

Development of Harvest Management Strategies for Mourning Doves

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Duration: July 2006 to June 2011

Funding Source(s): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Goals and Objectives:

- Develop statistical techniques for combining Call Count Survey (CCS) and population growth rate estimates derived from banding and harvest data to produce reliable predictions of population status and trend.
 - Develop a detailed harvest management framework that continuously integrates monitoring data, population models, and harvest and population objectives into a harvest management system.
 - Develop a Banding Needs Document driven by information required for accomplishment of objectives above.
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Progress:

I provided to Dove Technical Committees updated regional and management unit estimates of 2007 – 2009 recruitment rates based on the Mourning Dove Parts Collection Survey. I consulted with FWS biologists on revision of annual population abundance estimates used in the interim dove harvest strategy and on technical approaches for evaluation of alternative next generation harvest strategies.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

All project goals were achieved and products have been incorporated into the monitoring programs and harvest strategies that have been successfully implemented by federal and state agencies responsible for mourning dove harvest management. The final phase of this effort to improve harvest management will be to transition into an informed decision-strategy based on demographic population models and explicit management goals, as envisioned in the Mourning Dove National Strategic Harvest Management Plan.