

Dove Hunting for Beginners



Credit: Jim Stuart

by John Martsh

R-3 Program Manager



Why Dove Hunt?

- Super abundant quarry
- Challenging target
- Inexpensive equipment and gear
- Mild weather
- Easy and fast to field dress
- Long season
- Lean, hormone-free, delicious meat

Mourning dove



Credit: Mark Watson



White-winged dove



Credit: Jim Stuart

Eurasian collared-dove



Credit: Jim Stuart

Definitions

- Male dove - cock
- Female dove - hen
- Baby dove - squab
- Group of doves - dule

Preseason Scouting



Credit: I. Martsh

Hunting Methods

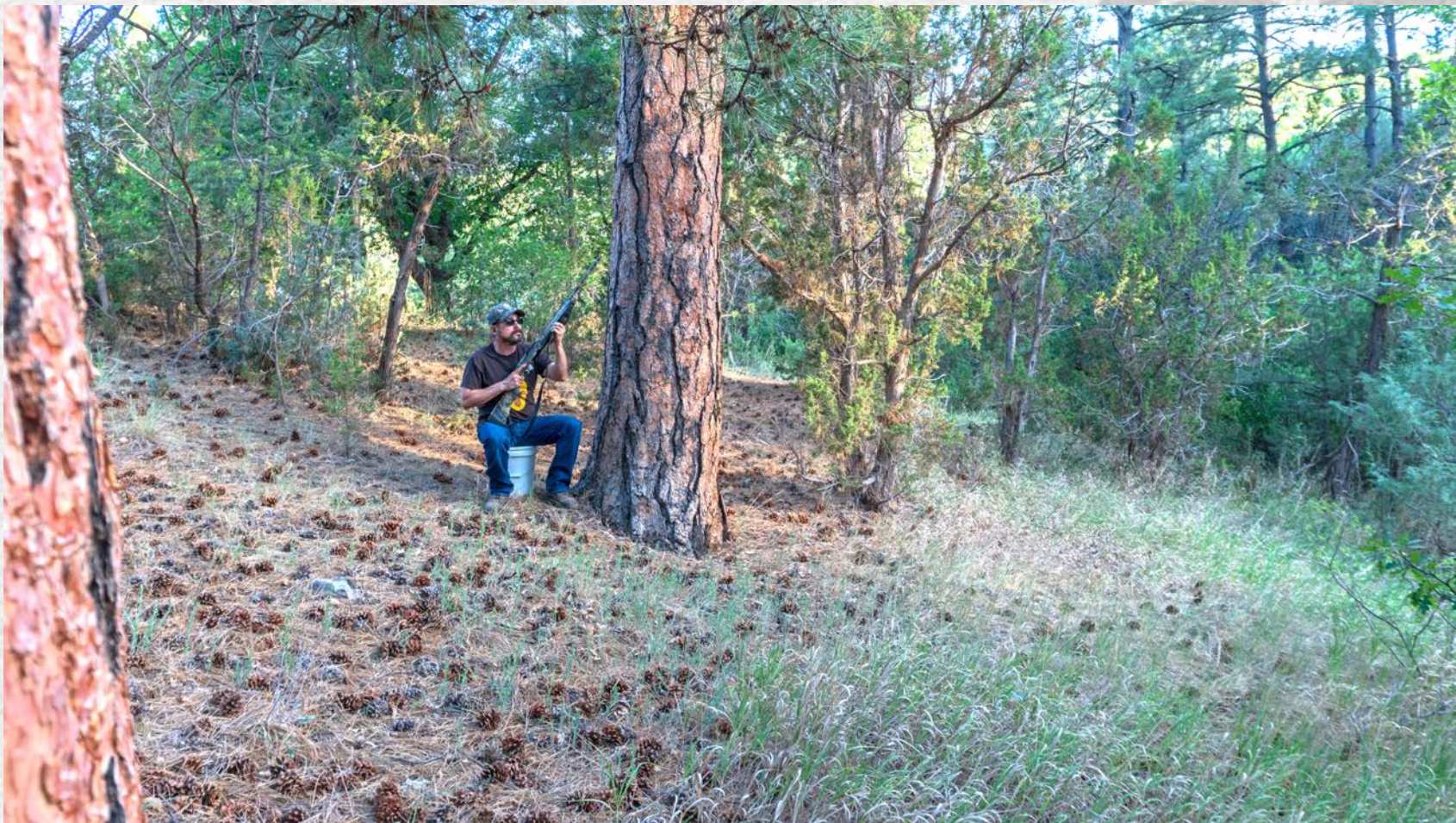
- Stationary Hunting- the hunter sits down concealed close to a food or water source that the dove are actively landing in.
- Pass Shooting- the hunter sits in a location that the dove fly low over, and is concealed by natural vegetation or an artificial blind.
- Flushing- a hunter tries to sneak up on a sighted dove or flush an unseen one from behind or within cover.

Stationary Hunting



Credit: I. Martsh

Pass Shooting



Credit: I. Martsh



Flushing



Credit: I. Martsh

Clothing

- Make sure it is weather appropriate.
- Wear comfortable footwear.
- Use a hat or cap to keep the sun out of your eyes.
- Avoid bright-colored clothing; stick to muted earth tones, such as black, gray, brown, dark green and dark blue.

Essential Gear: Sporting Arm



Essential Gear: Ammunition



Essential Gear: Binoculars




Essential Gear: Vest or Five Gallon Bucket



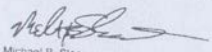
Essential Gear: Hearing Protection



Essential Gear: Hunting License and Stamps


 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

License 2019 - 2020
04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020


Michael B. Sloane
Director and Secretary to the Commission



License No: 2996 0321 1619


License: 2999615 sold: 03/21/19 16:19
70 - 2nd Rod
28 - HMAV
63 - Habitat Stamp
36 - Game Hunt/Fish
License: 2999618 sold: 03/21/19 16:19
00 - HIP - 2999618
License: 3363388 sold: 10/17/19 11:11
89 - Band-Tailed Pigeon Permit
License: 337691 sold: 11/09/19 8:17
97 - Federal Duck Stamp



Name: _____
Residence: NM since 08/10/1989

(505) 867-
CIN: 070
Gender: M
Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 185
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown
HE #: _____ / State: NM
Active Duty/veteran: No
Legal firearm possession: Yes

Signature: 

Equipment inside Vehicle: Fillet Knife and Game Shears



Equipment inside Vehicle: Cooler and Gallon Freezer Bag



Rules and Regulations

Top 10

1. Mourning, white-winged and Eurasian collared doves can be hunted half an hour before sunrise until sunset.
2. Eurasian collared-dove can be hunted year-round, and there is an unlimited bag and possession limit.***
3. The bag limit for mourning and white-winged dove is 15 singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is 45.***
4. North Zone mourning and white-winged dove season is Sept. 1 through Nov 29. South Zone season is Sept. 1 through Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 through Jan. 1.***

***Bag limits and season dates are subject to change; please consult the latest Small Game Hunting Rules & Information booklet for the most up-to-date information.

Rules and Regulations

Top 10

It is unlawful to:

6. Shoot at game on, from or across any paved, graded or maintained public road or within the fenced right-of-way of any paved, graded or maintained road.
7. Use live protected species as decoys to take or attempt to take game species.
8. Hunt protected species using licenses, permits, stamps or validations belonging to another individual or take or attempt to take a protected species for another person.
9. Shoot at protected species or artificial wildlife from a motor vehicle.
10. Take migratory birds by baiting (placing or directing placement of feed, for the purpose of causing, inducing or attempting to take any migratory game bird). An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait.

Conclusion

- A hunter education class is highly recommended for a beginner of any age.
- Have fun.
- Find a mentor.
- Share your dove hunting knowledge.
- Attempt a Dove Slam!