

tick surveillance Along the Illinois

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County-Level Surveillance of White-Tailed Deer Infestation by *Ixodes scapularis* and *Dermacentor albipictus* (Acari: Ixodidae) Along the Illinois River

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Abstract

From 1998 to 2003, 4,935 hunter-killed deer in northern and central

Illinois

were examined for ticks; 4,066 blacklegged ticks, *Ixodes scapularis* Say, and 6,530 winter ticks, *Dermacentor albipictus* (Packard) (Acari: Ixodidae), were collected. *I. scapularis* was the predominant tick species in the northern portion of the study area, with a decreasing north-to-south prevalence gradient. In contrast, *D. albipictus* was more common in the south with a decreasing south-to-north prevalence gradient. Compared with previous studies, the geographic range for both species expanded into the central portion of the Illinois River. Prevalence and intensity of both tick species were greater on bucks, and infested bucks were geographically more widespread than infested does and fawns. These findings indicate that blacklegged tick and winter tick distributions remain dynamic in the north central United States