

BIRD HUNTING

Early dove season kicks off new hunting adventures



Photo by John N. Felsher

Greg Lein admires a mourning dove he shot while hunting on the Portland Landing Special Opportunity Area near Elm Bluff, Ala.

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

One of the most numerous and prolific game birds in North America, mourning doves offer extremely fast and challenging wing shooting as they kick off a new season afield.

Dove season in the North Zone runs from Sept. 5 to Oct. 25. In the South Zone, which includes Mobile and Baldwin counties, the season lasts from Sept. 12 to Nov. 1. Sportsmen can again hunt doves statewide from Nov. 21-29 and from Dec. 12 through Jan. 10, 2021. Sportsmen can bag up to 15 doves per day in any combination of mourning and white-winged doves.

Native to the arid southwestern states and Mexico, white-winged doves began expanding their range northward and eastward in the past few years. White-wings resemble mourning doves, but with bold white wing patches that make very distinctive identification marks in flight.

“Mourning doves occur statewide,” advised Seth Maddox, the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Migratory Game Bird Coordinator. “White-winged doves are mostly in Mobile and Baldwin counties.”

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