

County dove season prospects termed as “meager”

by Hal Spain

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) has recently announced the 2022-2023 dove season dates for Coke County and the rest of the state. The weather has once again become the culprit locally for dove season. Our county and most of the rest of the state has been in the throes of a drought that rivals that of 2011, and that does not bode well for good dove habitat. The good news is that we have been seeing large numbers of white wing doves in limited locations throughout the county.

As always, if we do have some bird numbers in parts of the county, the best hunting opportunities will be at the very beginning of the season. Once those birds get some hunting pressure, they’ll be off to a safe zone, where they don’t get shot at so much. If conditions get right to bring some northern birds into our area, we’ll have some better hunting possibilities.

Thursday morning, September 1, 2022, will mark the beginning of the new dove season in Coke County and throughout the Northern and Central zones of Texas. The Northern dove hunting zone is basically the area above Interstate 20, with the Central zone being bordered on the north by Interstate 20 and on the southern end by Interstate 10. The South zone is below Interstate 10, and their season does not open until September 14.

The North Zone season will run from September 1 through November 13, 2022, with an additional late season running from December 17, 2022, through January 1, 2023. The Central Zone (our area) begins the season on Sept. 1, and it runs through Oct. 30, 2022, with the late season running from December 17, 2022 through January 15, 2023. The South Zone (if you are hunting south of I-10), is set for September 14 through Oct. 30, 2022, with the late season December 17, 2022 through January 22, 2023. Daily bag limit is 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Don’t forget that there is no limit on collared doves; however, you will want to leave plumage on these birds for identification purposes.

Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Don’t forget to plug those autoloaders and pump shotguns, as dove are

considered migratory birds, and plugs must be in place so that the firearm can hold no more than three shells.

A new hunting license will be required to hunt this fall, along with a \$7.00 migratory game bird stamp if you will be hunting dove or waterfowl, plus another \$7.00 stamp if you will be hunting upland game birds, which include quail, turkey, and pheasant. If you will be hunting waterfowl, you will also need to purchase a \$25 migratory game bird stamp endorsement (duck stamp).

Hunting and fishing licenses are a little easier to find in Coke County this year. Live Oak Lodge at Oak Creek Lake near Blackwell, the Bronte Supermarket, Bronte Guns & Tackle, and the Coke County Feed Store in Robert Lee are all carrying licenses. Please let us know if there are other locations, and we’ll add them to the list and let folks know.

Hunters can also purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business hours or in person at more than 1,800 retailers across the state. Anyone planning to buy their license from TPWD’s Austin Headquarters is reminded to make an advance appointment. Appointments may be scheduled up to one week in advance. Call 1-800-262-8755 or 512-389-4828 to schedule.

Brand new for this year, Texas residents can purchase a digital Super Combo license (Items 111, 117 and 990) that will authorize digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum. The digital license option is available through online purchase only when licenses go on sale Aug. 15. A digital license holder will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. The license can be viewed through the TPWD Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest (MTHH) mobile apps.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process, which speeds up re-purchasing the same license bought in recent years.

Customers can access their past and current licenses in several ways: (1) an electronic photo of your license, (2) an emailed receipt of your purchase; (3) your account in the online license sales system; (4) via License Lookup in the Outdoor Annual app or in the My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

Hunting and fishing



Fort Trip! Robert Lee Care Center residents and staff recently visited Fort Chadbourne. They enjoyed learning about this part of Texas history and the many artifacts. After their tour, a picnic lunch was held under the pavilion.

regulations for the 2022-23 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, or on the Outdoor Annual mobile app. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works without internet connectivity which makes it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations.

In addition, every hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. Minimum age of certification is nine years old. Call (800) 792-1112 or visit tpwd.texas.gov for information about course options.

Best of luck in your upcoming hunting endeavors. Don’t forget to make safety your primary concern as you take to the fields this fall.

Commissioners Court meeting minutes told

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session on August 8, 2022, at 9 am at the courthouse in Robert Lee.

Those present included County Judge Hal Spain, Commissioner Precinct 1 Donald Robertson, Commissioner Precinct 2 Paul Williams, Commissioner Precinct 3 Marshall Millican, Commissioner Precinct 4 Joe Sefcik, and Clerk Monica Reyes.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by Commissioner Williams.

Judge Spain announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioner Millican made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. The motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report and was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. The motion carried.

The Extension report was presented by Extension Agent Morgan Runyan.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented the Sheriff’s report.

The Tax Collector’s report was presented by Paul Pineda.

The County/District Clerk’s report was presented by Clerk Monica Reyes.

The Constable’s report was presented by Judge Hal Spain.

The County Auditor’s monthly report was presented by Auditor Cindy Winchester.


The Justice of the Peace’s report was presented by JP Russell Johnson.

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Please Pray for our Communities, Our County, Our State and Our Country



And Don’t Forget to Pray for Rain!



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