



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mourning Dove

Population Status, 2026



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Management
Branch of Assessment and Decision Support
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Photo by Rebecca Ross.

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This report contains annual estimates of migratory bird abundance, harvest, and hunter participation and activity. Due to the large volume of data, the number of years, and geographic areas involved, data tables may be large and complex. Readers that may need help reading and interpreting the data, or that may need data presented in an alternative format to facilitate reading and interpretation, should contact the author at mark_seamans@fws.gov.

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MOURNING DOVE POPULATION STATUS, 2026

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Abstract: This report summarizes information collected annually in the United States (US) on survival, fecundity, abundance, and harvest of mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*). Information is provided for three management units: the Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU) and Western (WMU). An integrated population model was used to estimate absolute abundance, survival, and fecundity. Harvest and hunter activity were estimated from the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Estimates of absolute abundance have been available since 2007 and indicate that there were approximately 329 million doves in the US as of 1 September 2025. Abundance varied among management units in 2025: EMU 82,499,600 (95% CI = 66,192,900 to 102,516,200), CMU 200,486,000 (161,446,800 to 244,250,300), and WMU 46,438,400 (33,956,600 to 58,926,700). In 2025 estimates of mourning dove total harvest, active hunters, and total days afield in the US were: 15,517,700 (SE=375,400) birds, 948,500 hunters, and 3,041,000 (SE=61,900) days afield. In 2025 harvest and hunter activity at the management unit level were: EMU, 5,484,700 (SE=202,500) birds, 387,600 hunters, and 1,159,800 (SE=37,800) days afield; CMU, 8,903,000 (SE=309,500) birds, 468,000 hunters, and 1,657,700 (SE=48,000) days afield; and WMU, 1,130,000 (SE=64,100) birds, 92,900 hunters, and 223,500 (SE=10,000) days afield.

The mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) is one of the most abundant bird species in North America and is familiar to millions of people. Authority and responsibility for management of this species in the United States (US) is vested in the Secretary of the Interior. This responsibility is conferred by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 which, as amended, implements migratory bird treaties between the US and other countries. Mourning doves are included in the treaties with Great Britain (for Canada) and Mexico (US Department of the Interior 2013). These treaties recognize hunting as a legitimate use of the renewable migratory bird resource.

Maintenance of dove populations in a healthy, productive state is a primary management goal. Management activities include population assessment, harvest regulation, and habitat management. Each year tens of thousands of doves are banded and thousands of wings from harvested doves are analyzed to estimate annual survival, harvest rates, recruitment, and abundance. The resulting information is used by wildlife managers in setting annual hunting regulations (USFWS 2026; Appendix A).

DISTRIBUTION

Mourning doves breed from southern Canada throughout the continental US into Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Greater Antilles, and in scattered locations in Central America (Peterjohn et al. 1994, Fig. 1). Although mourning doves winter throughout much of their breeding range, the majority winter in the southern US, Mexico, and south through Central America to western Panama (Aldrich 1993, Mirarchi and Baskett 1994).

POPULATION MONITORING

Within the US, three zones contain mourning dove populations that are largely independent of each other (Kiel 1959; Fig. 2). These zones encompass the principal breeding, migration, and US wintering areas for each population. As suggested by Kiel (1959), these three zones were established as separate management units in 1960 (Kiel 1961). Since that time, management decisions have been made within the boundaries of the Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU), and Western (WMU) Management Units (Fig. 2). For this assessment the EMU was further divided into two groups of states

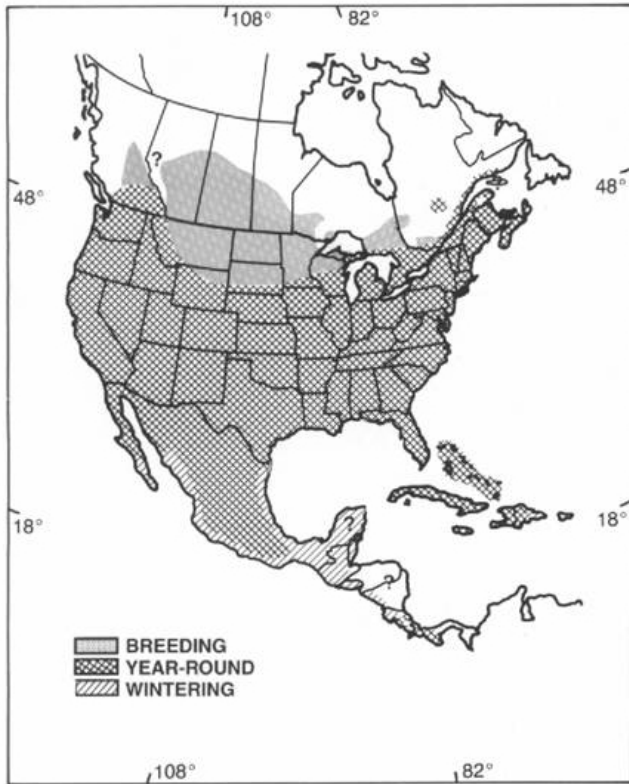


Figure 1. Breeding and wintering ranges of the mourning dove (adapted from Mirarchi and Baskett 1994).

for analysis of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS; Robbins et al. 1986) data; states permitting dove hunting were combined into one group (hunt) and those prohibiting dove hunting into another (non-hunt). Additionally, some states were grouped to increase sample sizes for BBS data analysis; Maryland and Delaware were combined, and Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont were combined to form a New England group. Even though Rhode Island is a hunt state, due to its small size and geographic location its data was included in this non-hunt group of states for analysis (Link et al. 2020, Sauer et al. 2020).

Breeding Bird Survey

The BBS is completed in June and is based on routes that are 24.5 miles (39.4 km) long. Each route consists of 50 stops or point-count locations at 0.5-mile (805 m) intervals. At each stop, a 3-minute count is conducted whereby every bird seen or heard within a 0.25-mile (402 m) radius is recorded. Surveys start one-half hour

before the local sunrise and take about 5 hours to complete. Data for birds heard and seen at stops are combined for BBS analyses (Link et al. 2020, Sauer et al. 2020).

Banding Program

A national banding program was initiated in 2003 to improve our understanding of mourning dove population biology and to help estimate the effect of harvest on mourning dove populations. Doves are banded in July and August in most of the lower 48 states. Band recoveries occur almost exclusively during the US hunting seasons which occur between 1 September and 31 January (Appendix A).

Banding goals for each state (stratified by Bird Conservation Region [BCR] within each state) are based on a power analysis that estimated sample sizes necessary to achieve a desired precision in estimates of population growth rate at the management unit (MU) level (Otis 2009). A weighting factor based on the median BBS index during 1966–2008 was used to determine banding goals for each state within the MUs. Within states, the amount of area in each BCR and associated median BBS indices were used to determine sample size allocation. Placement of banding stations is left to the judgment of each state's dove banding coordinator.

Harvest Survey

The Harvest Information Program (HIP) was cooperatively developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and state wildlife agencies to provide reliable annual estimates of hunter activity and harvest for all migratory game birds (Elden et al. 2002). The HIP sampling frame consists of all migratory game bird hunters. Under this program, state wildlife agencies collect the name, address, and additional information from each migratory bird hunter in their state and send that information to the USFWS. The USFWS then selects stratified random samples of those hunters and asks them to voluntarily provide detailed information about their hunting activity. For example, hunters selected for the mourning dove harvest survey are asked to complete a daily diary about their mourning dove hunting and harvest during the current year's hunting season. Their responses are then used to develop nationwide mourning dove harvest estimates. HIP survey estimates of mourning dove harvest have been

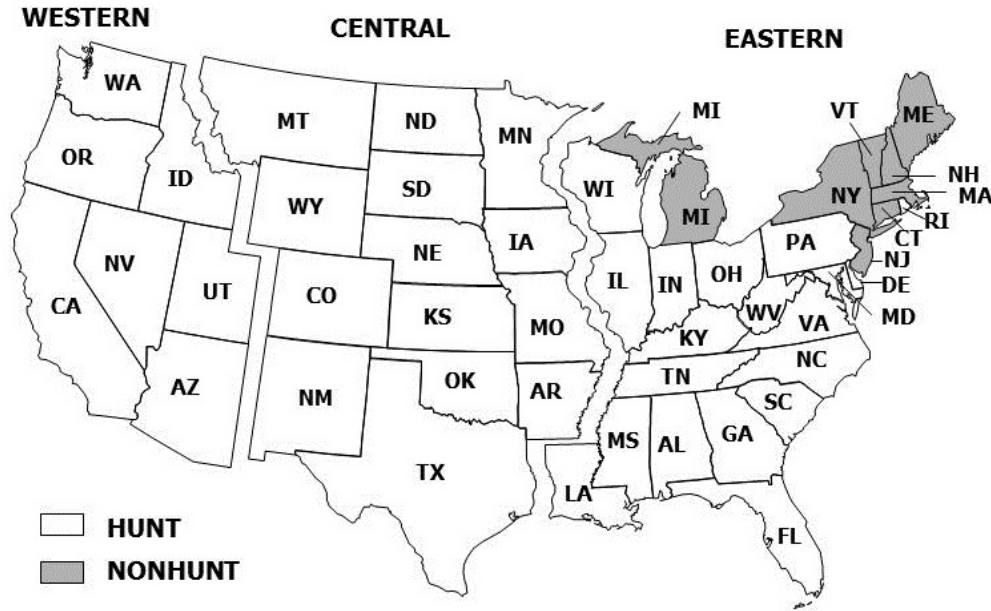


Figure 2. Mourning dove management units with 2024-25 hunt and non-hunt states.

available since 1999. Although estimates from 1999–2002 have been finalized, the estimates from 2003–2021 from the paper survey and 2022 and after for the online survey should be considered preliminary as refinements are still being made in the sampling frame and estimation techniques.

Parts Collection Survey

Age of individual doves can be determined by examination of their wings (Ruos and Tomlinson 1967, Braun 2014). Mourning dove wings are obtained during the hunting season and provide estimates of recruitment (number of young per adult in the population), which can be used to inform harvest management. In 2007, the USFWS initiated the national Mourning Dove Parts Collection Survey, which expanded the geographical scope of earlier state-based surveys.

The survey design for mourning dove wing collection follows that of waterfowl (Raftovich et al. 2023). The sampling frame is defined by hunters who identify themselves as dove hunters when purchasing a state hunting license and who were active dove hunters the previous year.

Each year, state and federal biologists classify wings during a 2-day wingbee. Wings of harvested mourning doves are classified as juveniles (hatch-year birds [HY]) or adults (after-hatch-year birds [AHY]). A significant

portion of wings are classified as unknown age where molt has progressed to a late stage. These harvest age ratios (HY/AHY) are used to estimate recruitment rates (population age ratio) after accounting for uncertainty related to unknown-age wings (Miller and Otis 2010) and age-specific vulnerability to harvest (Koons et al. 2024).

METHODS

Estimating Survival, Harvest, Recruitment, and Abundance

Integrated population models (IPMs; Besbeas et al. 2002, Schaub and Abadi 2011) were used to estimate time-varying demographic rates and abundance of doves in each MU (Koons et al. 2024). The demographic process model started on 1 September and ended 31 August of the next year. The general model structure was as follows: the population (abundance) 1 September declined to a post-harvest population based on harvest mortality; the post-harvest population grew or declined to 31 August in the subsequent year based on annual non-hunting mortality and recruitment.

The IPMs jointly analyzed multiple datasets within a Bayesian framework to model harvest and harvest rates, abundance, population growth rates, mortality unrelated to harvest, and recruitment. The IPMs used random effects alongside spatial fixed effects to account

for heterogeneity in demographic parameters across US states in each MU. This approach permits scaling of inference to the MU scale. Each IPM subcomponent, except recruitment, started with a base model that allowed age-specific independent spatial and temporal estimates of demographic parameters. While holding other model subcomponents constant, each subcomponent was constrained, based on biological hypotheses, to examine spatial (constant, latitude, or longitude) and temporal (constant, year-independent, or linear time trends) effects. Bayesian model selection was used to select the best fit for these spatial and temporal model structures for each MU. Density dependence was also modeled for each MU by examining the relationship over the period of study between recruitment and survival during the non-hunting period with abundance at the beginning of the non-hunting period (Koons et al. 2024). Statistical support for individual spatial and temporal effects was evaluated based on the fraction of its posterior distribution that was greater or less than zero.

Capture-recovery (CR) data was used in the IPMs to inform annual estimates of survival, harvest rate, and differential vulnerability of age classes to harvest. Only known age doves (HY or AHY) banded and released in July or August 2007–25 were used in the analysis. Encounters were restricted to hunter-shot recoveries during the legal hunting season. For each MU the base model allowed age-specific (AHY versus HY) differences in non-hunting mortality that were the same in each state. An overall annual mean non-hunting mortality estimate for a MU was modeled by weighting each state’s non-hunting mortality estimates. Weights were a function of a state’s BBS indices between 2015–2019 and the amount of dove habitat in a state relative to the cumulative weight of other states in the MU. The same base parameterization with weighted estimation was used to model harvest mortality. Band recovery probabilities were derived by multiplying harvest rates by pertinent estimates of band reporting rates (Sanders and Otis 2012, Seamans unpublished data).

Parts collection survey (PCS) data from the first 14 days of September during the years 2007–25 was used to inform recruitment (number of chicks recruited into the hunting season per adult) in each MU. Wing samples scored as an unknown age during the survey were assigned age based on molt progression if the wing sample allowed (*see* Miller and Otis 2010). The approach for modeling spatio-temporal variation in recruitment did not consider an age effect because it

was assumed HY birds did not breed. PCS data were also adjusted for differential vulnerability to harvest for modeling of recruitment. Differential vulnerability was estimated as the ratio of HY to AHY direct recovery rates. Direct recovery rates were modeled as constant over time, allowed to vary spatially (among states), and the overall mean for an MU was modeled as a weighted estimate (the weighting approach was the same as for estimating non-hunting mortality).

To estimate absolute annual abundance, the IPMs made use of a Lincoln index that relied on annual harvest rate and harvest estimates. Harvest rates were estimated within the IPM while estimates of harvest and their uncertainty were from the HIP. The annual abundance estimates provided a look at population dynamics over time in each MU. Within the IPMs, absolute abundance and BBS indices were integrated via common realized population growth rates between consecutive years. Estimates of abundance can be found in this assessment and in the [Flyway Data Books](#).

RESULTS

Breeding Bird Survey

Annual BBS indices were used in the IPMs, however, BBS trend estimates calculated outside of the IPMs are presented in Table 1. The BBS results indicated that during the last 59 years relative abundance increased in the EMU non-hunt states and in the entire EMU but were unchanged in the hunt states (Table 1). Over the last 10 years indices of relative abundance remained unchanged in the EMU non-hunt states and declined in the hunt states and the entire EMU. The BBS indicated that the relative abundance of doves decreased in the CMU over the last 59 years and remained unchanged over the most recent 10 years (Table 1). The BBS suggested that relative abundance decreased in the WMU over the last 59 years but remained unchanged over the most recent 10 years (Table 1).

Harvest Survey

Preliminary results of mourning dove harvest and hunter activity from HIP for the 2024–25 and 2025–26 hunting seasons are presented in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Current (2025–26 season) HIP estimates indicate that in the US about 15.5 million mourning doves were harvested by about 949 thousand hunters who spent about 3.0 million days afield. The EMU and

CMU total harvest represented 35% and 57%, respectively, of the national harvest of doves while the WMU represented 7% (Table 3). Additional information about HIP, survey methodology, and results can be found in annual reports ([link](#)).

Survival and Harvest Rates

During July and August from 2007 to 2025, 338,650 known age doves were banded in the EMU, 320,368 in the CMU, and 163,399 in the WMU. There have been 21,125, 14,837, and 5,377 recoveries of known-age birds that were reported shot during the hunting season in the EMU, CMU, and WMU, respectively.

Annual survival and harvest rates were estimated with the IPMs. Long-term average survival of HY and AHY doves was higher in the CMU than the other two MUs (Table 4). Annual harvest rate was higher for HY individuals than AHY individuals in each MU (Fig. 3, Table 4). Long-term average harvest rates for each age-class (HY and AHY) were greater in the EMU than in the other MUs (Fig. 3, Table 4).

Recruitment Rates

A total of 264,313 wings were obtained from 2007 to 2025 from doves harvested prior to September 15th. Recruitment rates were estimated with the IPMs. Average annual recruitment rates were similar among the MUs (Table 5). Recruitment rates were higher in the EMU than the other two MUs in earlier years, and the rates in the WMU were lower in some years than the other two MUs (Fig. 4). In 2025, the age ratio estimates in the EMU and CMU were near their long-term averages while the WMU estimate was lower than its long-term average (Fig. 4, Table 5).

Sample sizes were sufficient to calculate precise estimates of recruitment rate for all states, except Rhode Island. Age ratios for Florida are not estimated because hunting seasons there do not start until late September each year. At this late date most wings cannot be aged due to molt progression, precluding accurate estimates of age ratio.

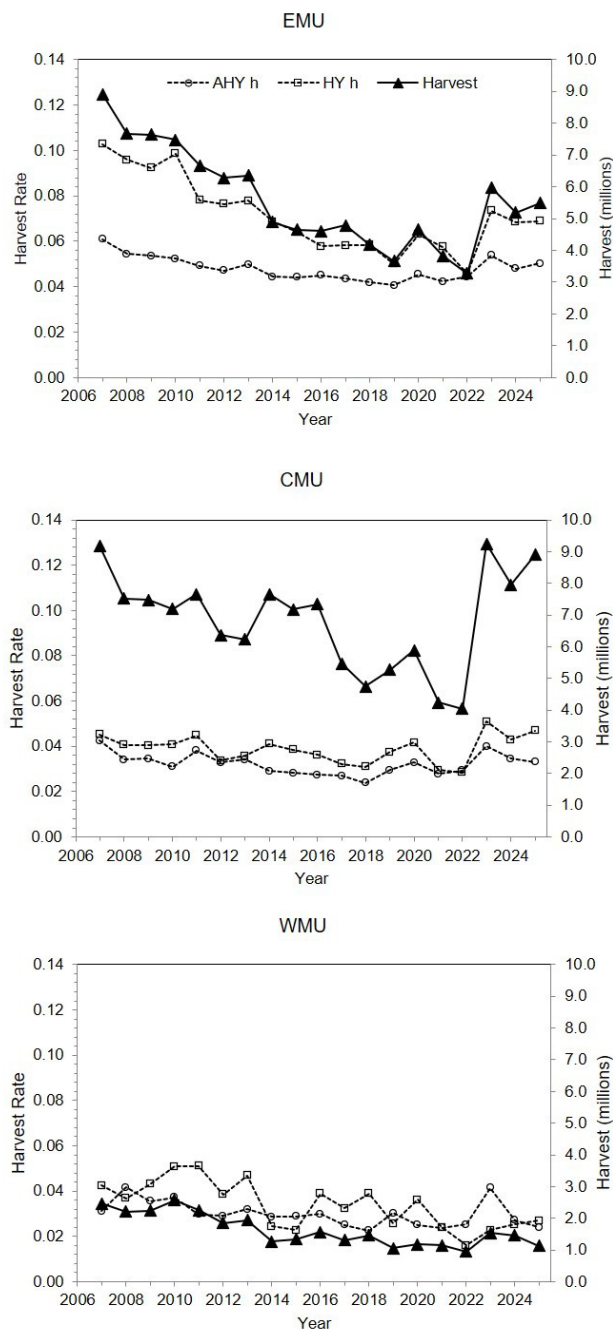


Figure 3. Estimated mourning dove total annual harvest (▲) and harvest rates (h) for hatch-year (□) and after-hatch-year (○) age-classes in the Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU), and Western (WMU) Management Units, 2007–25.

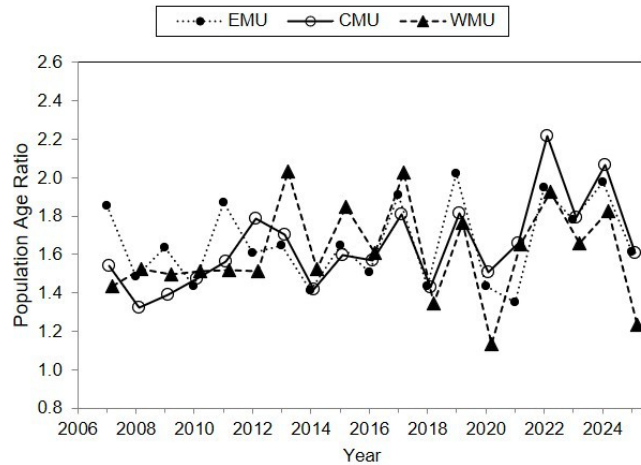


Figure 4. Estimated mourning dove fall population age ratios for each management unit, 2007–25.

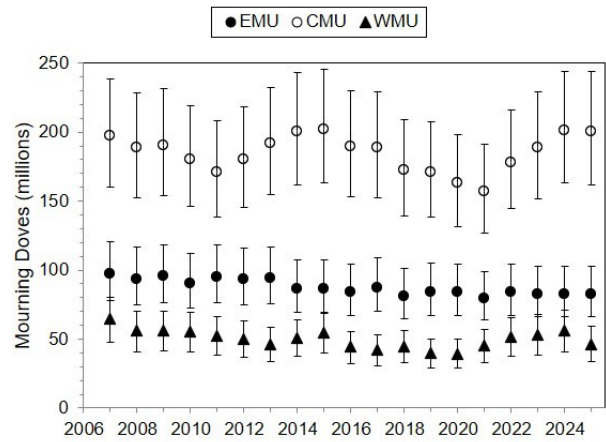


Figure 5. Estimates and 95% credible intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance by management unit and year, 2007–25.

Absolute Abundance

Estimates of absolute abundance from the IPMs are available beginning in 2007 (Fig. 5, Table 6). The most recent estimates indicate that there were 331 million mourning doves in the US immediately prior to the 2025–26 hunting season. Abundance estimates were similar in 2025 compared to 2024 for the EMU and CMU, whereas abundance decreased in the WMU from 2024 to 2025.

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Table 1. Estimated trend^a (percent change per year and lower and upper 95% credible intervals or CI) in mourning dove abundance indices based on Breeding Bird Survey data for management units and states during long-term (1966–2025) and recent 10-year (2016–2025) periods. ‘N’ is the number of routes with ≥ 1 mourning dove detection in at least one year.

Management Unit & State	59-year N	59-year Trend	59-year Lower CI	59-year Upper CI	10-year N	10-year Trend	10-year Lower CI	10-year Upper CI
Eastern	1,827	0.16	0.07	0.26	1,422	-0.60	-0.93	-0.27
Hunt states	1,397	0.09	-0.01	0.19	1,115	-0.62	-0.99	-0.25
AL	104	-0.64	-0.93	-0.33	104	0.19	-1.00	1.44
DE-MD	90	0.44	0.20	0.68	64	1.72	0.70	2.81
FL	103	1.66	1.20	2.12	103	-0.73	-2.28	0.86
GA	109	-0.33	-0.65	-0.03	109	-0.25	-1.22	0.73
IL	104	0.10	-0.27	0.46	104	-0.25	-1.40	0.92
IN	66	-0.36	-0.74	0.01	66	1.21	-0.17	2.67
KY	58	0.54	0.18	0.90	58	-0.47	-1.93	1.09
LA	96	1.62	1.12	2.12	96	0.52	-1.22	2.32
MS	54	-0.87	-1.44	-0.27	54	-4.35	-6.78	-1.99
NC	95	-0.03	-0.36	0.29	95	-1.62	-2.69	-0.58
OH	79	0.49	0.15	0.83	79	-1.39	-2.80	0.12
PA	128	0.97	0.65	1.28	128	-1.04	-2.11	0.01
SC	47	-0.54	-1.00	-0.10	47	-1.59	-3.37	0.15
TN	48	-0.38	-0.69	-0.06	48	-0.69	-2.23	0.82
VA	62	-0.14	-0.51	0.22	62	0.56	-0.67	1.95
WI	96	1.20	0.84	1.56	96	-0.03	-1.33	1.29
WV	58	2.73	2.18	3.31	58	-2.28	-4.29	-0.23
Non-hunt states	430	0.85	0.63	1.06	307	-0.47	-1.22	0.29
MI	91	0.44	0.03	0.83	91	0.05	-1.37	1.50
New England ^b	169	1.50	1.16	1.85	127	-1.75	-2.88	-0.60
NJ	44	-0.01	-0.47	0.45	44	0.79	-0.86	2.48
NY	126	1.35	1.02	1.67	126	-0.47	-1.82	0.87
Central	1,287	-0.29	-0.67	-0.15	1,087	0.13	-0.32	0.59
AR	57	-0.59	-1.08	-0.13	57	-4.43	-6.52	-2.40
CO	149	-0.23	-0.72	0.28	149	-0.06	-1.69	1.61
IA	38	-0.30	-0.73	0.11	38	-4.31	-6.12	-2.53
KS	67	-0.04	-0.39	0.33	67	0.00	-1.47	1.50
MN	80	-0.51	-0.91	-0.11	80	0.63	-0.84	2.16
MO	95	-0.85	-1.24	-0.49	95	-0.90	-2.09	0.30
MT	99	-0.03	-0.53	0.52	99	2.66	0.91	4.52
NE	73	-0.05	-0.43	0.36	73	0.85	-0.63	2.46
NM	86	-0.57	-3.46	0.23	86	0.70	-1.09	2.54
ND	51	0.88	0.48	1.29	51	4.13	2.58	5.68
OK	60	-0.82	-1.22	-0.42	60	-0.56	-2.23	1.14
SD	58	0.43	-0.02	0.85	58	1.02	-0.68	2.80
TX	241	-0.59	-0.89	-0.31	241	-0.86	-1.90	0.20
WY	133	-0.45	-1.03	0.11	133	0.55	-1.05	2.18
Western	746	-0.97	-1.29	-0.67	554	0.95	-0.09	2.01
AZ	89	-1.21	-1.96	-0.50	89	0.52	-1.71	2.78
CA	256	-0.74	-1.12	-0.35	256	1.19	-0.44	2.83
ID	49	-0.60	-1.48	0.38	49	5.33	1.99	8.81
NV	46	-1.18	-2.12	-0.29	46	-3.13	-7.30	1.17
OR	121	-0.69	-1.37	-0.02	121	4.43	2.23	6.62
UT	103	-1.69	-2.55	-0.85	103	-0.75	-2.88	1.39
WA	82	-0.16	-0.82	0.39	82	0.05	-1.85	1.78

^a There is evidence of a positive trend if the lower CI > 0 and there is evidence of negative trend if the upper CI < 0. If the CI contains 0, then there is inconclusive evidence about trend in abundance.

^b New England consists of CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT; RI is a hunt state but was included in this group for purposes of analysis.

Table 2. Preliminary estimates and their standard errors (SE) of mourning dove harvest and hunter activity during the 2024–25 hunting season^a. Data rounded to the nearest 100.

Management Unit & State	Harvest	Harvest SE	Active hunters	Active Hunters SE	Hunter days afield	Hunter days afield SE	Harvest per hunter ^b	Harvest per hunter SE
Eastern	5,193,100	140,200	382,100	† ^c	1,033,600	26,800	† ^c	† ^c
AL	542,000	52,500	35,000	2,100	77,300	6,100	15.48	1.8
DE	46,600	5,000	3,000	200	8,300	700	15.65	1.9
FL	140,000	25,900	11,000	1,600	34,400	4,900	12.75	3.0
GA	786,000	62,100	49,700	3,000	144,500	12,300	15.81	1.6
IL	164,800	17,300	17,900	1,400	40,700	3,800	9.19	1.2
IN	167,700	20,500	11,200	1,000	32,300	3,500	15.02	2.3
KY	347,400	28,900	20,300	1,100	55,900	4,500	17.08	1.7
LA	289,900	36,600	18,900	1,600	48,700	4,700	15.37	2.3
MD	97,100	11,200	7,500	1,200	23,800	4,700	12.91	2.5
MS	340,200	40,800	24,800	2,400	57,000	7,500	13.74	2.1
NC	589,900	41,900	46,500	2,800	110,100	8,400	12.68	1.2
OH	180,900	24,000	15,600	1,300	52,000	5,400	11.58	1.8
PA	141,300	15,500	21,800	1,800	67,700	7,000	6.49	0.9
RI	200	200	100	0	200	100	1.36	1.3
SC	570,100	50,300	30,700	2,200	97,400	8,900	18.58	2.1
TN	436,100	44,700	32,100	2,400	78,600	6,800	13.59	1.7
VA	274,100	10,000	21,800	400	54,400	1,700	12.58	0.5
WI	68,700	20,900	13,300	1,500	48,500	8,900	5.16	1.7
WV	10,200	5,600	1,100	400	1,700	700	9.38	6.3
Central	7,954,500	234,000	467,300	† ^c	1,551,800	43,500	† ^c	† ^c
AR	290,800	37,500	20,800	1,800	48,100	5,700	13.98	2.2
CO	142,300	17,200	11,000	900	30,100	3,700	12.9	1.9
IA	74,500	10,800	6,500	700	18,800	3,400	11.38	2.1
KS	643,100	46,100	35,100	1,600	108,900	9,000	18.33	1.6
MN	58,900	11,400	11,700	1,600	43,000	7,500	5.03	1.2
MO	241,400	37,300	22,300	2,300	56,300	8,500	10.83	2.0
MT	37,600	3,500	3,200	200	9,100	700	11.68	1.2
NE	242,100	23,500	13,600	1,000	46,100	4,800	17.76	2.2
NM	41,300	6,500	5,100	800	15,900	2,500	8.02	1.7
ND	135,100	9,800	8,100	300	25,700	1,300	16.65	1.3
OK	522,600	71,800	31,100	2,400	103,800	11,300	16.79	2.6
SD	149,300	20,300	8,200	900	24,700	3,700	18.28	3.2
TX	5,360,100	207,400	289,000	7,100	1,017,100	38,100	18.54	0.8
WY	15,400	1,900	1,600	100	4,400	500	9.83	1.3
Western	1,459,700	73,000	97,600	† ^c	263,300	11,500	† ^c	† ^c
AZ	516,200	39,900	29,800	1,700	80,700	5,300	17.32	1.7
CA	731,200	58,500	45,300	2,100	115,600	8,900	16.14	1.5
ID	92,200	6,800	7,800	300	27,000	1,600	11.81	0.9
NV	17,800	4,800	2,700	400	5,400	900	6.67	2.1
OR	14,400	3,400	1,700	300	4,900	1,000	8.45	2.3
UT	20,300	4,300	4,700	600	14,100	3,600	4.31	1.1
WA	67,700	14,600	5,600	900	15,600	2,800	12.03	3.3
United States	14,607,200	282,400	947,000	† ^c	2,848,700	52,400	† ^c	† ^c

^aHunter number estimates at the management unit and national levels may be biased high because the HIP sample frames are state specific; therefore, hunters are counted more than once if they hunt in >1 state. Variance is inestimable.

^bSeasonal harvest per hunter.

^c No estimate available.

Table 3. Preliminary estimates and their standard errors (SE) of mourning dove harvest and hunter activity during the 2025–26 hunting season^a. Data rounded to the nearest 100.

Management Unit & State	Harvest	Harvest SE	Active hunters	Active Hunters SE	Hunter days afield	Hunter days afield SE	Harvest per hunter ^b	Harvest per hunter SE
Eastern	5,484,700	202,500	387,600	† ^c	1,159,800	37,800	† ^c	† ^c
AL	590,300	58,700	37,800	2,400	94,300	7,900	15.63	1.8
DE	29,400	4,200	2,700	200	7,500	900	10.70	1.7
FL	163,400	29,100	14,600	2,200	49,400	9,700	11.22	2.6
GA	829,200	84,100	46,700	3,500	142,800	16,600	17.77	2.2
IL	187,200	22,000	17,900	1,700	54,300	6,800	10.44	1.6
IN	212,000	29,200	14,400	1,200	54,900	6,900	14.70	2.4
KY	353,300	42,500	20,000	1,200	53,200	4,800	17.63	2.4
LA	397,100	64,600	27,300	2,700	74,500	10,000	14.56	2.8
MD	79,400	17,800	6,900	1,300	15,800	3,100	11.53	3.4
MS	367,200	91,300	14,100	1,200	50,400	8,600	26.00	6.9
NC	557,200	51,500	47,700	2,900	132,500	14,600	11.68	1.3
OH	250,200	38,800	19,300	1,800	63,400	8,800	12.97	2.4
PA	146,200	26,400	22,200	2,200	93,200	12,800	6.60	1.4
RI	2,000	800	200	100	700	200	9.65	4.8
SC	622,700	68,600	40,100	3,000	119,800	12,300	15.52	2.1
TN	392,600	59,500	24,000	2,200	63,800	7,100	16.33	2.9
VA	241,200	12,300	20,600	500	59,000	2,400	11.71	0.7
WI	59,600	19,900	10,700	1,700	29,200	5,600	5.57	2.1
WV	4,400	2,600	400	200	1,100	500	12.33	9.1
Central	8,903,000	309,500	468,000	† ^c	1,657,700	48,000	† ^c	† ^c
AR	286,400	41,300	18,500	2,200	49,000	7,900	15.47	2.9
CO	112,700	13,600	12,100	1,200	25,200	2,900	9.32	1.4
IA	74,700	15,400	6,700	1,000	18,800	2,800	11.12	2.9
KS	387,800	48,400	24,200	1,900	70,900	7,000	16.05	2.4
MN	63,000	15,100	7,400	1,300	20,700	4,400	8.48	2.5
MO	452,800	61,800	28,100	2,600	92,900	14,200	16.09	2.7
MT	33,500	3,600	3,500	200	11,400	1,200	9.65	1.2
NE	189,100	20,000	11,800	1,000	38,700	3,800	15.96	2.2
NM	73,100	28,400	4,500	1,100	16,300	4,100	16.36	7.4
ND	121,800	9,500	7,900	400	26,400	1,800	15.47	1.4
OK	370,000	56,300	23,300	2,400	86,800	13,200	15.91	2.9
SD	144,300	24,300	7,500	900	23,800	3,200	19.31	4.0
TX	6,581,300	286,700	311,000	8,500	1,171,400	41,700	21.16	1.1
WY	12,600	2,200	1,600	100	5,300	800	8.09	1.5
Western	1,130,000	64,100	92,900	† ^c	223,500	10,000	† ^c	† ^c
AZ	423,500	45,600	29,200	2,100	81,600	7,500	14.49	1.9
CA	521,300	40,100	41,900	2,300	82,700	5,300	12.43	1.2
ID	77,800	5,500	8,600	300	27,300	1,700	9.01	0.7
NV	20,200	5,600	2,300	500	6,500	1,300	8.82	3.1
OR	7,400	2,400	3,000	700	5,600	1,700	2.49	1.0
UT	21,900	5,000	4,600	700	11,700	2,100	4.72	1.3
WA	58,000	18,300	3,200	700	8,100	2,100	18.22	7.1
United States	15,517,700	375,400	948,500	† ^c	3,041,000	61,900	† ^c	† ^c

^aHunter number estimates at the management unit and national levels may be biased high because the HIP sample frames are state specific; therefore, hunters are counted more than once if they hunt in >1 state. Variance is inestimable.

^bSeasonal harvest per hunter.

^c No estimate available.

Table 4. Estimates of long-term annual survival and harvest rate of mourning doves by management unit and state that banded doves, 2007–25. Estimates by age-class: hatch-year (HY) and after-hatch-year (AHY). SD is the standard deviation of the posterior probability distribution for an estimate.

Management Unit & State	HY Survival	HY Survival SD	AHY Survival	AHY Survival SD	HY Harvest Rate	HY Harvest Rate SD	AHY Harvest Rate	AHY Harvest Rate SD
Eastern	0.282	0.095	0.401	0.031	0.082	0.041	0.056	0.028
AL	0.291	0.069	0.414	0.032	0.096	0.041	0.062	0.014
DE	0.370	0.187	0.346	0.088	0.161	0.068	0.129	0.058
FL	0.330	0.205	0.454	0.060	0.039	0.021	0.026	0.009
GA	0.293	0.063	0.406	0.026	0.125	0.037	0.071	0.014
IL	0.300	0.035	0.390	0.053	0.063	0.010	0.042	0.017
IN	0.212	0.091	0.400	0.073	0.075	0.037	0.063	0.014
KY	0.286	0.046	0.401	0.065	0.074	0.027	0.056	0.011
LA	0.333	0.051	0.433	0.045	0.093	0.021	0.055	0.017
MD	0.266	0.062	0.369	0.062	0.096	0.034	0.086	0.022
MS	0.271	0.046	0.401	0.040	0.134	0.039	0.084	0.025
NC	0.234	0.063	0.365	0.078	0.105	0.037	0.062	0.018
OH	0.251	0.050	0.400	0.069	0.049	0.015	0.034	0.013
PA	0.257	0.074	0.381	0.111	0.038	0.015	0.025	0.012
SC	0.313	0.050	0.409	0.031	0.097	0.027	0.060	0.013
TN	0.233	0.046	0.389	0.039	0.130	0.038	0.076	0.013
VA	0.216	0.109	0.410	0.052	0.032	0.023	0.038	0.012
WI	0.321	0.290	0.390	0.082	0.020	0.018	0.016	0.007
WV	0.303	0.060	0.413	0.060	0.048	0.019	0.039	0.016
Central	0.314	0.094	0.489	0.076	0.039	0.032	0.030	0.026
AR	0.255	0.074	0.429	0.084	0.078	0.034	0.058	0.015
CO	0.317	0.088	0.506	0.111	0.014	0.009	0.025	0.010
IA	0.227	0.051	0.436	0.078	0.066	0.025	0.047	0.016
KS	0.266	0.060	0.459	0.063	0.060	0.017	0.050	0.011
MN	0.394	0.101	0.560	0.102	0.036	0.037	0.024	0.007
MO	0.147	0.053	0.351	0.045	0.121	0.041	0.101	0.027
MT	0.328	0.098	0.513	0.082	0.018	0.008	0.014	0.007
ND	0.433	0.087	0.605	0.064	0.017	0.006	0.012	0.005
NE	0.283	0.046	0.473	0.077	0.032	0.013	0.031	0.011
NM	0.406	0.103	0.574	0.118	0.008	0.014	0.007	0.003
OK	0.232	0.040	0.403	0.091	0.061	0.024	0.054	0.020
SD	0.443	0.094	0.526	0.131	0.042	0.010	0.030	0.010
TX	0.362	0.071	0.482	0.144	0.053	0.018	0.035	0.018
WY	0.369	0.108	0.551	0.088	0.007	0.003	0.005	0.003
Western	0.288	0.077	0.446	0.035	0.035	0.015	0.034	0.014
AZ	0.321	0.093	0.427	0.102	0.024	0.012	0.016	0.006
CA	0.277	0.068	0.441	0.046	0.055	0.015	0.053	0.018
ID	0.315	0.129	0.473	0.125	0.026	0.010	0.020	0.010
NV	0.271	0.142	0.463	0.119	0.045	0.024	0.039	0.021
OR	0.249	0.130	0.431	0.108	0.036	0.025	0.037	0.022
UT	0.313	0.388	0.449	0.119	0.016	0.034	0.015	0.006
WA	0.286	0.067	0.444	0.085	0.053	0.017	0.043	0.020

Table 5. Estimated annual age ratios (juveniles per adult) for the previous two years and the long-term average (LTA, 2007–25) by management unit and state based on the Parts Collection Survey. Age ratios are corrected for unknown age wings and differential vulnerability. LCI and UCI are lower and upper 95% credible intervals.

Management Unit & State	2024 Age Ratio	2024 LCI	2024 UCI	2025 Age Ratio	2025 LCI	2025 UCI	LTA Age Ratio
Eastern	1.977	1.711	2.228	1.614	1.376	1.808	1.637
AL	2.199	1.444	3.320	1.431	0.959	2.054	1.585
DE	3.030	0.643	17.145	3.194	0.663	19.685	2.190
GA	2.077	1.495	2.990	1.609	1.150	2.340	1.749
IL	1.793	1.177	2.543	1.455	0.968	2.019	1.494
IN	2.188	1.475	3.487	2.201	1.452	3.670	1.862
KY	2.193	1.494	3.298	1.383	0.938	2.038	1.655
LA	2.006	1.268	3.218	1.782	1.121	2.874	1.680
MD	2.420	1.162	5.784	2.326	1.155	5.598	1.947
MS	3.096	1.890	5.479	1.545	0.888	2.775	1.956
NC	2.175	1.515	3.375	1.834	1.287	2.844	1.788
OH	1.785	1.095	2.788	1.530	0.939	2.396	1.441
PA	1.345	0.569	2.637	1.061	0.443	2.052	1.149
SC	1.624	1.057	2.482	1.888	1.232	2.912	1.642
TN	2.498	1.633	4.327	2.155	1.394	3.703	1.977
VA	1.753	1.088	2.801	1.304	0.764	2.166	1.570
WI	0.731	0.251	1.722	1.052	0.399	2.250	1.091
WV	1.500	0.610	3.279	1.232	0.525	2.662	1.271
Central	2.069	1.764	2.171	1.606	1.367	1.837	1.676
AR	3.102	1.415	3.279	1.658	0.833	1.949	1.917
CO	1.873	1.076	2.983	1.657	0.743	2.105	1.750
IA	2.242	1.557	2.248	2.088	1.310	2.105	1.887
KS	2.460	0.763	1.566	2.065	0.759	1.508	1.805
MN	0.904	0.871	1.710	1.312	0.898	1.793	1.489
MO	3.650	1.493	2.454	2.413	1.297	2.097	2.483
MT	2.257	1.584	2.450	1.342	1.476	2.378	1.395
ND	1.254	2.062	2.980	1.294	1.703	2.594	1.447
NE	1.962	2.025	4.448	1.859	0.759	1.465	1.500
NM	1.160	2.042	3.318	1.112	1.491	2.295	1.032
OK	2.985	0.467	1.671	1.060	0.554	2.940	2.298
SD	1.906	1.709	2.910	1.643	1.626	2.866	1.545
TX	2.588	2.634	5.264	1.850	1.631	3.625	1.852
WY	2.064	2.000	5.061	1.423	1.204	2.288	1.321
Western	1.826	1.590	2.090	1.231	1.062	1.423	1.665
AZ	1.531	1.213	1.908	0.886	0.691	1.128	1.213
CA	2.686	2.195	3.356	1.534	1.268	1.843	2.052
ID	1.346	0.952	1.796	1.555	1.142	1.972	1.644
NV	1.643	1.039	2.692	1.654	1.047	2.731	1.641
OR	1.358	0.734	2.244	1.074	0.606	1.707	1.823
UT	1.074	0.594	1.813	0.798	0.310	1.624	1.310
WA	2.125	1.388	3.298	2.194	1.490	3.268	1.932

^a Standard deviations for estimates do not incorporate additional uncertainty from correction factors for unknown age wings.

Table 6. Estimates of absolute abundance and their 95% credible intervals (CI) of mourning doves on 1 September each year for each management unit (Eastern=EMU, Central=CMU, and Western=WMU) in the US, 2007–25.

Year	EMU Abundance	EMU 95% Lower CI	EMU 95% Upper CI	CMU Abundance	CMU 95% Lower CI	CMU 95% Upper CI	WMU Abundance	WMU 95% Lower CI	WMU 95% Upper CI
2007	97,260,389	77,958,848	120,396,478	197,361,897	160,247,384	238,479,322	64,802,508	47,533,598	80,449,881
2008	93,686,839	75,003,919	116,348,748	188,658,833	152,321,537	228,837,056	55,862,278	40,974,121	69,827,341
2009	95,449,665	76,293,138	118,467,203	190,326,085	153,983,304	231,268,400	55,879,024	41,089,442	69,944,234
2010	90,512,023	72,626,118	112,226,512	180,364,347	145,850,231	219,031,836	55,104,102	40,482,578	69,198,610
2011	95,154,086	76,162,807	118,184,910	171,291,166	138,571,031	207,944,475	52,485,844	38,376,595	66,081,992
2012	93,360,347	74,772,289	115,708,727	180,004,219	145,403,034	218,054,351	50,142,117	36,802,490	62,915,593
2013	94,230,293	75,431,201	116,722,853	191,635,893	154,904,828	232,645,662	46,108,580	33,563,563	58,157,470
2014	86,723,270	69,624,955	107,774,678	200,334,716	161,825,408	243,588,508	50,968,171	37,383,209	63,807,284
2015	86,508,089	69,362,931	107,346,536	202,189,729	163,486,692	245,483,473	54,284,355	39,716,315	68,418,923
2016	83,756,577	67,321,959	103,936,874	189,665,636	153,380,171	230,366,422	44,249,753	32,223,796	55,766,299
2017	87,563,389	69,798,980	108,751,553	189,165,821	152,718,344	229,360,026	41,983,028	30,635,706	53,116,583
2018	80,882,387	64,938,694	100,969,513	172,609,328	139,589,037	209,273,909	44,577,396	32,604,935	56,206,776
2019	84,340,038	67,244,888	104,718,533	171,234,851	138,544,005	207,455,633	39,539,789	28,879,650	49,909,381
2020	83,981,652	67,324,909	104,285,642	163,059,682	131,626,182	198,392,468	39,250,085	28,663,718	49,685,120
2021	79,384,211	63,584,534	98,561,541	157,174,380	126,991,939	190,972,074	45,459,104	32,878,530	57,329,828
2022	84,019,035	67,392,180	104,139,463	178,345,326	144,409,969	216,194,015	51,755,154	37,655,584	65,617,671
2023	82,859,191	66,488,241	102,814,785	188,722,758	151,848,795	229,304,789	53,350,442	38,689,801	67,873,593
2024	82,544,529	65,939,827	102,384,702	201,682,621	163,017,657	244,312,236	56,252,998	40,680,598	71,310,709
2025	82,499,589	66,192,890	102,516,240	200,485,969	161,446,802	244,250,274	46,438,371	33,956,634	58,926,724

Appendix A. Federal framework dates, season length, and daily bag limit for mourning dove hunting in the US by management unit (Eastern=EMU, Central=CMU, and Western=WMU), 1918–2025.

Year	EMU Dates ^a	EMU Days	EMU Bag	CMU Dates ^a	CMU Days	CMU Bag	WMU Dates ^a	WMU Days	WMU Bag
1918	Sep 1–Dec 31	107	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1919–22	Sep 1–Jan 31	108	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1923–28	Sep 1–Jan 31	108	25	Sep 1–Dec 31	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1929	Sep 1–Jan 31	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 31	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1930	Sep 1–Jan 31	108	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1931	Sep 1–Jan 31	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	25
1932–33	Sep 1–Jan 31	106	18	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	18	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	18
1934	Sep 1–Jan 31	106	18	Sep 1–Jan 15	106	18	Sep 1–Dec 15	106	18
1935	Sep 1–Jan 31	107	20	Sep 1–Jan 16	106	20	Sep 1–Jan 05	107	20
1936	Sep 1–Jan 31	77	20	Sep 1–Jan 16	76	20	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	20
1937 ^b	Sep 1–Jan 31	77	15	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	15	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	15
1938	Sep 1–Jan 31	78	15	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	15	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	15
1939	Sep 1–Jan 31	78	15	Sep 1–Jan 31	77	15	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	15
1940	Sep 1–Jan 31	77	12	Sep 1–Jan 31	76	12	Sep 1–Nov 15	76	12
1941	Sep 1–Jan 31	62	12	Sep 1–Oct 27	42	12	Sep 1–Oct 12	42	12
1942	Sep 1–Oct 15	30	10	Sep 1–Oct 27	42	10	Sep 1–Oct 12	42	10
1943	Sep 1–Dec 24	30	10	Sep 1–Dec 19	42	10	Sep 1–Oct 12	42	10
1944	Sep 1–Jan 20	58	10	Sep 1–Jan 20	57	10	Sep 1–Oct 25	55	10
1945	Sep 1–Jan 31	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 31	60	10	Sep 1–Oct 30	60	10
1946	Sep 1–Jan 31	61	10	Sep 1–Jan 31	60	10	Sep 1–Oct 30	60	10
1947–48 ^c	Sep 1–Jan 31	60	10	Sep 1–Dec 3	60	10	Sep 1–Oct 30	60	10
1949	Sep 1–Jan 15	30	10	Sep 1–Nov 14	45	10	Sep 1–Oct 15	45	10
1950	Sep 1–Jan 15	30	10	Sep 1–Dec 3	45	10	Sep 1–Oct 15	45	10
1951	Sep 1–Jan 15	30	8	Sep 1–Dec 24	42	10	Sep 1–Oct 15	45	10
1952	Sep 1–Jan 10	30	8	Sep 1–Nov 6	42	10	Sep 1–Oct 12	42	10
1953	Sep 1–Jan 10	30	8	Sep 1–Nov 9	42	10	Sep 1–Oct 12	42	10
1954 ^d	Sep 1–Jan 10	40	8	Sep 1–Nov 9	40	10	Sep 1–Oct 31	40	10
1955	Sep 1–Jan 10	45	8	Sep 1–Nov 28	45	10	Sep 1–Dec 31	45	10
1956 ^e	Sep 1–Jan 10	55	8	Sep 1–Jan 10	55	10	Sep 1–Jan 10	50	10
1957	Sep 1–Jan 10	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 10	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 10	50	10
1958–59	Sep 1–Jan 15	65	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	65	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1960–61 ^f	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1962	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1963	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1964–67	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	12
1968	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1969–70	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	18 ^h	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1971–79	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^g	12	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	50	10
1980	Sep 1–Jan 15	70	12	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	60	10	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^j	10 ^k
1981	Sep 1–Jan 15	70	12	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	45 ^l	15 ^l	Sep 1–Jan 15	70 ^j	10 ^k
1982	Sep 1–Jan 15	45 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	45 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15	45 ^m	15 ^m
1983–86	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	60 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^m	15 ^m
1987–07 ⁿ	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	60 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^o	10
2008	Sep 1–Jan 15	70	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	60 ^m	15 ^m	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^o	10
2009–13	Sep 1–Jan 15	70	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	70	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^o	10
2014	Sep 1–Jan 15	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	70	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	60 ^o	15
2015	Sep 1–Jan 15	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	70	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	15 ^p
2016–17	Sep 1–Jan 15	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	15 ^p
2018–25	Sep 1–Jan 31	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15 ⁱ	90	15	Sep 1–Jan 15	60	15 ^p

^a From 1918–1947, seasons for doves and other “webless” species were selected independently and the dates were the earliest opening and latest closing dates chosen. Dates were inclusive. There were different season lengths in various states with some choosing many fewer days than others. Only bag and possession limits, and season dates were specified.

^b Beginning in 1937, the bag and possession limit included white-winged doves in selected states.

^c From 1948–1953, states permitting dove hunting were listed by waterfowl flyway. Only bag and possession limits, and season dates were specified.

^d In 1954–1955, states permitting dove hunting were listed separately. Only bag and possession limits, and season dates were specified.

Appendix A. Continued.

^e From 1956–1959, states permitting dove hunting were listed separately. Framework opening and closing dates for seasons (but no maximum days for season length) were specified for the first time along with bag and possession limits.

^f In 1960, states were grouped by management unit for the first time. Maximum season length was specified for the first time.

^g Half days.

^h More liberal limits allowed in conjunction with an Eastern Management Unit hunting regulations experiment.

ⁱ The framework extended to January 25 in Texas.

^j 50–70 days depending on state and season timing.

^k Arizona was allowed 12.

^l States had the option of a 60-day season and daily bag limit of 12.

^m States had the option of a 70-day season and daily bag limit of 12.

ⁿ Beginning in 2002, the limits included white-winged doves in all states in the Central Management Unit. Beginning in 2006, the limits included white-winged doves in all states in the Eastern Management Unit.

^o 30–60 days depending on state (30 in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington; 60 in Arizona and California).

^p In Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah daily limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate. In Arizona and California daily limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 can be white-winged doves.

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