

RECEIVED

APR 17 2000

Rev. James F. D. Martin  
W3834 County Highway J  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085-2023  
(920) 467-8677 jmartin@excel.net

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

April 14, 2000

Mr. George Meyer  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

I am writing to you about the proposed mourning dove hunt and the advisory vote that was taken at the Conservation Congress meetings on Monday night, April 10.

My first concern about the hunting of mourning doves has to do with it being the state's symbol of peace. I have been in ministry for more than twenty years. I have dedicated my life to making peace, in the ministry of reconciliation to which Christians are called. Two Scripture passages illustrate this calling:

+ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."--Matthew 5:9, NRSV

+ "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."--2 Corinthians 5:18, NRSV

Much of my time and energy are spent on attempting to heal the wounds of a violent and destructive world, to bring peace to families, communities, and nations where the people are at each other's throats. This, as you can imagine, is often difficult and unrewarding work. So I have been glad to have mourning doves as a symbol for the work I am called to do, in the name of the "Prince of Peace" whom I serve.

We are a nation inspired by symbols: the flag, the eagle, the Statue of Liberty. Christians also are people who value symbols: the cross, the empty tomb, the bread of life and the cup of blessing. The dove is an ancient symbol of peace in Judeo-Christian tradition and was adopted as such by our state. Therefore, I cannot think of a more bitter irony than for the state to sanction the annual slaughter of ten percent of our mourning doves, for hunters to be allowed to target and destroy these living symbols of peace. The thought of it makes me weep. I feel betrayed and angered by the state I am trying to bless through my work.

My second concern has to do with the way in which this advisory vote was taken. I was one of the sixty-one people at the Sheboygan Falls High School who voted No on this issue, with close to eight hundred voting in favor of it. Subsequent publicity on the vote called it "overwhelming support" in Wisconsin for a hunting season on mourning doves.

This is absolutely ludicrous, a bald-faced sham at its worst! Look at the forum in which this vote was held: the annual meeting of an organization of hunters, people who were overtly hostile and intimidating to any dissenting opinions, a meeting of "conservationists" [sic] where representatives were elected. Hogwash. If works of art were "conserved" in this manner, the world's art museums would be quite empty. The outcome of this vote was outrageously predictable, just as it would have been in 1980 if a vote had been taken in Iran, asking the people if "Death To America" was really a good idea.

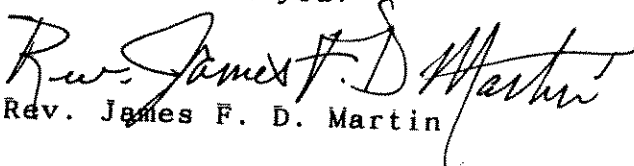
The surveyed group was not only terribly biased, but pathetically small--about 27,000 for the whole state of Wisconsin?! Less than a week before more than 200,000 people voted in the state primary elections (and primaries have notoriously low turnouts). Why wasn't an advisory referendum held then? There are national elections in November, when the turnout in Wisconsin will exceed a million voters. If the DNR is genuinely concerned with receiving opinions on issues which affect a far broader base of people than just hunters, why wasn't the advisory vote planned to coincide with a major election?

If the DNR was trying to "cook" the results, to give the false appearance that democracy was in action, you succeeded infamously. But, George, I have heard you speak on Wisconsin Public Radio before, and I believe you to be a man of integrity. You've been with the DNR a long time, long enough to have a deep respect for the resources entrusted to your care.

Please, please, please--reconsider the wisdom of accepting this advisory vote at face value. There are precious issues at stake here, far greater than many seem to realize. As one hunter from my church put it after voting for the mourning dove season, "All we really want is something else to shoot at."

If the DNR still wants more things for hunters to shoot at, why not consider substituting house sparrows as an even-more challenging target? They're an exotic species, far more numerous and invasive than mourning doves, and even the Audubon Society would probably be in favor. Imagine how tasty and tender those sparrow fillets would be. And the drumsticks--they're to die for!

Peace be with you!

  
Rev. James F. D. Martin

APR 28 2000

**PATRICIA BRUNNER**

842 Ashland Ave  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

(920)803-8880

April 14, 2000

Dear Mr. Baumgart,

I am writing in regards to the Mourning Dove issue. I've read the articles in the newspaper about the hands down vote to hunt the Mourning Dove. I am telling you that this fight is one sided on the side of the hunters. Most of the general population never even heard about the meetings until they were over with. The hunters on the other hand were well informed by gun clubs, gun shows, and ammunition handlers. The only reason the vote looks hands down is because the rest of us were purposely uninformed. Let us prove this point. Make this a question on a ballot during a regular election.

I have spoken with many people about this issue, several of which are hunters. I have not yet met anyone who thinks that shooting the Mourning Dove is a great idea. Here are some comments from the general population I would like to pass along to you. "The Mourning Dove will give no sport to a hunt, it will just sit there and wait for you to kill it." "There is very little meat on a Mourning Dove. Any meat there might have been would be destroyed once it's shot." "There is no reason to shoot a Mourning Dove! It is a peaceful, unoffensive bird, with no harmful tendencies." I have hundreds of comments like these, but I'm sure you've already heard all these arguments, so I'd like to tell you a few things that maybe you don't know.

Mourning Doves choose only one mate for life. It's amazing that this peace loving bird can accomplish something you and I could only

aspire to do in this day and age. Killing the Doves mate would be like letting a hunter shoot your wife or husband. Because it chooses only one mate, this would eliminate it's ability to reproduce. May I remind you of another bird we have just about wiped out by letting it be hunted? Does the Bald Eagle come to mind? It should, as it also chooses only one mate for life. I'm sure our forefathers never thought they would do so much damage by allowing hunters to shoot the Bald Eagle. I'm sure they had arguments similar to the ones we've been hearing. I'm sure they felt there would never be a shortage of Bald Eagles in our future. I'm also quite sure they were wrong!

Here are some facts about the Mourning Dove that may not have been presented to you. In an effort to get you to vote the way hunters would like you to, some of this information may have been omitted. Please read it and come to your own conclusion.

\*The Mourning Dove is a ground feeder commonly found at feeders, in fields and in thin woods.

\*The death rate for doves under 1 year is between 60-75%.

\*If a pair of doves have 3 nestings with 2 eggs in each nest, and 60% of the chicks die before they reach maturity, there are just enough young to replace the dying parents each year.

\*Less than 50% of nesting attempts are successful due to rain, winds, and hail.

\*Eggs & chicks often fall prey to snakes, hawks, skunks, and other mammals.

\*Mourning Doves live and average of 1 year. A few may live 8-10 years. The annual adult mortality rate is 46 to 70% according to David Dolton of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

\*One reported examination of the digestive tract of a Dove contained more then 7000 weed seeds, most of them crabgrass.

\*A flock of 20 birds will consume 2 quarts of weed seeds in an afternoon.

After reviewing the facts about mourning doves you can see for yourself that allowing the hunt of this bird would be unjust.

There is no real reason for the hunt other than to allow a gun happy individual, to satisfy their urge to shoot something. Don't we have enough things to hunt in this state? If you vote for the killing of an innocent bird, which has no aggressive tendencies, what will you approve next! Where will this end? Would you like to okay the hunt of the robin next? If it were up to the hunters everything would be fair game, for some of them everything already is. It's time to make a stand and defend those things that are unable to defend themselves. Am I incorrect in my understanding that the DNR is there to protect our natural resources, or should it be renamed to the Destruction of Natural Resources.

For the safety of the citizens of Wisconsin, and for the safety of the Mourning Doves that many of us enjoy watching and listening to, please, pull the plug on the dove hunting proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Brunner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Patricia Brunner

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**OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY**

April 15, 2000

DNR Board Secretary  
Judy Scullion  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

I was in attendance at the Conservation Congress hearings in Waukesha County on April 10th. I am not a hunter. I wanted to vote for the delegates that would represent my viewpoint and the viewpoint of the majority of the people of the state of Wisconsin. I wanted to vote "no" on the dove hunt. There is no reason to give the hunters another target to shoot. Just because they "do it" in 37 other states is not a reason to "do it" in Wisconsin.

I believed I was going to vote. There was no democratic process at that meeting. It was the DNR orchestrating the mob mentality of the overflow crowd of hunters. I was unpleasantly reminded of Hitler's Nazi rallies during World War II. The raise the hand voting looked just like the Nazi salute. The majority of the people of the State are non-hunters, but the hunters are in control of the State's natural resources.

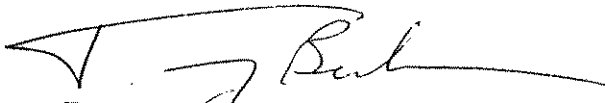
I felt threatened at that meeting. The crowd jeered, booed and tried to close the nominations for the Conservation Congress before the non-hunting delegates could be named. The comments I heard all around me made me glad that the hunters had to leave their shotguns at home. This was really about denying the people who do not hunt their due process under the law. "Jokes" about hunting were made from the stage. A hunter telling about "bonding" with his child by teaching him how to kill made me physically ill.

The ballots for the Conservation Congress delegates were supposed to be limited to the residents of Waukesha County at this meeting in Waukesha County. The ballots were handed out after you registered. When they ran out of ballots, the people lining the walls and the balcony were told to tear off any piece of paper to vote. They did not have to prove they were residents of Waukesha County or even of Wisconsin. People came and went freely from the doors in the Expo Center.

The "hands-up" balloting was a travesty, with some people raising both hands and a hasty count by the people assigned to count them. Need I remind you that these were all hunters doing the counting. This is not "of the people, by the people and for the people". This is "of the hunters, by the hunters and for the hunters."

This was not a vote. The results therefore must be declared null and void. Give EVERYONE in the State of Wisconsin a chance to vote with a legal ballot. Send ballots to every household in Wisconsin. We are a democracy. Prove it. Let ALL the people vote.

Sincerely,



Terry Becker  
909 Chicago Avenue, #1  
Waukesha, WI 53188-3548

April 17, 2000

Natural Resources Board  
PO Box 129  
Madison, WI 53701-0129

I attended (for the first time) the DNR Spring Fish & Wildlife Hearing held at the Adams County Courthouse in Friendship, WI on 4-10-00. I attended to vote "no" to the mourning dove hunting proposal. A big drawback is that it was very difficult to hear much of what was said! I was surprised to see so many people there and after listening to comments made about the mourning dove hunt issue, I felt strongly that the big hunting groups really did a good job in getting their message out that hunters should attend these hearings en masse primarily to vote "yes" to the mourning dove hunt proposal! It was also quite apparent that the hunters want to shoot and kill mourning doves, not for eating the little bit of meat on each bird, but to kill the mourning dove (WISCONSIN'S STATE BIRD OF PEACE) just for target practice. Yes, I am sure there are some that will hunt these birds to enjoy eating this bird's tiny breast meat but I feel the majority will kill this bird just for fun (fun?). How cruel!

One lady present at the hearing mentioned that she was walking in a field and found lots of mourning doves that had been shot and killed and left to rot! What a shame and what a waste of a beautiful natural resource! And the mourning doves were shot even before a legal hunting season was established! I'll bet this practice goes on a lot more than what we know or want to admit! Don't you see why there are so many people who do not like to hear the word "hunter"!

I had asked a question at the hearing that was not answered by your staff. I assume that they did not want to answer my question because of the hunters that were present. The question I had asked was relative to if and when the mourning dove becomes a hunted bird, and it appears that it will, the DNR proposes a limit of 15 doves per day for a period of 60 days. If a hunter shoots and kills 15 per day for 60 days, that totals 900 mourning doves. Multiply that by the number of hunters that will hunt—that's a lot of birds to bite the dust!!! I think of the passenger pigeon that was overhunted to its extinction!! It could happen again. How will DNR control the number a hunter will shoot and kill? DNR would need a warden per hunter! If there's a registration of these birds once they are shot and killed, a hunter would only need to show 15 per day. He/she may have shot and killed many, many more! DNR wardens cannot be everywhere and I am sure the hunters are very aware of that !!

There was a hunter at the hearing who wanted the season changed for hunting mourning doves to an earlier time so it would coincide with his bow and arrow hunting! So this guy wants to lug a gun and a bow and arrow around at the same time! Wow, how macho!!!

Another hunter at the meeting said that he hunted mourning doves and it's a real tricky bird to hunt! I wonder where he hunts these birds—surely not in Wisconsin! I'll bet!!!

I read an article in our local paper where, another hunter said it is tough hunting doves in Wood County! Sure sounds like he is already shooting mourning doves even without a legal hunt!

The mourning dove hunting issue had been brought up a couple of times previously and was denied by the Natural Resources Board. Why did this issue, even voted down previously, keep coming up again? Who instigates these proposals? Hunting groups? The DNR? I know the mourning dove is hunted in 38 states—so what? Wisconsin can be different, can't it? Especially since it is the STATE BIRD OF PEACE! Can't you say NO once and for all? At the hearing I attended, a hunter (no doubt a hunter) exclaimed that the non-hunters should not take away the hunters rights! That could go the other way too. I feel that the hunter has been given lots of rights, being able to hunt ±45 species of birds and ±10 species of game animals. Isn't that enough for the hunters to enjoy killing? None of these rights have been taken away. And from reading the booklet handed out at the 4/10 hearing, if approved, would give hunters many more rights (longer hunt hours, extended hunting periods, extended boundaries, etc. etc.). So why are the hunters whining that their rights may be taken away? It seems that whatever the hunters want, the hunters get! Another aspect is that, if by some miracle, the mourning dove hunting issue is voted down, the hunters would not have had this right taken away as they never had the right to hunt mourning doves to begin with!!

One of the wardens at the hearing said that the population of the mourning dove would not be greatly affected whether it is hunted or not, and that the mourning dove does little harm as they primarily eat weed seeds and waste grains. Sounds like a pretty neat little bird to keep alive!!!

Seems that many years ago, people hunted to put food on the table and clothes on their back, which to me, should be the real reason to hunt. Now hunting is called a sport---recreation! How has the hunter mentality changed so they hunt for the sheer pleasure of killing something? How can killing a living animal/bird be fun? Somehow, I wonder if our God intended for this to be a fun thing!!

There are still articles being written in our local newspaper opposing this hunt proposal—there were 10 in yesterday's Sunday paper alone. Enclosed is a copy of this part of the newspaper. I am very dismayed by the outcome of the mourning dove hunting issue to date and wonder if the vote outcome at the 4/10 hearings was really a good indication of the feeling of the general public! As I mentioned previously, I feel the pro-hunting groups, with DNR's blessing, told hunters to show up en masse to vote yes on the mourning dove hunt proposal. This seems to be quite apparent by articles written by a sports editor in our local paper, and by the sheer number of hunters who attended the hearings!! I guess the non-hunting groups were most passive in not getting their word out and it appears that this will have to change at future hunting hearings!!

I also wonder about the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. How many people serve on this congress? Is it one from every county? It appears that it is to the hunters benefit (and DNR's) that it be composed strictly of hunters and fishermen. I wonder how the one



3

woman (Patricia Randolph of Madison) got elected? From reading a recent newspaper article, she was warned by Steve Ostreicher (the Congress' chairman) that she would be censured or removed if she continued objecting to hunting! WOW! Why shouldn't people on the Congress be also interested in the feelings of non-hunters? They live in this world too! Another example of the hunter getting what he/she wants! I also just read that she is getting death threats!!! From hunters, no doubt!

In closing, thank you for reading my long letter. I wanted to keep it much shorter but I have a lot to say, and there's much more I'd like to say!! I certainly hope you find it in your hearts NOT TO APPROVE A HUNTING SEASON OF THE MOURNING DOVE, WISCONSIN'S STATE BIRD OF PEACE! If you do decide to reject the proposal, you will make many, many bird lovers very happy and maybe still will be pro-DNR!! And the hunters really don't need to hunt and shoot this beautiful bird that seems so gentle! Don't you really think so? PLEASE reject this proposal!

If this proposal is approved, it appears that the DNR, the Natural Resources Board, and all pro-hunting groups are thumbing their noses at the State Legislature who made the mourning dove WISCONSIN'S STATE BIRD OF PEACE!!! If it's approved, there will be a lot of very unhappy constituents!! Please do the right thing and reject this proposal—it is not too late!!!!

Mrs. Ted Luecht  
924 Essex Court  
Nekoosa, WI 54457

Ccs: Governor Thompson,  
Senator Kevin Shibilski,  
Rep. Jonsrud and the Natural Resources Committee, Wisconsin Assembly,  
Rep. Alice Clausung and the Natural Resources Committee, Wisconsin Senate

APR 20 1999

535

April 18, 1999

Dear Senator Baumgart,

This week I noted that the Conservation Congress has advocated an open season on mourning doves and sandhill cranes. What's next - robins and humming-birds?

A half century ago, when I worked with the Wis. Conservation Dept. it was made up largely of people dedicated to the preservation of our wild life. Today it's successor, the D.N.R., appears more interested in peddling hunting licenses and graciously bowing to the latest public opinion poll.

Perhaps our present-day hunters should park their 4X4's and try walking into woods where they might find some game.

Let's leave a few species for the old folks to enjoy from their windows.

Respectfully,

Bernard Michaels

April 27, 1999

Bernard Michaels  
W8634 CTH F  
Cascade, WI 53011

Dear Mr. Michaels:

Thank you for letting me know of your opposition to expanding hunting to mourning doves and sandhill cranes.

This proposal was approved not by the DNR, but by the Conservation Congress.

Sandhill cranes are migratory and hunting them would require a federal waiver. This is highly unlikely if the endangered whooping crane is introduced into Wisconsin. It should be noted that both sandhill crane and mourning dove are hunted in other parts of the country and they have used this method to control the population without serious drops in the number of remaining birds.

As far as the mourning dove is concerned, it is Wisconsin's bird of peace and would be very unlikely to be added as a hunting species in our state.

Your point about preserving our wildlife is well taken and should be seriously considered before any other species is added to the list for hunting in our state.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

## **Henderson, Patrick**

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**From:** randr [randr@lakefield.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2000 11:01 AM  
**To:** warnkk@dnr.state.wi.us  
**Cc:** Sen.Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** opposition to mourning dove hunt

I have received an error message so I am sending this again.

Dear DNR Board:

I wish to register my opposition to the mourning dove hunt. I don't think it is appropriate to hunt songbirds. I'd like to know how much "meat" would be edible after a small bird like the dove is shot. It's likely hunters would have to shoot several birds to gain enough meat for one meal.

We enjoy listening to the mourning doves in our backyard. I'd hate to have this little bit of "urban" wildlife destroyed because of a dove hunt.

Finally, I believe the DNR ought to restructure the Conservation Congress so that it represents all points of view not just the views of hunters. Opening the Conservation Congress to the general public would give the DNR Board the opportunity to hear from all of its citizens on key conservation issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maureen R. O'Brien  
1608 Nagle Avenue  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

# CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: May 10, 2000  
TO: Natural Resources Board Members  
FROM: Keith Warnke – Wildlife Management  
SUBJECT: Mourning Dove biology

FILE REF: 2300

Member Behnke has asked that the department summarize in a memo to NRB members the biology of the mourning dove. The following information has been summarized through extensive review of the available scientific literature. Several professional wildlife biologists from both the department and the USFWS have contributed to this report and/or reviewed it for accuracy. Our intent is to clarify for the Board that we have a clear understanding of dove biology in Wisconsin and in the United States. Professional biologists also have a clear understanding of where our knowledge regarding doves is limited. Dove hunting is regulated to ensure that the resource is protected above all else. We can confidently guarantee that a mourning dove hunt in Wisconsin will not negatively impact the dove population.

**BACKGROUND:** The issue of whether mourning doves should be hunted in Wisconsin has been around for at least 4 decades. Beginning in 1918 with the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA), mourning dove hunting became regulated (as did hunting of all migratory birds) in the United States. The Federal government monitors populations and biology and establishes hunting season frameworks (currently through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) (for example: the duck and goose seasons). The Federal government has authorized mourning dove hunting in Wisconsin every year since the MBTA. The state has declined to utilize this authorization to this point.

Of the several attempts to establish a mourning dove season in Wisconsin, this is the first time that the issue has been put to a public hearing. The momentum for this attempt to establish a mourning dove season began in 1996 with a letter from a hunter to Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud. Rep. Johnsrud sent a letter to DNR asking the agency to make a cursory look into the issue. The Wisconsin Dove Hunters Association (WDHA) was formed in 1997 and began organizing to bring the issue to a public hearing.

This proposal has received a public hearing in each of the 72 counties in Wisconsin for two consecutive years. In 1999, WDHA brought the proposal for a mourning dove season to the Conservation Congress and it appeared on the Spring Hearing questionnaire as an advisory question, and a mourning dove season was favored by a 2-1 margin. The department was granted approval by NRB to go to public hearing with the mourning dove season proposal in January of 2000. The mourning dove season proposal was favored by a 3.5-1 margin at the 2000 Spring Hearings.

This issue has been handled in the same manner we handle all other issues, whether controversial or not. This issue was brought to the department by the public and it was aired in the light of day for public input. It would have been irresponsible of the department to ignore the issue.

**POPULATION AND ABUNDANCE:** Mourning doves are one of the most abundant and widely distributed birds in North America and Wisconsin. The breeding range extends from central Canada in the north to southern Mexico in the south, and encompasses all of the lower 48 states. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Call

Count Survey, the Breeding Bird Survey, and banding and harvest data are used to track the dove population. There are more mourning doves in the US and in Wisconsin than there are of all species of ducks and geese combined. The current continent-wide population estimate is over 400 million in the fall migration. For comparison, there were 105 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.

*Population estimates-* Continent-wide fall population estimates are developed using independent banding and harvest data and yearly population indices tracking. To calculate the relative weight of each state in dove population estimates, states were assigned a land area weight relative to size. The statewide average of number of doves heard per route is multiplied by the land area portion to develop a breeding population index for each state. States are then assigned a relative importance determined by their rank in the breeding population index. A state population estimate is obtained by multiplying by the relative importance by the estimated fall population of 400 million doves. For Wisconsin, our relative importance is 0.013 (the nation-wide total is 1.00). The result is an estimate of 5.2 million doves migrating from Wisconsin each fall. To be conservative, because we are aware of the limitations of the data and the variability in the data, we estimated the number of mourning doves migrating from Wisconsin in the fall at 4-5 million. See attached letter from the USFWS verifying this estimate.

For comparison, there are more mourning doves in the Wisconsin population estimate than there are in such states as Louisiana, Florida and Pennsylvania. This population estimate ranks Wisconsin number 14 in estimated number of doves of 27 states in the Eastern Management Unit. This fall population estimate indicates there are more mourning doves in the state than there are turkeys, deer, ruffed grouse, or pheasants.

The department has received criticism for a past estimate of 12 million mourning doves in the fall flight. That estimate was made in 1986 using the best available data and analytical techniques at the time. The estimate was used again in a memo to the Board in 1996 when it was simply reiterated from an outdated DNR fact sheet due to the required timeliness of the memo. Since 1986, data quality and quantity has improved greatly. Further, we now have much more powerful statistical tools with which to analyze the data available. Constant long-term monitoring of the population and more powerful analysis tools have provided us with the ability to deliver a much more precise and accurate population estimate. The current population estimate does not mean that the population has steadily declined. Mourning dove populations fluctuate greatly over the short term due to natural factors. We are aware of this variability and of the variability in humans and the limitations of the data. The point is that the long term trends are the important indicators of dove populations in Wisconsin and the surveys currently conducted are adequate to measure those trends. High annual population changes or even fluctuations over a decade are expected considering the biology of a highly productive bird that exhibits low survival and high mortality rates. Because the resource comes first, we have been conservative in our estimates and will be conservative in managing hunting.

Finally, we have committed to participate in a nation-wide dove population modeling effort to increase the accuracy and reliability of our population dynamics information. Proper harvest management requires that we constantly increase our understanding and knowledge base. This new modeling project will help us do that. Hunting doves will allow us to gain a better understanding of the population in Wisconsin and will enhance our dove management capabilities.

*Population trends-* According to data collected by the North American Breeding Bird Survey (Fig. 1), the Wisconsin dove population has shown an increasing trend of 1% per year over the past 33 years (USFWS 1999). The trend over the past 10 years shows a slight decrease. The index derived from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Call Count Survey (Fig. 2), shows a decline in number of doves heard over the last 10 years in Wisconsin and in the Eastern Management Unit (Fig. 3) (USFWS 1999). However, over the long-term, the Call Count Survey results indicate no change in the Wisconsin dove population over the last 34 years (USFWS 1999). Both of these

population indices detail several population fluctuations, including rises in the late 1980's and declines in the 1990's.

It is long term information that is most indicative of the actual population trends. The information provided by the short term data shows great fluctuation. This is expected as mourning doves are very short-lived animals and their populations are subject to a wide variety of pressures that can lead to rapid population changes. Biologists expect these wide fluctuations due to the dove's biology and rely on the long term data when determining population trends. Hunting will be managed to be proactive in responding to the short term population fluctuations and to insure the long term success of mourning doves in Wisconsin.

Note that the Breeding Bird Survey data are actual count data and the Call Count Survey data are an index so the results are not directly comparable. The information is provided to demonstrate two of the several indices used to monitor mourning dove populations. All provide useful information when assessing the status of the mourning dove in Wisconsin.

**REPRODUCTION:** Mourning doves are very prolific birds, they nest 2-5 times each year. The average pair in the eastern US contributes 4.8 young to the population annually. The average pair in the northern US produces 3.7 young each year. Experts agree and the population modeling indicates that this is adequate to maintain the population including considering hunting loss.

The mourning dove reproductive cycle in the Midwest begins in late March or early April, when egg laying begins and continues until mid September when fledging ends. Mourning doves lay two white eggs per clutch and raise between two and five clutches per year. Young doves leave the nest at 15 days of age. Usually, there are 32 days between the start of one nest and the start of the next.

Previous investigations show nest success is variable and averages 53% in the Eastern Management Unit. This is not because mourning doves are poor parents (as has been reported). It is because there are many different types of predators that prey upon mourning dove nests. The mourning dove breeding strategy has evolved to succeed under

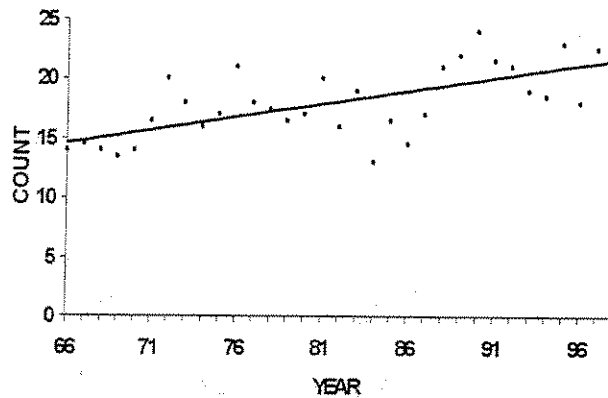


Fig. 1. Wisconsin mourning dove population trends (1966-98) based on number of mourning doves heard per route. Adapted from USGS Breeding Bird Survey results.

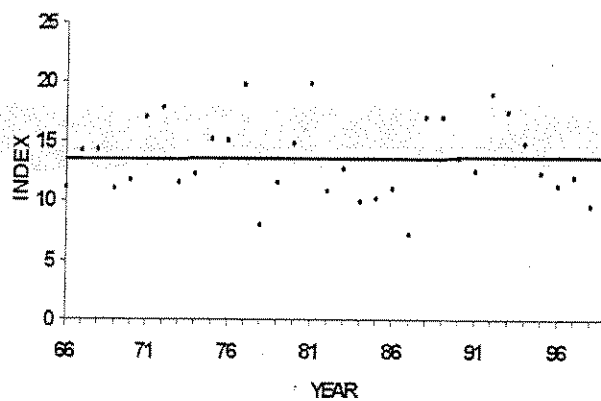


Fig 2. Wisconsin mourning dove population trends (1966-99) based on indices obtained from analysis of USFWS call count surveys.

these conditions. They nest multiple times each summer and have a relatively short period (15-24 days) of parental care.

The USFWS has evaluated the effects of hunting on mourning dove nesting success in September. They found that only 4.5% of total annual mourning dove nesting activity occurred in September. The data indicate that September hunting does not impact the number of doves added to the fall population.

**MORTALITY:** The natural mortality rate for mourning doves is high; approximately 6 out of 10 birds do not survive from one year to the next. Research indicates that mourning dove mortality is caused by a variety of factors including predators, disease, accidents, hunting and weather extremes. In the Eastern Management Unit, annual juvenile mortality is 68.9% of the population, for adults, annual mortality is 57.6. Hunting (including crippling) accounted for 25.7% of total unit-wide juvenile mortality rate (68.9%) and 21.2% of the adult mortality rate (57.6%). So, 17.7% of the juveniles doves are harvested by hunters in the EMU ( $0.257 \times 0.689$ ). For adults the total is 12.2% ( $0.212 \times 0.576$ ). These figures include the crippling rate.

### HUNTING

*A National Perspective* - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides for managed hunting of some migratory birds, including mourning doves. The current federal season framework allows states to choose from either a 70-day hunting season with a daily bag limit of 12 doves or a 60-day season with a daily bag limit of 15. Seasons established by states may not begin prior to September 1 and may be more restrictive than the federal regulations. States are responsible for establishing their own hunting seasons within the federal framework. The United States are divided into three mourning dove management units (Fig. 3). Wisconsin is the northern-most and western-most state in the Eastern Management Unit (EMU). Mourning doves are currently hunted in 37 of the lower 48 states (Fig. 3). In the Midwest, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and all states south have mourning dove hunting seasons.

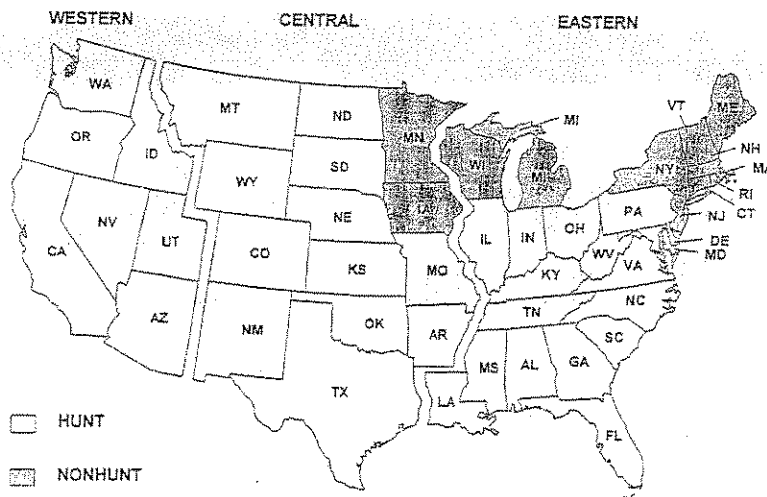


Fig. 3. Mourning dove management units with 1998 hunting and nonhunting states (adapted from Dolton and Smith 1999).

Mourning doves have been hunted for many years throughout the United States and they continue to be one of the most abundant birds in North America. Nationwide, 30-40 million doves are harvested by about 2.5 million hunters annually. Other sources of mortality are 4-5 times higher than hunting mortality. All hunting related mortality (including crippling) has been found to be 10-15% of the fall population (American Ornithological Union) and ranges from 12-18% in the EMU (including crippling) (Baskett 1993).

The data support the conclusion that properly regulated hunting does not affect mourning dove populations. The available data indicate mortality in that range from properly regulated hunting is largely compensatory. That is, the same proportion of mourning doves would die whether the population was hunted or not.



Studies in Ohio concluded that urban mourning doves are far less vulnerable to hunting than rural doves, indicating that dove numbers at backyard feeders will not be reduced due to rural hunting pressure. Other research has demonstrated that September hunting does not negatively impact the number of doves added to the population.

*A Wisconsin Perspective*

The Department of Natural Resources does not expect that mourning dove hunting will result in an increase in the number of licenses sold. Nor is it expected that the dove harvest will be at the level of states to the south. The effective season in Wisconsin will be shorter than in southern states because of the dynamics of dove migration. Using a rough estimate that approximately 20,000-30,000 people may choose to hunt doves and harvest an average of 5 doves per hunter, the resulting harvest prediction is 100,000-150,000 doves from the fall population. After adjusting for the documented crippling rate, the estimate is 130,000-200,00 doves annually. This figure would be well below the 10-15% of the population that is harvested nation-wide each year.



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT

Mailing address:  
US Fish & Wildlife Service/MEMO  
PO Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225-0486

Telephone:  
303/275-2388  
FAX:  
303/275-2384

May 8, 2000

Keith Warnke  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
WM/4  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Keith:

A rough population estimate can be calculated as follows from Table 59 on page 314 in the book *Ecology and Management of the Mourning Dove*. Based on a conservative estimate of 400 million doves for the conterminous United States and the calculation that the Eastern Management Unit (EMU) contains an average 26.1% of the total population, the number of doves originating from the EMU during autumn is about 104 million [ $400 \times 0.261 = 104.4$ ].

For Wisconsin, the importance value or percentage of the population in the state is 1.3. Thus, the proportion of mourning doves in Wisconsin is estimated to be about 5 million [ $400 \times 0.013 = 5.2$ ].

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David D. Dolton  
Mourning Dove Specialist

## Mourning dove season stupid, disgusting idea

We are absolutely disgusted over the apparent decision to have an open season on mourning doves. What possible motive can there be other than to have something else to shoot at for target practice. It makes us wonder what is next, robins, woodpeckers or blue jays?

With dwindling bird numbers, we are going to further reduce their numbers? For the past 40 years, we have witnessed a steady decline in bird numbers. Within the past two years, we no longer have chimney swifts, brown thrashers, catbirds, rufous-sided towhee or indigo buntings. All of these were regular visitors in our yard which borders on a wood lot.

In regards to the mourning doves, we used to have as many as six, which would appear throughout the winter. Now we are down to two and they show up only occasionally. It is also noteworthy that we keep our bird feeders going all year round and the mourning doves come to them when they are here, thus it appears that the mourning doves are also on the decline.

It seems absolutely senseless to put these harmless birds on the game bird list and protect such nuisance birds as the purple grackle, which seem to appear in ever increasing numbers, and the cowbirds which lay their eggs in other smaller song bird's nests causing the slower developing young of the songbird to starve. I sincerely hope that the Department of Natural Resources considers

this information seriously in regard to proposing a mourning dove hunting season.

**FRED HORNECK**  
Elkhart Lake

*This letter says it all for a lot of people in my community - why can't we have this issue on a referendum so we can all vote.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mary & Paul  
Lydolph*



Mary & Paul Lydolph  
N8328 Snake Rd  
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

May 16, 2000

Paul & Mary Lydolph  
N8328 Snake Road  
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lydolph:

Thank you for letting me know your strong feelings against the hunting of Mourning Doves in the State of Wisconsin.

As you have seen in the media coverage of this issue, the Conservation Congress, in public meetings held across the state, voted overwhelmingly to adopt the resolution allowing them to be hunted in Wisconsin. Participation was open to anyone from every county across the state and it has been this way for seventy years now. The issue will now go to the Natural Resources Board. As an active sportsperson, I did speak out against this proposal because of the possible negative social effect. There is considerable disagreement over this issue and I would hope that the opinions of the general public will make a difference in setting such a policy by the DNR Board.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

JB:jw

MAY 24 2000

1915

May 17, 2000

Senator James Baumgart  
17 South Fairchild Street, Room 306  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Mr. Baumgart:

I am writing regarding the mourning dove hunt proposal.

I believe this would be a big mistake to allow such a hunt. Many reasons come to my mind. The first one is because it is a bird of peace which God states in the Bible. There are nine Bible verses that the dove is mentioned. If you would like, contact me and I will recite them in writing to you. In fact, these gentle birds were named the official "state symbol of peace". I believe that man should not interfere with the balance of nature, we did this many times and look where the wildlife situation is at this point. Let God handle the wildlife and a balance will be brought back. If they are overpopulated, God will take care of it. Many birds have become extinct, and this did not happen on their own, WE (meaning man) interfered and bingo, some are gone never to return.

Secondly, what happened to using toilet paper rolls, tin cans, etc. to practice for hunting. Dove hunting is inhumane. The birds are very small and can be seriously wounded by hunters and are often not found because of their size. Dove hunting is also unnecessary. There are already many species of "game" birds for Wisconsin hunters to kill. What challenge is it to stand in front of innocent birds, who expect no harm, and shoot them. Hitler had what you can call a people-hunt, and everyone knew he was a sick person. In comparison, I feel this would be a sick person that allows mourning doves to be hunted for the sake of fun, especially when we all know that a dove doesn't have the meat on it that a chicken does, quail, ducks, geese, etc.

Thirdly, if you permit the mourning dove hunt, then next it will be something else, and then the list will continue to go on and on and on.... for the sake of killing.

I speak for these beautiful birds. Get up some morning, go outside, and listen to their peaceful sound. They are not able to talk and express themselves. If they could, you wouldn't like what you would hear, it would not be a peaceful sound. They would speak for their life. HOW would YOU sound in the same situation????

I find no reason for this proposal to pass. I bet the majority of the people at your meeting are all hunters. Well, that's why the vote is so high and favorable. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS PROPOSAL PASS.

Sincerely,

*Edith K. Nack*

May 25, 2000

Ardith Nack  
2410 North 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sheboygan, WI 53083-4309

Dear Ms. Nack:

Thank you for letting me know your strong feelings against the hunting of Mourning Doves in the State of Wisconsin.

As you note in your letter, the Conservation Congress, in public meetings held across the state, voted overwhelmingly to adopt the resolution allowing them to be hunted in Wisconsin. Participation was open to anyone from every county across the state and it has been this way for seventy years now. The issue has now gone to the Natural Resources Board where they have recommended the development of rules to allow for this activity in our state.

As an active sportsman, I did speak out against this proposal because of the possible negative social effect. There is considerable disagreement over this issue and I would hope that the opinions of the general public will be considered when any proposed rules are presented to the appropriate legislative committees in both houses of the Legislature for their approval.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART  
State Senator  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District

JB:jw



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT

Mailing address:  
US Fish & Wildlife Service/MBMO  
PO Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225-0486

Telephone:  
303/275-2388  
FAX:  
303/275-2384

### TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

by David D. Dolton  
May 24, 2000

My name is David Dolton. I am a wildlife biologist representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for which I serve as a Mourning Dove Specialist. The purpose of my presentation is to explain the federal responsibility for mourning doves and to discuss the recreational importance and biological impact of dove hunting.

The mourning dove is a native member of the same family of birds as the common pigeon or rock dove. The fall population of mourning doves in the United States is estimated to be over 400 million. The species is one of the most abundant birds in the Nation and is an extremely important migratory game bird in terms of hunter numbers and numbers harvested.

Since mourning doves are migratory and move across state, provincial, and national borders, they are recognized as an international resource requiring conservation on a continental basis. Responsibility for protection of the mourning dove and all other migratory bird species in North America is conferred by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 which, as amended, implements migratory bird treaties between the United States and other countries. Mourning doves are included in the treaties with Great Britain (for Canada) and Mexico. Even though conservation and protection of migratory birds is the theme of these treaties, it is important to note that these treaties recognize sport hunting as a legitimate use of the migratory bird resource. The treaty with Mexico specifically included "... the utilization of said birds rationally for the purposes of sport, food, commerce, and industry."

In the United States, the responsibility for management of the migratory bird resource is delegated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service is neither a proponent nor opponent of dove hunting. However, since we have trust responsibilities for migratory birds, we are mandated to assess status and determine to what degree hunting may affect status. The Service is vigilant in ensuring that hunting does not become detrimental to the long-term welfare and conservation of migratory bird populations.

A key element in the management of wildlife populations is the assessment of population status. To this end, the Mourning Dove Call-count Survey was developed to provide an annual index to population size. With rare exception, personnel from state and federal wildlife agencies run the more than 1,000 survey routes each year throughout the conterminous 48 states. This survey has been carefully designed and is periodically peer-reviewed to meet rigorous statistical considerations.

The Service is responsible for coordinating the Call-count Survey, analyzing the data, and preparing status reports. I am the person in charge of these activities and have copies of my 1999 mourning dove status report for your review.

Wildlife abundance generally is not static; it fluctuates in response to changes in habitat, mortality factors (including hunting), and environmental conditions. Monitoring programs are designed to detect changes in population status in response to these factors. In particular, the Mourning Dove Call-count survey is designed to detect trends in dove populations over specified time intervals.

Wisconsin is part of the mourning dove Eastern Management Unit which includes those states east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana. In recent years, we have detected declines in both hunting and non-hunting states in the Unit. Since this decline is evident in Wisconsin and other non-hunting states, this would suggest that something other than hunting, most likely habitat change, is the primary causal factor. In Wisconsin, a downward trend was indicated for the most recent 10 years since 1990, but no trend was found for the entire 34-year period between 1966 and 1999.

In contrast, results from another independent survey, the North American Breeding Bird Survey, indicated an increasing population in Wisconsin between 1966 and 1998. However, like the Call-count Survey, the Breeding Bird Survey also showed a decline in the population over the 10-year period from 1989 to 1998.

Migratory bird species can accommodate some hunting mortality each year without adversely affecting subsequent years' populations. A characteristic of many game species is that they naturally have a high mortality rate whether hunted or not. They also have a high birth rate which offsets the high mortality rate. For species such as quail, pheasants, grouse, rabbits, and squirrels, between 50 and 75 of every 100 individuals die from non-hunting causes in their first year of life. In many cases, studies of population dynamics have shown that hunting may compensate for part of the natural mortality. For mourning doves, the total annual mortality ranges between 58 and 69% throughout the United States. For hunting states in the eastern part of the country, shooting accounted for an estimated 30% of the mean annual mortality of immature doves (76.0%) and for 26.4% of the adult annual mortality (60.6%). Given the high natural mortality rate, it is likely that hunting mortality is at least somewhat compensatory for mourning doves, although we do not know to what extent. If hunting is compensated for by lowered mortality due to other causes or by increased recruitment (both of which can only occur if density dependent mechanisms are at play), harvest will have even a smaller effect on the population.

All hunting, including dove hunting, is important economically, although this should not in itself be the reason to open a hunting season. As I am sure you are aware, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (better known as the Pittman-Robertson Act) places a special excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. Since the bill was passed in 1937, over \$2 billion has been collected to buy and operate wildlife management areas, conduct wildlife surveys and research projects, and support hunter education programs. Throughout the U.S., about 1.6 million dove hunters contribute an estimated \$5 million in excise taxes each year to Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funds.

People who never hunt also benefit from P-R programs through the purchase of wildlife management areas and wetlands. These lands are useful to many species of wildlife and enjoyed by both hunters and non-hunters. Even though these funds go towards management of game species, there are corollary benefits to non-game species.

Banding data from migratory birds, including mourning doves, provide a wealth of information about the species. From band recoveries, we know that doves banded in Wisconsin have been reported shot in at least 19 states in the U.S. and 8 Mexican states. Thus, doves raised in Wisconsin are subjected to some hunting pressure whether or not a season is opened in the state.

In the federal hunting regulations guidelines, all states are given the option each year of having a dove season. In recent years, 37 of the 48 conterminous states have selected a dove hunting season. We understand that



hunting is deemed unacceptable by some people, therefore, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take advantage of this opportunity. Our management experience suggests that a dove season in Wisconsin is viable. Dove harvest will be monitored through the nationwide Harvest Information Program. If exploitation levels are too great, then the management community will respond with restrictions to reduce harvest consistent with dove population status.

In summary, the mourning dove is considered a legitimate game species in international migratory bird treaties. Through the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin may choose to select a dove season. When properly regulated, mourning dove hunting has not been shown to have a significant effect on breeding population levels of doves in the Eastern Management Unit. An important aspect of the regulations process is that any state may always be more restrictive than federal regulations allow.

From the information available to me, I conclude that the hunting of mourning doves in Wisconsin would not be detrimental to the population of doves in the state or in the Eastern Management Unit. Monitoring programs should be able to detect a significant change in the population if it occurs. Finally, the regulatory mechanisms are in place, both federally and in-state, to lessen the harvest through restrictive regulations if such a need were to arise in the future.

Caroline Anne Bishop, CMM  
2048 White Pine Lane  
Sheboygan WI 53083  
(920) 451-0153

MAY 31 2000

May 26, 2000

Senator James Baumgart  
17 South Fairchild Street Room 306  
P. O. Box 7882  
Madison WI 53707-7882

RE: DOVE HUNTING

Dear Senator Baumgart

I URGE you to oppose any attempts to establish a dove-hunting season in Wisconsin.

Dove hunting is specifically done for a killing sport – not for subsistence. There are already many species of “game” birds for Wisconsin hunters to kill. Dove hunting is inhumane. The birds are very small and can be seriously wounded by hunters and are often NOT found because of their size.

Doves are gentle, beautiful birds. Their mournful cry is a welcome sound of peace to many.

Please oppose any attempts to establish a dove-hunting season in Wisconsin.

Sincerely



Caroline Anne Bishop, CMM  
[Carobishop@aol.com](mailto:Carobishop@aol.com)

## Henderson, Patrick

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**From:** Steve J Witte [sjwitte@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 27, 2000 11:39 PM  
**To:** sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us; sen.grobschmidt@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.shibilski@legis.state.wi.us; sen.welch@legis.state.wi.us; sen.schultz@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.clausing@legis.state.wi.us; sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us; sen.wirch@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.lasee@legis.state.wi.us; rep.grothman@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gunderson@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kreuser@legis.state.wi.us; rep.black@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us; rep.handrick@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kedzie@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.brandemuehl@legis.state.wi.us; rep.boyle@legis.state.wi.us; rep.hubler@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gronemus@legis.state.wi.us; rep.lehman@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** dove hunt

I am writing to protest the proposed mourning dove hunt. This is an outrageous idea!

As a member of Protect Animal Life, I am aware of the tremendous effort Evelyn Hughes put into having the mourning dove declared the Peace Bird of the State some 20 years ago.

People care about this beautiful species. Just because their numbers are comfortable shouldn't mean we have the right to kill them for sport. How cruel can these pro-hunters be?

I can also tell you that mourning doves are not "prolific breeders." The mortality rate on baby doves is high. I have firsthand knowledge of their breeding habits as I have had nesting pairs in my trees for years. One year, out of 6 nesting periods, only 3 doves survived. Between their lack of intelligence (a baby was actually run over by a neighbor in his driveway) to poorly built nests (I've had eggs fall out; I've had babies fall out of collapsed nests; I've gone to heroic efforts to rebuild the nests and replace the nestlings), they are battling great odds to survive. I also have hawks that find doves their first choice in a meal. A hunt could delete this fragile bird from our state.

Please consider these points while making a decision. Let Wisconsin be one of the few enlightened states to treasure our wildlife - not abuse it for a very bloodthirsty few.

Sincerely,  
Steve Witte  
DeForest WI

MAY 31 2000

May 27, 2000

Dear Senator Potter:

I am writing in opposition to the Mourning Dove hunt.

We have several of these birds that visit our yard regularly. They are the mildest birds imaginable! They don't do damage or make much noise.

What in the world is the sense in hunting them? What's next - The Robin, Finch, and Hummingbird?

I hope you will do all in your power to stop this needless hunt. Not only will many be killed but many will be maimed and thereby suffer.

Sincerely,

Wayne Joniaux

Wayne Joniaux

PETITION IN OPPOSITION TO MOURNING DOVE HUNT

We, the undersigned oppose the proposed Mourning Dove hunt in Wisconsin.

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
Sue Studinski	3323 Jordan Rd St. Pt.	5/28/00
Jane Zurawski	7131 Cntry Beau of St Pt	5-28-00
Jane Stabler	2701 Sunset Blvd. #3 Stevens Point	5-28-00
Ray Helmerud	6763 Old 18 R S.Pt.	5-28-00
Bob Zeman	7131 Cntry Beau St. Pt.	5-28-00
Radice Zurawski	3425 Jordan Rd St Pt	5-28-2000
Jane Zurawski	3425 Jordan Rd St Pt	5-28-2000
Jean Progea	1511 Bay Dr St Pt	5-28-2000
Kendra Pruha	1801 Miagg St. St. Pt.	5/28/2000
Evelyn Velmiusk	4500 Pine Ridge Dr. St. Point	5-28-00
Dorothy Bartowick	2701 Sunset Blv. Condo #3 Stevens Point	5-28-00
	WIS 54481	5-28-00
Neerme Bendershof	1130 Ashwood Ave Plover 54467	5/28/00
Jessica Zurawski	7131 Cntry Beautiful Lane St. Pt. 54481	5/28/00
ANDY ANDRICH	2431 DELANE CT PLOVER 54467	5/28/00
Alex Mauer	1629 Division St. Stevens Point WI 54481-3005	5-28-2000
Jennifer E. August	3240 Martha's Ln. Stevens Point WI 54481-5333	5-28-2000



## Henderson, Patrick

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**From:** Dave Henkel [daveh@merr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2000 7:42 PM  
**To:** sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us; sen.grobschmidt@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.shibiiski@legis.state.wi.us; sen.welch@legis.state.wi.us; sen.schultz@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.clausing@legis.state.wi.us; sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us; sen.wirch@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.lasee@legis.state.wi.us; rep.grothman@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gunderson@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kreuser@legis.state.wi.us; rep.black@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us; rep.handrick@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kedzie@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.brandemuehl@legis.state.wi.us; rep.boyle@legis.state.wi.us; rep.hubler@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gronemus@legis.state.wi.us; rep.lehman@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** dove hunt-BAD IDEA

I hope we are NOT serious about the dove hunt. That is ridiculous. I am sending a list of all those in favor of it to everyone I know. If need be, I'll support a campaign against all who vote in favor of it. You'd better not be one of those in favor of it!!!

Dave H.

daveh@merr.com

**Henderson, Patrick**

---

**From:** Tabby Cat [tabbycat@discover-net.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2000 6:46 PM  
**To:** Sen.Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** MOURNING DOVE HUNT

Dear Senator Baumgart:

We are asking that you please vote "**no**" on the dove hunt.

Because some animal rights advocates want to curtail all hunting, we don't feel that all people support their views. However, because the dove is such a mild and harmless creature, it should not be subject to the hunt. After all, it is the **Wisconsin Bird of Peace** and should be respected by **ALL** residents of Wisconsin - hunters and non-hunters alike.

Please keep this in mind as you vote. It will be very much appreciated by the thousands of Wisconsinites who are against the dove hunt.

Thank you for your consideration of a "no" vote.

Alberta Endres/Gordon Harris  
Black River Falls, WI 54615-8203  
715/284-8880  
E-mail - [tabbycat@discover-net.net](mailto:tabbycat@discover-net.net) <<mailto:tabbycat@discover-net.net>>



## Henderson, Patrick

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**From:** Dave Henkel [daveh@seelearn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2000 6:45 AM  
**To:** sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us; sen.grobschmidt@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.shibilski@legis.state.wi.us; sen.welch@legis.state.wi.us; sen.schultz@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.clausing@legis.state.wi.us; sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us; sen.wirch@legis.state.wi.us;  
sen.lasee@legis.state.wi.us; rep.grothman@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gunderson@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kreuser@legis.state.wi.us; rep.black@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us; rep.handrick@legis.state.wi.us; rep.kedzie@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.brandemuehl@legis.state.wi.us; rep.boyle@legis.state.wi.us; rep.hubler@legis.state.wi.us;  
rep.gronemus@legis.state.wi.us; rep.lehman@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Dove Hunt - Bad Idea!

I wanted to express my deep dissatisfaction with the possibility of a dove hunt. I could not think of a more disgusting thing! I can't believe it!. We are putting together a flier in which we are distributing to all we can stating our dissatisfaction and LISTING ALL WHO VOTED FOR IT on it. This will not be the end of it!.

Sincerely,

Dave Henkel  
SeeLearn Enterprises  
PO Box 14367  
Madison, WI 53714  
608-834-0665  
daveh@seelearn.com

**Henderson, Patrick**

---

**From:** conway [furhurts@chorus.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2000 1:49 PM  
**To:** Sen.Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** State bird of PEACE

Dear Senator Jim Baumgart : My name is Susan A. Leute and I am a resident and a voting citizen of Madison-Wisconsin. I am asking you to please "VOTE NO" on the hunting of the Mourning Dove, my "reasons" are a) This is our State bird of "PEACE" b) There are enough game bird and animals hunted already for people to "eat" c) If people have to use a "target" to teach their young children how to kill- let them use the artificial "clay-pigeon" shoot - not a live bird for practice shooting !!! Thank-you and vote "NO" on the dove hunt Susan A. Leute

## Henderson, Patrick

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**From:** mradigan@cmd.state.mn.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2000 10:33 AM  
**To:** sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** doves

Each day when I come home from work I am welcomed to my road by a pair of doves that flutter gracefully up to hover until I pass by. Every day this happens. Please don't potentially deprive me of this pleasure by allowing the hunting of doves.

Let them hunt crow.

Mary Ann Radigan  
2264 205th Avenue  
Deer Park, WI 54007

E. L. RILEY  
P.O. Box 133  
HAMMOND, WIS 54015

Hammond, Wis

3/14/01

Dear Senators

We support the bill  
prohibiting the hunting of  
morning doves & desire to  
have it go to the full support  
of the legislature.

Thank you  
Edward Riley  
Muriel Riley

MAR 19 2001

Dear Jim:

Writing concerning the Dove Hunt coming in Sept. 1, 2001. First, I support SB 45 which would ban the hunting of any bird identified as the state symbol of Peace.

1969, I purchased land which was planted partially to evergreen and have feed Mourning Doves each winter for years. Many of the birds were from Canada, W.P. and Northern Wisconsin; this was revealed by the bands on the legs, this was their winter home. This fall I posted my land; which I said I would never do, and didn't feed any birds all because of this Dove Hunt.

I have Hunted all my life but now am against this Hunt entirely as we don't have as many as you think in Wisconsin. (Mourning Dove) Rep. Du Wayne Jonsrud says he will not have bearing on the Dove Hunt. Maybe he needs a education in Due Process of Law because he denies the people the right to speak on this issue. Maybe there could be a court who would explain this to him.

Mr Jonsrud is in my opinion just too arrogant to be chairperson on the powerful assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Thank you.  
Sincerely yours,  
Richard H. Stoflet  
Richard H. Stoflet  
7109 Hwy H H  
Vesper, WI 54489

This Bill is just a ban on Dove Hunting not any other Hunting - which we never had or needed before - This takes nothing away from the Hunter

6/19/00  
11077 W. Forest Home  
# 1077  
Hales Corners, WI  
53130

Dear Senator Baumgart:

We are opposed to  
the dove hunt!

Sincerely,

Alma F. Greeley  
Lois Greeley

112 So. John St.  
Neenah, WI 54956  
17 June 2000

Senator Jim Baumgart  
P.O. Box 1882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Baumgart:

Please oppose any proposed mourning  
dove hunt in Wisconsin.

People wishing to kill something have  
plenty of legal game birds to hunt.  
There is absolutely no reason to  
shoot the doves.

Sincerely,  
Mickey Canz

18 June 00

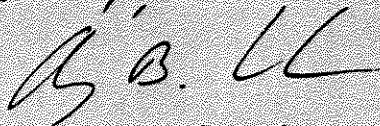
Sen. Jim Baumgart  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI  
53707

Dear Senator:

As a citizen of Wisconsin I am dismayed that our DNR is considering a proposal to legalize Mourning Dove hunting. The dove has been protected in Wisc. since 1971 and should continue to be protected. The mourning doves are not overpopulated. They are not a nuisance species, in fact they are a natural, non-toxic, non-polluting herbivore.

The people of this state want the Mourning Doves protected. We don't want special interest hunting organizations to change our laws. Keep the laws on the books that protect these birds. I urge you to defeat any attempt to open a season on the Mourning Dove.

Sincerely,



Amy B. Kornkven  
N280 Hwy P  
Helenville, WI 53137



6-17-60

Dear Senator Jim Baumgart:

I am positively against the shooting of the gentle Mourning Dove. It is by far the worst decision possible by the Department of Wild Life protectors and the N.R.B.

Why kill the States official Bird of Peace? First the Mourning Dove then what's to stop the killing of our Song Birds & our dear Robins.

Do not pass legislation that would condone the killing of birds it is a tragedy, especially our gentle Mourning Doves.

I would be there  
if I were not  
handicapped

Mrs Mary J Robertson  
P.O. Box 296  
Bell Lake, WI.  
53154

June 19, 2000

Senator Jim Baumgart  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator,

A brief note to let you know we are strongly opposed to the proposed mourning dove hunting season. Our neighbors and friends are very concerned about the issue also. We enjoy these birds along with other people orientated species and in no way consider them a game bird.

Sincerely,  
Carroll & Pat Olson  
Rt 2  
Westby, WI 54667

Mrs. E Robert Gunther  
1943 N 7th St  
Sheboygan WI 53081-2725

JUN 05 2000

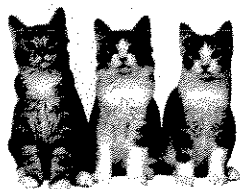
June 2, 2000

Dear Senator Baumgart,

I can't possibly conceive that anyone could possibly shoot the docile mourning dove - this bird who feeds at my birdfeeder, and gives me much pleasure just watching it walk around in my backyard, and comes so close to me while I'm weeding my flower beds.

With this note I renew my strong opposition to a dove hunt - the hunters should be satisfied with shooting pheasant, wild turkeys and ducks.

Thank you for considering my thoughts in this matter.



Sincerely,

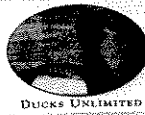
Eloise Gunther

(over)

P.S.

Member of The Humane Society of the United States

Would a dove hunt open the door  
to children conducting their own  
backyard hunt with sling shots, slings  
or BB guns??



William A. Savitt  
N190 E. Cedar Springs Dr.  
Neshkoro, WI 54960

6-18-2000

Dear Senator Baumgart,

I am writing to say that I think it is a sad day when the DNR votes to destroy the symbol of Peace that was established in honor of our Veterans. First we give an honor and then it is swiftly taken away by the DNR board. What does that say to the Veterans — and to the thousands of citizens who are opposed to mourning Dove hunting in Wisconsin? They are a symbol of peace for us too.

I am not anti-hunting. We have five family members who hunt water fowl, deer and turkey. They enjoy the hunt and the food it produces. They also understand conservation and realize that we can't be allowed to shoot everything that moves. Some of the creatures are special and do no harm and they should be allowed to exist without man as an enemy.

lets have something for our children and grand-children to observe and enjoy.

There are some things to be considered  
Should dove hunting be allowed:

- 1) The toxic lead shot the hunter will be able to use maybe ingested by <sup>exploding</sup> ~~fledgers~~
- 2) The difficulty hitting the dove, leaving many wounded and not retrieved
- 3) The very real danger of hitting special birds instead of, or along with the Mourning Dove
- 4) Using the doves for target practice - kids especially will love that
- 5) The number of birds that would have to be killed to make a meal since there is only about an ounce of meat on each one
- 6) The population of doves is declining from my observations of them over the past 40 yrs. We have only 1 pr. this year.

7) When one parent bird is killed the nesting cycle is broken. Thousands of "babies" will die from starvation.

8) Mourning doves nest in the fall. Why does the DNR want to have the hunt at this time?

I could go on but will end by saying that the whole idea about establishing a mourning dove hunt is just sick! There are many other game birds that are legal to shoot in Wisconsin. How ironic that that is it enough for the DNR. They want to allow the hunters to kill our States symbol of peace. What will they dream up next?

Thanks for listening Jim.

Sincerely  
Jane Savitt



Ms. Rachel H. Doherty  
N6008 Coffee Rd  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038-9788



Dear Sen Jim Baumgart,

I am writing to you to  
oppose the proposal to hunt  
mourning doves.

Not only do these beautiful  
and beloved birds feed at my  
feeders, along with the Blue Jays,  
Cardinals, Titmice, Crossbills - but  
I do not have millions in my rural  
area. Thus if 3 hunters shoot 15  
doves per day it could wipe out  
the mourning doves in our area.

The Mourning Dove is more  
than just a symbol of Peace for  
Wisconsin, it is used in many  
places and areas as a symbol  
of peace and scaredness - ex.  
the bible, Christmas cards, religious  
art and doves are often used to  
represent the "Holy Spirit" or God.  
Thus we have grown up with  
a special respect for the "Dove."

The Wisconsin hunters have  
plenty of game to enjoy hunting.  
What is the real issue here -  
Power & Greed.

I love you  
Rachel H. Doherty



June 1, 2000

JUN 05 2000

Senator Jim Baumgart  
Room 306 South  
State Capital  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison 53707-7882

Dear Senator Baumgart:

Please vote to rescind the Natural Resources Board's marginally (5-2) approved "Dove Hunt" proposal.

I am opposed to establishing any form of the "Dove Hunt" in Wisconsin. On May 26, 2000, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* in their Editorial on the NRB vote stated, "Fortunately, legislators still have an opportunity to shoot down the season. They should take it."

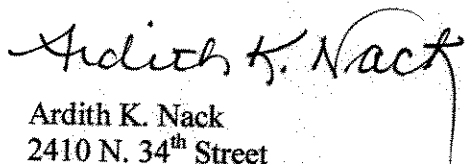
I wish to make the following points:

- Hunting is a privilege not a right! Excluding Doves from the hunt would take nothing from the hunters.
- Doves are small gentle birds who do not destroy crops or bother anyone. Hunting them is not only unnecessary; it is inhumane. The "Hunt" would be for the sport of killing them, not to provide subsistence. There are already enough "game" birds for Wisconsin hunters to kill.
- This wanton killing of 15 per day per hunter of the states "official bird of peace" doesn't sound very caring to me. Is this the true image we want our children to see of us? It's OK to kill small gentle creatures as long as we call it sport.
- Wisconsin should not adopt this to be politically in line with the 38 states that already have this unnecessary season. We do not have to follow the wishes of the funded groups. Maybe more people should read the 10 separate passages in the Bible on doves.

If you must vote in favor of this ruling, don't forget to vote the dove out as our "official symbol of peace" and declare it just another "target".

I wonder what hunters will tell their children when they ask, "Why do you kill doves daddy"?

Sincerely,



Ardith K. Nack  
2410 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sheboygan, WI 53083-4309

Henderson, Patrick

State Senator

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:



David Smith [dsr@legis.wisconsin.gov] 12.  
Friday, June 02, 2000 10:31 AM  
Sen. Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us  
State Capitol, P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Telephone (608) 266-2056  
Please, no Mourning Dove hunting season!  
E-mail: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us

**James R. Baumgart**

Please include my name among those in opposition to the proposed Mourning Dove hunting season. I have followed the recent events leading to future legislative action with much interest and, to a much greater extent, concern as a citizen of Wisconsin. After all that has been written and said about the subject, I have yet to recognize one good reason to proceed with this hunt.

What reason does the DNR make this proposal? The so-called  Conservation Congress  voting in favor of the proposal, came out in record numbers, at their own admission, to prevent infiltration by anti-hunting forces. Those of us in attendance saw no such threat to already established hunting seasons.

21,000 hunters on a mission vote for another target, but who speaks for the rest of the five million residents of Wisconsin? How does the addition of this bird to the list of those already hunted do anything to improve the image of hunters in this State? Is there a serious threat to hunting tradition? I don't think so. Not adding the dove as a game bird cannot be construed as anti-hunting. If it is true that hunters suffer from an image problem, hunting the Mourning Dove will hardly enhance the image of either hunters or that of the DNR.

This bird needs no  management.  It is not over-populated, does no damage, poses no threat to anyone. There is no  tradition  of dove hunting in Wisconsin. What would it matter even if Wisconsin was the ONLY state without a dove hunting season? It is sad, indeed, if this hunt is justified, in the words of those in favor, because it would  be good practice for kids learning to shoot  and  dogs learning to retrieve.

Furthermore, I am appalled when opposition to this proposal is characterized as un-American by none other than  Conservation Congress  chairman, Steve Oestreicher.

Finally, I ask you to consider whether members of the Wisconsin Senate in enacting SB422 in 1971, making the Mourning Dove the Wisconsin  Symbol of Peace,  envisioned it as a game bird at any time in the future.

With a sense of fairness to all citizens of Wisconsin, I ask for your consideration and committee participation in defeating this ill-advised Mourning Dove hunting season proposal.

Sincerely,  
David Smith  
724 Mayflower Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53083