

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Division of Migratory Bird Management Branch of Harvest Surveys 10815 Loblolly Pine Dr. Laurel, Maryland 20708 Phone 301-497-5980 Fax 301-497-5981

In Reply Refer To: FWS/DMBM

Dear Mourning Dove Hunter:

We need your help. To better understand the population status and reproductive success of mourning doves, we need to know the percentages of these species that are young-of-the-year birds. Immature birds have distinct wing feathers that let us distinguish them from adults by examining the wings. You can help by donating <u>one</u> wing from each mourning dove that you bag during your first two hunts this season. We only need wings from birds that <u>you personally shoot</u> during the first week of the season.

Enclosed are two postage paid envelopes to be used to mail us wings. Use an inner envelope and a single pre-addressed mailing envelope for up to 15 wings from a single days hunt. Before you mail your wings, fill in the entire lower right portion of the mailing envelope.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE MAIL CLEAN

Wet, bloody, or fly larvae-infested wings will damage other mail and create offensive odors. Postal workers might refuse to handle your envelopes if they are bloody, greasy, or smelly. This can be prevented if you:

- Remove the wings as indicated on the pre-addressed envelope.
- Allow excess moisture or bloody on wings to dry.
- Keep flies away from the wings.
- Do <u>not</u> wrap wings in plastic as this speeds decay.
- Use two envelopes for each group of wings per day. Insert the wings in the inner envelope and seal the flap tightly; then place the inner envelope in the larger pre-addressed (mailing envelope).
- Do not put more than 15 wings in an envelope.
- Mail envelopes promptly.

If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-419-2965 between 7:00am – 4:00pm EST. Again, thank you for helping us better manage our shared migratory bird resource.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Richkus Chief, Branch of Harvest Surveys

In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C.522a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501), please note the following information. This study is authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) The information that you provide will be used for estimating migratory bird hunter activity and harvest in the United States. It is our policy not to use your name for any other purpose. All names and identifying information will be removed when we compile the results, and only summary information will be reported. The information is maintained in accordance with the Privacy Act. Your response is voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. This information collection has been approved by OMB and assigned the clearance number 1018-0023. We estimate that it will take you about 5 minutes to read the instructions, fill in the envelope and mail the wing . Comments on this form should be mailed to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Mail Stop 222, Arlington Square, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C. 20240.

MOURNING DOVE WING COLLECTION SURVEY

Thank you for your interest in participating in this survey. You have indicated that you hunt mourning doves this season. Please send in one wing from every bird that you take during your first two hunts of the season, following the instructions below:

- These envelopes are for the birds you take. Please do not give your envelopes to other hunters or send wings from birds they shoot.
- Cut off the lease damaged wing <u>close to the body</u>. Make certain any <u>blood has drained</u> and the wing is <u>dry and</u> <u>clean for mailing</u>. <u>DO NOT</u> enclose wings in plastic as this speeds decay.
- 3. Put up to 15 wings, if taken the same date and place, in an inner envelope inside this outer envelope.
- 4. Fill in the information below labeled "PLEASE COMPLETE".
- 5. Mail as soon as possible NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED.
- 6. Only send wings from your first two hunts during the first week of the season.
- 7. Please report all banded birds with METAL LEG BANDS by calling 1-800-327-2263 (BAND).



Please do not write in this block				PLEASE COMPLETE
Species	Age	Molt	Etc.	Where Shot:
Code	Code	Code		State
				County
				Nearest Town
				Date Shot:
				Month Day Year
				Name of Hunter:
		STREET,		
A States				

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HARVEST SURVEYS SECTION 10815 LOBLOLLY PINE DRIVE LAUREL, MARYLAND 20708-4028

OFFICIAL BUSINESS PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

PERISHABLE

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 12874 LAUREL, MD

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

COOPERATIVE PARTS COLLECTION OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT 10815 LOBLOLLY PINE DRIVE LAUREL, MARYLAND 20708-9972 J POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE NITED STATES