

A photograph of a woodcock bird, characterized by its long, straight bill and mottled brown and grey plumage, standing in a field of tall green grass. The bird is positioned in the lower center of the frame, facing right. The background is a soft-focus expanse of similar grass, creating a naturalistic setting.

***Trends in Resident and Non-resident Hunter Effort and
Harvest for Woodcock in Mississippi:
1980-81 to 2010-11 Seasons***

**Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory
Forest and Wildlife Research Center
Mississippi State University**

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INTRODUCTION & METHODS

Self-administered mail surveys of resident hunters have been conducted intermittently since the 1947-48 Mississippi hunting season to estimate hunter effort and game harvest in Mississippi, with annual surveys (unless noted) starting in the 1980-1981 hunting season. Non-resident hunter surveys began on an annual basis in the 1994-95 hunting season (unless noted).

Annual surveys were completed by the Human Dimensions & Conservation Law Enforcement Laboratory in the Forest & Wildlife Research Center at Mississippi State University from 2001 thru 2011 using mail survey methodology prescribed by Dillman (2000). This entailed an introductory letter being sent to hunters followed one-week later by another letter, questionnaire, and business reply envelope (i.e., a complete packet). Ten days after that, hunters were sent a reminder/thank you postcard. Non-respondents were sent a complete packet as necessary three and seven weeks after the postcard.

These surveys provide information to biologists and researchers to determine trends in total harvest, average seasonal harvest per hunter, average daily harvest per hunter, average person-days spent afield, total person-days spent afield, percent successful hunters, and the proportion of hunters seeking 13 different game species and feral hog. This report includes mail survey data for woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) spanning from the 1980-81 hunting season to the 2010-11 hunting season for resident hunters, and data spanning from the 1994-95 hunting season to the 2010-11 hunting season for non-resident hunters.

This document will be updated annually with most recent data and will evolve to include other measures and information as that information is extracted from archived files. This report does not attempt to determine and describe trends in hunter effort and harvest. It is meant to provide the reader with the data for these estimates in an organized manner.

LITERATURE CITED

Dillman, D.A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*. 2nd Edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

RESULTS

TABLE 1. Mississippi woodcock hunting effort and harvest trends for licensed resident hunters
(1980 to the Present)

	TOTAL HARVEST	SE of TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENCEES (A)
1981	59,707	6,725	1.07	5.25	88.3	53,096	4.96	11,356	4.4
1982	56,520	9,976	1.04	5.19	97.5	49,938	5.43	10,895	4.5
1983	36,352	8,168	0.88	4.16	91.5	38,943	4.78	8,865	3.4
1984	37,056	7,249	0.98	3.73	86.6	30,315	3.76	10,074	3.9
1985	35,317	8,294	1.01	5.48	87.5	34,015	5.75	6,359	2.5
1986	22,958	3,291	0.80	3.93	87.7	25,739	4.97	5,767	2.3
1987	30,323	6,879	1.09	3.87	90.0	27,083	3.57	7,842	3.1
1988	24,086	6,626	1.40	3.86	86.0	17,141	2.88	6,239	2.4
1989	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1990	15,212	4,145	0.87	4.52	100.0	16,823	5.25	24,000	10.5
1991	16,986	4,939	0.66	5.14	89.3	23,165	7.81	8,569	3.7
1992	6,967	1,824	0.99	2.47	79.4	6,652	2.59	2,723	1.2
1993	7,963	4,008	0.97	3.75	58.3	8,149	4.60	2,123	0.9
1994	7,815	1,518	0.54	3.42	76.4	13,564	6.52	2,286	1.0
1995	6,572	2,113	1.00	3.11	71.4	6,577	3.35	2,115	1.00
1996	4,701	1,811	1.13	3.40	66.7	4,148	3.00	1,383	0.7
1997	7,695	2,750	1.13	3.63	63.0	11,241	3.00	2,120	1.0
1998	1,992	861	0.20	2.09	72.7	9,785	10.27	952	0.5
1999	4,736	1,308	0.84	3.52	80.6	5,736	4.40	1,433	0.7
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	3,325	1,815	0.53	3.06	52.9	6,266	5.76	1,087	0.5
2002	2,515	1,968	0.83	3.71	57.1	2,903	5.00	677	0.3
2003	6,824	3,521	1.11	5.45	72.7	6,141	4.91	1,251	0.6
2004	4,533	3,063	1.52	4.57	85.7	2,974	3.00	992	0.5
2005	6,104	3,078	1.07	3.88	75.0	5,711	3.63	1,576	0.8
2006	2,771	1,402	0.96	3.13	75.0	2,669	3.25	821	0.5
2007	852	451	0.89	2	100	958	2.25	426	0.2
2008	4,340	2,062	0.84	5	87.5	4,668	6.14	868	0.5
2009	4,657	3,266	0.86	6.4	60	5,384	7.4	728	0.4
2010	1,757	1,245	0.88	3	60	1,991	3.4	586	0.4
2011	2,612	1,189	0.32	2.71	85.7	6,879	8.33	962	0.6

(A) Calculated as a percent of small game license holders only

Figure 1. Trends in total harvest of woodcock for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

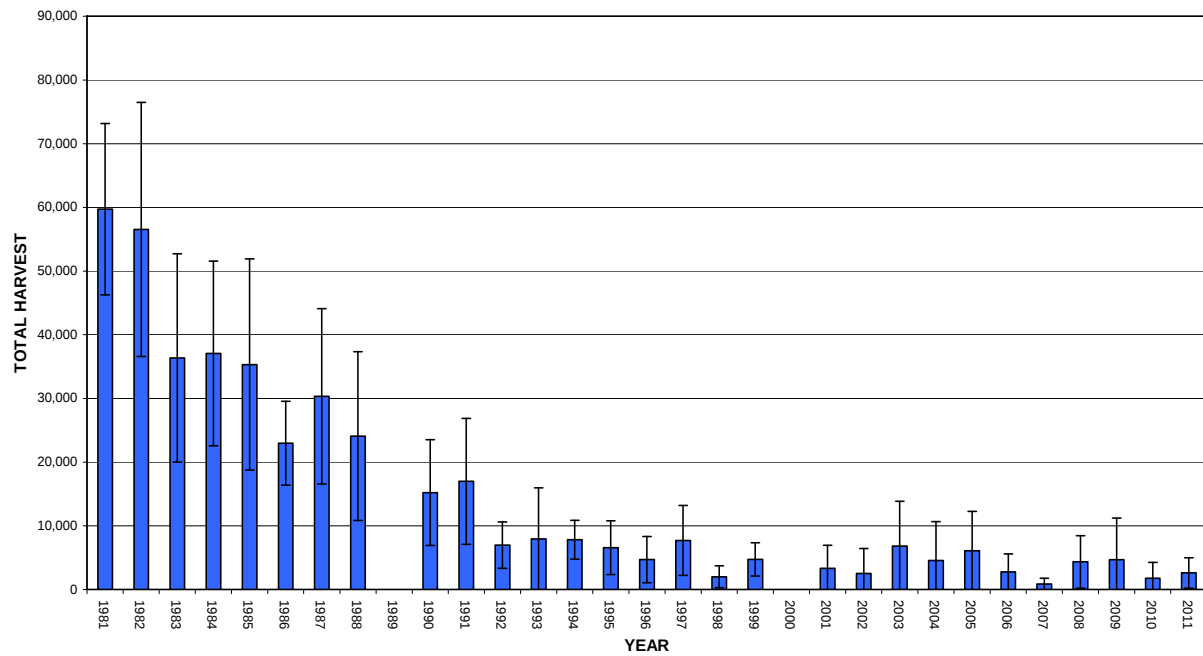


Figure 2. Trends in average daily kill of woodcock for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

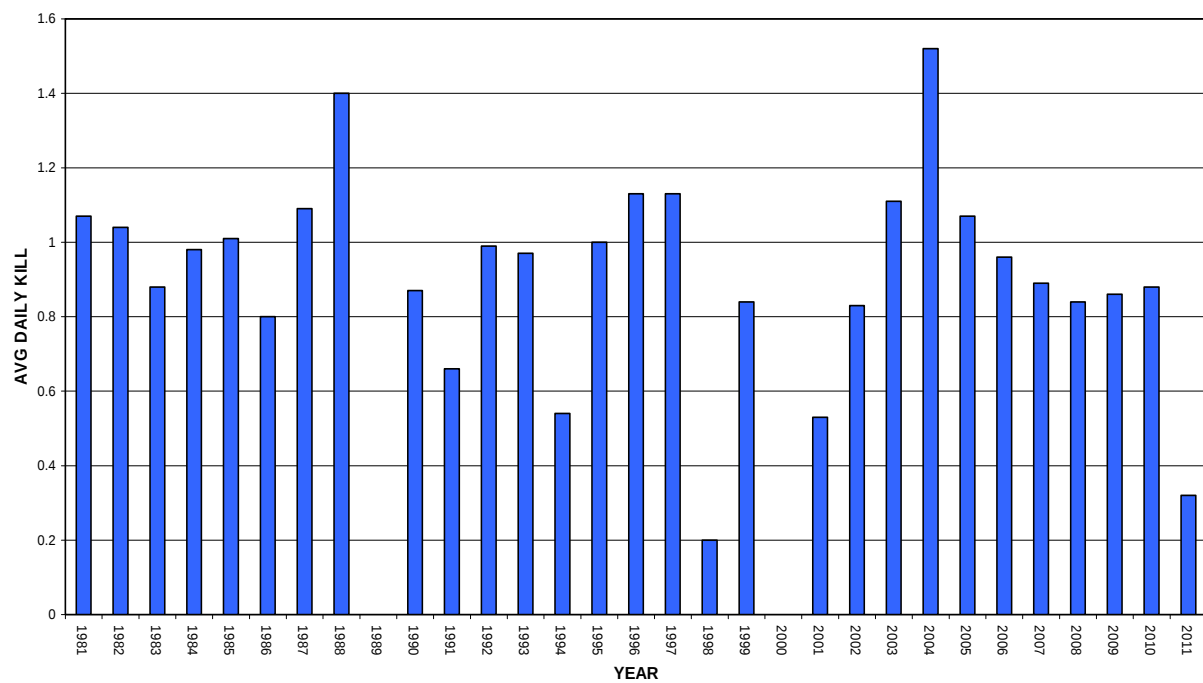


Figure 3. Trends in average seasonal harvest of woodcock for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

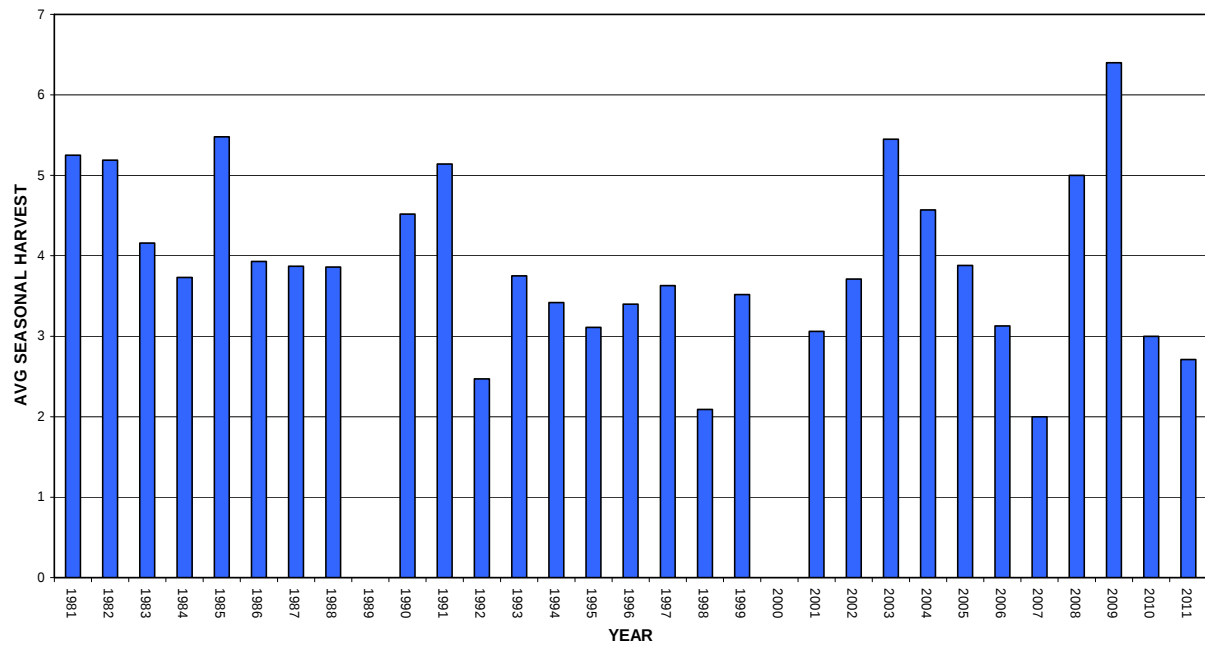


Figure 4. Trends in percent successful woodcock hunters for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

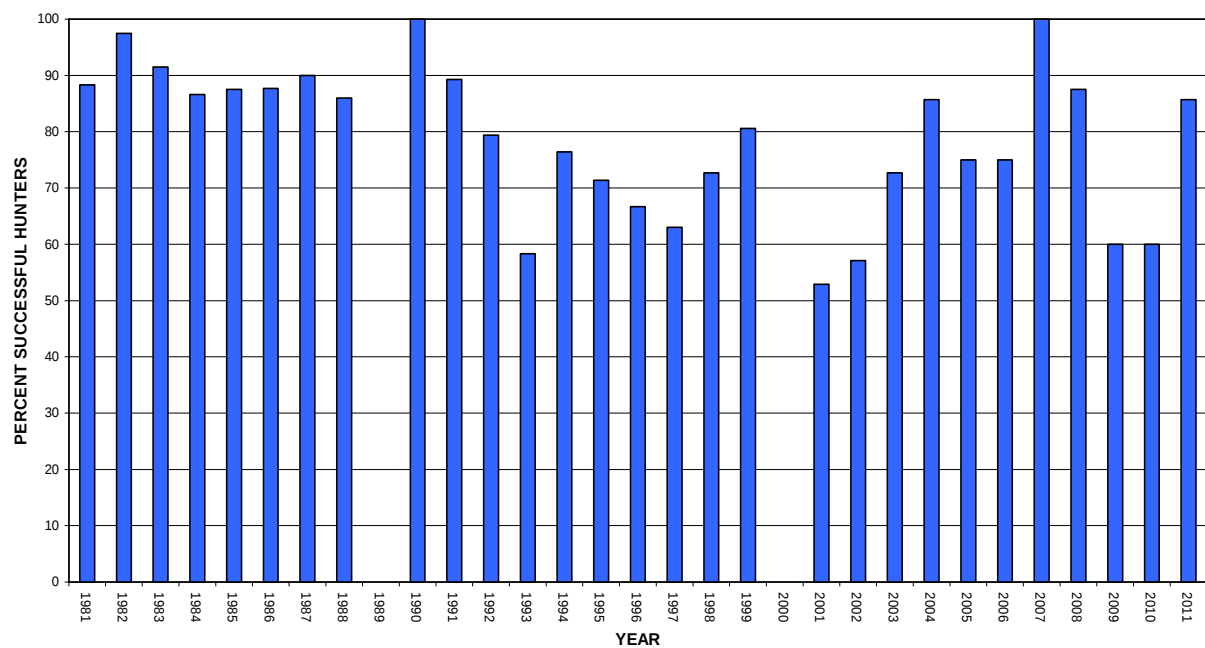


Figure 5. Trends in total man days woodcock hunting for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

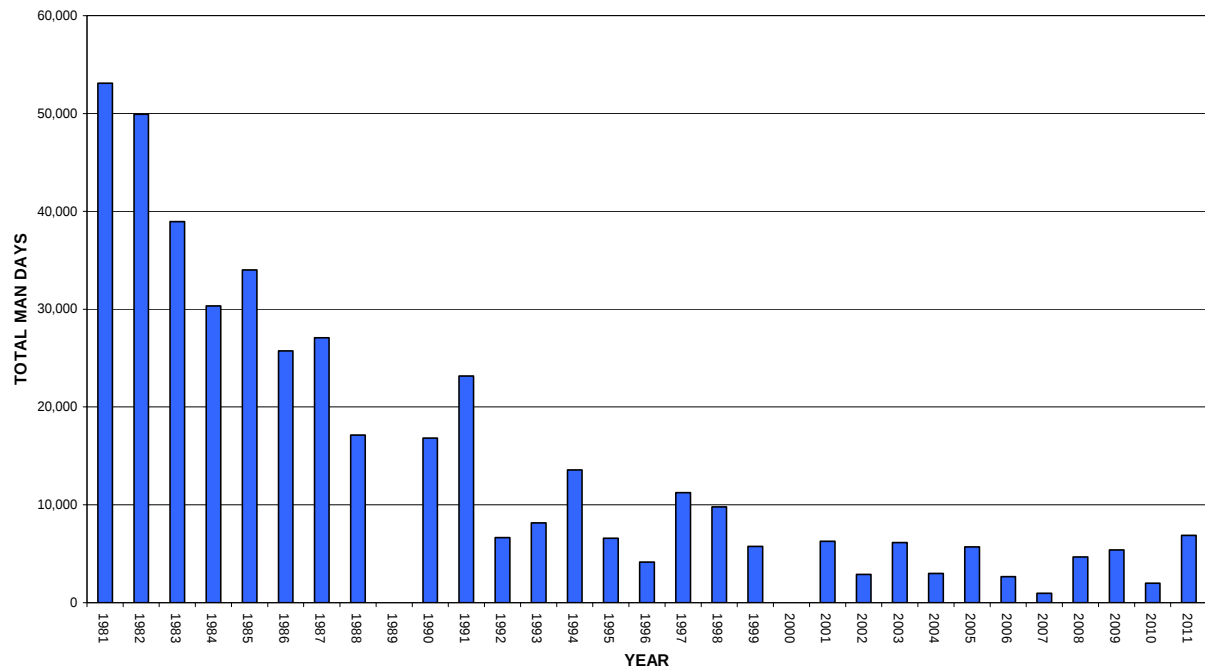


Figure 6. Trends in average seasonal days woodcock hunting for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

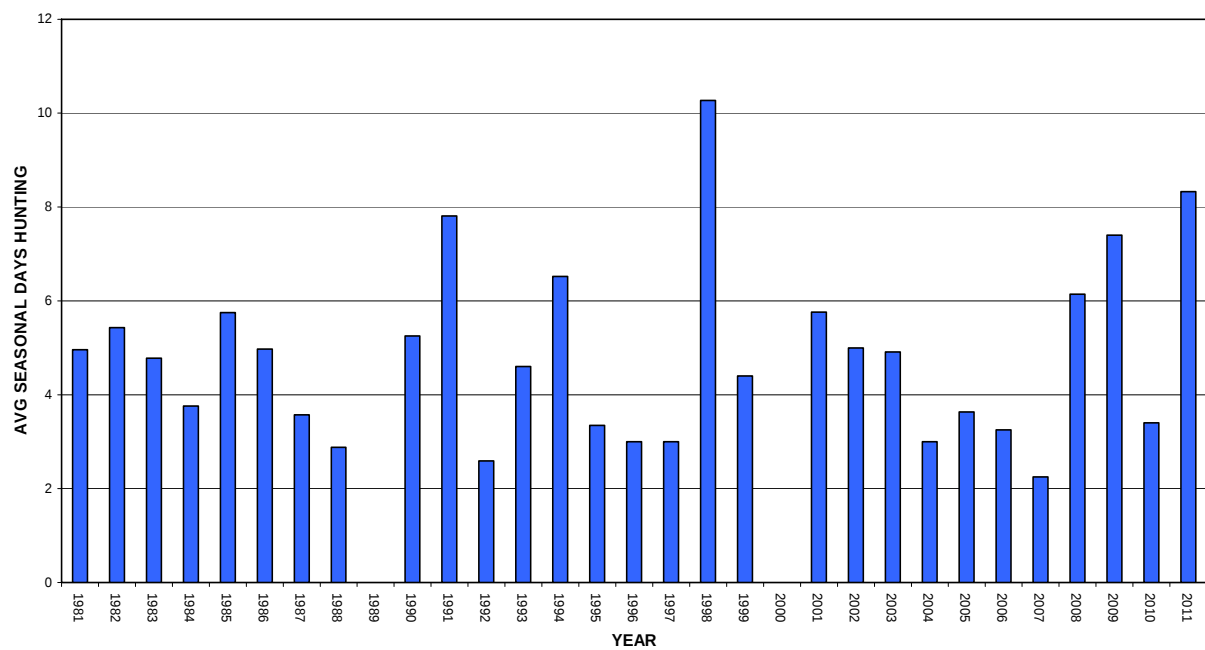


Figure 7. Trends in total woodcock hunters for licensed resident hunters (1980 to the Present)

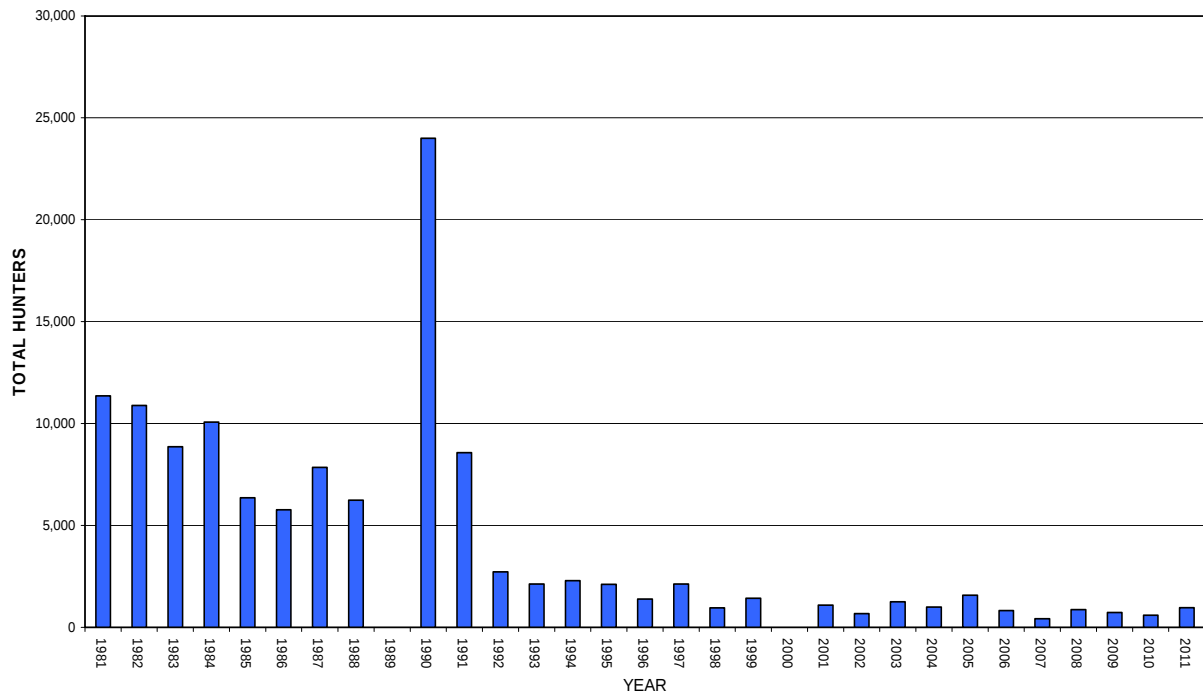


Figure 8. Trends in proportion of licensed resident hunters who hunted for woodcock (1980 to the Present)

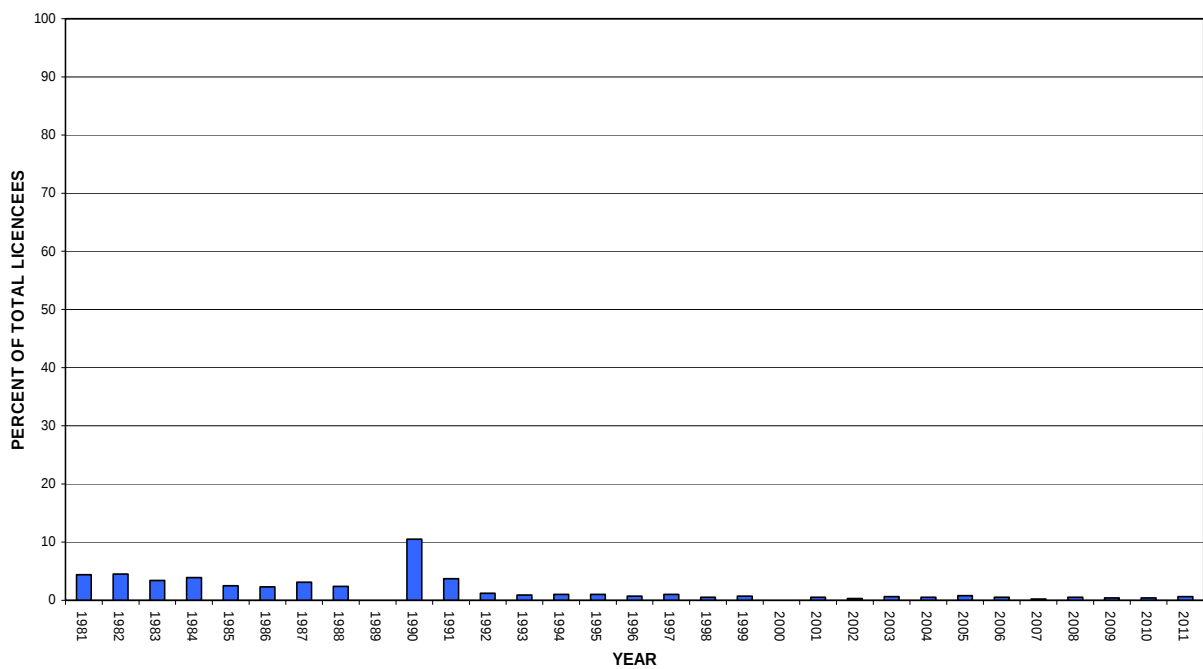


TABLE 2. Mississippi woodcock hunting effort and harvest trends for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

	TOTAL HARVEST	SE of TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN- DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENCEES (A)
1995	183	-	0.87	2.235	0.685	338	3.98	87	0.006
1996	152	-	0.147	0.703	29.667	624	10.927	92	0.367
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	322	-	5.23	5.877	77.667	550	6.443	75	0.567
1999	114	-	0.46	2.333	50	148	3	48	0.3
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	841	356	1.05	5.85	76.9	708	5.33	144	0.4
2002	180	92	0.22	1.09	54.5	748	5	165	0.5
2003	416	369	2.43	4.25	75	171	1.75	98	0.3
2004	456	286	2.7	5.4	80	169	2	85	0.3
2005	23	23	0.33	1	100	67	3	23	0.07
2006	253	169	0.42	4	100	491	15.5	63	0.2
2007	525	428	0.65	3.75	75	806	5.75	140	0.4
2008	33	33	1	1	100	33	1	33	0.1
2009	519	287	0.3	2.33	66.7	1,705	7.67	222	0.6
2010	0	0	0	0	0	41	1	41	0.1
2011	207	207	0.33	2.5	50	622	7.5	83	0.2

(A) Calculated as a percent of small game license holders only

Figure 9. Trends in total harvest of woodcock for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

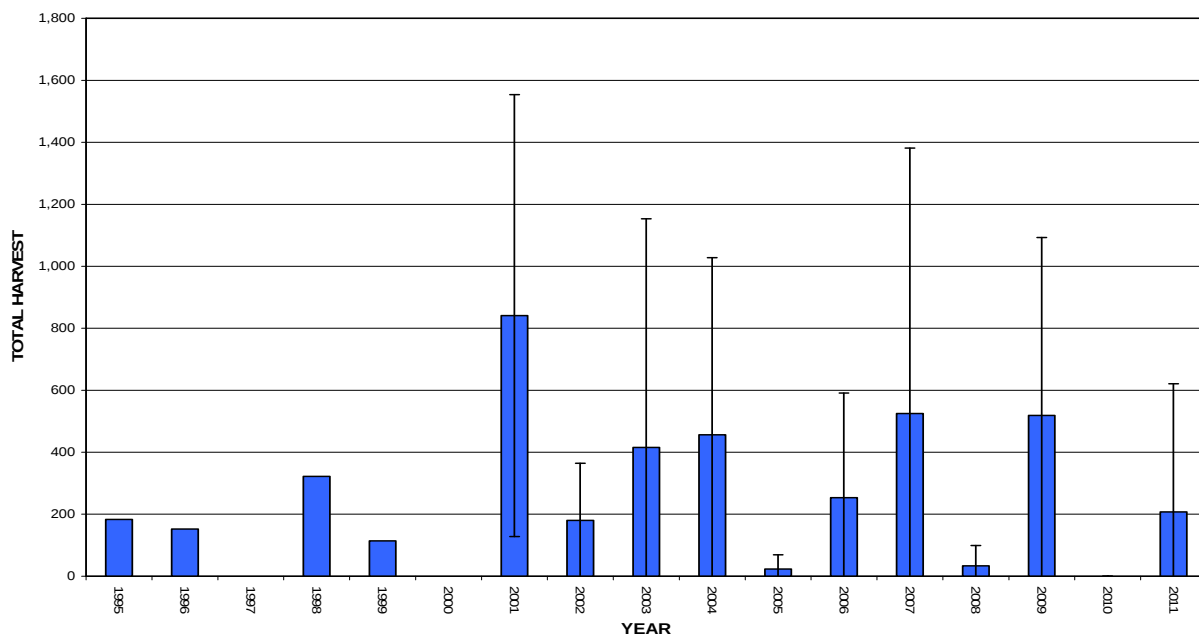


Figure 10. Trends in average daily kill of woodcock for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

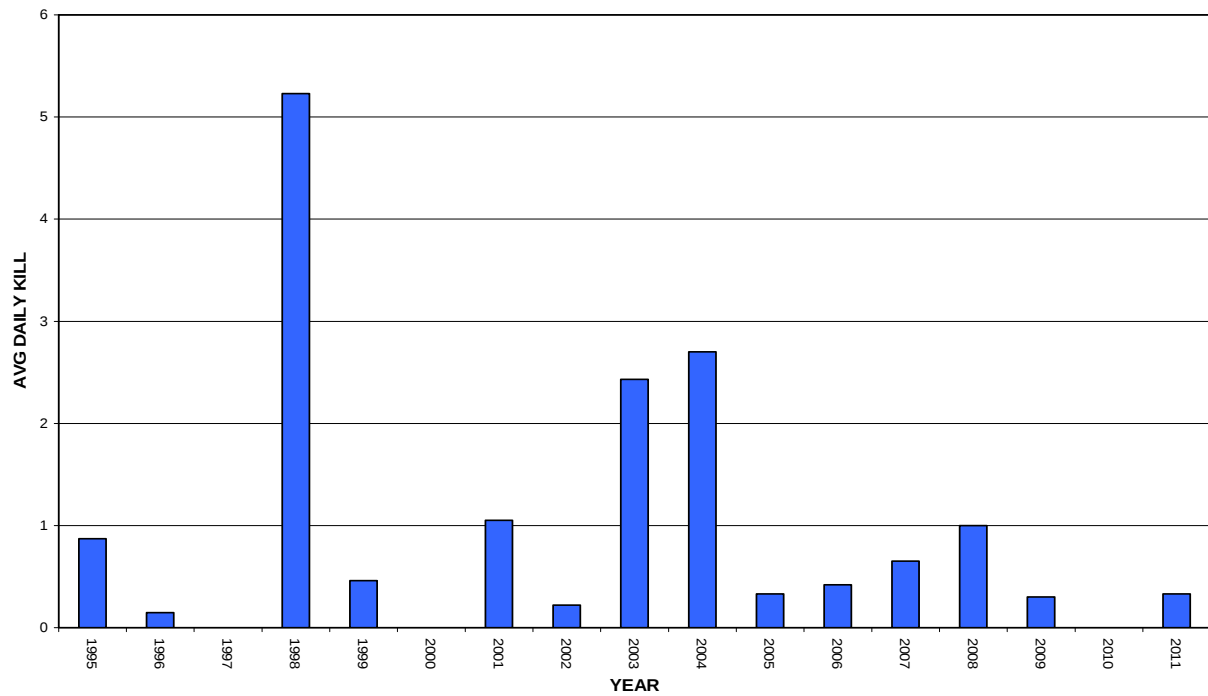


Figure 11. Trends in average seasonal harvest of woodcock for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

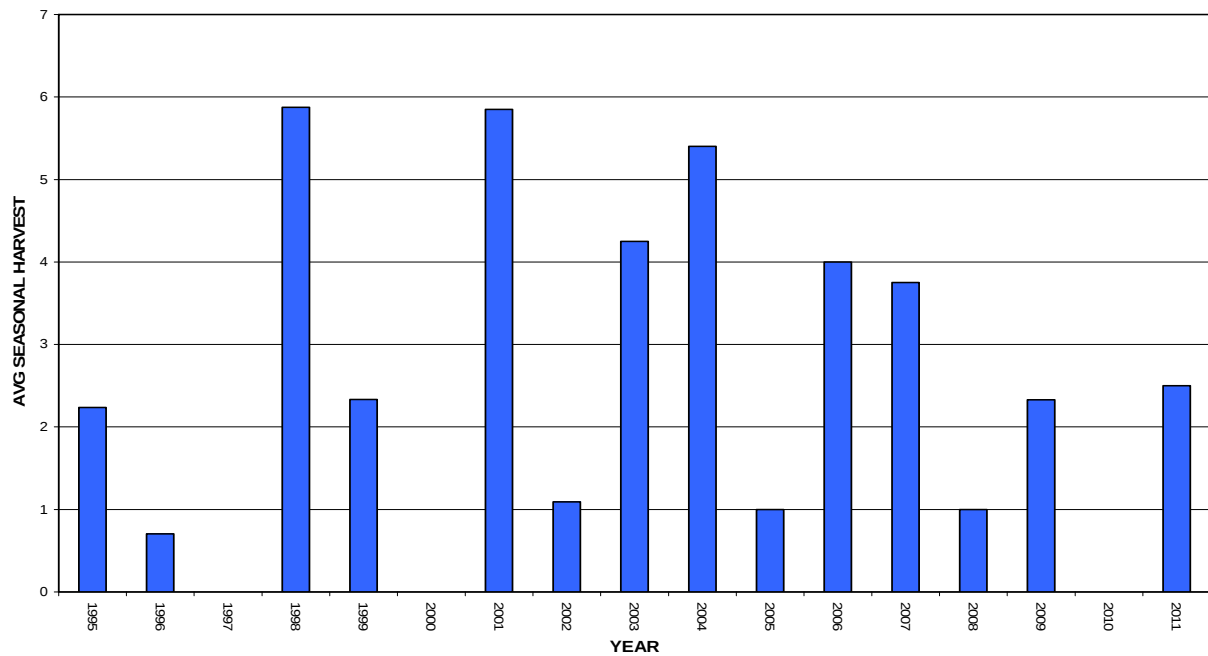


Figure 12. Trends in percent successful woodcock hunters for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

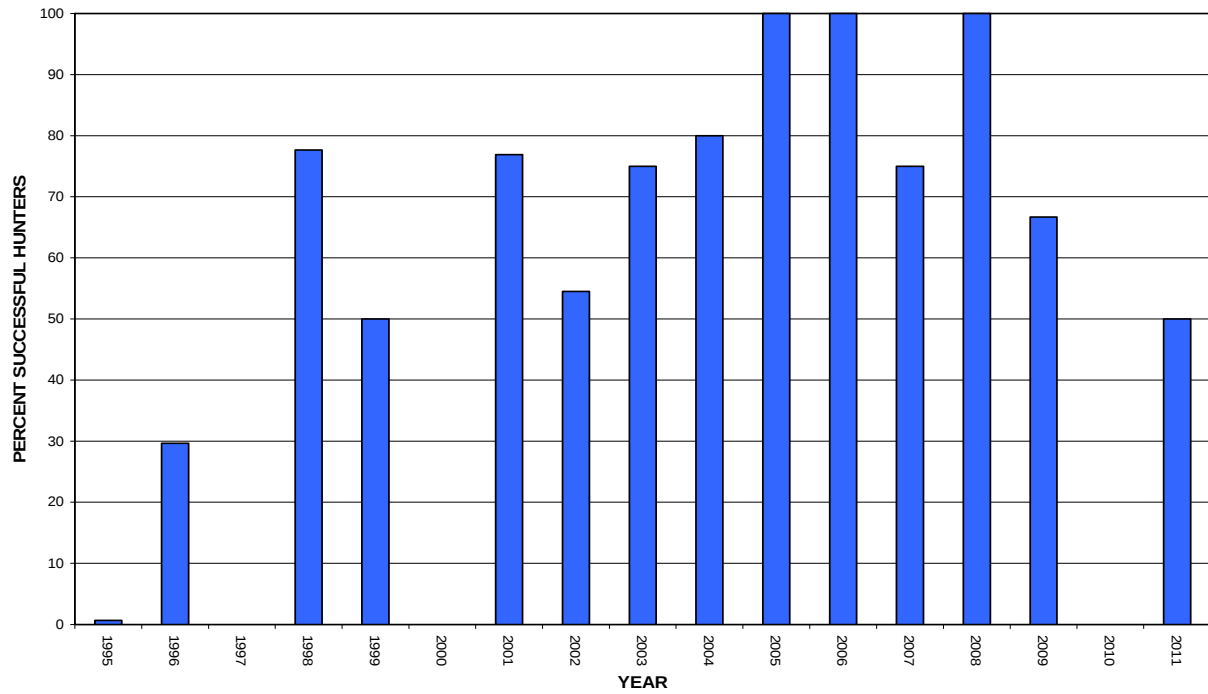


Figure 13. Trends in total man days woodcock hunting for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

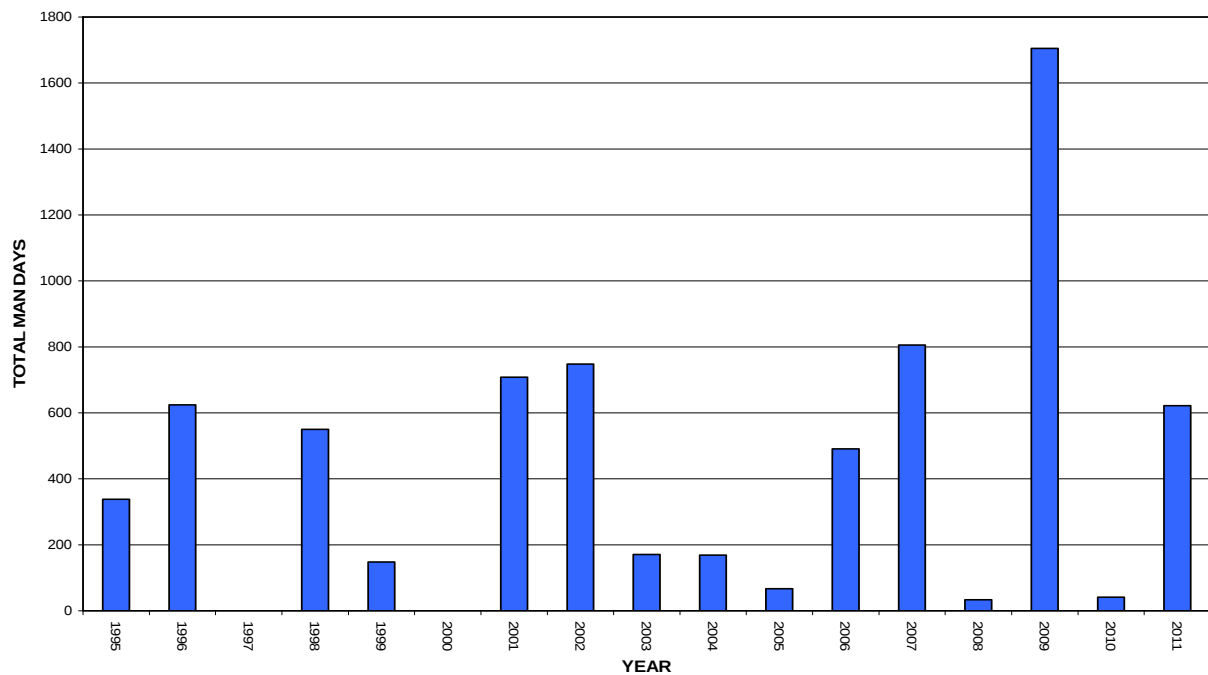


Figure 14. Trends in average seasonal days woodcock hunting for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

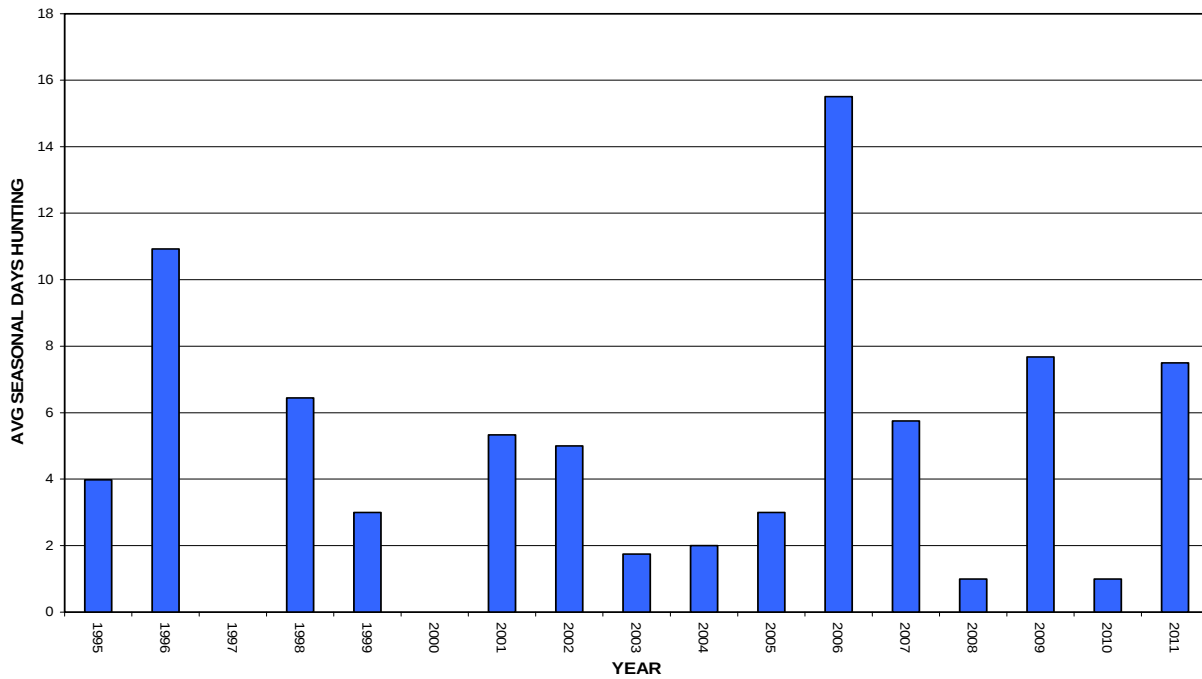


Figure 15. Trends in total woodcock hunters for licensed non-resident hunters (1994 to the Present)

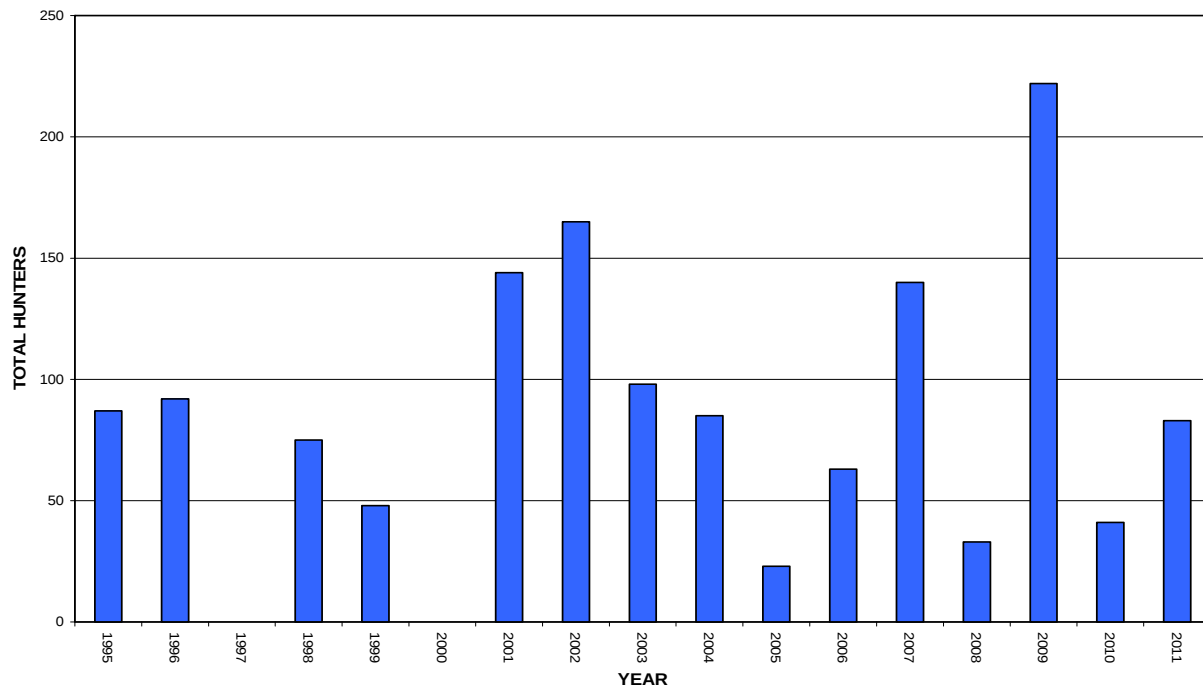


Figure 16. Trends in proportion of licensed non-resident hunters who hunted for woodcock (1994 to the Present)

