



Illinois Conservation Police Bi-Weekly Report



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

DATE: November 22, 2019
(Weeks of November 1 – 15, 2019)

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

CPO Peecher cited a boater because his 10-year-old son was not wearing a life jacket, and seven written warnings issued for various other violations.

While conducting hunting enforcement, CPO Peecher issued a warning to a youth hunting in his stand during youth firearm deer season because he was not wearing the required blaze orange/pink.

CPO Peecher gave presentations to multiple fourth grade classes as Mississippi Palisades State Park for the Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as a hunter safety education course.

CPO Peecher responded to a complaint of hunting without permission, and the investigation is ongoing.

HENRY COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JODAVIESS COUNTY

CPOT Williams and CPO Beltran investigated a complaint regarding an unlawfully taken deer.

CPOT Williams issued a warning for failure to possess a valid habitat stamp.

LEE COUNTY

CPO Palumbo issued a written warning to a Rockfalls bowhunter for the improper tagging of a buck he harvested at Green River State Wildlife Area.

CPOT Williams and CPO Beltran conducted several inspections at Green River State Wildlife Area and discovered hunters unlawfully possessing lead shot, incorrect shot size, no blaze orange/pink, and other violations. In total, three citations and 13 written warnings were issued.

MERCER COUNTY

CPO McKune investigated a deer harvest being reported after the required time of 10:00 p.m. A written warning was issued for the violation.

CPO McKune issued four written warnings to waterfowl hunters for failure to keep separated bag limits.

While on patrol, CPO McKune issued two citations to the driver of a vehicle for having open alcohol and no vehicle registration. He also wrote a total of 18 written warnings for other various violations during the patrol.

OGLE COUNTY

While conducting hunter enforcement, CPO Beltran checked several deer hunters at various state sites. Multiple infractions were found, and appropriate enforcement action was taken.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

CPO Posateri responded to the Bass Street YMCA Rowing facility for a reported oil spill. There was a motorboat with maintenance issues, and a mixture of gas with oil had been spilled into the water. The Moline Fire Department donated a boom to the facility manager, and they were able to contain the spill. The facility will be responsible for contacting an environmental cleanup company for the removal of the boom. No criminal charges were filed.

While conducting fishing enforcement, CPO Francisko checked several walleye fishermen. This resulted in one citation and several written warnings being issued for miscellaneous fishing violations.

CPO McKune attended a local fishing organization club's monthly meeting and spoke with fishermen about various topics, including the duties of a CPO. He also answered questions from the members.

STEPHENSON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WHITESIDE COUNTY

CPO Palumbo issued multiple written warnings to bowhunters for the improper reporting of their deer harvests.

CPO Palumbo issued a written warning to a young Morrison deer hunter for transporting an uncased crossbow in the backseat of his pickup truck.

CPO Palumbo issued a Dolton man a written warning for using lead shot on Big Bend Fish and Wildlife Area's non-toxic shot only upland game area.

CPO Palumbo issued a landowner a written warning for dumping waste corn in a deer habit area.

**District 6 – Sgt. Phil Wire
(Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)**

BOONE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

BUREAU COUNTY

Two waterfowl hunters were cited by CPO Stanbary for failing to separate and maintain separate bag limits. Additionally, one hunter was issued warnings for boating equipment and PFD violations.

CPO Stanbary and CPOT Kiprono responded to a report of a capsized boat at a private duck club in the backwaters of the Illinois River. While waterfowl hunting, a group of three men capsized their 14-foot jon boat. One of the hunters used his cell phone to contact a nearby hunter, and that hunter rescued the men from their capsized boat. The men were taken to shore where they were evaluated by paramedics. All refused medical treatment.

DEKALB COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LASALLE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

PUTNAM COUNTY

CPO Stanbary and CPOT Kiprono arrested two hunters for illegally hunting deer over bait.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 7 – Sgt. Scott Avery

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

FULTON COUNTY

While conducting waterfowl hunting compliance enforcement on the Illinois River, CPO Thompson issued two citations for unlawful hunting with an unplugged shotgun and one citation for unlawful transport of an uncased firearm on a boat. He also issued two citations for boat safety and registration violations and written warnings for unlawful fishing without permission and trespass.

CPO Thompson investigated a hunting accident where a hunter fell from his tree stand during descent. The man broke his leg and wrist and had to undergo surgery.

CPO Thompson cited a man for unlawful transportation of an uncased crossbow on an ATV, and he issued two citations to a man for failure to tag deer immediately upon kill.

HENDERSON COUNTY

CPO McKune issued one citation to a waterfowl hunter for taking over the daily limit of ducks. He issued four citations to waterfowl hunters for failing to keep separate bag limits, along with two written warnings for failing to have the required windshield cards for parking and hunting at a state public waterfowl hunting area. The bagged waterfowl related to this case were seized.

CPO McKune issued an individual two citations for unlawful possession of white-tailed deer, one citation for unlawful take of a white-tailed deer, one citation for attempting to take deer without a valid archery permit, one written warning for failure to tag immediately upon kill, and one written warning for failure to report harvest. An eight-point buck and an 11-point buck full body mount were seized as a result.

KNOX COUNTY

CPO McCarter attended a firearms instructor course organized by the Illinois State Police. The course taught officers how to instruct a firing range in a safe manner as well as how to coach others to better develop their shooting skills. The course involved pistol, rifle, and shotgun exercises with officers required to pass a qualification with each weapon to complete the course.

CPO McCarter attended the Veterans Day Parade in Galesburg. One of the department's air boats was brought for display purposes during the parade route. He spoke with many veterans and their families.

MARSHALL COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

PEORIA COUNTY

CPO Lazzell and CPOT Alvarez are investigating multiple complaints of hunting without permission and baiting deer.

STARK COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

TAZEWELL COUNTY

CPO Lazzell and CPOT Alvarez cited a Peoria man for fishing with seven fishing poles on a two pole only lake.

WARREN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WOODFORD COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

Northeast Zone – Captain Jed Whitchurch

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

KANE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LAKE COUNTY

CPO Reid arrested a subject at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park for driving a motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license and unlawful possession of cannabis, less than 10 grams.

CPO Doescher arrested a subject at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park for operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

CPO Reid and CPOT Roesch arrested two subjects hunting white-tailed deer in the Libertyville area. The subjects were charged with hunting over bait, hunting without a deer permit, and unlawful take of deer.

CPO Doescher check a hunter and found the subject was using lead shot while pheasant hunting in a state park. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Doescher patrolled a nature preserve during a bike event at a state park to ensure the participants rode their bikes in the designated areas. Verbal warnings were given to a few bikers who were off course.

CPO Doescher conducted a traffic control detail at a state park. Citations were issued for speeding and operating with no insurance. Several warnings were issued for speeding and expired registrations.

MCHENRY COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

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

GRUNDY COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

KENDALL COUNTY

CPO Bergland responded to a call of a subject loading a deer into his vehicle at a public park in Yorkville. After a brief investigation, it was found that the deer was shot (archery) the day before but was not found before it got too dark to continue the search. The hunter continued the search the next day and found the deer near the park. No violations were found.

WILL COUNTY

CPO Prasun witnessed a suspicious vehicle parked next to a field full of Canada geese. A check of the vehicle revealed that the driver had illegally dumped waste alongside the roadway. Enforcement action was taken, and the offender was educated on the illegal dumping laws.

CPO Honiotes and CPO Prasun investigated a deer poaching complaint in reference to an individual who was said to have illegally taken deer on property he did not have permission to hunt on. The case is under investigation.

CPO Prasun investigated a boat accident where a barge was traveling downstream in the dark from the Lockport Locks when it struck a small sailboat tied off to the wall of the canal. The boat broke loose from its mooring lines and was pushed several hundred yards downstream. Luckily the sailboat occupant was not injured and was able to contact the barge on the radio to inform the pilot of the situation. The sailboat sustained minor damage, and the barge company and the officer are working with the captain to get his vessel back underway to St. Louis.

CPO Prasun stopped an archery deer hunter as he pulled away from a public hunting area. During the hunter contact, it was determined that the compound bow he had been using to hunt with was inside the passenger compartment and was not fully enclosed in a bow case, unstrung, or made inoperable. Enforcement action was taken, and the hunter was educated on the proper way to transport a bow.

CPOs Prasun and Honiotes located four deer hunters out in a field who were wearing blaze orange and hunting with shotguns. They claimed to have mistaken the current weekend to be firearm deer season which was the following weekend. They were all cited for unlawful take of protected wildlife out of season.

CPOs Prasun and Honiotes located an archery deer hunter who was actively hunting. He did not have his required documentation in his possession as required. It was also determined that he was hunting without a hunting license or a habitat stamp. Appropriate enforcement action was taken, and he was educated on the licensing and possession laws.

District 4 – Sgt. Mooi

(Counties: Cook & DuPage)

COOK COUNTY

While on patrol at a Chicago harbor, CPOs Kusta and Prasun observed a fisherman snagging. A fishing compliance check was performed, and the fisherman was found to be in compliance. CPO Kusta observed a glass jar containing a glass pipe which is commonly used as drug paraphernalia. The subject was asked if there was any cannabis, and the fisherman it was in the side pocket of his bag. CPO Kusta found the glass jar containing cannabis. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at a Chicago lagoon, CPOs Kusta and Prasun observed a fisherman snagging and requested his sport fishing license and salmon stamp. The fisherman provided a valid sport fishing license but did not have a salmon stamp. CPO Kusta educated the fisherman as to why the salmon stamp was needed, and a written warning was issued.

CPO Kusta received a call regarding a dead hawk. The complainant stated that it appeared the hawk had been shot. After inspecting the hawk, CPO Kusta determined that the hawk had been struck by a vehicle.

CPO Kusta responded to a hunting complaint in a Cook County forest preserve. The hunter was located, and a hunting compliance check was conducted. The hunter was not able to provide the requested documentation. The hunter was advised that the Cook County Forest Preserve District does not allow hunting on its property. The hunter was cited for: hunting on lands without land owner permission, hunting without an Illinois hunting license, hunting without a deer hunting permit, and unlawful take of deer. A written warning was issued for no habitat stamp.

During a fishing compliance check at a Lake Michigan harbor, CPO Prasun observed two fishermen who were actively snagging in an area closed to snagging. Both fishermen were cited for unlawfully snagging. In a separate incidence, CPO Prasun observed another fisherman who was snagging without the required Lake Michigan salmon stamp. Enforcement action was taken, and the fisherman was educated on the licensing laws.

CPOT Gates and CPO Prasun responded to a citizen's complaint of a person snagging in a Lake Michigan harbor that was closed to snagging. The person was located and cited for unlawfully snagging.

CPO Prasun responded to a residence in reference to a complaint of someone trapping a striped skunk out of season and without a permit. The incident is currently under investigation.

CPO Prasun assisted the United States Fish & Wildlife Service with the recovery of a bald eagle that had been electrocuted. The eagle will be sent to the National Eagle Repository in Denver, Colorado.

CPO Prasun responded to a call for service to assist the Chicago Police and Fire departments in reference to a subject who had jumped into Lake Michigan near one of the harbors. The subject was recovered and subsequently transported to the local hospital for treatment.

While on patrol, CPO Prasun observed a vehicle blocking a traffic lane on an interstate during rush hour traffic. After pushing the vehicle onto the shoulder, CPO Prasun learned that the vehicle had been involved in a hit and run traffic crash. The scene was turned over to the Illinois State Police.

CPOs Kusta, Prasun, and Klemme conducted several fishing compliance checks at numerous Lake Michigan harbors. Two fishermen were observed actively snagging in an area opened to snagging; however, they did not possess Lake Michigan salmon stamps. Enforcement action was taken, and the offenders were educated on the licensing laws.

DUPAGE COUNTY

CPO Kusta received a call regarding a roadkill deer that was dispatched by local law enforcement. The caller was requesting a salvage tag. After confirming that the deer had been hit by a vehicle, a salvage tag was issued and affixed to the deer.

CPO Kusta was conducting wildlife enforcement on a portion of the Des Plaines River, and he observed two hunters in a boat returning from waterfowl hunting. CPO Kusta inspected their documentation, shotguns, and harvest; and he conducted a boat safety inspection. The first shotgun was found to be loaded. The second hunter's shotgun was cased and unloaded. Enforcement action was taken on the first hunter, and he was cited for unlawfully transporting a loaded firearm.

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

No activity reported for this county.

BROWN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

CALHOUN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

GREENE COUNTY

After receiving a complaint call, CPO Olroyd issued citations to an individual for criminal trespass and operation of an ATV on private property without the consent of the landowner. The individual was previously advised they were not allowed on the property, and a written warning was issued at that time for unlawful operation of ATV on private property without consent.

While conducting a night patrol, CPO Wright observed a vehicle stop in the road and shine a spotlight from the vehicle. He then heard two gunshots fired from the stopped vehicle. A traffic stop of the vehicle was conducted, and the occupants were in found to be in possession of an uncased handgun and a spotlight. Open alcohol was also observed in the vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle admitted to spotlighting and firing the handgun at deer in the field. Multiple citations were issued to the individuals.

HANCOCK COUNTY

While conducting a night patrol, CPO Jansen observed a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle was stopped, and the passenger was holding a loaded 22 mag rifle. In addition, the driver and passenger both had open alcohol, and the driver was driving under the influence. The subjects admitted to hunting by use or aid of conveyance. A total of eight citations and four written warnings were issued.

CPO Jansen arrested a subject from New Hampshire for falsifying residency to obtain permits. He was issued two citations and five written warnings.

CPO Wheatley and CPOT Leannah apprehended a Kentucky resident hunter that was hunting without an Illinois license or habitat stamp, and appropriate enforcement action was taken. The officers were also able to ascertain that the

hunter took a spring turkey in Franklin County without a hunting license or habitat stamp. That issue was passed onto the Franklin County CPO.

JERSEY COUNTY

CPO Goetten cited a California resident for a deer permit violation.

CPO Goetten stopped two hunters on a UTV. One was holding an uncased bow, and the other did not have a license or deer permits. Enforcement action was taken.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

CPO Olroyd conducted an investigation which led to the admission of the unlawful harvest of a buck and a doe. Enforcement action is pending consultation with State's Attorney.

CPO Gushleff was contacted by a hunter who observed another hunter shoot a deer with a gun during archery deer season. The hunter confronted the subject and determined the hunter was a 15-year-old boy. CPO Gushleff investigated the incident, and the boy did not have a hunting license, habitat stamp, or deer permits. The boy was also on land that he did not have permission to be on. The boy was located, and he was with two other boys who did possess a hunting license and archery deer permits. The adult who was involved with the boys was not a hunter and stated he did not really know what they were doing. After speaking with the boy about the incident, it was determined the boy did not know what he was doing and panicked when the hunter confronted him. He left the deer in the field, and CPO Gushleff explained that it was a violation of the Wildlife Code to leave the deer to waste. After educating the boy on the violations he committed, his mother arrived. CPO Gushleff spoke to his mother. The boy was issued one citation and five written warnings for the incident. He apologized to the officer, and he was given a business card to contact the CPO anytime he had a hunting question or issue.

PIKE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

SCHUYLER COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 10 – Sgt. William Gilmer (Counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)

CASS COUNTY

CPO Wahlbrink received a complaint of someone hunting without permission. He spoke with the property owner and together they found four trail cameras and a ground blind. The investigation is ongoing.

CPO Wahlbrink cited a man for hunting over a large bait hole at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area. Soil sampling results revealed the baited hole contained 12 times the amount of salt in comparison with the surrounding soil. In a separate incidence, CPO Wahlbrink discovered a new hunter who had not tagged a deer immediately upon harvest. The hunter explained that he was heading back to his vehicle to retrieve his deer cart prior to tagging the deer. The hunter was educated on the importance of tagging deer immediately upon harvest, and a written warning was issued.

While conducting deer enforcement at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area, CPO Thornley spoke to a hunter who stated that he believed he found a stolen tractor in the trees. CPO Thornley confirmed that the description matched the tractor that was stolen from the area. He assisted the Cass County Sheriff's Department in the recovery of the stolen tractor.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

While conducting fishing enforcement, CPO Wright found that one fisherman's fishing license was suspended for child support issued, and a second fisherman was in possession of a short crappie. Each fisherman was issued a citation for their violation.

LOGAN COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MASON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MENARD COUNTY

CPO Thornley and Sgt. Williamson assisted the Menard County Sheriff's Office by conducting sonar operations on Lake Petersburg to search for a missing person. The missing person was located and recovered.

MORGAN COUNTY

CPOs Wichern, Blakeley, and Wahlbrink patrolled Meredosia Bay during the opening weekend of waterfowl season. While conducting compliance checks, CPO Wahlbrink discovered a shotgun that was not equipped with a plug, making it capable of holding more than three shells. A citation was issued to the hunter. Another check led to the discovery of a waterfowl hunter who had lead shotgun slugs in his shell bag, and a written warning was issued.

CPO Wichern cited two bow hunters for deer hunting on Waverly Lake property without permission from the City of Waverly.

SANGAMON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

SCOTT COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 11 – Sgt. Brian McReynolds

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

CLARK COUNTY

CPO Hyatt investigated a complaint from a hunter about dogs chasing wildlife on his property.

CPO Wellum walked several reported baited areas in preparation for the upcoming firearm deer season

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams located a vehicle parked in an area consistent with bow hunting activity. CPOT Williams checked the plate on the vehicle and compared the registered driver (Michigan resident) in the POS system. The registered owner of the vehicle did not have a hunting license or habitat stamp. CPOT Williams spoke with the hunter, and appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams walked several wooded areas to check for illegal hunting activities.

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams conducted a night patrol, and no illegal activity was found.

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams received a report of dogs chasing deer. The officers spoke with the owner of the dogs, and the owner advised she would make sure it would not happen again.

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams received a report of an illegal stand on Lincoln Trial State Park. The stand was found, and it appeared to be abandoned and unsafe. Since the stand was on private property, it was left in place.

COLES COUNTY

CPO Hyatt and CPOT Z. Williams assisted the Illinois State Police and Coles County Sheriff's Department with a fatal accident on US 130.

While checking hunters at Fox Ridge State Park, CPO Mieure issued an Ashmore man two written warnings for no hunting license and habitat stamp. He also issued a Charleston man one written warning for failure to display windshield card at Fox Ridge State Park.

While checking hunters, CPO Mieure issued a Mattoon man and a Lovington man written warnings for hunting without deer permits in possession. In a separate incident, he issued a Mattoon and Charleston man written warnings for hunting without deer permits in possession. CPO Mieure issued a Jewett man one written warning for failure to tag deer immediately upon kill. He also issued a Charleston man and woman written warnings for hunting without habitat stamps. A Charleston man was issued a written warning for unlawful possession of white-tailed deer.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CPO Hyatt assisted the Illinois State Police in locating a suspect who fled from the scene of an accident on I-70. The subject hid in the woods for several hours.

CPO Mieure issued a Lerna man one written warning for speeding – 70 mph in a 55-mph zone. In a separate incidence, he issued a Pennsylvania hunter one written warning for hunting without a nonresident hunting license.

CPO Wellum and CPOT Z. Williams received a complaint of a hunter hunting on a property line. The landowner was informed of the rules for hunting a property line, and the stand was later removed.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

EDGAR COUNTY

CPO Hyatt helped a ginseng buyer with information to verify who he could purchase ginseng from.

CPO Hyatt responded to call involving a neighbor dispute over property lines. The issue was resolved, and no enforcement action was necessary.

MOULTRIE COUNTY

CPO Moody cited an Arthur man for unlawful take of white-tailed deer. He also cited a Mattoon man for hunting deer with no archery deer tags. Another Arthur man was cited for illegally loaning his archery deer tags to a Florida hunter.

SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Mieure issued a Charleston man one written warning for unlawful take of a migratory game bird out of season.

CPO Greuel assisted a property owner with an injured fox. He is also investigating a dumping complaint.

District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson

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

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

CPO Miller took possession an injured juvenile red-tailed hawk that had been struck by a vehicle on I-74 after it was initially picked up by a nearby rest area employee. The hawk was turned over to the University of Illinois Vet Hospital.

DEWITT COUNTY

CPO Ausmus checked anglers at Clinton Lake. Two subjects were found to have short crappie, and one fisherman had over his legal limit. The Rantoul man was issued a citation for unlawful possession of over-limit of crappie and a warning for failure to release a short crappie. The Chicago man was issued a citation for failure to release a short crappie.

CPO G. Anderson checked several deer hunters at Clinton Lake State Recreation Area. One written warning was issued for a site-specific violation.

FORD COUNTY

CPO Miller conducted a deer death investigation. A buck was found dead inside a pheasant habitat area, and it appeared to have a gunshot wound.

CPO G. Anderson and Sgt. Williamson checked several pheasant hunters on opening day. No violations were found.

CPO G. Anderson responded to a call about possible hunters accessing land without permission. He spoke with the four hunters, and it was determined that the hunters did have permission to access the land.

IROQUOIS COUNTY

CPO G. Anderson and Sgt. Williamson checked several pheasant hunters on opening day. No violations were found.

CPO G. Anderson attended a hunter safety education course and gave a presentation on the hunting laws in Illinois. He also answered questions from the students.

CPO G. Anderson and CPOT Kiprono conducted a traffic stop on I-57 for a vehicle not displaying valid registration. The driver had just purchased the vehicle, and a written warning was issued.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

CPO G. Anderson responded to two separate incidents of illegal dumping of deer. Each incident had a deer carcass dumped on a private property near the roadway. The investigations are ongoing.

MACON COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

MCLEAN COUNTY

CPO G. Anderson issued a salvage deer tag to an individual.

PIATT COUNTY

CPOs G. Anderson and Ausmus continued the investigation of a ginseng complaint. Park staff helped identify two subjects suspected of unlawfully harvesting ginseng in September. The officers spoke with the Piatt County woman, and she admitted to harvesting ginseng without a license and digging on three or four occasions. She was cited for trespass to harvest ginseng and harvesting without a license. Immediately after leaving, the officers encountered the male subject. He admitted to being at the Park, but he denied digging ginseng. The Lincoln man was arrested on an outstanding Piatt County warrant and was issued citations for the ginseng violations.

VERMILION COUNTY

While on patrol at Kickapoo State Recreation Area, CPO Miller issued a written warning to a fisherman for fishing without permission.

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 reported for this county.

CLINTON COUNTY

CPO Macias conducted waterfowl enforcement at Carlyle Lake. A compliance check was done with a trio of hunters. A state waterfowl stamp was missing, and the hunter said that the vendor did not put that on his license. The hunter was advised that it is up to the hunter to ensure that they have all required documents, licenses, permits needed before going out on his hunt regardless of who the vendor is. A citation was issued, and he was encouraged to get his state waterfowl stamp before his next outing.

MADISON COUNTY

While conducting hunting enforcement, CPOs French and Goetten observed a suspicious vehicle; and contact was made with the occupants. One of the occupants was in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, and he was arrested and transported to the Madison County Jail.

CPOs Ray and Gerdes conducted waterfowl enforcement at Horseshoe Lake State Park and issued multiple warnings for boat violations. Citations were also issued for separate bag limits and no federal duck stamps.

CPO Ray arrested two subjects for archery deer hunting in a Waterfowl Rest Area and failing to sign in at Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area.

MONROE COUNTY

CPO Schachner and CPOT Roundcount encountered a subject illegally hunting on a state property that was closed to hunting during the youth gun deer season. In addition, the adult hunter was not wearing blaze orange/pink and transported two uncased archery devices in his vehicle. One citation and two warnings were issued.

CPO Schachner repeatedly checked several baited deer stands on the same property over the course of multiple deer seasons. In addition to apples and corn, one of the bait sites had a large amount of salt/mineral. He spoke with the landowner/hunter who placed the bait, and the landowner admitted placing 200 pounds of salt/mineral mix each year at one of the locations every year for at least 3-4 years. The subject was educated on the potential impact/spread of chronic wasting disease (which is directly across the river in Missouri). The subject was cited for the bait and instructed to completely remove it. Both the landowner and the CPO agreed it would likely require the use of a backhoe and large trailer to remove the enormous amount of baited soil.

CPO Schachner cited two subjects who were illegally deer hunting with the aid of bait. The bait was cleaned up, and they were educated on the reason not to bait deer and the part it plays in the spread of chronic wasting disease.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

CPO Sievers issued an archery deer hunter a citation for unlawfully hunting by the aid of bait.

While conducting waterfowl enforcement, CPO Sievers issued a waterfowl hunter a citation for unlawfully building a blind on the Kaskaskia River Fish and Wildlife Area.

CPO Sievers issued citations to two archery deer hunters for the unlawful transportation of a bow.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

While patrolling the boarder of the Peabody River King State Fish and Wildlife Area, CPO Gerdes observed a vehicle parked along the roadway near an area that was closed to hunting. It was determined that the owner of the vehicle was hunting in the restricted area. He located the individual and another subject a short time later. Both were bow hunting at the time. Appropriate enforcement action was taken, and the subjects removed their hunting equipment from the property.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

While on patrol of a known baited site, CPO Schachner and CPOT Roundcount encountered three adult men deer hunting the property during the youth gun deer season. Two subjects were cited for no blaze orange/pink, and a third subject was cited for hunting with aid of bait and for trapping the previous year without a valid trapping license. An otter hide was seized as contraband, and the three subjects were instructed to completely remove all deer bait from the property. They were also educated on the potential impact and severity of chronic wasting disease and the part that baiting takes in spreading it. All three subjects also received multiple written warnings, and a county road sign was seized and returned to the highway department.

District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens

(Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline & White)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Wilkinson conducted waterfowl enforcement. Six waterfowl hunters were checked, and no violations were discovered. He also conducted three deer hunting compliance checks, and all hunters were hunting lawfully.

CPO T. Williams responded to a report of possible poaching. He located two hunters in a vehicle, and they were hauling a deer out of a field. While evidence to sustain the initial complaint was not found, both hunters were transporting crossbows in the vehicle without enclosing them in a case or making them inoperable; and citations were issued.

GALLATIN COUNTY

While on patrol, CPO Knop observed a group of hunters dragging a buck up an embankment. As he walked up to the hunters, he noticed that the deer was untagged. After interviewing the hunter who shot the buck, a citation was issued for failure to tag immediately upon harvest.

HAMILTON COUNTY

CPO T. Williams received a complaint about someone “starting early” during the youth firearm deer season. The complaint area was investigated; and while nothing was found to substantiate the complaint, a deer stand was located which had a mineral block and scattered corn. There was also a trail camera on the bait. CPO Williams returned later the same day to locate an archery deer hunter in the stand, and additional corn had been placed by the hunter. The hunter was cited for deer hunting over bait, and a written warning was issued for not wearing blaze orange/pink clothing during the youth firearm deer season.

HARDIN COUNTY

CPOs Haggerty and Jourdan issued a citation to a hunter who was found to be in the possession of another person's permit while in the field hunting.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

CPO Jourdan and CPOT Swindle cited two men for archery deer hunting over bait. After departing that property, they found a man with two untagged deer in the bed of a UTV; and appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Jourdan attended the five-day Range Instructor School at the Illinois State Police range.

CPO Wilkinson conducted waterfowl enforcement at Ten Mile Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area. Five hunter compliance checks were conducted, and one watercraft safety inspection was performed. One hunter was found to be in possession of a loaded and uncased firearm while underway in a watercraft. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPOs Haggerty and Williams conducted waterfowl enforcement at the Rend Lake Wildlife Management Area. While completing compliance checks on the water, the CPOs were notified of a complaint in a walk area of Rend Lake near Gun Creek. The complainants stated that there was another party hunting within 80 yards of their location instead of the required 200-yard separation. Upon arrival to that location, the CPOs conducted compliance checks on both the complaining party. The second party was approximately 230 yards away. No violations were found.

POPE COUNTY

CPO Wilkinson is investigating a case involving multiple dumped deer carcasses with missing heads, gunshot wounds, and illegally baited deer stands. In addition, CPO Wilkinson conducted multiple hunter compliance checks. One deer hunter was found hunting without a hunting license in possession and no habitat stamp. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

SALINE COUNTY

CPO Wilkinson responded to a report from the Saline County Sheriff's Office regarding two large bucks locked together. When he arrived, he found that the situation had resolved itself.

While patrolling the Saline River, CPO Knop observed a canoe in the general vicinity of an area he knew to be baited for deer. A hunter from Florida was found in the same area of the bait, and a citation was issued.

WHITE COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

District 15 – Sgt. Dave Hyatt

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

CLAY COUNTY

CPO Smith was given information by an individual that he observed a pile of bait in an area where he was removing a tree stand. He accompanied the individual to the area and observed the mineral. The bait was sitting near a ground blind which was unoccupied at the time. He returned to the area a few weeks later and found an individual sitting in the ground blind with a crossbow. The baited area contained cracked corn with sunflower seeds scattered on the ground near the mineral bait. CPO Smith inquired who else was hunting the area. The individual said his son and grandson were in a different area on the leased ground. They proceeded to the area where the others were hunting, and the CPO found more bait dumped on the ground which consisted of cracked corn and sunflower seeds. They walked back to the truck and waited for the two individuals to come in. When they arrived, CPO Smith issued one

citation each for hunting deer over bait, two written warnings for no habitat stamp, and one written warning for feeding deer.

While on patrol of state property, CPO Taylor and CPOT Roundcount saw two hunters near their vehicle on the property. One of the hunters stated he harvested a doe the previous day, and it was determined that the hunter had failed to report the harvest prior to 10 p.m. the day it was taken. A citation was issued for failure to report a deer harvest prior to 10 p.m.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

CPO Willand received a phone call from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office. A deputy was executing a search warrant, and two freshly severed buck deer heads were discovered on the property. He responded to the scene. After an investigation into the licenses, permits, and harvest records of the residents on the property, it was determined that the deer were illegally harvested. He seized the severed deer heads. Two citations were issued for the unlawful possession of white-tailed deer.

While investigating a baited area near a deer stand, CPO Taylor observed a vehicle parked nearby. The hunter emerged from the woods to return to his vehicle, and the CPO asked the hunter where he had been hunting that morning. The hunter stated he was hunting a climber in the timber. He had previously scouted the area and knew that the tree stand was near the mineral block. The hunter was asked if he had placed the mineral block. The hunter stated he placed the mineral block in the summer with a camera to catch photos of big deer. There were still remnants of the trophy rock present near the climber. The hunter was informed that it is illegal to place bait for deer and to hunt with the aid of the bait. Two citations were issued for hunting over bait and unlawfully feeding of deer.

CPO Taylor received information of a subject harvesting ginseng on private property without permission. An attempt was made to interview the subject at the Crawford County Jail where he was being held on a separate charge; however, the subject refused to talk to him or CPOT Roundcount. Two citations were issued for unlawful harvest of ginseng without a ginseng harvester's license and trespass to harvest ginseng without a license.

EDWARDS COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

FAYETTE COUNTY

CPOs Tepovich, Roper, and Buhnerkempe completed an investigation on an individual who was filming hunts while his hunting privileges were revoked. Hunters are not allowed to participate in any hunting related activities or accompany another hunter in the field while their privileges are revoked for previously committed wildlife offenses. The individual was cited for multiple occurrences of this violation and was booked at the Fayette County Jail.

CPO Roper and CPOT Workman observed a vehicle parked at a hunter parking lot at Ramsey Lake State Recreation Area. CPOT Workman initiated a hunter compliance check on the hunter associated with the vehicle, and he discovered that the hunter did not have a valid habitat stamp. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CPO Roper and CPOT Workman conducted a waterfowl enforcement detail, and they checked several groups of hunters throughout the morning. CPOT Workman issued citations for unplugged shotguns, and two citations for unlawfully possessing more than 25 shotshells. CPOT Workman also issued eight written warnings.

While on patrol, CPOT Workman and CPO Roper observed a vehicle parked in an unauthorized area. CPOT Workman conducted a hunter compliance check on the individuals, and he issued the driver a citation for unlawfully parking in a

restricted area. He also conducted a hunter compliance check on individuals who were duck hunting away from the vehicle and discovered the hunters had not maintained separate bags of harvested birds. Both individuals were issued warnings for failure to maintain separate bags.

CPOT Workman and CPO Roper conducted a boat compliance check on a boat at Cox Bridge Access. It was discovered that the boat was short on the number of lifejackets needed for the number of occupants in the boat. CPOT Workman also discovered that the battery on the boat was not strapped down or covered. CPOT Workman issued the operator of the boat a citation for failure to possess the proper number of PFDs, and a written warning was issued for not having a covered battery.

CPOT Workman and CPO Roper received a call regarding a tree stand accident. CPOT Workman contacted the father of the fall victim and spoke with the father on scene. The fall victim suffered a broken leg and was airlifted to the hospital.

JASPER COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

CPO Taylor received a complaint of hunting without permission on city property. CPO Taylor and CPOT Roundcount searched the property and found a hunter with a companion in a deer stand. The hunter stated he did not know if he had permission to hunt on the property, and a citation was issued for hunting without permission.

MARION COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

RICHLAND COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WABASH COUNTY

CPO Taylor received a complaint from the site superintendent of Beal Woods State Park that two men were digging ginseng inside the Park. He contacted the two subjects, and each subject was issued two citations each for trespass to harvest ginseng and destruction of vegetation in a nature preserve.

WAYNE COUNTY

CPOs Skelton and Buhnerkempe cited two Alabama men for hunting with no valid nonresident hunting licenses.

District 16 – Sgt. Kris Taylor

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

ALEXANDER COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

JACKSON COUNTY

CPO Tapley issued citations to two hunters after they were found hunting without permission.

JOHNSON COUNTY

CPO Vasicek and CPOT Gates stopped a vehicle; and three unlawfully loaded firearms were discovered, including two loaded rifles. Multiple citations were issued.

CPO Vasicek and CPOT Gates charged a subject with the unlawful take of two white-tailed deer, including killing two bucks on same day without permits to do so. Falsification of harvest record was also documented as part of the investigation.

CPO Teas and CPOT McClenning were on patrol when they located a subject deer hunting in a section of the Shawnee National Forest. During the compliance check, it was discovered that the hunter had no permits, hunting license, or habitat stamp. The hunter was issued two citations and a warning, and his bow was seized.

MASSAC COUNTY

CPO Wolf is investigating an illegal deer bait site. He also issued an archery hunter a written warning for not having his hunting license in possession while hunting.

CPO Wolf participated in an event held at Ft. Massac State Park. The Illinois Conservation Police education trailer was used for the event, and the children enjoyed seeing the displays of animals in Illinois.

PERRY COUNTY

While on night patrol, CPO Vasicek and CPOT Gates stopped a vehicle. During the vehicle stop, methamphetamine and a large amount of cannabis were discovered. The subject, already on probation for possession of methamphetamine, was arrested.

CPO Tapley attended a Delta Waterfowl event during the youth waterfowl season. He spoke with the young hunters about the laws, ethics, and safety.

PULASKI COUNTY

CPO Wolf checked multiple archery hunters in the Cache River State Natural Area.

UNION COUNTY

No activity reported for this county.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CPO Wolf is assisting CPO Johnson with the investigation of a deer taken illegally.