

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release on October 12 or after.

The open season for hunting mourning doves has been lengthened by 12 days in each of 13 southern states by an amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations signed by the President, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

The new amendment also changes the opening dates of the mourning dove season in a number of states. The open season now will be 42 days rather than the previous 30.

In Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina the season will be from December 1 to January 11. The Florida season previously was the month of December and in the other states from November 20 to December 19.

The North Carolina season will open November 25 but will close January 5, rather than on December 24.

In the South zone of Texas the season will open on October 20 and close November 30. The previous dates were November 20 to December 19.

In Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia the season will open September 16, as already announced, but will be extended to October 27 instead of October 15.

The changes were requested by State Game Commissioners at a recent meeting in Chicago with Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and on his recommendation were approved by Secretary Ickes and the President.

Dr. Gabrielson said that mourning doves in the southern and southeastern states have shown a substantial increase and that late season hatching has been particularly successful. The change in the seasons and the extension of the hunting period as now authorized is not likely to result in excessive kills, he declared.

By moving the opening date back to December 1 in the southern states it should be possible to reduce the loss of young doves in nests, which occurs frequently when earlier opening dates are allowed, Dr. Gabrielson said.

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