

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



(USPS 467-480)  
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 124, No. 08

Friday, September 2, 2011

## Dove season opens in Coke County and throughout the North and Central zones

by Hal Spain  
Dove season opened in Coke County and throughout the North and Central zones on Thursday, September 1. The North and Central zones are located basically on a line above Interstate 20 (for the North zone), and between I 20 and I 10 for the Central zone. The weather is the big factor in the discussion concerning this year's dove season, and for good reason. Most of Coke County has received almost no rainfall since last October, making this one of the driest years on record. Add to that the fact that over 200,000 acres or about 40 percent of the county has been blackened by wildfires. This would lead one to believe that the upcoming dove season could be a bust.

Despite what should be a pretty bleak forecast, there are some bright spots. I have observed some large groups of white wings, plus a bonus number of collared doves. As to what they are eating, I don't have a clue, except for what they are getting at deer feeders. Mourning dove populations seem to have suffered the most from the drought and wildfires.

I predict some limited success for dove hunters in the very early part of the season. If these areas are hunted several days in a row, I think these birds will move to different locations to avoid the hunting pressure. Hunters should be reminded that shooting around a deer feeder or baited area is prohibited; so you might try to find some flyways away from where dove are going to and from feed. Hunting around a tank or a windmill late in the afternoon as dove go to water should also be a good place to try your luck.

In addition to purchasing your hunting license, you will need to add a migratory game bird stamp, which costs an extra \$7.00, and is required to hunt any migratory bird, including mourning dove. While you're at it, you'll probably want to purchase an upland game bird

endorsement for another \$7.00, which is required to hunt turkey, pheasant, and quail. If you plan on hunting turkey or deer with a bow, you will need an archery stamp endorsement (\$7.00), and a duck stamp (\$17.00) if you plan on doing any duck or goose hunting. It should also be noted that hunting licenses for senior resident hunters (age 65 and older) and youth (under 17 years of age) are available at a reduced rate.

All migratory game bird hunters will need to be certified in the HIP Program, which is available at the time you purchase your new license. Just indicate to the clerk where you buy your new license that you will be hunting migratory birds, and you can answer a few questions and receive your certification.


In addition, every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after September 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting. Minimum age of certification is 9 years and cost is \$15.

Dove season opened in our area on September 1 and runs through October 23. The late dove season will be from December 23, 2011 through January 8, 2012. Daily bag limit in the North, Central, and South Zones this year is 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than two white-tips. As in the past, possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, or 30 in each zone.


Legal shooting hours for dove are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset. Don't forget to plug those auto loaders and pump shotguns; so that they are incapable of holding more than three shells for migratory bird hunting. Hunting over baited areas such as deer feeders is prohibited, as is hunting from a vehicle.

Local businesses which are


### Football Scrimmages



**ROBERT LEE STEERS**  
vs.  
**Paint Rock Indians**  
7:30 pm • Friday, September 2 • Paint Rock



**BRONTE LONGHORNS**  
vs.  
**Roby Lions**  
7:30 pm • Friday, September 2 • Bronte



**BLACKWELL HORNETS**  
vs.  
**Lohn Eagles**  
7:30 pm • Friday, September 2 • Lohn

handling licenses this year are Cindy's Grocery in Robert Lee; and Bronte Hometown Hardware and Stripes Convenience Store in Bronte.

Good luck, and as always, be safe this hunting season. Don't forget to pick up a free copy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual when you purchase your license. Any further questions that you have may be directed to local game warden Jim Allen.

#### Attention Landowners

Local game warden Jim Allen reminds all landowners and operators to purchase a hunting lease license if you have paying hunters.

#### Holiday Closings noted

The Bronte and Robert Lee City Halls and the Coke County Courthouse will be closed September 5, 2011, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The Robert Lee City Landfill will be closed Saturday, September 3.

#### Homestead Exemption applicants must provide additional identification

The recent session of the Texas Legislature imposed rigorous new standards of mandatory disclosure for those property owners who apply for any one of several kinds of homestead exemptions starting September 1st, 2011.

In order to receive a homestead exemption for property tax purposes, applicants must

now provide a copy of their Texas driver's license or Texas state-issued identification card and a copy of their vehicle registration receipt with their application for a homestead exemption.

Moreover, the addresses shown on each of the documents must be the same as the address for which the homestead exemption is sought.

Those who do not own a vehicle will be required to submit a notarized affidavit certifying that fact and provide a copy of a current bill received from a utility company. The address on the utility bill must be the same as the address on the application for a homestead exemption.

The new requirement that takes effect September 1 is required for any one of the several ways property owners can qualify for a residential property homestead. These include:

- General Residential Exemption
- Over-65 Exemption
- Disability Exemption
- 100% Disabled Veterans Exemption
- Extension of Exemption for Surviving Spouse
- Exemption for Manufactured (mobile) Home

Each if the programs cited above have additional requirements for qualification. However, the common standard is that all such applicants must provide the additional documentation as noted before regarding

driver's license, Texas issued identification card, motor vehicle registration, and utility receipt.

For those seeking homestead exemption on a manufactured home, the applicant must also provide documentation as noted below:

- Statement of ownership and location issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

- A copy of the purchase contract or payment receipt that the applicant is the purchaser of the manufactured home, OR, a sworn affidavit that:

- The applicant is the owner of the manufactured home
- The seller of the manufactured home did not provide the applicant with a purchase contract, and
- The applicant could not locate the seller after making a good faith effort

If you do not have Texas drivers license or state issued identification card you will need to apply for one at the nearest Texas Department of Public Safety Drivers License Division.

If your physical (street) address is not listed on your motor vehicle registration, for a \$2.00 fee, you may go to your local Tax Assessor Collector's Office and they will add your physical address to your records.

Please call the Coke County Appraisal District at 325-453-4528 with any questions or concerns.