

DAY *of the* DOVES



Jared Sullivan admires a dove he bagged while hunting in a field near Faunsdale, Ala.

Photo by John N. Felsher

Season begins a new round of hunting opportunities

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

Except for the limited alligator season in August, the dove season opener in the North Zone marks the beginning of another sporting time in Alabama.

In the North Zone, dove season begins at noon on Sept. 7 and continues through sunset on Oct. 27. In the South Zone, the first of three splits opens at noon on Sept. 14 and continues through sunset on Nov. 3. Both zones reopen

from Nov. 23 to Dec. 1 and again from Dec. 14 until Jan. 12, 2020. For zone boundaries and other information, see www.outdooralabama.com/mourning-and-white-winged-dove-season.

"In Alabama an average of 30,000 dove hunters harvest about 430,000 mourning doves annually," advised Seth Maddox, the migratory game bird biologist for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "So far this season, the forecast

looks good. We had a very wet late winter and spring. With the rainfall, the vegetation and habitat should be good for all species."

Native to Mexico, Central America and the southwestern United States, white-winged doves began expanding their range eastward a few years ago. Now, they occupy parts of southern Al-

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