

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: Mourning Dove Banding

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Jeffrey Knetter, Migratory Bird Program Coordinator for Eric Freeman,
Regional Wildlife Biologist.

Background:

Mourning doves are the most hunted migratory game bird species in the U.S. with over 10 million doves harvested by more than one million hunters annually. Nearly 60,000 doves are harvested in Idaho annually, which makes them the second most harvested game bird in the state, behind mallards.

A harvest strategy was endorsed by the flyway councils and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013, with implementation beginning in 2014. An integral component of this harvest strategy is mourning dove banding. Band returns, primarily recovered and reported by hunters, are used to estimate harvest, population parameters (i.e., rate of growth, survival rates), and population abundance. Idaho has participated in the cooperative nationwide dove banding program since 2003. Over 13,000 doves have been banded by Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff and volunteers to date.

Staff will present an overview of mourning dove banding, results, and how information from this effort informs mourning dove harvest management.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104(2) grants authority to the Commission to determine when an open season may be declared for take of wildlife. The Department is charged with preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing the state's wildlife (IC 36-103). IDAPA 13.01.09.301 establishes rules regarding the take of migratory game birds.

Public Involvement Process:

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information.

Justification:

N/A.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda item is for Commission information. No action is required. Staff recommendations for migratory game bird seasons will be presented in April.