

# Hunters Encouraged To Report Banded Doves To Parks Department

Mourning doves are one of the most widely distributed and abundant birds in North America. They are also a popular game bird with hunting seasons established in 40 of the lower 48 states.

There are more mourning doves harvested than all other migratory game bird species combined. In Texas, an estimated 350,000 hunters take more than 6 million each year - more than any other state.

Because mourning dove are so important, wildlife managers need good information to set hunting regulations.

Information on proportion

surviving from one year to the next and the proportion of the fall population taken by hunters are key. Banding is the primary tool used to obtain this information.

But banding does no good if hunters don't see or report the bands on doves they shoot. Previous banding studies 30 years ago indicated two-thirds of banded doves taken by hunters were never reported. Preliminary information over the last four years of banding does not indicate this has changed.

"Hunters either never see the small bands or see them, and choose not to report them," noted Jay Roberson, dove program lead-

er for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "You don't get into trouble reporting any bands.

In fact, we encourage it because it provides valuable information. Conversely, there is no law requiring the reporting of bands."

This is now the fourth year of an experimental banding program. Texas hunters along with those in 28 other states have reported an average of about 1,500 bands (1,390-1,775) out of the 30,000 (28,759-33,850) banded per year since 2003. This recovery rate of about 5 percent compares with about twice that for water-

fowl. Texas hunters have reported about 50 bands per year of the 1,000-1,500 banded per year in Texas. "This is about the same recovery rate from hunters for dove bands that we saw during a banding study 30 years ago," Roberson said. "That study ended before we had easy and free modern methods of reporting."

Today hunters can report bands through a toll free telephone number (1-800-327-BAND or 2263) or by the internet (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl), yet it appears reporting has not increased."

Band reporting rates need to be high in order to maximize the return on hunting license dollars spent on banding studies. "Just one percent increase in band reporting and recovery rates can save thousands of dollars in banding costs," Roberson said. "A doubling of reporting rates would cut in half the number of doves that would need to be banded, saving biologists' valuable time to develop habitat management plans or other important duties. This is because the error of the estimates of survival and harvest rate decrease geometrically with increasing recoveries."

"We hoped for a higher recovery rate because of the toll free telephone number," Roberson said. "Today, waterfowl band recovery rates are much higher since the toll free telephone number went into effect in 1996. We believe most waterfowl hunters are now reporting bands on ducks they take. We were hoping more dove hunters would report bands so that the recovery rate would at least double since the 1970s."

There may be several reasons the recovery rates for doves haven't increased.

Some hunters may not understand how important it is to report them or they're not even seen.

The bands are very small and hard to see. "We encourage hunters to examine the doves they take very closely this year to make sure the bands are not hidden under the flank and belly feathers."

If they are banded, we encourage hunters to take a minute to report them. It could be worth your while and you can keep the band."

Between half and three-quar-

ters of the bands recovered in Texas have come from Texas banded doves.

Most of those banded in other states come from those states directly north of us (OK, KS). "No surprises here, Roberson said. This is the same pattern we saw during the 1970s."

However, one big surprise was a juvenile banded in northeastern Texas in July 2003 was recovered a month and a half later near Brookings, South Dakota.

First year doves typically make northerly dispersal flights

in the fall but this distance was unusual.

This summer, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists banded doves again. Traps are regularly checked.

Doves are carefully removed, banded with metal leg bands containing unique numbers and the toll free telephone number and immediately released. "We are hoping hunters will 'step up to the plate', as they have in the past, and help us solve the problem of declines in the breeding population index," Roberson said.

## Vincent Awarded Burt Scholarship

Whitney N. Vincent, a graduate of Columbus High School, is the recipient of the Leroy and Nina Burt Memorial Scholarship for 2006.

The \$250.00 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school senior in Colorado County who has demonstrated a continuing interest in some facet of agribusiness.

Whitney has been active in the Colorado County 4-H Horse Club, Colorado County Fair in showing heifers, member of the National Honor Society, Cardinal Band, Art Club, History, CFFA and the First Baptist Church Youth Group. She has also participated in UIL One-Act Play and Literary Criticism and in Dairy Judging and Horse Judging. Whitney is the daughter of Glen and Kim Vincent of Cat Spring, Texas and plans to



Whitney N. Vincent, a graduate of Columbus High School, is the recipient of the Leroy and Nina Burt Memorial Scholarship for 2006.

continue her education at Texas Christian University.

The Leroy and Nina Burt Memorial Scholarship is admin-

istered by the Colorado County Christian Scholarship Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established in 1976.

## Chocolate, Good For You?

For the millions of chocoholics out there, there is good news: Indulging in a rich, chocolate treat can actually be healthy! Researchers are continually uncovering the benefits of eating chocolate and have discovered that dark chocolate has many advantages over milk and white chocolate.

Recent studies reveal that dark chocolate is high in antioxidants, which help keep the immune system in peak condition by joining the fight against certain diseases.

Antioxidants are organic substances, including vitamins A, C and E, that are effective in keeping the body in top form, preventing disease and reducing the risk for cancer, heart disease and stroke. Antioxidants are important in counteracting the negative effects of free radicals, which are the byproducts of many cell activities.

Free radicals may also be created by exposure to various environmental factors, such as tobacco smoke and radiation. According to the National Cancer Institute, antioxidants are often described as "mopping up" free radicals.

Just because dark chocolate packs a powerful punch, it doesn't mean a person should binge on chocolate alone. Enjoy dark chocolate in moderation in addition to other antioxidant-rich foods such as fruits, vegetables and Nestlé® Carnation® Instant Breakfast®.

With 190 milligrams of antioxidants in every eight-ounce

serving — as much as an eight-ounce serving of green tea — the new Dark Chocolate Carnation Instant Breakfast is a great way to fulfill your daily chocolate craving while getting a nutritious breakfast.

It provides a delicious option to busy families on the go, offering the health benefits of dark chocolate in a delicious, convenient beverage.

The drink is tasty on its own, but can be mixed with other ingredients to expand the flavor possibilities even further.

To create a delicious, easy and healthy breakfast drink, try this Chocolate Banana Smoothie.

### CHOCOLATE BANANA SMOOTHIE

1 packet of Dark Chocolate Flavor Nestlé Carnation Instant Breakfast Complete Nutritional Drink

1 cup ice cubes  
1 small banana  
1/2 cup chocolate fat free milk

Blend together in a blender until smooth and enjoy!



Create a chocolate-banana breakfast smoothie rich in antioxidants and flavor.

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<b>Columbus Livestock Co., Inc.</b>		
Todd Keaton, Owner 979-732-2622		
Sale Every Thursday 10:30 a.m.		
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24		
CATTLE ON HAND-2599		
HORSES-3 GOATS-0 DONKEY-0		
# OF SELLERS-357		
<b>PACKER COWS</b>		
Higher dressing utility & cutter cows	38-46	
Lower dressing utility & cutter cows	33-37	
Thin Cows	26-32	
<b>PACKER BULLS</b>		
Heavyweight bulls	53-60	
Utility cutter bulls	46-52	
<b>STEERS</b>		
	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	155-185	128-153
300-400 lbs	144-162	120-142
400-500 lbs	126-142	113-124
500-600 lbs	114-124	100-113
600-700 lbs	109-115	94-106
700-800 lbs	100-109	90-99
<b>HEIFERS</b>		
	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	140-162	128-142
300-400 lbs	120-140	114-121
400-500 lbs	112-125	104-112
500-600 lbs	106-116	96-105
600-700 lbs	96-108	86-95
700-800 lbs	88-98	80-89
<b>STOCKER COWS</b>		
Good Stocker Cow/Calf Pairs	800-925	
Medium Cow/Calf Pairs	650-790	
Common Cow/Calf Pairs	575-645	
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers	650-725	
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers	475-625	

## Sidewalk Sale

### 40%-75% Off

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### Sale Starts Sept. 9

## FOUR COUNTY

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# Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

Colorado County, Texas conducted public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of Colorado County, Texas from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 8.72 percent on August 28, 2006 at 9:15 a.m. and on September 1, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

The Colorado County Commissioners Court is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 11, 2006 at 9:15 a.m. in the County Courtroom-1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Courthouse Columbus, Texas.