Region 4</u>		Pope	1
Stephenson	1	Adams	2	Pulaski	0
Tazewell	5	Bond	0	Richland	0
Warren	0	Brown	0	Saline	0
Whiteside	2	Calhoun	0	Union	1
Winnebago	3	Cass	0	Wabash	0
Woodford	4	Christian	0	Wayne	0
Subtotal	56	Clinton	0	White	0
		Greene	1	Williamson	2
<u>Region 2</u>		Hancock	1	Subtotal	22
Cook	69	Jersey	2		
DuPage	22	Logan	2	Nonresidents	7 <sup>a</sup>
Grundy	2	Macoupin	7		
Kane	14	Madison	10		
Kankakee	2	Mason	0		
Kendall	3	Menard	3		
Lake	15	Monroe	3		
McHenry	13	Montgomery	2		
Will	7	Morgan	2		
Subtotal	147	Pike	0		
		Randolph	2		
		Sangamon	21		
		Schuyler	0		
		Scott	0		
		St. Clair	0		
		Washington	0		
		Subtotal	58		

<sup>a</sup>Iowa (2), Missouri (2), Wisconsin (3).