

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate.

100
copies

September 4, 1929.

HUNTERS IN TEXAS INFORMED OF
CONFLICT IN SEASONS ON DOVES

Laws recently enacted by the Texas legislature fixing open seasons on mourning doves may confuse hunters because of conflict of these laws with the regulations under the Federal migratory-bird treaty act, says the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the Federal law. The Federal seasons on mourning doves in Texas are, for the North Zone, September 1 to December 15, and, for the South Zone, November 1 to December 31. The general State season for the North Zone is September 1 to October 31, and that for the South Zone October 1 to November 30. In addition, various local seasons have been fixed by the legislature for the eastern section of the State, in both zones. The seasons during which mourning doves may be shot in Texas without violating either Federal regulations or State laws are, says the Biological Survey, as follows:

North Zone: General season, September 1 to October 31, inclusive, except as follows: In McCulloch, San Saba, Menard, Mason, Kimble, Llano, Kerr, Gillespie, and Blanco Counties, October 1 to November 30, inclusive; in Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Denton, Collin, Rockwall, and Kaufman Counties, September 15 to November 1, inclusive; in Red River, Bowie, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Camp, Morris, Cass, Wood, Upshur, Marion, Harrison, Gregg, Smith, Van Zandt, Henderson, Rusk, Panola, Freestone, Anderson, Cherokee, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Burleson, Madison, Walker, Trinity, Erath, Hood, Hamilton, Coryell, and parts of Nacogdoches, Shelby, Angelina, Polk,

San Jacinto, Liberty, Montgomery, Grimes, Brazos, Washington, Fayette, Lee, and Bastrop Counties, December 1 to December 15, inclusive.

South Zone: General season, November 1 to November 30, inclusive, except as follows: In Calhoun, Goliad, Victoria, De Witt, Lavaca, Fort Bend, Austin, Waller, Chambers, Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Sabine, San Augustine, and parts of Nacogdoches, Shelby, Angelina, Polk, San Jacinto, Liberty, Montgomery, Grimes, Brazos, Washington, Fayette, Lee, and Bastrop Counties, December 1 to December 31, inclusive.

As States are not authorized to extend the open seasons on any migratory game bird beyond the dates fixed in the Federal regulations, in Texas no season on doves may extend beyond December 15 in the North Zone^{or} beyond December 31 in the South Zone. The Federal regulations do not open the season in the South Zone until November 1 and the earlier opening date provided under State law is of no effect. State law prevails only in the case where it provides a later opening date or an earlier closing date than that fixed by the Federal regulations.

Hunters are cautioned by the Biological Survey to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Federal regulations before taking to the field this fall, and to bear in mind that although the States do not have authority to extend the open seasons beyond the dates fixed by Federal regulation, it would be violation of State law to hunt migratory game birds at times prohibited by the State, notwithstanding the open dates prescribed by the Federal regulations.

#