



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MEETING CALLED ON JUNE 24 ON DOVE PROBLEMS

A meeting of organizations interested in the management problems of the mourning and white winged doves has been called by the Fish and Wildlife Service for June 24, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross L. Leffler announced today. The meeting will be held in the Interior Department building in Washington, D. C.

At the meeting the Fish and Wildlife Service will review its breeding population data and all other information upon which dove seasons and bag limits are developed. The doves are classified as game birds in 30 States. Since doves are migratory, responsibility for the management program rests with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In calling this meeting on doves, the first of its kind ever held, the Service is following the same pattern of securing the advice of State and private conservation organizations that it uses in the development of migratory waterfowl hunting regulations. Following the June 24 meeting, the Service will prepare its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for the annual hunting regulations for doves, fixing the number of open days, the outside dates for hunting and the bag limits. It is anticipated that the Secretary will issue the regulations during the second week of July. The States which permit dove shooting will then select their respective hunting seasons within the framework set by the Secretary.

Regulations for the hunting of rails, gallinules, woodcock, bandtailed pigeons, and for sea ducks along the northeastern coast, will be issued along with those on doves.

The following organizations have been invited to send representatives to the June 24 meeting; the Northeastern Fish and Game Commissioners Association, the Midwest Association of Game Commissioners, the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners, and the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners; the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Writers

Association of America, Inc., Wildlife Management Institute, The Wildlife Society, and the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.; Texas and Oklahoma each have been invited to send a representative because they are not members of regional fish and game associations.

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