



# Illinois Conservation Police Bi-Weekly Report



*Vision Statement: As vigilant guardians we will protect the citizens and natural resources of Illinois.*

**DATE: 04/07/2020**

(Weeks of February 16-29)

*This report represents some events the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) handled over the last couple of weeks; however, it does not include all actions taken by the OLE.*

## **Northwest Zone – Captain Laura Petreikis**

### **District 1 – Sgt. Tony Petreikis**

**(Counties: Carroll, Henry, JoDaviess, Lee, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson & Whiteside)**

#### **CARROLL COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **HENRY COUNTY**

CPO Posateri completed an investigation from the 2019 deer season. A Geneseo, IL man was cited for no valid deer permit.

#### **JODAVIESS COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **LEE COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **MERCER COUNTY**

CPO Francisko #349 completed an investigation into a Reynolds IL man’s poaching of a wild turkey. On 11-13-19, the subject was archery deer hunting. A wild turkey came into range and the man decided to harvest the turkey knowing full well he did not possess a fall wild turkey permit. Of course, the man was not able to attach a temporary harvest tag to the turkey immediately upon kill before the turkey was moved or transported anywhere since he didn’t have a permit. The man was issued a citation and a written warning for these violations and the contraband turkey meat was seized.

#### **OGLE COUNTY**

CPO Beltran conducted several investigations regarding the unlawful take of deer. Several deer were seized and food donated to charity. The antlers are being sent to Springfield for disposition.

CPO Beltran assisted Byron PD in a DUI arrest.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

CPO Posateri attended the Outdoor Show at the QCCA Expo Center with the Education Trailer.

STEPHENSON COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

WHITESIDE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**District 6 – Sgt. Phil Wire**

**(Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)**

BOONE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

BUREAU COUNTY

CPO Francisko, #349 completed a deer hunting investigation into a Coal Valley IL man's 2019 firearm deer hunting activities. It was determined the man never acquired his hunting license or habitat stamp (as required) and went deer hunting. The man had purchased either-sex and antler-less only firearm deer permits. On 12-6-19, the man harvested a doe (using his antler-less only permit). On 12-7-19 he again went deer hunting and had only his either-sex permit left to use. The man harvested another doe. Instead of using his either-sex permit for that doe as he should have, he opted to save the either-sex permit in hopes of harvesting a buck at a later time. The man failed to attach the temporary harvest tag immediately upon kill before the deer was moved, transported or field dressed. Instead the man tried to cover up his unlawful act by purchasing an over the counter antler-less only deer permit AFTER THE FACT and used that permit. The subject was informed since he was not legally hunting deer to begin with (no hunting license / habitat stamp), both deer were unlawfully taken. The subject was further advised he was fortunate he never used the either-sex permit and harvested a nice buck because that permit was no longer valid since it should have been used on the doe harvested on 12-7-19. Had he harvested a buck with the voided either-sex permit it would have been contraband / subject to seizure. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without a required hunting license and a written warning for no habitat stamp on 12-6-19. He was issued an additional citation for failure to attach the temporary harvest tag immediately upon kill, and written warnings for no hunting license / habitat stamp on 12-7-19. Contraband deer meat was seized as evidence in this case. It is the HUNTER'S responsibility to ensure they have the proper licenses, stamps and permits in their possession when they go hunting. Don't assume because you told a sales clerk to put the hunting license / habitat stamp on your order that it got done.

CPO Wagner conducted investigation into littering and improper disposal of dead animals and dead animal parts. Individual was cited under the dead animals control act for improper disposal and under litter control act for littering.

CPO Wagner and CPOT Leannah cited individual for driving on suspended license, no insurance and expired registration. Individual's vehicle was towed and he was given court date in Bureau county.

CPO Wagner issued multiple speeding tickets for individuals traveling no less than 20 MPH over speed limit.

DEKALB COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

LASALLE COUNTY

CPOT Kiprono and CPO Stanbary responded to a complaint about a deer trapped in tennis courts at a resort in LaSalle county. An Ottawa man admitted to “lassoing” a doe with a rope to help get it out of the enclosure. The deer succumbed to its injuries. The Ottawa man field dressed the deer and took it home without reporting the incident to Conservation Police. He was issued two citations for unlawful possession of whitetail deer and failure to obtain a salvage tag for whitetail deer. The deer was seized.

PUTNAM COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

CPO Filipiak was assigned to Winnebago County and patrolled Rock Cut State Park. CPO Filipiak checked multiple ice fisherman and observed minimal violations.

**District 7 – Sgt. Scott Avery**

**(Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Warren & Woodford)**

FULTON COUNTY

CPO Thompson, CPO Elliott and CPOT Z. Williams conducted an investigation into wildlife code violations. Upon contacting a suspect, CPOs received a confession to the violations of unlawful take without a valid permit, two counts of failure to tag immediately upon kill, and the unlawful possession of an illegally taken deer. Citations and written warnings were issued.

CPO Thompson and CPOT Z. Williams attended a boater safety education course. Topics discussed included required safety equipment, navigation rules and safe boating practices.

CPO Thompson conducted an investigation into potential permit violations. Upon making contact with a suspect, CPO Thompson received a confession to unlawful hunting without a valid permit and licensing and failure to tag deer immediately upon kill. One citation and several written warnings were issued.

CPO Thompson issued a written warning to a Lewistown man for unlawful possession of an untagged deer.

CPO Thompson conducted a snowmobile safety and registration stop on snowmobiles in Fulton County. CPO Thompson issued several written warnings for registration and equipment violations.

HENDERSON COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

KNOX COUNTY

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams checked multiple ice fisherman at Lake Storey in Galesburg. No violations were noted.

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams taught a Hunter Safety Class at Galesburg Jr. Sr. High School.

MARSHALL COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

MCDONOUGH COUNTY

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams completed an investigation on a subject for hunting violations. The subject accompanied his son, a youth, on a firearm hunt. The youth shot a doe and a short time later, located the expired deer. In an effort to avoid using his only Either Sex firearm permit, the father and son left the deer lay untagged and went to the nearest vendor to purchase an Antlerless Only firearm permit. The deer was later recovered and reported on the newly acquired Antlerless Permit. Violations of Failure to Tag Immediately Upon Kill, Falsification, and Fraudulent Harvest Report were noted. Proper enforcement action was taken.

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams completed an investigation on a subject for hunting violations. During an investigative interview, the subject admitted he participated in a "Deer Drive" off of his private property where he did not have a valid permit for a deer he had shot. The subject was a resident landowner who was not required to have a hunting license while hunting his property with his Landowner Permits. After discovery of the violations having taken place off of his owned or leased property, violations of Hunting without a Hunting License, hunting without a valid Permit, and Unlawful take of a whitetail deer without a valid permit were noted. Proper enforcement action was taken.

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams completed an investigation on a subject for hunting violations. During an investigative interview, the subject admitted to failure to tag his deer immediately upon kill. The subject advised he did not want to use his only Either Sex Firearm Permit. The subject explained he drove to the nearest vendor to purchase an Antlerless Only firearm permit to tag and report the harvest of his doe. Violations of Failure to Tag Immediately Upon Kill, Falsification, and Fraudulent Harvest Report were noted. Proper enforcement action was taken.

CPO Elliott and CPOT Williams performed a Snowmobile Safety Inspection on a subject near Bushnell, IL. Violations identified from the check were 16 inches of reflective material not present and Failure to complete Illinois Registration. Proper enforcement action was taken.

CPO Elliott, CPO Thompson, and CPOT Z. Williams conducted an investigation involving wildlife code violations. During the investigation multiple subjects were found to be involved with several deer hunting violations. One subject admitted to the unlawful take of multiple deer with an AR 15 .223 rifle from a combine. Additionally, a subject was found to have harvested 5 antlered bucks during the 2019-20 Deer Season. Violations of Failure to Tag Immediately upon kill, Failure to Tag with Appropriate County Tag, Falsification, Fraudulent Harvest Report, Unlawful Possession of Illegally Taken Deer, Unlawful Take of Whitetail Deer with an AR 15 .223 Rifle during Archery Season, Unlawful Hunting by Use and Aid of a Conveyance, Unlawful Hunting without a valid permit, Wanton Waste and Felony Resource Theft. An AR 15 .223 Rifle, a Compound Bow, a 12 Gauge Shotgun, a Muzzleloader and 3 buck heads were amongst the items seized. Proper Enforcement Action was taken.

PEORIA COUNTY

CPO Lazzell cited a Sparland man for unlawful take of an antlered deer without a valid either sex archery deer permit.

STARK COUNTY

CPO Lazzell cited a Wyoming man for unlawful take of a White-tailed Deer without an archery deer permit.

TAZEWELL COUNTY

CPO Finn Region 1 District 7 responded to a call of an injured bald eagle. CPO Finn was able to determine the eagle merely had a string on its food which was caught in the tree. The string was removed and the Eagle was released unharmed.

WARREN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

WOODFORD COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**Northeast Zone – Captain Jed Whitchurch**

**District 2 – Sgt. Eric Schreiber  
(Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)**

KANE COUNTY

CPO Kusta and CPO Roesch conducted an investigation in Kane County regarding an Alligator Snapping Turtle, which is an Illinois Endangered Species. CPO Kusta learned that a subject may be in possession of the turtle without the required permit. CPO Kusta contacted subject-A and was advised he gave the turtle to a friend, because he was unable to keep the turtle at his residence. CPO Kusta and CPOT Roesch relocated to subject-B's residence and made contact with him. Subject-B advised CPO Kusta that he was in possession of the turtle, and it was currently in the residence. Subject-B advised that he was given the turtle by a friend back in 2004 and had it ever since. Subject-B was unable to produce a valid permit for the turtle and advised the officers that he thought Subject-A had necessary the permit for it. Subject-B was willing to surrender the turtle. CPO Kusta educated both subjects on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and issued a warning for the possession of an endangered species without the required permit. The turtle was taken to an approved IDNR-Facility

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Van Wiltenburg cited a subject on Banana Lake for using five fishing devices on a two pole and line only lake. He was also issued a written warning for no inland trout stamp after admitting he was attempting to take them.

CPO Van Wiltenburg cited two subjects for multiple deer hunting violations after a three year investigation. It began with a tip from the Lake County Forest Preserve Police, who advised one of their surveyors saw a ground blind under a large pine tree on the adjacent private property, with a pile of corn in front of it. CPO Van Wiltenburg worked the blind during the 2017 and 2018 seasons, during legal hunting hours, but didn't observe anyone occupying the blind. In March of 2019, the Lake County Forest Preserve Police received a complaint from one of the violator's neighbors that he was shooting deer and coyote at night, out of season. During the 2019 archery deer season, CPO Van Wiltenburg worked the area after legal hunting hours and found the violator was shining a spotlight from his back porch over the corn on the property to the south. This occurred for many nights from November 2019 to February 2020. After reviewing harvest records and camera footage from the area, the resident violator was interviewed and charged with multiple hunting violations, including possession of freshly killed species during the closed season, hunting after hours, hunting within 300 yards of a dwelling with a rifle without permission, hunting with the use/aid of bait, dumping the deer carcass on private property without permission, unlawful take of deer during the closed season, possession of illegally taken species, and unlawfully transferred deer permit to another person. He was also issued several written warnings for more wildlife violations. A second subject was also charged with hunting with the use/aid of bait, hunting without a valid deer permit in possession, and hunting without a valid non-resident hunting license. The second subject was also issued several written warnings for additional violations.

CPO Semenik arrested a snowmobiler on Petite Lake for operation of a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol, operation of a snowmobile with a BAC over 0.08%, and operation of a snowmobile without insurance.

CPO Doescher and SGT Schreiber cited a subject ice fishing on Long Lake for unlawfully fishing with too many devices. The subject had 5 devices when 3 are allowed.

CPO Reid arrested a subject in Ingleside for unlawful transportation of cannabis (15.5 grams) by a driver.

CPO Kelley cited a subject fishing on Spring Lake for failure to immediately release an undersized largemouth bass. The fish was 8 inches in length where a 14 inch minimum is required.

MCHENRY COUNTY

CPO Winters completed a three day snowmobile instructor certification course in Michigan. This will allow for future training for field officers within the department.

**District 3 – Sgt. Dave Wollgast**  
**(Counties: Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall & Will)**

GRUNDY COUNTY

While hunting pheasants at a local hunting area a hunter was hit by shot pellets from as distance causing them to embed under his skin. His friend did not see him behind a tree from a distance when the bird got up between them. The injured hunter and his friend took him to the hospital where he was kept overnight for observation. CPO Anderson visited the hunter and his friend who was shook up over the mistake. Other than some shot under his skin the hunter was ok. He always wears safety glasses while hunting and had a shot pellet hit one of his lenses. The pair completed a hunting incident report with CPO Anderson. Hunters are reminded to use safe hunting practices and keep track of anyone hunting in their hunting party or in the same area.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

CPO Farber received a complaint in regard to a nuisance trapper in Kankakee, IL. CPO Farber spoke with a complainant and discovered that a local pest control business was offering trapping services for a fee. During the investigation, CPO Farber discovered that the owner of the pest control service, did not have the proper IDNR credentials to provide trapping services for a fee. The complainant advised that the trapper set live traps in her attic and didn't make any attempt to check the traps over a three day period. CPO Farber conducted a field interview with the unlicensed nuisance trapper and discovered that he had been offering trapping services in the Kankakee area on and off for over 40 years. The violator was educated and enforcement action was taken.

On 02/29 and 03/01 CPOs Elliot and Farber met with (3) coyote hunters in rural Iroquois county about a coyote hunt they were on in early February. While coyote hunting on property that they didn't have permission to be hunting on, they shot (1) coyote and accidentally shot out a window on the landowner's garage. After speaking with the landowner, he decided he wanted his window fixed and the hunters to stay off of his property. The CPOs met with the violators, all (3) hunters received (1) citation a piece for hunting without landowners' consent, (1) warning a piece for unlawful take of a protected species (coyote), and they agreed to meet with the landowner to repair his broken window.

KENDALL COUNTY

CPO Bergland presented on the career duties of a Conservation Police Officer to the Indian Valley Vocational Center's Law Enforcement students. He explained natural resource protection and the variety of jobs CPOs are tasked with.

Around 350 die-hardy people participated in the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics at Silver Springs State Park. CPO Bergland was on hand to assist with the event and was able to take time to play catch with several kids while their parents partook in the event.

WILL COUNTY

Following an extensive multi-agency investigation, CPO Honiotes made a hunting without permission case on two subjects, who through their own admission, archery deer hunted deep in a restricted area of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Will County on multiple dates. The subjects also admitted to fraudulently using a key and a contractor pass to gain vehicular access to the area. Multiple federal violations were also identified and addressed by the United States Forest Service.

CPO Honiotes contacted a new coyote hunter at the Des Plaines Conservation Area in Will County. Unfamiliar with the site specific regulations of the area, the hunter received an extensive "crash course" on hunting state owned public land in Illinois. CPO Honiotes then assisted the hunter in navigating various "hunter fact sheets" to help him try to find a new place to legally hunt coyotes with his crossbow on public land.

CPO Prasun conducted an investigation into illegal hunting activity that occurred in northeastern Will County this past deer hunting season. During the investigation, it was determined a central Will County resident had been hunting without a hunting license, habitat stamp, or a deer archery permit and had harvested a buck. The hunter was cited for hunting without a deer permit. Enforcement action was also taken and he was educated on Illinois regulations in reference to immediately attaching a deer tag upon harvest, and having a hunting license, and habitat stamp while hunting.

CPO Prasun conducted an investigation into a falsely reported deer harvest that occurred in central Will County this past hunting season. During the investigation, it was determined a central Will County resident had taken possession of a 'salvaged deer' that had been injured while trapped in a fence then put down by local law enforcement. The resident proceeded to buy a deer permit and fraudulently reported a harvest of the deer. It was also determined the resident had hunted this past deer season without a habitat stamp. Enforcement action was taken and the resident was educated on the proper way to take possession of a 'salvage deer' along with the requirements of having a state habitat stamp while deer hunting in Illinois. Illinois residents are reminded they are required to obtain a salvage deer tag from an Illinois Conservation Police Officer before moving/taking possession of a 'salvage deer' (deer found dead not killed by the person finding it nor obviously killed by an vehicle) in Illinois. Also, Illinois residents must report a 'road-kill' deer before taking possession of said deer by the online reporting system or calling the road kill deer number in the hunting digest.

**District 4 – Sgt. Mooi**  
**(Counties: Cook & DuPage)**

COOK COUNTY

Sgt. Mooi along with CPO Gates and CPO Swindle conducted Snowmobile patrols in Cook County. No violations were observed.

Sgt. Mooi conducted Ice Fishing Enforcement with CPOs Swindle and Gates. No violations were observed.

CPO Roesch worked with CPO Kusta. Picked up a dead bald eagle and dropped it off with USFWS. Seized an alligator snapping turtle that was possessed without proper permits. Interviewed an individual about deer hunting on forest preserve property. Investigation is pending.

CPO Roesch conducted sport fish enforcement at Montrose Harbor, Belmont Harbor, Fullerton Beach, William Powers SP, and Cook County Forest Preserves. No violations were observed

CPO Roesch checked ice fisherman at Papoose Lake, William Powers SP and Maple Lake. No violations were observed.

CPO Roundcount patrolled Cook County Forest Preserve areas for ice fishing. The areas being ice fished this week were Sag Quarries, Tampier Lake, Lincoln Park Lagoon, Saganashkee Lake, and Wolf Lake, no violations were observed.

CPO Roundcount conducted fish enforcement at Montrose Harbor. Encountered three fishermen who had caught and released two lake trout. No violations were found.

CPO Roundcount conducted fish enforcement at Foster Beach, Fullerton Ave, Belmont Harbor, and Diversey Harbor. No violations were found.

CPO McClenning and Sgt Mooi worked an event at Hotel Florence. CPO McClenning and Sgt Mooi reviewed over some District 4 information.

CPO McClenning and CPO Klemme worked fish enforcement and wildlife enforcement in Cook County. CPO Klemme assisted CPO McClenning in becoming more familiar with popular fishing areas in the county. No violations were observed.

CPO McClenning, CPO Kusta and CPO Roundcount patrolled areas of cook county for fish enforcement. Enforcement action resulted in 2 written warnings for fishing license not in possession. CPO Kusta showed CPO Roundcount and CPO McClenning popular fishing areas for patrol.

CPO McClenning and CPO Gates worked sport fishing enforcement in Northern Cook Co. 29 fish checks were completed. Enforcement included 3 written warnings.

CPO McClenning and CPO Gates completed sport fishing enforcement in DuPage County. Total of 23 sport fishing checks were completed. Enforcement action included 2 written warnings.

CPO McClenning patrolled Colombia Woods in Cook Co. Total of 8 sport fishing checks were completed. Enforcement included 1 written warning.

CPO Gates patrolled northern Cook County with CPO McClenning performing sportfishing inspections. Multiple fishermen were checked and two written warnings were issued, 1 for too many ice fishing devices, using 4, and 1 for not having a fishing license in possession.

CPO Kusta and CPO Roesch conducted an investigation regarding a deceased Bald Eagle in Cook County. It was learned through another Law Enforcement agency that the eagle was electrocuted by a powerline. CPO Kusta retrieved the eagle and brought it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's office in Cook County. The USFWS took possession of the eagle and will transfer it to the National Eagle Repository for assessment and possible use for Native American religious practices.

DUPAGE COUNTY

CPO Gates patrolled South eastern Dupage County with CPO McClenning performing sportfishing inspections. 1 written warning was issued for not having a fishing license in possession.

**Central Zone – Captain Laura Petreikis and Captain Jed Whitchurch**

**District 9 – Sgt. Eric Myers**

**(Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Pike & Schuyler)**

ADAMS COUNTY

CPO Blazinic conducted whitetail deer investigations in Adams County.

CPO Blazinic and CPO Wheatley conducted general wildlife enforcement and made an appearance at a coyote tournament weigh in Mendon.

CPO Blazinic responded to a trumpeter swan that appeared to have been shot around Meyer. The investigation continues.

CPO Blazinic instructed a hunter safety class at the Payson High School. Approximately 25 students in attendance.

BROWN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

CALHOUN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

GREENE COUNTY

CPO Olroyd issued a citation and several written warnings to an individual in regard to violations for a whitetail doe taken in October of 2019.

In 2017, CPO Michael Goetten arrested a subject for possession of firearms by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine, hunting with the aid of a conveyance and the unlawful take of a whitetail deer. The subject pled guilty and as sentenced to 4 years in IDOC. In December, 2019, he was released on parole. The subject continued hunting illegally. CPO Aaron Jansen, CPO James Olroyd and CPO Michael Goetten monitored his activity. A traffic stop was made by the officers as the subject left his hunting location. A crossbow was seized. The subject and his acquaintances were cited for multiple wildlife violations. The CPOs followed up with the subject's parole officer and executed a parole search of his residence. Drug paraphernalia was discovered. A follow-up interview led to an admission the subject harvested two other bucks illegally. Additional charges were filed and others are pending consultation with the States Attorney.

HANCOCK COUNTY

CPO Wheatley was on patrol in Hamilton, CPO Wheatley responded to a dead Eagle call near Elderville. Upon arrival, CPO Wheatley found the Eagle face down in the snow. Photographs were taken and the Eagle was rolled over for further inspection. The Eagle began to move and was shivering from the chill of the night. CPO Wheatley took possession of the Eagle and contained it in his squad with the help of a passing motorist. After a few hours, the Eagle

was set free and flew off into the night. CPO Wheatley recalled, for a dead Eagle call, this was one of the liveliest ones he has ever had to get control of.

JERSEY COUNTY

CPO Michael Goetten stopped a vehicle with expired registration at PMSP. Illegal drugs were found in the vehicle. A passenger lied about his identity and was arrested for obstructing identification and drug charges.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

CPO Zachary French and CPO Michael Goetten conducted an interview with a known violator for trapping on property without permission. The investigation resulted in confirmation of other offenses. Two deer heads were seized. Enforcement action is pending.

PIKE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

SCHUYLER COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**District 10 – Sgt. William Gilmer**

**(Counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)**

CASS COUNTY

CPO Thornley and CPO Wahlbrink conducted a boat patrol of the Illinois River. The CPO's traveled from Beardstown to Havana. Three boat safety inspections were completed, which resulted in two written warnings for equipment violations. The CPO's were notified about a dead Eagle along the riverbank in Havana, IL. The Eagle was located, examined, and placed in a bag to be delivered to USFW for further analysis.

CPO Thornley conducted a timber truck inspection, no violations found. CPO Thornley conducted two traffic stops for speed. The first stop resulted in a citation for 80 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. The second traffic stop resulted in the driver being suspended. The driver was issued citations for speeding and driving while license suspended. A passenger in the vehicle was wanted on a valid warrant. The passenger was arrested and transported to jail.

CPO Wahlbrink checked multiple coyote hunters at Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA. One of the hunters stated he had forgotten his hunting license and habitat stamp at his home. CPO Wahlbrink looked up the hunter's credentials online and confirmed he had purchased a hunting license and habitat stamp. A written warning was issued.

CPOs Wahlbrink and Thornley completed two timber truck inspections near Beardstown. The drivers of both trucks were found to have incomplete haul logs. They were both issued written warnings.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

CPO Wright cited a Taylorville man for unlawful take of a white-tail deer because it was found that he had killed a buck with no valid deer permits or hunting license. It was found that the Taylorville man used his mom's landowner tag. Several warnings were written.

CPO Wright along with Christian County deputies investigated a suicide out at Sangchris Lake. The Tovey man was found deceased.

CPO Wright taught district 9 and 10 hazmat.

While on patrol CPO Snodgrass observed two subjects snow goose hunting. Upon making contact and conducting a compliance check it was found both hunters had all appropriate licenses and waterfowl stamps. Upon CPO Snodgrass walking around the snow goose decoys he located a big pile of corn and also noticed an unusual amount of corn scattered throughout the field in the area of the decoy spread. Seven dead snow geese were located that had been harvested by the two hunters. Both hunters were cited for unlawful take of snow geese over bait and unlawfully hunting over a baited area.

LOGAN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

MASON COUNTY

While patrolling the Illinois River, CPOs Thornley and Wahlbrink performed three boat safety inspections and multiple fishing compliance checks. Two written warnings were issued for boating violations.

MENARD COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

MORGAN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

SANGAMON COUNTY

CPO Thornley traveled to Sangamon County to assist CPO Snodgrass in removing a swan that was trapped in a box culvert and could not get out. CPO Thornley was able to remove the uninjured swan from the culvert and place it back into the pond.

SCOTT COUNTY

CPO Wichern cited a Scott county snow goose hunter for offering commercial hunts, prior to obtaining a Waterfowl Outfitting license.

**District 11 – Sgt. John Williamson**

**(Counties: Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie & Shelby)**

CLARK COUNTY

CPO Wellum walked several wooded areas in Clark County looking for illegal hunting activity.

CPO Wellum received a complaint of timber trucks operating overweight on rural roads in Clark County. CPO Wellum was unable to locate the timber trucks but will be working the area heavily during the upcoming weeks.

CPO Wellum taught a Hazardous Materials Refresher Course at the Clinton Lake Office.

CPO Wellum assisted the Illinois State Police with traffic control due to an accident involving multiple commercial vehicles. Interstate 70 was closed for approximately eight hours. CPO Wellum assisted with diverting traffic to Route 40 until the Illinois Department of Transportation arrived with portable signs and barrels.

CPO Wellum issued a Clark County resident a written warning for speeding.

CPO Wellum handled a motorist assist on Interstate 70. CPO Wellum stayed with vehicle until the tow truck arrived allowing the occupants of the vehicle to sit in CPO Wellum's squad to stay warm.

CPO Wellum assisted the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Illinois State Police with traffic control at a personal injury accident on Route 40.

CPO Wellum performed a registration investigation on a watercraft in Clark County.

#### COLES COUNTY

CPO Hyatt successfully completed BAO Training at the MTU 13 facility in Mattoon.

CPO Mieure issued a Herrick woman two written warnings for speeding 78 in a 55-mph zone and not having her drivers' license in possession. Issued a Georgia teenager one written warning for possession of marijuana. CPO Mieure testified in a trial at Kankakee county courthouse regarding a fatal snowmobile crash back in 2016.

CPO G. Anderson completed a 16-hour training course to become a certified Breath Alcohol Operator.

#### CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CPO Hyatt completed an investigation regarding a resident of Cumberland County who transported an untagged doe home before tagging and reporting his harvest. The suspect was hunting legally but stopped at local store to purchase an either sex tag before reporting his harvest.

CPO Mieure issued a Toledo woman one written warning for speeding 78 in a 55-mph zone.

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY

CPO Hyatt patrolled Walnut Point State Park and performed several timber permit checks on people who were collecting firewood from the state property.

CPO Barnes cited a Tuscola subject for deer hunting without a valid deer permit.

#### EDGAR COUNTY

CPO Hyatt investigated a call regarding a bobcat that had been appearing at a residence just east of Oakland.

CPO Hyatt received a call regarding an injured hawk in the north east part of Edgar County. The hawk was gone on arrival.

#### MOULTRIE COUNTY

CPO Moody investigated a case in rural Moultrie county where men were shooting snow geese from the road out of the back of a pickup truck.

#### SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Greuel began preparation for the Spring firearms shoot and recruit firearms training.

CPO Greuel conducted armorer inspections.

CPO Barnes attended Hazmat training at Clinton Lake.

CPO Barnes checked snow goose hunters.

**District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson**

**(Counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Piatt & Vermilion)**

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

**DEWITT COUNTY**

CPO Viverito and his partner K9 Hank were working Clinton Lake. CPO Viverito observed a car parked in a known fishing location CPO Viverito deployed K9 Hank to screen the vehicle. K9 Hank alerted to the vehicle which led to the arrest of a DeWitt County Man and a Macon County man for several violations.

CPO Ausmus checked boaters at Westside Access, a Decatur man was issued a written warning for failure to transfer watercraft registration and no Type IV throwable when required.

CPO Ausmus observed a vehicle stop in the opposite lane of traffic on the DeWitt Bridge, the vehicle then backed up and parked. CPO Ausmus conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The operator stated he was just checking on the fishing activity. The driver was issued a citation for improper backing on a roadway, and warnings for improper parking on the roadway and improper lane usage.

**FORD COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

**IROQUOIS COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY**

CPO Graden completed an investigation into the unlawful take of a whitetail deer. In short, during the first statewide Illinois firearm deer season, a 39-year-old male hunter, in Livingston County, went hunting with a single, either-sex, firearm deer permit. On November 23, 2019, he killed a button buck, purchased an antlerless-only permit after the fact, tagged the deer, and reported his harvest. The hunter did not want to use his only either-sex permit to tag an antlerless deer. He was issued a citation for Unlawful Take of a Whitetail Deer along with several written warnings.

**MACON COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

**MCLEAN COUNTY**

CPO's Workman, Reeves, Anderson, and Viverito assisted outside agencies with a standoff near the Mclean and Dewitt county line. The standoff lasted approximately 4hrs. The suspect was wanted for questioning in a kidnapping case. Multi agencies were involved in the standoff which eventually led to the arrest of the suspect.

CPO Hyatt successfully completed Hazmat Training at the Clinton Lake State Park Office.

**PIATT COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

**VERMILION COUNTY**

CPO Sanford responded to a report of an injured Bald Eagle in Vermilion County. CPO Sanford was able to locate and capture the eagle, which was then transported to a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility for evaluation and treatment.

## **South Zone – Acting Captain Eric Manker**

### **District 13 – Sgt. Eric Manker**

**(Counties: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair & Washington)**

#### **BOND COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **CLINTON COUNTY**

CPO Macias received a tip of a group of people that consistently fish the spillway at Carlyle Lake in the evenings. Investigation is ongoing...

CPO Macias was on patrol near Carlyle Lake when he came upon a lone person fishing. When a compliance check was initiated, the subject readily told the CPO that he no longer had a fishing license due to revocation for child support. A check revealed this to be true, to add to the subject's woes, his driver's license was suspended. The CPO asked how he arrived at the location, he said he drove there. CPO Macias decided to issue the subject a citation for fishing while revoked and allowed the subject to call two separate drivers with valid licenses to pick him and the car up.

#### **MADISON COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **MONROE COUNTY**

CPO Gerdes received a call regarding a coyote running around the outskirts of Columbia, IL with a foothold trap on one of its front feet. CPO Gerdes met with the caller and searched the area where the coyote was last observed, but was unable to locate any sign of the animal. The caller agreed to call back if the coyote was seen again.

CPO Schachner completed an investigation from archery deer season involving a subject illegally using another person's permit and falsifying the harvest of a deer. That subject was cited and received two written warnings. Enforcement action was also taken against another subject for deer hunting prior to obtaining a valid deer permit and hunting license.

CPO Liebl was notified of a hunting accident that occurred during a field trial. A hunter accidentally shot himself in the side with a 20-gauge shotgun. The hunter was airlifted to a hospital in Springfield. The injury was non-life threatening. CPO Liebl will be completing a thorough investigation into the accident.

#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

No activity to report for this county

#### **RANDOLPH COUNTY**

CPO Ralph Sievers attended and presented at the Hunter Safety Class in Sparta.

CPO Ralph Sievers assisted the Randolph County Sheriff's Department with removing a stolen vehicle from the Kaskaskia River.

#### **ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

During the final day of rabbit season, CPO Gerdes checked a group of hunters hunting at Peabody River King SFWA. One of the hunters was not wearing the required orange cap and was issued a written warning for the violation. The group

also had several questions regarding the boundaries inside the SFWA, and CPO Gerdes provided them with specific guidance on where they were legally allowed to rabbit hunt.

CPO Gerdes received a call from a man who believed he found two dead “rams” or “mountain sheep” under a bridge near Lebanon, IL. CPO Gerdes later located the animals and found them to be domestic goats which had been illegally dumped. Further patrol of the area will be conducted due to the frequency of illegal dumping in the area.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**District 14 – Sgt. Eric Manker  
(Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline & White)**

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Haggerty conducted a gun safety and upland game regulations presentation for the Rend Lake Quail Forever – Learn to Hunt Event.

CPOT Workman and CPO Williams have handled multiple requests for Salvage Deer Permits from individuals finding antlered deer skulls while looking for shed antlers.

GALLATIN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

HAMILTON COUNTY

CPO Folden is investigating several illegal deer stands left beyond the required deadline for removal at Hamilton County State Fish and Wildlife Area.

HARDIN COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

JEFFERSON COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

POPE COUNTY

CPO Wilkinson completed the investigation of a non-resident. The individual was charged with two counts of unlawful take of whitetail deer, hunting without valid permits, hunting without non-resident hunting license or habitat stamps, unlawful use of another person’s permit, two counts of failure to attach harvest tag immediately upon harvest, and two counts of failure to report a harvest by 10:00 PM the same day of harvest. A shoulder mount of a big 8-point buck was seized as a result of this investigation.

CPO Wilkinson completed a firearm deer season investigation. CPO Wilkinson issued one citation for unlawfully hunting without first obtaining permits and two written warnings for unlawful take of whitetail deer and falsifying a permit.

SALINE COUNTY

While on patrol in Saline county, CPO Wilkinson was passed by a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. CPO Wilkinson conducted a traffic stop and determined the operator was also not wearing a seat belt. A citation and written warning were issued.

CPO Knop has been conducting deer investigations.

WHITE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**District 15 – Sgt. Eric Manker**

**(Counties: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion Richland, Wabash & Wayne)**

CLAY COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

CRAWFORD COUNTY

CPO Hyatt conducted a deer investigation of a Flat Rock, IL man. The man had killed a deer early in October and bought the tag for the deer after dark. The man admitted to shooting a doe and buying the tag after the fact. The man was issued one citation for failure to tag deer immediately upon kill.

CPO's were searching for a missing person who was last seen on the Wabash River in a canoe. CPO's were notified within a few hours of searching that Indiana DNR located the canoe and campsite of the missing person. The missing person was later found walking on a rural road in Indiana.

EDWARDS COUNTY

CPO Skelton Spoke with the Farm Bureau Young Farmers members, explaining the day to day duties of a Conservation Police Officer.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CPO Smith, walked a property south-east of 12475 E 300th Avenue reference to a complaint he received of unlawful trapping. A neighbor to the property complained that his dog was found alive with a 330 conibear trap wrapped around his dog's head and nose. The trap was removed by cutting it with a cutting torch. The dog was found due east of property belonging to the suspect. After a considerable time walking the suspect's property and searching for traps; CPO Smith observed a dead skunk caught in a 330 conibear trap located at the west entrance to a wooded fence row. The skunk carcass was in the trap a considerable time period; at least 7 days. There was no tag on the trap identifying its owner. CPO Smith collected the trap and skunk carcass and transported it to the evidence facility. A few days later CPO Smith met with the suspect and issued one citation for unlawful trap exceeding size limit for land set, a ww for untagged trap, and fail to check trap daily.

FAYETTE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

JASPER COUNTY

CPO Hyatt was working big motors on Newton Lake where he had received numerous complaints from the day before. Hyatt observed a boat driving up the hot arm of the lake for a good mile. The boat had a 150 hp motor on it running, when the lake only permits a 25 hp maximum. The operator of the boat was issued a citation for running a motor that was larger than permitted at the lake.

CPO Smith issued written warnings for several boat equipment violations and 1 ww for not having fishing license in possession at Newton Lake.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

MARION COUNTY

CPO Roper observed a log truck on Rt 37. CPO Roper conducted a timber truck inspection on the truck. CPO Roper observed no violations on the timber truck.

RICHLAND COUNTY

CPO Skelton and CPO Hyatt were working deer investigations in Richland County. Specifically looking at harvest records where deer had been harvested by people who did not possess a hunting license or habitat stamps. A wife was on the list and did not possess either but had harvested 3 deer that year. It was discovered through an interview with the subject that her husband had been killing deer and using her tags. Her husband had been using her tags to harvest deer and call them in as hers. Her husband was issued a citation for falsification of records x2.

WABASH COUNTY

CPO Skelton Spoke at a Hunter Education Class that was held at the Wabash County Quail Club.

WAYNE COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

**District 16 – Sgt. Kris Taylor**

**(Counties: Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Union & Williamson)**

ALEXANDER COUNTY

CPO Wolf assisted CPO Spinka in an investigation of an illegal 14-point buck taken over bait.

CPO Spinka has been conducting investigations regarding violations that took place during the archery and firearm deer season.

JACKSON COUNTY

CPO Somers is investigating the unlawful take of three deer.

JOHNSON COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

MASSAC COUNTY

CPO Wolf cited an individual for hunting with no valid hunting license during archery season. The man was also issued multiple written warnings for various hunting violations.

PERRY COUNTY

No activity to report for this county

PULASKI COUNTY

CPO Wolf cited an individual for driving 86 MPH in a 55 MPH zone.

CPO Spinka is Currently investigating multiple deer hunting related cases that took place during the firearm deer season and during archery season.

UNION COUNTY

CPO Teas attended spoke at a Hunter Safety Class in Union County.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CPO Johnson is working with other Defensive tactics instructors to update the curriculum for the defensive tactics program.

CPO Johnson is conducting open source investigations on potential deer violations. A subject was issued a written warning for not purchasing a habitat stamp and failing to tag deer immediately upon kill.