

3/22/01

pt03

2

**Statement by Dr. Ann Frisch
Professor, Education and Human Services, University of
Wisconsin Oshkosh
President, Wisconsin Animal Educational Network
Oshkosh, WI 54903**

Statement by Dr. Ann Frisch, speaking in opposition to the dove hunt.

The question before us today is whether we should shoot mourning doves and if so, what justification do we have for doing so?"

The Department of Natural Resources, has invoked the name of science, particularly biology, to justify the killing of mourning doves. They deny the motive is license revenues and special interest politics. One more animal to kill raises the hopes of more licensed hunters to bring in more federal revenue matched by state taxpayers to pay the game biologists and create more animals for killing. (The federal tax that goes to the DNR comes from the sale, in part, of Saturday night specials and other guns only used to kill people).

But the issue is not shall we kill any animals as a fund raiser.

The refocusing of the mourning dove issue brings up other concerns.

The dove hunt question has raised the issue of the saturation of guns in the community. Shall the DNR be able to override the right of people in a community to make their own rules about hunting in cities, or shall DNR bureaucrats make these rules? But the question is not do we want the proliferation of weapons in our community, as distasteful as it is.

The dove hunt question has raised the issue of teaching youth to kill. This was particularly apparent at the Natural Resources Board last summer when friends of the DNR got up to say they needed the dove hunt to teach their children to enjoy killing.

But the issue is not shall we teach our children to kill; they are already learning and practicing.

The dove hunt question has raised the issue of an apparent civil war among hunters pitting brother against brother, husband against wife, and father against son. The DNR strategy of manipulation backfired though and split even those who oppose hunting doves.

But the civil war between hunters does not concern us here.

The issue to be decided is shall we kill the mourning dove in Wisconsin.

What is the justification? Some admit it is just for sport. That rankles many. The DNR invokes the name of biology and science. "The science is good" they say. But the DNR "biology" argument is: there are mourning doves, they are fun to kill, we probably won't exterminate the race, so therefore we can and should kill them. The DNR can't decide are there 12 million or 4 million or how the population dropped so dramatically. Why such a discrepancy between their estimates and the more impartial estimates of 1.5 million? The DNR can't decide whether the population is on an increase or a decline. That's mathematics, not biology.

The biological argument is all on the side of the opponents of the dove hunt. Pain and death is biology. Killing doves during nesting season multiplies the death. Mourning doves killed; mates injured; nestlings die from starvation and loss of parents. Toxic shot leaves lead in the fields to be consumed by birds; dead birds are eaten by other animals, multiplying the assault.

The biology of the dove hunt is that American Kestrels, Killdeer, Sharp shinned hawks and some woodpeckers are mistaken for mourning doves and will be shot by hunters.

The biology of the dove hunt is that doves fly from bird feeder to field. The DNR says that hunters will not shoot at our bird feeders. This is the "velcro theory" of mourning doves: that doves are attached to bird feeders with velcro. The biology is that they fly from feeder to field. If hunters kill or injure them in the field, they will not return to our feeders.

The sociological argument is that hunting is another recreation and more is better. But the truth is that one more hunting season

takes time and space away from other recreation.
Photographers, hikers, bikers do not enjoy their sport when there is gunfire. The extension of hunting into the first week of September erodes our fall outings. Hunting does not coexist with any other sport. Hunting preempts all other recreation.

We even have to wear blaze orange to drive through the countryside or get our mail at the mailbox.

The question is simple: shall we kill mourning doves? The answer should be "no"!!

NoDoveHunt testimony 3 22 01

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 45 BEFORE THE SENATE
ENVIROMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, MARCH 22, 2001**

Chairperson Baumgart, Members of the Committee:

Even though I am unable to attend the hearing today, I appreciate the opportunity to send this written statement. I strongly support SB 45 and urge this committee to vote in favor of the bill and send it on to the full legislature for its consideration. Since the legislature protected the mourning dove, Wisconsin's symbol of peace, in 1971, it should be the legislature, as the voice of the people, that should determine whether the bird is hunted, not the DNR.

Mr. Chairperson, you have indicated that you do not intend to hold a vote on this bill because the issue of a mourning dove hunting season was already determined last year by the Conservation Congress, the DNR board, and the legislature. I participated in that process from the beginning, and I can tell you that there was nothing democratic about it and it does not represent the will of the majority of Wisconsin citizens. The DNR/Conservation Congress spring hearings are attended almost exclusively by hunters. We are all aware of the problems with the April 2000 hearings. I was one of the hundreds who were unable to even get into the Outagamie County hearing. As for the DNR board vote, I watched in disbelief as Mr. Behnke spoke of his longstanding opposition to a dove hunt, yet voted in favor of a season because he didn't like PETA's anti-milk campaign! At the legislative committee level, as you know, neither of the committees even held a vote on the proposed rule, despite the overwhelming hearing attendance against the hunting season. The entire process was driven by paranoid "anti-hunter" rhetoric in order to discredit those of us who oppose a hunting season, not all hunting.

I ask you, at what point in the entire process have the people spoken and been listened to? And now this committee holds what appears to be a sham hearing with no intention of moving this bill out of committee. Why waste everyone's time and the taxpayers' dollars if you've already decided the outcome? I hope that you will restore our faith in our democratic system by moving SB 45 forward to the full legislature. The 1971 enactment of the legislature should not be overridden by a partisan process engineered by Rep. Johnsrud, chairperson of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. It is time for the people to speak and to truly be heard.

Lynn M. Driessen
312 East Calumet Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Testimony before the Senate Committee Environmental Resources – March 22, 2001

Keith Warnke, Bureau of Wildlife Management

Mourning dove hunt prohibition

Good morning Sen. Baumgart and members of the committee.

INTRODUCTION

My name is Keith Warnke, I work in the Bureau of Wildlife Management and I have been the primary person dealing with the mourning doves over the past couple years. My objectives today are to summarize the public input we received, present a brief overview of dove biology, outline why DNR opposes SB45, and address some of the issues you will hear today. I have provided each of you with a packet of information which includes a memo that goes into mourning dove biology in great detail; a copy of the testimony of David Dolton to the NRB last June; a memo from Department attorneys regarding the authority for establishing a dove season; a copy of a letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Service verifying our population estimate; and a copy of my testimony today.

This hearing relates to the dove season established in Wisconsin last year. Great measures were undertaken to encourage public input when considering this option. There were articles in newspapers, on radio and on television announcing the public hearings held on this issue. We opened an extensive public comment period on this issue that lasted several months. During this period, over 6,000 written comments were received before it ended in April. The written comments were nearly evenly split in support of and opposition to the season.

The dove season was given public hearing twice in every county in Wisconsin; once in 1999 and again in 2000. Last April, over 30,000 people turned out at these hearings to express their opinions. Support for the season at these public hearings was strong. By a 3.5 to 1 margin, dove hunting was endorsed. In 67 of 72 counties, the public supported the regulated and limited dove hunt we now have. The process was very lengthy; it was inclusive; and it was extremely effective at hearing public opinion regarding the dove season. The Department supports maintaining the season currently in place.

BIOLOGY

Mourning doves are the most abundant and widely distributed game bird in North America and Wisconsin. The breeding range encompasses all of the lower 48 states and parts of Canada and Mexico. The current continent-wide population estimate is over 400 million in the fall migration. For comparison, there were over 100 million ducks in the continental fall flight last year. Mourning doves are abundant throughout Wisconsin, and are most numerous south of a line from Green Bay to Eau Claire.

Conservatively, we estimated the number of mourning doves migrating from Wisconsin in the fall at 4-5 million. The US Fish and Wildlife Service concurs with this estimate as outlined in the letter I have included in your packet. That population estimate indicates that Wisconsin has more doves than half of the east of the Mississippi River.

There are two primary surveys used to monitor dove population trends: First, the breeding bird survey is conducted along 71 routes in Wisconsin. Results from this survey indicate that the Wisconsin dove population has shown an increasing trend over the past 33 years.

The 2nd index used to monitor dove population trends is the U S Fish and Wildlife Service Call Count Survey. The Call count survey is run along 22 routes throughout Wisconsin by professional wildlife biologists. The most recent results show a stable dove population over the last 10 years in Wisconsin. Over the 34 year period of the Call Count Survey, results again indicate a stable population in Wisconsin.

These two surveys along with other biological facts outlined in the information you have give us the ability to properly monitor and manage doves and dove hunting. The results and analysis are professionally peer reviewed and are currently used by the USFWS to establish regulated dove hunting that will guarantee the resource for future generations. These surveys allow us to annually monitor the dove population and provide long term data sets to which we can compare annual population fluctuations.

We are certain that state and federal biologists have more than sufficient knowledge and management specifications in place to guarantee the mourning dove resource. Protecting the resource is always our first priority.

We stand by our conclusion that hunting doves in Wisconsin will not negatively impact our population, nor will it have a negative impact on the continental mourning dove population. At the NRB hearing last May, 10 professional biologists, 2 agency directors from neighboring states and the US Fish and Wildlife Service chief mourning dove biologist testified that mourning dove hunting does not threaten the population.

Any kind of hunting is bound to be controversial. In fact, any agency charged with managing difficult multiple use issues will be controversial. I think Aldo Leopold said it best: "Public policies for outdoor recreation are controversial. Equally conscientious citizens hold opposite views." I think that controversy makes our protection of the resources stronger. Dove hunting is a professionally managed and properly regulated outdoor recreational opportunity that in will no way de-rail the success of our dove population. We made the decision to go forward with a mourning dove season only after first confirming that the population would be secure and then conducting an extensive public input gathering period.

A Wisconsin Perspective

The Department does **not** expect that mourning dove hunting will result in an increase in the number of licenses sold. We estimate that approximately 20,000-30,000 people may choose to hunt doves and harvest an average of 5 doves per hunter. Our season is 60 days long with a daily bag limit of 15 birds and a possession limit of 30, beginning September first in accordance with federal season frameworks.

When the federal migratory bird treaty act went in to effect in 1918, migratory birds, including doves, were protected except under the allowable seasons and harvest restriction established annually by the USFWS in accordance with the act. Mourning doves are one of the few species for which this treaty allows hunting.

The legal authority to establish a dove season has been thoroughly investigated by our attorneys who have concluded that the statutes clearly provide that authority to the agency. In the 1971 symbol of peace legislation, there were no provisions protecting mourning doves from hunting.

Mourning dove hunting is **NOT** done for target practice. Doves are hunted for food. Further, failure to retrieve game is illegal under current state law and it is enforced by conservation wardens.

Mourning doves will **NOT** be shot from backyard feeders. It is illegal to hunt within 100 yds of a building without the owners permission. This is not an issue with squirrels at bird feeders and it will not be one with doves.

There is **NO** evidence to suggest that the number of doves seen at backyard feeders will decline due to hunting. In fact, studies in Ohio concluded that urban mourning doves are far vulnerable to hunting than rural doves.

There is **NO** evidence that other species are threaten by mourning dove hunting. A review of the literature regarding kestrel and killdeer populations (the two birds most brought up as mis-identification concerns) gives no indication that there are concerns for their populations because of dove hunting. Identification of any hunted species is the responsibility of the hunter.

You may hear opinions that this issue should be decided at a statewide public referendum. The issue has been discussed at 72 public hearings held on April 10, 2000, 72 public hearings in 1999, and during several months of public comment. Additionally, there have been at least three meetings of the Natural Resources Board where the public has commented on this issue. That is a truly unprecedented number of opportunities and length of time for public comment. It would be irresponsible of the agency to manage wildlife and natural resources by public referendum.

Many people have questioned the quote-unquote "need" for another species to hunt. The "need" argument really focuses back on the department's mission to provide a full range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Is there any need to hunt ducks? Is there a need for turkey hunting? Hunting is a very personal decision and its one the department has long supported through offering a wide variety of opportunities. Mourning dove hunting fits into this philosophy: the biology supports a regulated hunting opportunity; The public opinion at the spring hearings strongly supported this new opportunity; Mourning dove hunting may be the most publicly accessible hunting opportunity in the state; And this wide-spread and very abundant species can provide hunting opportunity to all hunters at minimal cost.

In summary, the Department opposes SB45 because:

- the mourning dove resource can sustain properly regulated hunting
- the hunting public has endorsed this hunt.
- the attendees at public hearings supported the hunt
- offering this opportunity fits within the mission of DNR to provide a full range of outdoor uses; and
- the season we now have evolved from a process that was extensive and effective at gathering and considering public opinion from all those interested.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today and I will to try to answer any questions.

Advocacy for Responsible Government

180 West Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589, Tel. 608-873-2000 / Fax 608-873-2004
E-mail: ucci@worldnet.att.net

March 22, 2001

To: State Senator Baumgart Hearing Committee
Re: Senate Bill 45: to Prohibit Hunting of the Mourning Dove
From: Giovanna Lazzaro, Coordinator

I would like to thank Senator Moen for introducing Bill 45. If this bill should pass it would preserve the will of the 1971 Wisconsin Legislature who removed the mourning dove as a game bird and designated it as Wisconsin's symbol of peace. When in 1971 Senator LaFave and eleven other senators introduced a bill to remove the mourning dove from the definition of game bird, they did so not because of anti-hunting sentiments, but to protect the dove, one of Wisconsin's most beloved birds.

The majority of state citizens then and now do not want the hunting of this particular bird. As a society we do not wish to unnecessarily kill wildlife strictly for the sake of challenge or as a pastime. There has always been a basis of science or health that has determined the taking of animal life, but in this case there is no sound scientific study made by the DNR that warrants killing these birds. In fact, in Wisconsin the mourning dove population is diminishing.

The Natural Resource Board denied hunting doves in 1971 and 1989. When the dove hunt was again proposed in 1999, instead of justifying the hunt with the science and biology that would support a hunting season, the DNR organized a political campaign to protect the right to hunt and the future of hunting. As a result of this propaganda and fear to lose hunting privileges, a record number of hunters attended the Conservation Congress hearings on April 10, 2000, not necessarily to vote on a dove season, but to protect their hunting heritage.

Indeed, Senator Baumgart and honorable members of the committee, the April 10 hearing vote does not reflect the sentiment of a great majority of Wisconsin citizens for many were not able to vote at the hearings for lack of space or ballots, or were unaware of the meetings. Thousands of letters, phone calls, e-mails and petitions in opposition to the hunt were sent to DNR officials and state representatives. Nevertheless the legislators and DNR did very little to acknowledge this public opinion and stop the dove hunt. Citizens felt and still feel profoundly impotent to influence the actions of their political leaders.

To penalize the state's "symbol of peace" only for the sake of reassuring the right to hunt is an irresponsible action taken by state officials who should represent the will of all citizens and not solely special interest groups. Natural resources belong to all of the people of Wisconsin.

I urge members of the committee to vote in favor of Bill 45.

**MOURNING DOVE, THE WISCONSIN SYMBOL OF PEACE
2000 HUNT SURVEY**

	<u><i>favor</i></u>	<u><i>undecided</i></u>	<u><i>oppose</i></u>
Mason-Dixon Polling Research	29%	25%	46%
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology	6%	4%	90%
Audubon Society	7%	7%	86%
Streetmail.com (Nancy Kavazanyian)	34.1%	4.8%	60.9%
Alan Lasse (Sen. 1st District)	35%	6%	59%
Jean Hundertmark (Rep. 40th District)	38%	8%	54%
Sen. Alice Clausing Hearing	74		129
Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud Hearing	61		77

2
Mr. Frank A. Zuern
1040 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904-8117

To: Senate Committee on
Environmental Resources

3/22/01

Re: SB 45

Dear Chairman Sen. Baumgart,
and members: Sen. Hansen, Sen. Wirch,
Sen. Cowles, and Sen. Schultz.

I urge you to favor the passage
of (SB-45) which would clearly re-
establish the Mourning Dove as the
"official Symbol of Peace". This action
would help preserve a species that
has evolved over the past 400,000,000 years!

A wise rule on being a good steward
of the Earth is: "Do no harm". Clearly, the
mourning dove fits that category as a species.
It helps all of mankind by eating weed
seeds, and it joyfully shares our
anticipation of Spring. It minds its
own business and causes no harm or
injury to any other wild creature.

The enclosed brochure is my
effort to share with you several sound
biological facts as to why the
Mourning Dove should be listed as
a non-game species.

Many Happy Springtimes!

Frank A. Zuern



6-21-00

MOURNING DOVE POPULATION

STUDY I. Recorded by John Kaspar, Prof. Emeritus, UW-Oshkosh. The Grandview count covers 25 miles in rural Bayfield County. "Stops" are every 1/2 mile. Studied annually 1978-1987. For 7 out of 10 years no mourning doves sighted or heard. A 10 year total (500 "stops") documented only 5 mourning doves. USFW Service data.

STUDY II. Recorded by myself, Frank Zuern retired principal/outdoor Ed. Dir. Oshkosh School Sys. Covers late March to mid-June, 2000. Survey by car about 1000 miles road-sides in these Counties: (Rural) Marinette, Oconto, Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Calumet, Dodge, Green Lake, Columbia, Marquette, Waushara, Jefferson, Waubesa.

My wife, Jane and I counted 1 dove per 20 miles. Allowing for a pair, we averaged 1 per 10 miles. Since Winnebago County has about 1,000 miles of State, County and Township Roads, we calculated 72,000 mi. state-wide. By extrapolation = 7,200 sightings. Allow for 100 mourning doves in adjacent habitat per sighting = 720,000 doves. If a 50% error, \therefore we arrive at just over 1,000,000 doves in the Spring Breeding population. The DNR has no data to compare to these accurate observations.

Birders (with winter feeders) report up to a 50% decline in doves in recent (10) years. no-one should hunt a population in decline.



Mr. Frank A. Zuern
1040 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904-8117

One last chance to stop mourning dove slaughter

By FRANK ZUERN

Mourning doves nest in September and through October. When just one parent bird is killed, the nesting cycle is broken. Eggs are lost and the nestlings (squabs) will die hideously from starvation. The losses will be in the tens of thousands. This biological fact is denied by the Department of Natural Resources and dove-hunt proponents. The denial is needed so as to justify a Sept. 1 hunting date.

Amazingly, the DNR Board on May 24 voted 5-2 to allow the use of toxic lead shot for dove hunting. When 25,000 dove hunters fire two million rounds they will spew about 200,000 pounds of toxic lead pellets annually across the surface of Wisconsin's farm fields and uplands. The poisonous lead shot will be mistaken for small stone grit by turkeys, pheasants and geese; all are upland feeders. The lead will paralyze their gizzards and many will die a painful death from lead poisoning or starvation.

That is why lead shot has been banned for many years in hunting ducks and geese.

Your opinion is needed to be heard so as to stop the needless decimation of a species (doves) already in decline. The reproductive rate is close to 50 percent, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data.

Mourning dove numbers have

declined drastically in the past 10 years. The DNR has no data of its own on dove populations. About three years ago the DNR "estimated" that we had 12 million mourning doves in Wisconsin. This changed to 4 million recently. No one knows the

by hunter errors, because these small hawks have the similar flight speed and profile as doves. Hunters will cripple and lose thousands of doves.

The Agriculture/Environmental Committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 21, at 8:30 a.m., Room 411 South, Capitol Building (Madison). All written and/or e-mail must be sent by June 15. Citizens may register to speak (five-minute rule) or just register. No pre-registration required. This is a legal review of the DNR Board vote to hunt doves.

I trust that as a hunter or outdoor enthusiast you have your own reasons for not hunting doves. Some folks say we should hunt doves and grill their breasts "because the meat tastes good."

But mourning doves have taken over 400 million years to evolve into this soaring meteor, swift and mild, belonging to all, left free and wild. This issue is really: Do we have the moral strength to just let this one wild creature exist for its own sake?

Please act to save the beautiful song, the swift flight, and the nesting behavior so unique to this wild creature. Our enjoyment of this bird is a special gift that only you can, through your thoughtful action now, help guarantee to your children and grandchildren for this century and beyond.

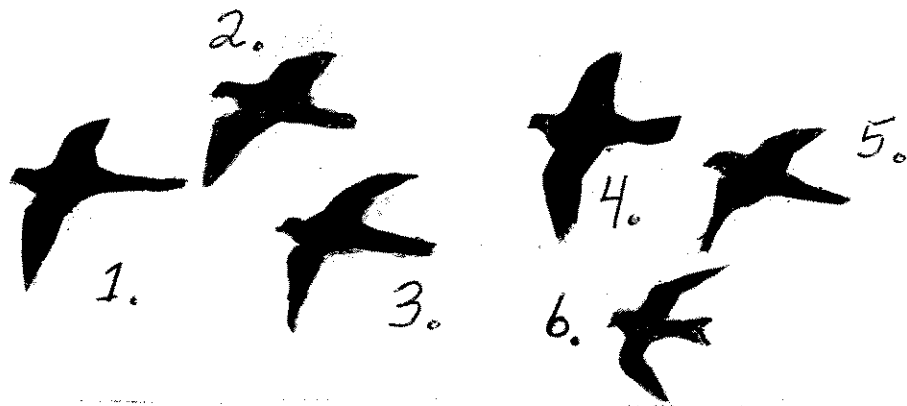
Please act to save the beautiful song, the swift flight, and the nesting behavior so unique to this wild creature. Our enjoyment of this bird is a special gift that only you can, through your thoughtful action now, help guarantee to your children and grandchildren for this century and beyond.

real number. That is why a long-term independent study has been called for by the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. (These folks are the bird scientists of our state).

Conservative estimates show that upwards of 80 kestrels could be killed

FRANK ZUERN is an Oshkosh resident.

PROFILES FROM BIRDS OF N. AM. (GOLDEN PRESS).



HUNTER I.D. TEST. AT 30M.P.H.
WHICH PROFILE IS A KESTREL? A MOURNING DOVE? A PIGEON? A KILLDEER? NIGHTHAWK?

PLEASE LIFT ↓

1040 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904
1/21/2000

To: Natural Resources Board
Trygve Sólberg, Chair/George Meyer, Sec. and
H. F. Behnke, G M. O'Brien, H. D. Poulson,
J. E. Tiefenthaler, Jr., S. D. Willett

Gentlemen: Proposed gun season on Mourning Doves;
Do not allow it.

This week a Cooper's Hawk killed a Mourning Dove in my yard. It did so because it must eat to survive. There were 80 feathers and spots of blood on the new-fallen snow. This is part of what the Native Americans called THE WEB OF LIFE. Mourning Doves are a vital part of the prey base for hawks and owls. A needless gun season on doves will negatively impact ^{this} natural relationship. Humans DO NOT require eating doves for food. The fact is that a gun season on Mourning Doves will serve only to further alienate hunters vs. non-hunters. (I am a hunter, with six decades afield in Wis.) Clay pigeons should be used for target practice, not the STATE BIRD OF PEACE.

Further, invite your field Wildlife Staff to tell the truth about Mourning Dove reproduction in Wis. They would agree with my documented observations that this species still have numerous young in the nest in September and through October. Thus, any gun season will condemn thousands of Mourning Dove squabs to a hideous death by starvation. This Board would be repeating the terrible mistake made by the people who chopped down the nesting colony trees to catch and slaughter the young Passenger Pigeons. Many thousands of young pigeons fluttered and escaped the killing fields, only to be abandoned by their parents (and thus starved to death). This is documented in my book*, SHOOTING ON UPLAND, MARSH AND STREAM: written by William B. Leffingwell, and published in 1890 by Rand, McNally & CO. This book is an Historical record of hunting from over 100 years ago. The chapter, THE WILD PIGEON documents how this meteor of the air was driven to extinction by man's greed and arrogance. The author states: "a young pigeon will surely die if deprived of its parents." This refers to the trapping off of the parent birds. I am sure that you can only draw but one conclusion from this as it relates to shooting Mourning Doves. Mr. Leffingwell states: "we have at the lowest possible estimate, a grand total of 1,000,000,000 Passenger Pigeons sacrificed to mammon during the nesting season of 1878. Incredibly, yes, ONE BILLION.

George Santayana cautioned us with this philosophical advice: "Those who cannot learn from the lessons of History are condemned to repeat its mistakes." Holding a dove killing season will only perpetuate the false god of avarice and greed. . . .

I urge each of you to consider these facts very carefully before you make a decision regarding placing this question for a Mourning Dove season on the Spring agenda for an advisory vote by the Conservation Congress.

Ultimately, the goodness and greatness of the DNR Board will be measured by your moral strength in taking action that will prevent our ever having to mourn the loss of this magnificent species -- Zenaidura macroura.

I ask kindly of each DNR Board member to please re-read, at your earliest convenience Aldo Leopold's soul-stirring essay: "On a Monument to the Pigeon."

Peace be with you.

Yours for planet Earth,

Frank A. Zuern
Frank A. Zuern

* This is my Grandfather's antique book; Circa: late 1800's.

Copy to: Mr, Meyer
and each Board
Member.

TO KILL A MOURNING DOVE

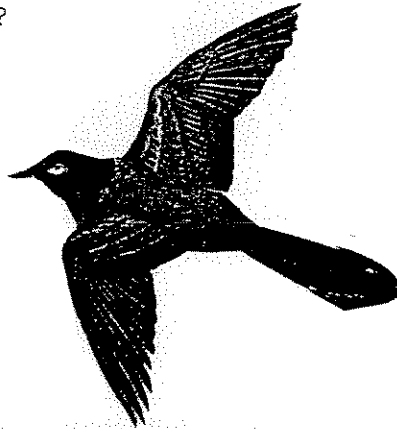
BY FRANK A. ZUERN

THE BIRD OF PEACE, WE SAY WE LOVE,
GET A GUN, SHOOT A MOURNING DOVE!
THE QUESTION NOW IS OBVIOUSLY,
WHY KILL DOVES SO NEEDLESSLY?

HUNTING DOVES IN AUTUMN, LOGICALLY,
DOESN'T FIT THE SPECIES, GENETICALLY.
FIND ORPHANED SQUABS IN A STARVING NEST,
WHILE SOME-ONE DINES ON THEIR MOTHER'S BREAST!

WHAT HUMAN NEEDS AND GOALS WE MEET,
WHEN BLOODIED FEATHERS LIE AT OUR FEET?
A HUNTER'S LIMIT : (N + 8),
SHAMEFUL TROPHIES TO CELEBRATE!

A SOARING METEOR, SWIFT AND MILD,
BELONGS TO ALL, LEFT FREE AND WILD.
NO-ONE NEEDS TO KILL A DOVE,
ASK OLD NOAH, WHAT IS LOVE?



MOURNING DOVE FACTS

Species: Zenaidura Macroura

Length: About 12 inches

Flight: Swift; with whistling wing sound

Song: Mournful cooing

Range/breeding: Nova Scotia to Manitoba, Maine to the Upper Mid-West, Wisconsin to the Gulf Coast, to E. Kansas and Iowa.

Nesting: From March through October, raises 4 or 5 broods, two eggs/flimsy nest of sticks and heavier grass stalks. High mortality of young and adults. Life-span about 1½ years. If one of the adult pair is lost, the nest cycle is broken.

Ecology: Important prey base for hawks and owls. Important weed seed eater, thus helps farmers. USF & WS data shows a 20 per cent wounding rate loss in dove hunting states. Some

of these states have shown a 50 per cent decline in dove populations. Kestrels in flight can be easily mistaken for a dove.

NOTE: The Western Mourning Dove is a related species; it breeds in Western N. America, East to Manitoba, Minn., Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Mr. Frank A. Zuern
1040 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904-8117

In a (March 26) letter, Department of Natural Resources Secretary George E. Meyer stated, "Before a final decision is made regarding mourning dove hunting we must be confident that the biology is sound and that public opinion has been sought." I would like to briefly address both parts of this statement.

The biology used by the DNR for this species is not sound. Almost no mourning dove studies have been conducted in Wisconsin. We do not have reliable data from any source to answer many questions about population trends of the dove in Wisconsin, about productivity in the state's dove population, or give accurate numbers of doves living and breeding in Wisconsin. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has indicated its federal research programs to be insufficient.

Various estimates of the number of doves in Wisconsin have been given, from 15 million to 1.5 million. The fact is, we do not know what the actual population is. How can it be positively stated that a hunting season can be sustained by the population, when we don't know what the population is.

Public opinion is being sought on this question. Yes, it is attached to the meeting of the Conservation Congress, a group composed mostly of hunters and anglers, but the DNR hearing where a vote will be taken is open to the public.

It is the right of every person who lives in the state of Wisconsin to vote on how wildlife is utilized. The wildlife of our state belongs to us all; not just to the hunters, not just to the animal rights groups, not just to those who wish to only watch or photograph wildlife.

It is the duty of everyone who cares about wildlife to attend the hearings on April 10 and vote on the question of allowing a hunting season on mourning doves. The governor, legislators, and the DNR have all said the vote at the April 10 hearing will probably determine if there is a hunting season or not.

Bettie Harriman
Oshkosh

At the 2000 Winnebago County Conservation Congress meeting held on April 10 attendees voted 673 to 197 in favor of a mourning dove hunt. While proponents of the mourning dove hunt may perceive this vote as a victory, one must take into consideration the setting in which this vote occurred before drawing any conclusions. The Conservation Congress has traditionally reflected the opinions of the hunting, fishing and trapping interest in this county and throughout the state of Wisconsin, not the population as a whole.

This year's Conservation Congress meeting was lively and lengthy. As I listened, I became increasingly aware that the hunting interest was clearly in a hysterical mind set when it came to any issue that would limit or not expand their perceived "right" to hunt, fish and trap. It was either stated or implied many times throughout the night (and I stayed until midnight) that any vote in favor of restricting or preventing expansion of hunting, fishing or trapping rights was a vote for the animal rights activist groups.

Approving a mourning dove hunt is the quickest way to incite the ranks of those non-hunters who would have previously supported sportsmen's hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges. It would lend credibility to the radial beliefs of those who perceive hunters as killing anything that moves for sport and those who perceive hunting as barbarian. I believe that the hunting interest in Wisconsin will need to compromise on this issue if they wish to have the ongoing support of the general public.

I do not believe that the Conservation Congress mourning dove vote is reflective of the opinion of the population of Winnebago County or Wisconsin as a whole, only the hunting interest. I request that the Department of Natural Resource and the Legislature take a second look at the mourning dove hunt

issue before passing any rules or legislation that would be so offensive to so many, including myself.

Joyce M. Helz
Oshkosh

Mourning dove campaign seeks to stop bird hunt

"Operation Mourning Dove" began on Memorial Day 2000. As an ex-Marine and a Vietnam veteran, I was outraged over the lack of feelings shown at the Natural Resources Board hearing held on the 24th of May in Shawano concerning the proposal to hunt mourning doves in the state of Wisconsin. In 1971 the mourning dove was designated, by the state

Legislature, as the Wisconsin State "Bird of Peace" dedicated to Vietnam veterans.

An overly paranoid faction of the hunting population is under the belief that if they are denied "their right" to hunt our "bird of peace" and a bird enjoyed by many, hunters and non-hunters alike, that all of "their" hunting "privileges," not their hunting "rights," will be snatched away from them. Knowing about sacrifice and the denial of rights, it saddens me to ask for your help, but also knowing you in a way that only another Vietnam veteran could understand, this request is made with the utmost of respect and faith. We were not given much, yet a symbol of peace dedicated to all of us who still welcome one another home and those who will always be at home in our hearts and memories, is to be taken away as if this honor never existed, for sport. I don't think so. I know us too well. "Together Again" in Operation Mourning Dove. Voted down twice before, let us put this issue to its final resting place.

Don Cashmore
New London

I believe that in their hearts and minds the majority of Wisconsin's citizens do not want a dove hunt.
yours truly, Frank Zuern

MAR 27 2001

March 24, 2001
5542 Riverview Drive
Waunakee, WI 53597

Open letter to DNR re proposed dove hunting season:

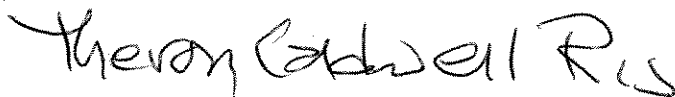
“ IT IS NOT THE CRIMINAL THINGS WHICH ARE HARDEST TO CONFESS, BUT THE
RIDICULOUS AND THE SHAMEFUL “ (Rousseau, Confessions).

In particular I would like to address Senator Jim Baumgart (Sheboygen), Representative
Du Wayne Johnsrud (Eastman), Committee Chair, and, chiefly Keith Warnke, DNR overseer of
the hunt.

Mr Warnke is quoted as saying :” Mourning dove hunting is not done for target practice. Doves
are hunted for food.” Let the reader note “ RIDICULOUS” in Rousseau’s quote above. One
chicken slaughtered as we do would provide the food from 30 doves! Doves are hunted for
thrills, for sport!

Approval for this shameful hunt was obtained at the April Conservation Congress. This is a well
established platform for the hunters of Wisconsin, not a democratic process. This proposed hunt
cries out for a state wide REFERENDUM. If the people of the state want a dove hunt, so be it.
If they do not, let the sportsmen bow to the people!

Sincerely,



Theron Caldwell Ris

Copies to Madison Newspapers, Letters to the Editor

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES™

OFFICERS

Joe Ramsey, Esq.
Chairman of the Board
David O. Wiebers, M.D.
Vice Chairman
Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D.
Secretary

Paul G. Irwin
President, CEO

G. Thomas Waite III
Treasurer, CFO

Patricia A. Forkan
Executive Vice President

Roger A. Kindler, Esq.
Vice President/General Counsel

STAFF VICE PRESIDENTS

John W. Grandy, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President
Wildlife Programs*

Wayne Pacelle
*Senior Vice President
Communications and
Government Affairs*

Andrew N. Rowan, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President
Research, Education, and
International Issues*

Melanie Adcock, D.V.M.
*Farm Animals and
Sustainable Agriculture*

Martha C. Armstrong
*Companion Animals and
Equine Protection*

Katherine Benedict
Information Management Systems

Richard M. Clugston, Ph.D.
Higher Education

Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.
Training Initiatives

Deborah J. Salem
Publications

Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D.
Animal Research Issues

Richard W. Swain Jr.
Investigative Services

Carroll S. Thrift
*Business Development and
Corporate Relations*

DIRECTORS

Peter A. Bender
Donald W. Cashen, Ph.D.
Anita W. Coupe, Esq.

Judi Friedman
Alice R. Garey
Denis A. Hayes, Esq.

Jennifer Leaning, M.D.
Amy Freeman Lee, Litt.D.
Eugene W. Lorenz

Jack W. Lydman
William F. Mancuso
Joan C. Martin-Brown

Judy J. Peil
Joe Ramsey, Esq.
Jeffery O. Rose

James D. Ross, Esq.
Marilyn G. Seyler
John E. Taft

David O. Wiebers, M.D.
Marilyn E. Wilhelm
K. William Wiseman

John A. Hoyt
President Emeritus
Murdaugh Stuart Madden, Esq.
Vice President/Senior Counsel

NGO in general consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council
of the United Nations

AN ACT RELATING TO PROHIBITING THE HUNTING OF THE BIRD THAT IS THE SYMBOL OF PEACE FOR THIS STATE

SENATE BILL 45

State of Wisconsin Legislature
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Resources, and
Campaign Finance Reform

Testimony by:

Arnold F. Baer
Regional Representative
Central States Regional Office
The Humane Society of the United States

March 22, 2001

Promoting the protection of all animals

Central States Regional Office ■ 800 West 5th Avenue, Suite 110, Naperville, IL 60563 ■ 630-357-7015 ■ Fax: 630-357-5725 ■ www.hsus.org

Testimony by: Arnold F. Baer, Regional Representative
In support of: Senate Bill 45, An Act Prohibiting the Hunting of the Bird that is the
Symbol of Peace for this State
Presented to: State of Wisconsin Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environmental
Resources, and Campaign Finance Reform
Date: March 22, 2001

I am a resident of Mequon and also the Regional Representative for the Central States Regional Office of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). On behalf of our nearly 100,000 Wisconsin members and contributors, I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 45.

Last year I testified before this committee in opposition to the institution of a mourning dove hunt in Wisconsin. I cited the non-subsistence nature of the bird as game, their gentle character, and the fact that the majority of Wisconsin citizens were opposed to a dove hunt. But except for the wishes of our citizenry, those arguments are irrelevant to Senate Bill 45.

The bill before us today calls for taking a special, respected tribute created by this legislative body and protecting it. A symbol that was created as a thank you to the Viet Nam veterans of Wisconsin, a symbol of those veterans' sacrifices in order that we might have the peace that this bird, the mourning dove, represents. Yes, this bill seeks to protect our symbol of peace, and I ask this committee not to kill the bill, the bird, and the meaning that it has.

Those of us that lived through the Viet Nam War Era know it as a time of turmoil and difficulty. It affected us all, and whatever our views regarding the war, it brings us sadness. And many would say that the saddest part of those times was the ingratitude by a large portion of the populace toward the men and women that fought that war. It took decades, but finally the country has come to appreciate the service and sacrifice those soldiers gave for their country. And how was this reassessment and realization manifest? Through many means, whether simple conversation, books, movies, talk shows, monuments and memorials, or heartfelt gestures such as the establishment of a state bird of peace in Wisconsin.

And now we want to shoot it! Has this legislature become so cynical that it gives its blessing to shooting the symbol of the sacrifices and beliefs of the men and women that gave so greatly in that much maligned war? Has this legislature lost its sense of honored values? I ask you all to take pause and consider the message you are giving and its reflection on this great legislative body and state that you represent.

The people of Wisconsin do not want this bird and symbol slaughtered. The hunting community wants it only as "another hunting opportunity." Do not tarnish a wonderful gesture made by your colleagues a few years back. Honor their intent, their integrity, and the dedication of our armed services.

I ask you and urge you, not only as an animal advocate, but maybe more importantly, as a concerned citizen, that you support and vote for Senate Bill 45.



Arnold Baer

March 25, 2001

MAR 27 2001

Senator Baumgart:

At the 3/23 Hearing on SB 45 I stated that the word "songbird" referred simply to "a bird with a song" and was a colloquial cognate which evolved over time, and was and is considered by many people to refer to a "whole group of birds, including those with "calls, etc. and not "songs."

After further research I find that the term also has a "technical" definition, and generally refers to "Passerine" birds (Passeres or Passeriformes), an order that does not include doves (Order: Columbiformes). Many crucial anatomical details define the Passerine Order, some of which are shared by the dove (for example, "perching feet" and behavior). Chief among these details is the presence of "5-8" pairs of muscles which control the vibrations of the membrane of the syrinx (the bird "sorend-box"), enabling the development of intricate usually learned, song. (I don't know what kind of syrinx the dove has but it is obviously different from the syrinx arrangements in Passerines.)

Menstein (see attached) sheds further light on (or at least offers additional possible origins of) the origin of the word "songbird"; he says it was invented in Europe long ago - although even then, the types of birds encompassed by the term seem to have varied quite a bit. (He also adds information on "Oscines" and "Sub-Oscines" within the Order Passerine, which further definitions of actual singing ability + (or potential - though not in all cases!)

I feel there are two "legitimate" uses of the term "songbird": one is colloquial and includes most of the wild perching birds that people have come to recognize and to love, and the other is technical and refers to Passerines, particularly those with well-developed syrinxes!

(cont.)

As a Wildlife Biologist (degree) and (former?)
Pres. of your Audubon chapter, I bet you find this
interesting too. It'd be nice if one could learn
something "true" or "factual" ("scientific" is in vogue)
once and for all, but it never works out that way,
does it? There always seems to be more to learn -
about facts about people, circumstances, motivations,
issues, etc. etc.

It is a great pity that people can so
rarely sit down to discuss things - really
discuss them, with Q + A, give + take, apart from
a hearing process - and get to know each other,
see each other, more wholly and not simply as
adversaries. I'm glad you held the hearing(s)
but the format is nevertheless very limiting ~~to~~:

Would someone please enlighten me
about how the definition of "songbird" is
germaine to the Dove Hunt decision?

Yours sincerely,

Sally Kornak

^{608 -}
(527-6370, 300 Elmer Rd, New Haven 53524)

"Colloquial" definition of "Songbird".

354 Bird

walk and run by moving one foot forward at a time, like people. Most species that nest or feed in trees hop about on both feet when on the ground. Some kinds of birds both run and hop. For example, robins often run a short distance and then hop the last few steps before stopping. Some birds are expert climbers, especially those species that climb trees in search of insects. Such birds include creepers, nuthatches, woodcreepers, and woodpeckers. All these birds have short legs and sharp, widely spaced claws, which enable them to cling tightly to the tree while climbing.

In the water. Many species of birds spend much or most of their time in water. They find food and escape from enemies by swimming or diving. Some of these birds swim mainly on the surface of the water. Such birds include albatrosses, gulls, petrels, phalaropes, and shearwaters. The birds use their legs like paddles to propel themselves through the water.

Certain other birds swim underwater as well as on the surface. Most underwater swimmers, such as cormorants, dive from a floating position on the surface. They give a strong kick, point the head downward, and plunge. Some fish-eating birds, including kingfishers and terns, dive into the water from high in the air. They do not swim but bob to the surface and fly away. Most birds use only their legs to swim underwater. However, penguins also use their wings. Grebes can control the depth at which they swim by regulating the amount of air in their lungs and trapped in their plumage. By slowly letting out air, they can gradually submerge themselves until only the head shows above the surface, like a periscope. They can thus swim along unnoticed and watch for enemies at the same time.

How birds communicate

Birds communicate with one another in a variety of ways. Vocal communication by means of songs and calls is the most important way.

Calls, Calls and songs. Nearly all birds have a voice and use it to call or sing. A call usually consists of a single sound, such as a squawk or peep. A song consists of a series of notes that follow a fairly definite pattern. About half the known species of birds, including nearly all perching species, produce both calls and songs. The majority of other birds, including most water birds and birds of prey, call but do not sing. Pelicans and some kinds of storks are among the few birds that make no vocal sounds.

Birds use their calls mainly as signals to other birds. Baby birds call in one way to tell their parents that they are hungry and in another way to tell them that they are hurt or frightened. Adult birds use certain calls to signal their mates and other calls to signal the entire bird community. Community calls may warn of approaching danger. Such calls often alert birds of more than one species.

When people think of songbirds, they usually think of canaries, nightingales, and other birds with sweet voices. However, the songs of some birds are not particularly pleasing, at least to human ears. Ravens and waxwings, for example, simply repeat the same unmusical note over and over. In most species of songbirds, only

A.B. = true for m. above, not for cardinal

↑

the males sing. They do so chiefly during the mating season. Each male sings from a series of perches that outlines his *territory*—that is, the area he claims and defends as his own. His song, which is called an *advertising song*, has two main purposes. (1) It warns other males of the same species to stay out of the territory. (2) The song attracts a mate. To human ears, the songs of the birds of a particular species may sound alike. However, each bird's voice sounds different to the other members of the species. Even in a crowded colony, parent birds can single out the voices of their chicks, and chicks recognize those of their parents.

Some birds are talented mimics. They imitate not only the calls and songs of other birds, but also other sounds in their environment, such as dog barks or factory whistles. Mockingbirds and starlings are among the most skillful bird mimics. Certain birds, such as parrots and mynas, become mimics only when kept in captivity. They can then be trained to imitate human speech and even to whistle.

Other means of communication. Some birds communicate by sounds other than vocal sounds. The loud drumming noise that woodpeckers make on tree trunks with their bill is not the same sound they produce when drilling for insects or digging a nest hole. Drumming is their substitute for an advertising song. Each species of woodpecker has its own drumming rhythms. The male ruffed grouse produces a low drumming sound by beating his wings rapidly. This sound, which carries across long distances, also serves as an advertising song. Male and female storks clatter their bills at one another during their courtship.

Birds communicate almost entirely by sounds in habitats where they may have difficulty seeing one another. Such habitats include woodlands and forests. In more open areas, birds also communicate with one another by various kinds of visual displays. For example, they may flash their tail feathers or raise the crest feathers on their head. Like sound communication, sight communication is used in courtship, defending a territory, and signaling danger.

Other daily activities

Birds spend time every day keeping their feathers in good condition. They also sleep and rest every day. In addition, all birds, except perhaps the largest ones, must constantly be alert to avoid enemies.

Feather care. A bird cares for its feathers chiefly by cleaning and smoothing them with its beak, a process called *preening*. A bird uses its feet to preen its head and other hard to reach parts. Most birds *oil* their feathers while preening. A *preen gland* at the base of the tail produces the oil. A bird uses its beak to activate the gland and apply the oil. The oil helps keep the feathers waterproof and flexible.

In addition to preening, most birds bathe frequently. Water birds bathe while swimming. Land birds have less efficient preen glands than do most water birds. Their feathers thus become soaked with water more easily. Most land birds wet their feathers only slightly when bathing and then shake them dry as quickly as possible. Other birds practice a form of bathing called *dusting*.

Protective

The coloring matches their and so helps t (fection by ene ple, the stripe and chest of a tam look like bird points its near right. The nesting horns with the twigs the ground, fa

The birds squ with their fee are thorough the dust off. T stood. It prob and other par Some bird into their feat give off a che bly helps elimin site of birds.

ing motions a things as ciga

Sleeping a during the da and take shor such as owls, breeding seas

The rest of the or bushes, on

Many speci or both feet. T

their feet. It m vents the bird.

many kinds of called *roosts*.

marshes. Roost birds, grackle: birds.

Some swifts their body ten cold weather.

In much the s

Protection to protect the

Many birds ar they blend wit

fect themselves still and avoid

cealment is ca

Source = World Book Encyclopedia, 2000

"Technical" definition of "Songbird."

P R E F A C E

*In one moment I've seen what has hitherto been
Enveloped in absolute mystery,
And without extra charge I will give you at large
A Lesson in Natural History...*

*As to temper the Jubjub's a desperate bird,
Since it lives in perpetual passion:
Its taste in costume is entirely absurd—
It is ages ahead of the fashion.*

—LEWIS CARROLL, *The Hunting of the Snark*

This Victoria's
Riflebird from north-
eastern Australia
could be a female or a
young male. If it is a
male, it may, like
many other birds-of-
paradise, take years
to develop its adult
plumage.

I might as well confess it—I am an unrepentant dicky-bird man. Others may prefer the majesty of birds of prey, the beauty of pheasants, the stateliness of cranes, or the charm of ducks and geese, but it is the songbirds that fascinate me. This book is an attempt to share that fascination.

I had better explain what I mean by "songbirds." Strictly speaking, the word should apply only to the "true" songbirds of the Suborder Oscines, perching birds that learn a good portion of their song repertoires. In this book, however, I am using it to cover the entire order Passeriformes, including subsordine birds such as the tyrant flycatchers, corings, and pitas. I make no apology for this. The subspecies are simply too interesting to leave out.

I have decided not to include scientific names in the main text of this book. You will find them, with brief notes on distribution, in an appendix at the back. In general, I have followed *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* by Charles Sibley and Bert Monroe Jr. as my source for English and scientific names. I have not, however, been slavish about this. I have felt no compunction about departing from Sibley and Monroe for English names when those authors have ignored names widely used by English-speaking birders. Thus, I use "Dunnock" instead of

WHAT IS A SONG BIRD?

... *The lords of creation*

*are in my mate's next egg's next egg's next egg's
stegosaur. Its feathers I need, more feathers
for the life to come...*

*I will teach my sons and daughters to live
on mist and fire and fly to the stars.*

—EDWIN MORGAN, *THE ARCHAEOPTERYX'S SONG*

The most thoroughly
studied wild bird in
the world may be the
Great Tit, a bird
found across the
whole of temperate
Eurasia, from Ireland
to Borneo.

Once, the god Pan had no music. Then (so runs the tale) he fell in love with a water nymph, who rejected him and fled his advances. As he pursued her, she prayed to the other gods to save her honor. In answer to her prayer, they changed her into a stand of water reeds. Thwarted and heartbroken, Pan cut stems from the reeds and fashioned the first panpipe. Driven by the god's breath, music flowed from what was once her body. Her name—and the Greek word for panpipe—was **Syrinx**.

Deep in the breast of a bird, at the point where the *trachea*, or windpipe, divides to send its passages to the lungs, is a box of cartilage, membrane, and muscle. It, too, is called a *syrinx*. It is the source of a bird's voice, whether that be the squawk of a hen or the outpouring of a nightingale. The syrinx is of ancient lineage—that most unbirdlike cousin of birds, the alligator, has something like one. In most groups of birds, the membranes of the syrinx are controlled by a single pair of muscles. In songbirds, they are manipulated by up to eight pairs. The complexity of the sounds those muscle-driven membranes produce single out the songbirds from the rest of the avian world (except, as you might expect, for those most talkative of non-

Source = *Songbirds* by Ronald Orin, Sierra Club Press, San Francisco, 1997
(pp. 6, 10-11, 18)

songbirds, the parrots, who have extra syrinx muscles, too). The syrinx allows the songbirds to sing.

Ornithologists group songbirds in the order Passeriformes—the passerines, or perching birds. If you really want to know why, you can check out the latest thorough reclassification of the birds of the world, by Charles Sibley and Jon Ahlquist, and wade through a long page of highly technical fine print (the reference is on page 576, if you must know). For the rest of us, who probably don't want to deal with such terms as *aegigognathous*, *tensor propatagialis brevis*, and *acrosome* any more than we absolutely have to, let's just say that card-carrying members of the Passeriformes have a distinctive palate, wing, and foot structure. Their hind toes are long and flexible. They point backward, so a songbird can get a firm, all-around grip on its perch (yes, yes, parrots can do this, too, but their feet are very different). Male perching birds have sperm cells unlike those of other birds—not a feature your average birder is likely to notice, but important enough to stamp them as unique in a scientist's eyes. The babies some of those sperm cells help produce are hatched out blind and helpless—a very different condition from that of a duckling or a poultry chick.

The "true" songbirds, or *oscines*, differ from the rest of the perching birds—as you might expect—in the details of their complex musical box. An oscine has from five to eight pairs of muscles operating its syrinx. One-fifth of the perching birds—the *suboscines*—have no more than four. The suboscines are, in general, not as good at singing as their better-endowed cousins, but at least some of them make up for it with volume. The Central and South American bellbirds, of the suboscine family Cotingidae, produce some of the most ear-shatteringly loud sounds in the animal kingdom. They may not, strictly speaking, be songbirds, but the suboscines certainly deserve a place in this book.

It isn't just anatomy, though, that makes a songbird a songbird. The suboscines, like most birds, are born (or hatched, if you prefer) with their vocal repertoires hard-wired into their brains. Songbirds, by contrast, have to learn their songs, from parents, neighbors, or even the other sounds they hear as they grow. Before songbirds become musicians, they have to be music students. Voice and inner workings aside, perching birds

America, the subsong kingbirds still lord it over their upstart, if more musical, oscine cousins.

Over most of the world, though, the success story of the Passeriformes is really the triumphant march of the oscines. Four out of five perching birds in the world are oscines—more than 4,700 species. If you leave out South America, the odds of any perching bird you meet being an oscine are far higher. All the passerines of Europe, home of the Skylark and the Nightingale, are oscines. **Europe is where the word "songbird" was invented.** Shakespeare's songbirds—

The onset-cock so black of hue,

With orange-tawny bill,

The throble with his note so true,

The wren with little quill

—are all oscines, even if we now call the "onset-cock" the European Blackbird and the "throble" the Song Thrush. So are warblers, bluebirds, redstarts, chats, babblers, thrushes, crows, jays, magpies, wagtails, pipits, starlings, sparrows, finches, tanagers, sunbirds, whistlers, flowerpeckers, drongos, swallows, martins, orioles, vireos, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers, catbirds, honeyeaters, white-eyes, whipbirds, titmice, and treecreepers. So are akalats, eromomelas, cisticolas, cochoas, akepas, parotias, melampirras, chowchillas, parduscos, cutias, kokakos, and kinkimavos. So are standardwings, barwings, redwings, forktrails, wagtails, fantrails, emutails, parrotbills, longbills, bristlebills, wedgebills, redthroats, whitethroats, yellowthroats, spotthroats, thickheads, yellowheads, whiteheads, even Bornean Bristleheads. So, indeed, are the birds-of-paradise, once thought to dwell in Heaven itself.

Heaven aside, the oscines have spread from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to the tip of Cape Horn, across the seas to the most distant islands ships can reach, and from the seashore to the heights of the Andes and the high plateaus of Tibet. Of all the continents, only the Antarctic has remained closed to them. The closest they get to it is the windswept island of South Georgia. There, a single species of songbird, the South Georgia Pipit, finds its only home among the



clumps of tussock grass and the thousands of other birds that otherwise make the island a forbidding, forbidding place. There are oscines with such dueling instincts that only an expert armed with a battery of shotguns can identify the oscines clad in so conflicting a pa-

D. W. Hayden
D 4512
Oshkosh
3/22/61

Baumgart, Hanson, Wirsch, Cowles
Schultz: in America all people
are suppose to be created equal →
men have fought and died for
this privilege; I feel sorry for
all the birds other wild life;
you claim your helping them
survive, I dont think so →
your all as bad as the Dove
hunters → you dont care what
lives or dies, you only care
for a fat pocket book I none
of your will ever get my vote again
tens of thousands of people dont
want the Doves killed, yet
you let a couple of your nerd
friends sit on it, then fat
lazy butts! you're not welcome
in my home any day of the week!
you are not worth the
paper I am writing on!



2

Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves WCCCD

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."-Margaret Mead

Chairman Baumgart, members of Environmental Resources Committee,

Thank you for holding this Hearing and allowing me to speak, now I ask that you both listen to what I have to say and in addition read what I am submitting to you.

My name is John Wieneke; I live in New London, WI. Until just about two years ago I was busy helping my farming customers in Waupaca and Portage County develop the best dairy herds possible, dealing with one cow at a time. In addition I designed and built large and small pens to display, transport, house, and exercise birds of prey. I also enjoyed woodworking specializing in making pictures frames and projects for my wife and children.

All that changed two years ago when my attention was drawn to two questions that would be asked at the annual County Hearings conducted by the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The questions concerned the hunting of both the Sandhill Crane and Mourning Dove in Wisconsin. Since that time, while I continue to help my Dairy customers deal with these very difficult times, *I have put aside almost everything else and tried to get my mind around both the concept of hunting these species* and the concept of the Conservation Congress.

By June of 1999 it became apparent that no one in the State was going to step forward and speak for the birds, *two of us in New London formed the Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves.* **Neither of us have an anti-hunting background indeed our hunting roots go deep. Each with over 40 years of hunting experiences.** Since forming we have lead an effort to demonstrate to both the Department and our elected Representatives working in this building that the general public in Wisconsin does not want these species hunted in Wisconsin.

Some will question why we combined the two species both in our name and petition drive. We've been accused of using the Sandhill Crane to draw sympathy for the Mourning Dove. Quite frankly that's not the case. I will readily agree that both founders knew a great deal more about Cranes than Doves in June of 1999. We knew about the pressure being put on Cranes by Assemblyman Johnsrud. We knew his accusations against the species were based much more on paranoia and myths than fact. I believe his tactics were to attract both the votes of farmers and sportsmen, not out of any real concern for farmers.

As I studied material obtained for the Department and the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, I realized that the Department has been conspiring with Johnsrud in setting up the Legislature for approval of the hunting of Cranes when it gains approval from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In fact, if the Department succeeds over our challenge of their authority in making the rule change concerning the Dove hunt, the Legislature will not be involved in the decision at all.

I have already suggested to the Department that they just use their rule making authority to approve assistance to farmers for crop damage from Sandhill Cranes, even though they are not a hunted species now. I'm sure that the DNR Attorneys could twist the Statutes around to allow for this if they so desired. Of course that wouldn't fit the plan to add yet another species to the hunted list in Wisconsin, so they "can't" do it that way.

There is ample evidence that the Cranes have come very close to reaching the maximum population number that available habitat will allow. There is ample evidence that farmers can easily control or stop the little crop damage Cranes actually do. What is not explained to farmers is all the good Cranes do in controlling pests that would otherwise be doing crop damage themselves. I have also suggested that the Department conduct a study of the diet of Cranes to explore this area.

Quite frankly we were surprised at the support the Mourning Dove had on its own. Many people concerned for the Dove had no knowledge of Cranes at all. Many had bought into the idea that perhaps Cranes were reaching too large a population. Everyone is aware of Doves and enjoy them at their backyard feeders. Most do consider them to be a songbird.

We took on both species because at the time of our founding because we were unsure of the direction the Department would choose to go.

There are a few very important thoughts I would like to leave with you. I will apologize in advance, both to you and several of my friends sitting in this room if you or they are offended by any of my comments.

Quite frankly I am confused.

To illustrate my confusion about why anyone would even consider hunting a species that at best yields a piece of meat the size of my thumb and weighing just over an ounce, I will offer a hunting experience. It happened in 1986 and was special because it was the first year my son was able to hunt deer with me. On Thanksgiving morning he successfully drove two deer past my stand, I made a quick shot and dropped the first deer. A very special father-son moment. The deer turned out to be a nub buck and as is usually the case appeared much smaller on the ground than when running past. It was the first nubby that I had taken. The shock came upon boning the meat from the carcass, that deer yielded just over 20 lbs. of meat. So much effort for so little result. Thus my confusion when I'm told the reason people hunt Doves is for the "great" eaten. The Department projects a total season take of 5 Doves per hunter.

There is so much more involved, and it has nothing to do with the prudent use of Wisconsin's Natural Resources.

Much of it has to do with paranoia. Indeed this is a country being held apart by paranoia's of one kind or another.

Let me preface my next statement by a confession I love guns, I have since I was a small boy. I love the feel of them, the smell of them, and I love shooting them. I am having a harder time killing with them. I do not belong to the NRA, I never will.

I have had the opportunity to read a limited amount of the literature put out by the NRA and all I see is paranoia. I've come to the conclusion the feeding paranoia open wallets and fills the bank accounts of those organizations feeding it. Politicians have learned that feeding paranoia both feeds the funding for their campaigns and gains votes, while addressing the real issues will put them out of office.

Paranoia also builds walls, blocks communication and effectively hinders any progress on the many problems facing this country.

Various hunting organizations have picked up on this paranoia as an effective fund raising tool. It has obviously invaded the Conservation Congress. Why else would an organization that has been held up as a great example of democracy, be shaken to its roots by the election of one person who describes herself as a protectionist to its membership. Indeed this is an organization, which does not allow a dissenting voice to be recorded, or a dissenting vote to be recorded. True democracy embraces minority opinions and does not fear them.

The Department has fed this paranoia with the Mourning Dove issue. Indeed the crucial vote cast when the Board voted on this rule change was not based on anything to do with the natural resources of this State. A gentleman who I respect as a friend, a former co-worker and boss, cast it. His vote carried at least another if not two with it. ***It was based on a PETA ad run that day in the Milwaukee Journal and concerned milk not Mourning Doves.*** Indeed, at that time PETA itself had not checked in on hunting Mourning Doves in this state.

According to the paranoia running rampant through the state there is an anti-hunter behind every other tree in the forest ready to take away someone's hunting "rights" and an anti-gun person behind every rock ready to take away their guns.

They've set forth the Mourning Dove issue to prove their point. ***In supporting the current "Hunters Rights" amendment being considered, proponents point to the rather large number of votes cast against the issue last spring as evidence of large number of anti-hunters in the state.***

Nothing could be further from the truth. I will cite you two pieces of evidence. Sen. Baumgart, when I asked you if one voice had been raised against hunting in your recent hearings concerning the "Right to Hunt" amendment, you told me no, not one. In 1971 the right to hunt Mourning Doves was taken away from Wisconsin hunters. Since that time opportunities for the sportsmen and women have only increased while at the same time the actual number of hunters has declined. We are told we can not kill enough Snow or Canadian Geese. Even though a record number

of deer were killed last year, we are being told it wasn't enough. A lot of farmers don't believe that nearly enough turkeys are being killed. I understand the Department has found a strain of pheasants when will reproduce in Wisconsin, something that was not thought possible 35 years ago. There were record numbers of ducks migrating through Wisconsin. Yet we are told, if we can't hunt Mourning Doves in this state, it will just be the start of further infringement on our rights.

This is truly not a case of someone looking at a glass as half full or half empty, rather this is a case of both hunters and the Department as looking at a glass that is overflowing and deciding the tap has to be turned up some more.

In closing I would like to point out to you two documents I am including with my comments. One is a letter to Sec. Buzzell discussing *a very real biological reason not to hunt Mourning Doves in Wisconsin. Keith Warnke of the Department and our group have been at odds as to the estimated number of Mourning Doves migrating out of this state. As it turns out this number is not relevant to the discussion. According to the Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove the book Warnke cites as his main source of information concerning the Dove, Mourning Doves in this area of the country began migration in earnest in Mid-August, they are gone from Wisconsin by Sept 1. Neither the Department nor USF&W Service has any idea about the make up of the population which over-winters in Wisconsin, this is the population which would bear the brunt of a hunting season if one were conducted in Wisconsin.*

The second is an interesting e-mail who I believe resides in Texas. This person is an admitted violator of both state and Federal hunting regulations. He promises to bring these tactics to Wisconsin.

Our organization's only request is that our elected representatives, working in this building, be required to vote on this issue, before there is an actual hunt. So far not one has been allowed to.

To the Members of the Environmental Resources Committee and Concerned Others

Senators, please have an open mind about Senator Moen's bill to not allow hunting of "Wisconsin's Official Symbol of Peace." I must assume that this committee considers the doves to be an environmental resource. Otherwise, you would not be holding this hearing. I must also assume that this committee has the responsibility to act in the best interest of all the people of this state concerning environmental issues and the effect these issues have on everyone.

Consider the truly important environmental resources—the earth, it's water and air—and how they affect us all . They sustain all life. They are the very source of life itself. They care for us and we in turn should care for and respect them. Polluting these resources is very dangerous to us all and yet we still do it. This is why we need your committee to be a watchdog for everyone's best interests.

If doves are a true environmental resource, then someone needs to tell us how the killing of them for sport benefits all or even most of the people of this state. In what way does it sustain us? Please, do not let anyone insult our intelligence by saying doves need to be hunted for food.

Thomas Heberlein, a professor of Rural Sociology at the UW-Madison and an avid hunter himself, says surveys he has done show the majority of people everywhere do not support hunting for sport. He points out that Steve Kellert of Yale University did a national survey and found virtually the same result.

This dove is clearly an asset to our environment. It's list of good deeds is quite long, and others will testify about that today. Why should we hunt a bird that has more value alive than dead? Does anyone have even one bad thing to say about this bird? Can anyone tell us of any harm it does? It's only sin seems to be that it makes an interesting target and some say it's a nice bird for our young hunters to start out on.

If Wisconsin o.k.'s the shooting of this bird it will pollute our environment, not help to sustain it. As those of you who have even the smallest amount of awareness can testify, positive emotions put out good vibrations for us all. They bring forth peace, joy and happiness. The unhappiness the majority of us will feel as a result of shooting this harmless bird for no good reason would surely bring about negative emotions which would produce negative vibrations for our environment. It's a wellknown fact that our environment affects every individual's consciousness. I therefore ask this committee to support Senator Moen's bill to not allow hunting of Wisconsin's official symbol of peace.

Most hunters are true protectors of our environment. They love the earth, it's air and clean water, and they care about our creatures. They could teach us alot about nature's stillness and living in her moments. They could share how nature's secrets enrich their souls. Hunters have in the past been our providers of meat, but perhaps the Creator has a bigger role for them to play in our planet's future.

Don Klouglund
Madison, Wi.

Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Position statement on Mourning Dove Hunting Season

Based on the best scientific information available, the membership of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society offers the following resolution regarding the biological knowledge for a sustainable mourning dove hunting season in Wisconsin. Because:

- ❑ Morning doves are one of the most abundant and widely distributed birds in North America occurring from central Canada in the north to southern Mexico in the south and found in all the lower 48 states.
- ❑ Morning doves are very abundant in Wisconsin with banding and harvest data from the USFWS indicating that 4-5 million doves are found in Wisconsin each fall.
- ❑ North American Breeding Bird Survey data show the mourning dove population increasing over the last 33 years in Wisconsin; however, these data showing a slight decrease of the mourning dove population over the last 10 years.
- ❑ The USFWS Mourning Dove Calling Count Index showing no change in the number of doves heard in Wisconsin over the last 34 years, however, these data showing a slight decline in the number of doves heard over the last 10 years.
- ❑ Mourning doves are very adaptable in their use of habitat and habitat is believed to have increased since presettlement times due to an increase in agriculture.
- ❑ Mourning doves are very prolific with nest success averaging 53% and each pair producing multiple broods per year sustaining a level of recruitment above the level needed to maintain the population.
- ❑ Mourning doves have a high natural mortality with only 40-50% of the population surviving from year to year with mortality primarily caused by predators, disease, accidents, hunting and weather and because other natural sources of mortality are believed to be 4-5 times higher than hunting.
- ❑ Continent-wide hunting mortality is estimated at 10-15% of the fall population annually which is below the level that would significantly decrease long-term abundance or expansion of Wisconsin mourning dove populations.
- ❑ Research has demonstrated that September hunting does not negatively impact the number of young doves added to the population.
- ❑ Mourning doves have been hunted in 37 of the 48 states in which they occur and they continue to be one of the most abundant birds in North America.

Therefore be it resolved that the membership of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society believes the biological data available indicate that the Wisconsin mourning dove population is capable of sustaining a regulated hunting season without negatively impacting the Wisconsin mourning dove population.

2

Please look at the facts below in order to implement a mourning dove season in the year 2001.

1. The dove is a game bird under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

2. The mourning dove is one of the most abundant birds in the United States and occupies a very broad range in North America. The current continent-wide population estimate is over 400 million in the fall migration. For comparison, there were 105 million ducks in the fall flight last year.

3. 38 states have a hunting season on doves. 3/4 of population die a natural death, so there is no biological reason not to have a season. 50-55 million doves are harvested each year.

4. The mourning dove is designated as the state bird of peace. However, this designation in no way affects the department's authority in the statutes to establish and manage hunting seasons. the musky is designated as the state fish and the deer is the state wildlife animal. both of these species are hunted and their populations are flourishing. the dairy cow is the state domestic animal and thousands are consumed by residents.

5. Mourning doves are smaller than most other game birds. For comparison, they have about the same amount of meat as a hand-sized bluegill or brook trout - 1-2 oz. Bluegills and brook trout are very popular among anglers because they are very tasty. Mourning doves are very popular among hunters for the same reason.

6. It is important to note that the state has already conducted hearings (on April 10th) on this issue in every county which had record attendance. Why then, are there tactics to stall implementation of the overwhelming vote in favor of a mourning dove hunting season?

Conclusion:

Mourning Dove hunting is biologically feasible with no adverse effect of the population levels. The meat is delicious. The groups that oppose the dove season are the same people that want to ban all hunting, fishing, trapping and the consumption of any meat products.

Sen. Baumgart
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wi. 53707-7882

1755 East Johnson Street
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

Dear Sir:

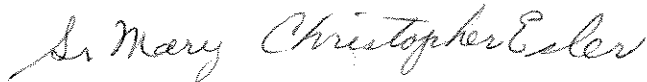
This letter is one of many I have written regarding hunting of mourning doves in Wisconsin. I encourage you to vote to approve State Senator Moen's Senate Bill (SB 45) to not allow hunting of Wisconsin's "Official Symbol of Peace".

Since 1996 there has been a decline in mourning doves in Wisconsin from 12 million to 4 million. In our petition drives we have had 28,000 signatures opposing the hunt.

There is nothing sportsmanly about shooting this smaller bird with only a tablespoon of meat on it. What shooter would bother to clean the bird for eating? Other manufactured shooting targets are easily available for target practice.

Kindly vote yes for Moen's Bill (SB 45) on March 22 or any other time this item is brought up. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sr. Mary Christopher Esler

Dear Senator Baumgart,

I ask you to support Senate Bill SB 45 to not allow hunting of Wisconsin's "Official Symbol of Peace".

As our population continues to grow, people are using up the resources and pushing populations of plants and animals off the face of the earth. It is time for us to learn how to help these species survive instead of trying to find more species we can add to a list that we can kill for a sport. We no longer have that privilege. For the sake of our future and the future of our children we need to start looking ahead.

There are many examples of species that we hunted, depleted their populations, and then had to spend millions of dollars to try and reintroduce them back into the wild. With today's pressures on wildlife with the loss of habitat, clean water, and food sources it is very difficult to predict how much hunting pressure a species can support before they plunge into nonexistence. We can pay people to try and figure this out so we can hunt more, or we could use that money to help save our natural resources. There will be a time when it is too late to turn back and say, "Gee, we should have done something to reduce our consumption of natural resources."

Please take this step now to change the way we over use our natural resources, including the hunting of more species. Vote yes with Senator Moen and hear the request of more that just the hunting public.

Thank you,


Jennifer McGinley

Dear Senator Baumgart,

Please support the Dove bill.
The doves are very beautiful
Songbirds. Please support
The bill to save the doves.

Sincerely
Sam McGinley

Sam McGinley

MAR 12 2001

April 9, 2001

Senator James Baumgart
Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: **Senator Rodney Moen's Senate Bill (SB45)**

Dear Senator Baumgart:

We are writing asking your support of Senator Moen's above mentioned bill to not have a hunting season on **WISCONSIN'S SYMBOL OF PEACE.**

In 1972 the State Legislature effectively outlawed the hunting of Mourning Doves; yet the 2000 Legislature stood back and let a state agency reinterpret and effectively rewrite our Wisconsin State Statues without a single elected State Official casting a vote of yes or no. It's in the interest of thousands of Wisconsin residents (as evidenced by the statewide petition drives, letters and phone calls) that we save these birds from the proposed DNR dove hunt.

The 2000 dove population was estimated as low as 4 million by the DNR. The doves are actually poor reproducers with frequent nesting failures and a fledgling rate averaging only 3 young per breeding season. There is clear evidence that young Mourning Doves migrate on their own, without mature guidance. We need to ensure that they are not hunted to near extinction as has happened to so many of our bird and animal species in the past.

Thank you for thinking over the above information carefully. Hopefully you will come up in full support of Senator Moen's bill.

Sincerely,

Alberta Endres



Gordon Harris



307 River Road #20
Black River Falls, WI 54615-8302
715/284-8880
E-mail - tabbycat@discover-net.net

2

January 31, 2000

Natural Resources Board
Department of Natural Resources
State of Wisconsin
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Members of the Natural Resources Board:

Years ago as a young man I was a hunter--I shot pheasants, grouse, etc. And, there aren't as many of these birds any more! I joined the Service to help fight the enemy in Vietnam, and I still have nightmares and know that man is capable of destroying everything. I joined the Fox Valley Vietnam Vets, and we were asked to help dedicate the memorial at Neillsville, Wisconsin. It's a sad, but yet happy place. Why? Because there is a symbol of a mourning dove there in silent tribute to those who gave their lives for America. It also has given me inspiration to go on!

Why do you want to slaughter these peaceful birds? They even sing us a song in the morning. They come home every year to build nests for their young only to fly away to be hunted, and many of them for the fun of it are just plain target practice.

These birds need a place of refuge--a place where they can come home to without the threat of being crippled or shot dead! As a veteran remembering what I've seen in war, please let them come to a place they can call home where there no guns that can kill, cripple, maim, and slaughter them!

Let the mourning dove fly free! Let them sing us a song!
Let them live!

Sincerely,

David A. Van Der Heyden

David A. Van Der Heyden
N4512 French Road
Seymour, WI 54165

Wexler, James

From: Legislative Hotline
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2000 10:51 AM
To: Rep.Kestell; Sen.Baumgart
Subject: Legislative Hotline Message

Representative Kestell;

You have received a new call from the Legislative Hotline from:

Jeanette Wimmler
W7347 County Rd. N
Plymouth, WI 53073

Date: 02/25/2000
Time: 10:49:01

NO CALL REQUIRED

Opposed to authorization of dove hunting.--MJH

February 25, 2000

Jeanette Wimmmler
W7347 County Road N
Plymouth, WI 53073

Dear Ms. Wimmmler:

Thank you for letting me know about your concerns regarding the hunting of mourning doves in Wisconsin.

As you may know, this issue was voted on throughout Wisconsin by the Conservation Congress in all 72 counties. The vast majority was in favor of pursuing the issue of the expanded hunt referred to in your Hotline message. I certainly can appreciate the sentiments you have expressed. In fact, I did speak out against the hunting expansion at the meeting I attended. The DNR Board met recently and voted to refer this matter to the Conservation Congress for a final recommendation likely to be forthcoming this spring. It would then be submitted by the DNR as an administrative rule to the appropriate Senate and Assembly committees later this year. I can assure you that I will monitor this issue closely.

I do appreciate your taking the time to share your views on this issue with me.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART
State Senator
9th Senate District

WSO members have spoken on how they feel about the proposal to hunt Mourning Doves in Wisconsin. This letter was sent to the 30+ regional nature organizations in the state. As noted in the letter, 90% of the WSO members who expressed an opinion opposed a hunt. The other 10% were divided between those that support a hunt (6%) and those who were neutral or had no opinion (4%). Noel Cutright, WSO Conservation Chair

3352 Knollwood
West Bend WI

53095

March 15, 2000

The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO) opposes establishing a Mourning Dove hunting season in Wisconsin. Over the past month, 90% of WSO members voting on WSO's website or through the mail have indicated they oppose such a season. The WSO urges you to take 3 primary courses of action:

1. Ask your members to attend the April 10 hearing and vote NO on the question "Do you support establishing a Mourning Dove hunting season in Wisconsin?"
2. Ask your members to encourage their friends, relatives, and acquaintances to do likewise
3. Send a letter to each of your local newspapers asking readers to take similar action. Try and target the issue of the paper that will appear just prior to April 10.

APRIL 10 HEARING

The DNR will hold its Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings at 7pm on April 10 in 1 location in each county. Information on the locations is available from the DNR and usually appears in your local newspaper. You also can contact me for the information. Following the election of delegates by the Conservation Congress, the question on dove hunting will be the FIRST question on the agenda. The results of this statewide vote will probably be the most important single action in determining if Wisconsin has a dove hunting season in September 2001. Children ARE eligible to vote on this question. Everyone is expecting a huge audience as mailings and newsletters from organizations supporting a dove hunting season are loudly urging a large turnout to support this proposal.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT HUNTERS VS. ANTI-HUNTERS OR ANIMAL VS. HUNTERS RIGHTS; IT IS ABOUT HUNTING DOVES

Disappointingly, much of the rhetoric in this emotional debate is not focused on the Mourning Dove. The WSO believes that hunting and bird control have a place in Wisconsin's outdoor heritage and in practicing wise wildlife management. At a public hearing at Horicon on Monday (March 13), I, as WSO's Conservation Chair, was the only representative of an organization representing wildlife conservation, environmental, or hunting interests to testify in support of the USF&WS and DNR taking a more active role in managing our resident Canada Goose population, which could include authorization for direct population control strategies. The WSO also has taken a position supporting greater population control of Snow Geese because of the severe damage being done by these geese to fragile Arctic habitat and supporting the control of feral Mute Swans in Wisconsin.

The WSO is NOT anti-hunting, but the WSO is OPPOSED to hunting Mourning Doves!

REASONS FOR OPPOSING A MOURNING DOVE HUNT IN WISCONSIN

There are many valid reasons for opposing a dove hunting season in Wisconsin and these should be considered in the decision making process. Many of these are discussed in the Issue Paper available from WSO's website at <http://wso.uwgb.edu/modopaper.htm> <<http://wso.uwgb.edu/modopaper.htm>>. I also can provide copies of the paper. A few of the major points are discussed below.

Research Data - Essentially, there are NO Mourning Dove studies that have been conducted in Wisconsin. Good information on a whole variety of parameters is critically needed before a hunting season is allowed. Also, the DNR has not addressed this deficiency, and there

appears to be no plans to initiate such research. The USF&WS has indicated its federal research program to be insufficient, especially in view of the declining population in certain regions.

Productivity - We do not know the productivity of Wisconsin's dove population. There hasn't even been a recognition that dove production may be quite different in different regions of the state, or an identification of the existing mortality factors, or a definition of the role of bird feeding on Wisconsin's dove population.

Population Estimates - Numbers of doves living and breeding in Wisconsin are unknown. Population estimates have varied widely and wildly, which is unsettling when we are talking about several million doves. We DO know there has been a statistically significant short-term decline in the breeding Mourning Dove population in Wisconsin. Using call-count survey information for 1990-99 in Wisconsin, there has been a 5.9% decline/year and the breeding bird survey for 1989-98 has shown a 2.8% decline/year. We do not know the reasons for this decline, if it will continue, or if hunting might contribute more to this decline. All of this illustrates how poorly we understand the breeding and migratory population of doves in the state.

Many other questions remain that need study and careful deliberation. These include;

- how do rural, suburban, and urban dove populations mix
- how many nontarget species will be killed
- will a Mourning Dove hunt actually hurt hunting in the long-term because of how a Sep/Oct dove season when crops are still in the field might damage landowner/hunter relations
- will the image of hunters be harmed in the public's eye when the Bird of Peace and a common backyard feeder bird is being hunted?

CONCLUSION

The WSO believes a question of this magnitude deserves a statewide public referendum where all citizens of the state can vote in a more familiar setting. However, this option is not available. The results of the Spring Hearing vote will likely determine how the DNR moves on this issue. The WSO urges your attendance at this Hearing. You don't need to speak out at the Hearing, but you DO need to hold your hand high to cast a vote in OPPOSITION to this question. Please contact me if you have questions about this issue.

Noel J. Cutright, PhD
WSO Conservation Chair
262-675-2443
noel.cutright@wepco.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Jamesweix@aol.com <<mailto:Jamesweix@aol.com>> [<mailto:Jamesweix@aol.com>
<<mailto:Jamesweix@aol.com>>]

Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 7:42 PM

To: Noel.Cutright@wepco.com; noel.cutright@wemail.wisenergy.com

Subject: (no subject)

I was sad to learn that WSO has taken a position against dove hunting in WI., based upon "lack of population studies" of all things. Personally, I hope that this is not correct, as there are enough "cheesehead" jokes about Wisconsinites. Concern about public "perception" would have at least had some credibility.

Unfortunately I have always been an optimist when it came to anti-hunting groups such as yours. Since the early 80's, as a founder and past president of Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA) I have encouraged joint projects with non hunting organizations. We even changed our name from Waterfowlers to Waterfowl so that the non hunter would feel welcome.

It appears that my critics were correct. They told me from the beginning that groups such as yours are only a cover for the anti-hunters. That you were, and always be, the "enemy".

Based upon the e-mails that have been flooding me from the various conservation organizations, I would say that WSO has set back the relationship between consumptive and non-consumptive users of wildlife back 100 years.

Congratulations!

Jim Weix

President, Wisconsin Dove Hunters Association

Founder and Board Member of AWARE

Founder and Past President, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Sustaining Member, Nature Conservancy

James & Linda Moore
1249 county road i north, custer, wi. 54423

Mr. Al Phelan
Conservation Congress Liaison
PO Box 7921
Madison, Wi. 53707

April 10, 2000

Dear Mr. Phelan:-

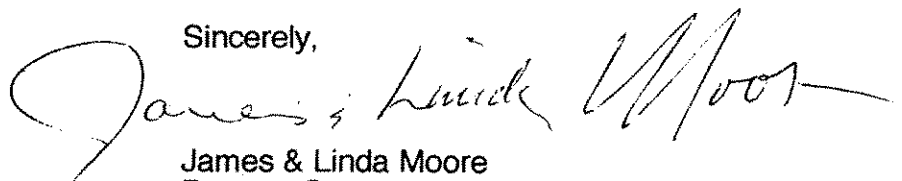
We are concerned about the proposed dove hunting season. We have lived on our farm for 25 years. Although we do not hunt, we understand and accept the various hunting seasons which surround us throughout the year. During deer season we have accepted the inevitable sounds of gun fire which surrounds us like loud popcorn. We lock up our dogs and horses, having learned the hard way that anything moving gets shot. We hear duck season, small game season, turkey season. The sound of gunfire permeates our farm year round. And, we will not stand for ANOTHER hunting season.

Mourning Doves come to our feeder all year round. Their plaintive cry is music in our mornings and evenings. They are beautiful, shy creatures. DO NOT, DO NOT, PLEASE DO NOT kill these birds. Most Wisconsin hunters don't care one way or the other if this season is made legal. Let the hunters from Chicago hunt in their own state, and kill their own birds. Leave our beautiful Mourning Doves for the citizens of Wisconsin and tourists to look at alive and in their natural habitat.

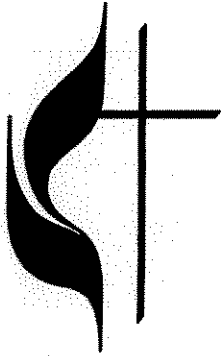
Tourists who hunt will come without a new bird to kill anyway. We know, we see them parked year round on our country lanes, with their six packs on the dashboard, and their trash in our front pasture. We think that perhaps the DNR should spend its time and money policing the existing hunting seasons, rather than adding to the existing problems by establishing yet another season on Mourning Doves.

Please, do not allow the hunting of Mourning Doves.

Sincerely,



James & Linda Moore
Portage County
715 592-4949



Berlin United Methodist Church

178 West Cumberland
BERLIN, WISCONSIN 54923

Robert Blackburn, Pastor

Church Office: (920) 361-3265

Pastor's Study/Parsonage: (920) 361-2540

April 12, 2000

RECEIVED

APR 13 2000

George E. Meyer
Office of the Secretary
Natural Resources Board
101 S. Webster Street, Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

**OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY**

Dear Secretary Meyer:

I regret that I was unable to attend the Conservation Congress meeting in Green Lake because of a prior commitment. I am very disappointed to learn that the results of that meeting, and other meetings throughout the state, will probably enact a hunting season on Mourning Doves.

I can not think of one valid reason to hunt this bird. Its numbers are not out of control. It is an indigenous bird that is not a pest. There is not much meat on its body to eat. Moreover, it is a song bird. Using the same logic of those who want to hunt the Mourning Dove, perhaps we should also shoot Meadow Larks and Blue Jays because they can sustain a hunt and will keep the hunting heritage alive!

In this debate, I wonder if anyone considered listening to the voices of the past. Would Aldo Leopold or John Muir support such a hunt?

I am also disappointed that a small number of people can make a decision to hunt a bird that belongs to "all" of us. I wish there could have been a state referendum on this issue.

Thank you for listening to my concern.

Sincerely,

B & Blackburn

Bob Blackburn

April 13, 2000

Susan A. Ross
2000 Sunkist Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53188

Office of the Secretary
Attn: Darrell L. Bazzell, Deputy Secretary
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RECEIVED

APR 17 2000

**OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY**

Dear Mr. Bazzell,

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I am outraged at the attempt by special interest groups, namely hunters, to institute a hunting season for the Mourning Doves. Don't they have enough to shoot in Wisconsin? I think so!

I strongly object to Mourning Doves being used as target practice by the hunters. I am sure they are not killing them for food, as there is only one ounce of meat on these birds, that is, IF they are shot properly. In addition, according to the stats I read from the USFWS data, 30% of the Doves that are shot are not killed immediately. Many of these are not retrieved (despite what the law requires) and may linger for days before dying. These birds do not deserve this kind of treatment. It is cruel! They have been known as backyard birds for years.

The Mourning Dove has been protected since 1971 when Gov. Lucey signed Senate Bill 422 declaring the Mourning Dove Wisconsin's "Symbol of Peace". This bill also deleted the Dove from Wisconsin's definition of a game bird. I want to see these birds remain protected. Do not allow the law to be changed!

These are not nuisance birds and they are not over-populated in Wisconsin. Their numbers are actually declining according to information I read provided by David Dolton of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. According to Dave, the Mourning Dove populations in the eastern and central portions of the country are down approximately 14% and 10% respectively.

The Doves are actually beneficial to the farmers by eating weed seeds and left over grain in the fields. They are a natural non-toxic, non-polluting herbicide.

I am sure that you must already be aware of the fact that these birds are monogamous. They have more dignity and respect for their mate than people do. Knowing this, you must also realize that if you shoot 150,000 birds which is what the DNR spokesperson at the meeting stated, you are also preventing 150,000 birds from nesting that are still alive. What does that do to your numbers? Then add the stress of loss of their lifetime mate and being shot at, then add the weather and natural predators. What does that do to their numbers?

My daughter called me into her room on 4-12-00 to have me listen to the radio. She said people were talking about the Dove issue. I was appalled by what I heard. A listener called in to the radio station and invited other listeners to join him at the Hale park in ride in Greenfield. He stated he was just pulling in with a load of Mourning Doves. He was inviting other listeners to come and shoot the Doves he

brought. I don't think that you could be more disrespectful of life than that. Not to mention that if these Dove's are so "wild", how did he "capture" them to bring them down to the park and ride? I called the Sheriffs Department and asked them to go to the park and ride and arrest this man. To my knowledge, these birds are still protected and it's illegal to fire a gun in the city. If people are doing this already, what's next?

YOU NEED TO STOP THIS NOW!!!!

WE DO NOT WANT A MOURNING DOVE HUNTING SEASON IN WISCONSIN. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE MEETING THAT WAS HELD AT THE WAUKESHA EXPO CENTER WAS A JOKE, AND NOT A FUNNY ONE!

Yes, I attended. The timing was interesting for this meeting. Right after a three-day gun show. Most of the people that I have spoken to weren't even aware that this was happening. It must have been one of the hunter's greatest secrets.

The hunters were so rude, that the non-hunters had a hard time even being heard trying to nominate someone for the Conservation Congress election. Motions were made to close the nominations while the person was still speaking. (Democracy at it's finest) If that wasn't bad enough, ballots were handed out in sections where ballots had already been collected. Talk about unprofessional!

Interestingly enough, I had no clue as to what the Conservation Congress was or the fact that there was going to be an election at this meeting. I had no clue that there were any other items on the agenda either. It was interesting as well that the hunters knew all of this got everything they wanted.

IF you want to make sure that you're truly doing what the people of Wisconsin want, *make this a referendum on a real ballot during a real election.* I doubt very highly that the "special interest groups" would win once ALL the citizens of Wisconsin knew what was going on.

Don't sell out our Natural Resources to "special interest groups"! You're supposed to be protecting them!

Sincerely,



Susan A. Ross
Wisconsin Resident

Think of dove hunt as environmental education

MJS 4/13/00 OPINION

By THOMAS A. HEBERLEIN

An environmental education program is being proposed that may soon have 20,000 to 30,000 women and men spending one to five days outdoors every year. They will be intent on observing the habits of a particular bird (*Zenaidura macroura*). Part of this study will be long discussions about the bird's distribution, population, feeding patterns, breeding success, reproductive capacity and habitat needs. The students will spend long hours under sometimes poor weather conditions, searching for the small and fast-flying *Zenaidura macroura*.

These days afield will produce at least \$15 per person per day, as estimated by economists. This is the amount participants are willing to pay for a day of observation and study over and above their expenses. This program will produce several million dollars every year. Although this program will be publicly managed, it will require no new taxes. The costs will be paid entirely by the participants.

A byproduct of this program will be the provision of more than 30,000 to 50,000 individual servings of antibiotic-free, free-ranging fowl that will replace thousands of industrially grown chickens on Wisconsin platters. These meals will be served at special gatherings of friends and families.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has opined that there is "no reason" to hunt mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*). Good food, days afield, economic benefit, environmental education all with no tax increase — what do editors mean by "no reason"?

According to Wisconsin's flagship newspaper, one reason for hunting is to control a population. I wonder about these editors, as Aldo Leopold

ded by Phi Beta Kappa who had never seen the geese ... that twice a year proclaimed the seasons to her well insulated roof." Leopold wondered, "Is education the process of trading awareness for things of lesser worth?"

Yes, as part of this program, some doves will die at the hands of the observers, but 90% will escape. Do the editors think that doves live forever, or that they live long lives surrounded by friends and family as they gently pass to the hereafter? The life expectancy of the dove is less than a year.

The greatest source of death in dovedom is the feral cat (which a tabby becomes when she approaches the bird feeder). Most doves die when they

are caught, played with and eaten alive by feline predators. Not a pretty sight compared with a swift death from a well-aimed charge of shot as the dove begins a journey to the roasting pan.

Why waste the potential social benefits

because a small group opposes any kind of hunting, and finds the extension to dove hunting an easy battle to fight? Why lose these benefits because people who don't know or care are swept away by slogans?

Millions of dollars of social benefits yearly, good food and environmental education will be denied Wisconsin citizens if doves are not added to the list of game species. Moreover, hunted doves will gain powerful political support from the hunters. Indeed, if they follow the path of geese and deer in Wisconsin, we may someday have a "dove problem," and then we can, finally, expect that Journal Sentinel editors will find a reason to hunt doves.



Thomas A. Heberlein is a professor of rural sociology at the University

