

ptole

Dove population dropping; don't allow the hunt

Editor, News-Herald: If Wisconsin had a hunting season for mourning doves, it would be the only bird hunted in the state not defined as a "game bird."

It's the only bird hunted that regularly feeds at backyard feeders. The only bird hunted which perches on power and telephone lines. The

mourning dove would be the smallest by far of 45 species of birds already available for Wisconsin hunters.

DNR data shows that while the national duck population in the fall flight has increased 25 percent, the national dove population has dropped 20 percent over the same period of time. The same data shows an even greater decline in this state's dove population, yet DNR biologists see no reason why the dove population in this state can't support a hunting season.

But this is not about whether the state dove population can support a hunt. It's about whether the majority of the people of this state support hunting the mourning dove — our state's official "symbol of peace."

Vote at the Spring Hearings at 7 pm. April 10 at Pittsville High School.

JOHN WIENEKE
New London

This hunting season designed for the elite

Editor, News-Herald: Sportsmen, do you realize a growing segment of the non-hunting public is convinced that we enjoy our hunting activities only for the thrill of the kill? We have a chance to prove otherwise on April 10.

A small group of Wisconsin waterfowl hunters are convinced they need a mourning dove season as a warm-up to the regular duck hunting season. They feel this would sharpen their shooting eye. They are trying to convince you that defeating this hunting proposal will lead to erosion of our hunting privileges. Ask them how?

We have at our disposal 45 species of game birds and 10 species of game mammals. This list has only grown in recent years; we have never had anything taken away.

This is a hunting season designed for the elite few hunters who can afford the special dove hunting fields it takes for a successful dove hunt. Why else has the Department forecast that Wisconsin dove hunters would harvest only an average of five doves apiece?

Exercise your right to think for yourself and vote "no" at the spring hearings set for April 10. Please note that I am and have been an active hunter for the better part of 45 years.

JOHN WIENEKE
New London

Share your thoughts, in 300 words or less. Send your letters to: Editor, Marshfield News-Herald, 111 W. Third St., P.O. Box 70, Marshfield, Wis.,

◆ Your View

Are we to start shooting robins and cardinals next?

TO THE EDITOR

I have just recently learned about this terrible plan to kill off the beautiful tender mourning doves in our state. Who would have imagined years ago, that humankind would have de-evolved to such a level that they find a need to kill a bird that brings such a lovely sound to the ear, and a comfort to the heart?

What is wrong with the mentality of men that would lead them to such actions to organize to hunt and kill such a bird, which I consider a songbird?

Will cardinals and robins be next? I have been very glad to say that I am from Wisconsin, until Monday night.

In talking with several people in St. Croix county, I would say that 90% of the people I talked to were not aware that a vote had just taken place on whether to kill mourning doves this coming fall. In a sense it is a done deal, but in another real sense, it is up to you, the reader, to make a difference and give a damn and act now.

Unless the Dept. of Natural Resources is the most close-minded and rigid government body in this state, it should still be possible to have an influence.

According to their rules we have until Friday, April 14, to change the vote on Monday — by the time this letter is printed that date is behind us, but I was told by a DNR warden from Madison, that he believes they will still accept letters into next week. So here it is folks:

There is only one pair of mourning doves that I see in my hometown of Woodville. These days and last summer I barely remember seeing any doves. I even had the thought, what if they become

extinct?

Though this is hardly likely in the state of Illinois, where they are more abundant, that doesn't help me up here, does it? Remember the Passenger Pigeon? These birds are not like the dozen or more grackles, blackbirds or crows that I see everywhere, which are noisy and unappealing.

These doves travel alone, calling to their mate, and if one of those hunters shoot the other mate, the first one is lonely for life (as they mate for life). It is so primitive and unacceptable that these idiot hunters have this need to find one more bird or animal to kill.

Shame on you for coming up with such a plan!

Do something constructive instead of depriving the rest of us of the enjoyment of a bird we love.

To the hunters of this county, do not kill the only pair that we enjoy around here. They should spend more time on preserving habitat, than destroying what the divine gave us.

The plan is to "bag up to 15 birds a day," for a 7-week period in the early fall. It makes me sick. I don't ever see 15 doves in a two-year period. Do you?

If you enjoy the songs of birds and the delight that they give, and particularly the rare "Coo-ah, coo, coo, coo" song that these doves call out, then write the DNR.

Write to: Mr. Al Phelan, Conservation Congress Liaison, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Tell him, you weren't informed of this meeting, and do not feel that the 200 hunters of St. Croix County represented your point of view.

Susan L. Chapin
Woodville

Hunters brought their wives & children and all raised their hands for the dove vote
 Not just hunters should be voting on this issue

SPRING HEARINGS

Hunters urged to make voices heard

Votes needed to counter animal rights activists

By Bob RIEPENHOF
 Journal Sentinel Outdoor Editor

Anticipating that a question on mourning dove hunting will draw large numbers of animal rights activists to this year's spring fish and wildlife hearings, conservation leaders are urging hunters, anglers and trappers to attend the hearings to make their voices heard.

The hearings will be held in every county in the state, beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 10. For the location of the hearing in your county, contact your local DNR office.

"What's in jeopardy is the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in the state of Wisconsin," said Jim Shurts, treasurer and membership chairman of A Wisconsin Alliance for Resources and the Environment, a coalition of 75 conservation organizations across the state. "They (animal rights activists) will try to stop dove hunting, then bear hunting, then trapping. If a stand isn't made, they will

whittle away until they reach the ultimate goal of banning all hunting, fishing and trapping."

Last year in Madison, many hunters and anglers left the hearing before it ended, while a contingent of animal rights activist remained. As a result, Patricia Randolph, an animal rights activist and anti-hunter, was elected as a Dane County delegate to the Conservation Congress.

In a procedural change, Conservation Congress Chairman Steve Oestreicher has announced that congress delegate voting will be the first item of business at the hearings this year, saying: "We need to vote when everyone's there."

In an interview, Randolph said her Madison-based organization, Raising Awareness of the Value of Endangered Nature, has been circulating fliers in cooperation with the Alliance for Animals. The fliers urge people to attend the hearings, to vote "to protect our wildlife from sport hunting and trapping" and to elect "protectionist" delegates to the Conservation Congress. "My philosophy is that we

can co-habit peacefully with wildlife, it's going to benefit more people to have peaceful relations with wildlife, and it's more interesting than blasting wildlife away," she said.

Randolph said another group was circulating similar information in the Milwaukee area, but she had no idea how many animal rights activists will show up at the hearings.

"I think maybe in Dane County we will get more delegates," she predicted.

Randolph called for more public participation, and more diverse points of view, at the hearings.

"The Conservation Congress is controlled by people who want to promote hunting, fishing and trapping," she said. "It really is supposed to

be a citizens representative body. All of us should be deciding these issues, not just people who want to kill wildlife."

Shurts said that Randolph's election to the congress should be "a wake-up call" for Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers.

"We need to make a stand against these people that want to take away our heritage and our choice," he said.

Bob Chojnowski, Milwaukee County delegate to the Conservation Congress and membership director of the Wisconsin Council of Sport Fishing Organizations, agrees.

"These will be the most important spring hearings ever," he said in an interview.

In a letter to the Journal Sentinel, Outdoors department, Chojnowski wrote: "The scenario is simple. Ask yourself how many hours you spend fishing or hunting each year in the Wisconsin great outdoors. Are you willing to spend three or four hours per year to protect your sport or will you allow the opposing groups to vote their agenda?"

According to Al Phelan, De-

partment of Natural Resources liaison to the Conservation Congress, the role of the congress, by statute, is to advise the Natural Resources Board on all matters under the board's jurisdiction.

The spring hearings include a DNR rules hearing and a Conservation Congress meeting.

The public has a chance to vote on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes during the DNR rules hearing. In addition, the public can vote on advisory questions submitted either by the Conservation Congress or by the public the previous year.

All vote totals are advisory to the Natural Resources Board.

"To vote for a delegate to the congress, you have to be a resident of the county you are voting in, 18 years or older," Phelan said. "Anyone can vote on the questions."

Shurts predicted that voters will approve dove hunting. "I believe that, statewide, the dove hunting question will pass by a two-to-one vote," he said. "In Dane County, I'm not so sure. It's going to be interesting."

Reasons for shooting doves also apply to robins

One of my U.S. Army field artillery buddies, during the Korean War, was a rice farmer from Louisiana. One day when the cannons were silent and we had a chance to rest our ears and nerves, we got to talking about birds. I brought up the subject that the state bird of Wisconsin was the robin.

To which Jim responded, "Heck, we eat robins back home. Every day, thousands of them invade our rice fields, and we use shovels to keep them away. One of our favorite meals at that time is robin pie made from the dark breast meat of the birds."

Fortunately my friend didn't elaborate on the subject, but what he had told me could never be forgotten. After all, it was the schoolchildren of Wisconsin who, many years ago, chose the American robin as our state bird.

The reason I've had robins on my mind for the past few days is

minority statewide, who voted to not allow dove hunting in Wisconsin. Most of the 120 in the overcrowded room, and some out in the hall, who voted against dove hunting left immediately after the issue was voted upon.

We also agreed, along with everyone else at the hearing, that there be no testimony from either side of the issue in order to shorten the hearing.

As I read in the newspaper a few days later, one of the delegates of the Conservation Congress said, "The people who walked out weren't interested in the biology of the bird as much as they were in their own personal feelings about shooting a mourning dove, and I respect that."

Had testimony been heard from all of the 120 people opposed to the hunt, I am positive that many of our comments would have reflected a very deep interest in the biology of the doves. I have



ROY
LUKES

Special to The
Post-Crescent

that someone at one of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress "dove hunting" meetings elsewhere in the state commented, something to the effect, that if robins are about three times more abundant than mourning doves, why not allow robins to be shot, too?

Obviously, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would never allow this to happen. Bear in mind that this government organization has put the OK on hunting doves in Wisconsin quite a few years ago, but it has never been approved by the proper state agencies and officials.

Charlotte and I were among the

been brought to believe that one of the reasons being given for having a dove hunting season is that there is a high mortality among mourning doves, so why not shoot them rather than simply have them die? We might as well make use of these birds.

I handled and studied many songbirds, including a few mourning doves, during the 27 years I did bird banding on a voluntary basis for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One of the papers presented to us banders at a national convention one year by Chandler Robbins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had to do with fluctuations of songbird populations from one year to the next.

He told us that it was possible for there to be a 50 percent mortality rate among some species of songbirds one year and for that population to nearly return to its former natural population level by the end of the following year. With

this point in mind I return to the American robin that has roughly the same size breast muscles as the mourning dove. I'm sure you see the point I'm driving at. Why let all those robins, that are going to die anyway, go to waste?

I still contend that there is no more sense in having a dove hunt than there would be to have a robin hunt. My hunch is that there are far more people in Wisconsin, children included, who would oppose hunting doves than who would vote to allow shooting them. Yes, children should be included. After all, they were respected enough to have chosen our state bird!

Our good friend, Bill Volkert, who works for the Department of Natural Resources as a naturalist at Horicon Marsh, said that the proposed mourning dove hunt is a very contentious issue - a verbal struggle, dispute, a quarrelsome controversy. Based upon all I have

heard and read, including around 75-plus e-mail messages, there is bound to be extreme difficulty in dealing with a sensitive, highly polarized, ecological problem in the public arena.

In order to prevent the gap from widening between hunters and non-hunters, there will have to be developed agendas that meet the needs of both hunters and non-hunters.

Everyone realizes that the recreational business is one of Wisconsin's largest industries. Is the proposal to allow dove hunting in the state being pushed by the DNR to provide yet another species of animal to be hunted, to continue beefing up the state's recreational offerings, to kill a bird that presents no environmental problems whatsoever, and realistically neither has to be shot nor managed?

Wisconsin has been known as a progressive state of high standing. I've seen it that way!

DNR approves dove hunt

SHAWANO (AP) — The state Natural Resources Board voted Wednesday to create a fall hunting season for mourning doves that would allow hunters to shoot 15 of the state's official birds of peace each day.

The 5-2 decision ended nearly 30 years of debate over whether to hunt the bird, known for its cooing and affinity for backyard feeders. The board rejected proposals for a mourning dove hunt in 1971 and 1989.

15-a-day limit set for fall hunt

The state Department of Natural Resources now will submit hunt regulations to state Assembly and Senate committees. The committees have 30 days to review them. If the committees take no action, the hunt would go into effect. The first season could begin in September 2001, making Wisconsin the 39th state with a dove season.

"I think the board had a tough vote but a correct vote," DNR Secretary George Meyer said. "When there is a dove hunting season, people won't even know it."

For seven hours before the vote, the board listened to about 50 people testify about the pros and cons of allowing a



MOURNING DOVE

Please see DOVE, A-5

mourning dove hunt.

Supporters, including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, argued there are plenty of mourning doves in Wisconsin. They said hunting was a tradition that should be defended.

Opponents, including the Humane Society of the United States, countered that hunters already have enough wildlife to shoot and there was no reason to add another hunting season.

One opponent warned that shooting Wisconsin's peace symbol could lead to a public outcry against hunting.

"I think you may win the battle but from my perspective, you may lose the war," Karin EtterHale of the Madison Audubon Society said.

Emotions flared at times.

Steve Oestreicher, chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, an outdoors group that advises the DNR, said most of the nearly 30,000 people who turned out for the group's spring meetings in April supported hunting the bird.

"They refuse to allow the anti-hunting opposition to take away this effective tool for managing our natural resources," Oestreicher said.

If the board opposed the hunt, it would effectively destroy the spring hearing process of "grassroots democracy," he said.

Arnold Baer of Milwaukee, regional representative for the Humane Society of the United States, which opposed dove hunting, said he was disappointed in the Natural Resources Board's decision. He believed the hunt passed because of fears that

stake in Wisconsin.

"It is kind of incongruous that we are going to sacrifice an animal for an issue that was trumped up, an issue that was designed to divide people," Baer said.

The group will work to convince lawmakers not to allow the hunt, Baer said.

There is no proof that hunting the bird will affect the doves Wisconsin has, said Dan O'Brian, one of five board members who supported the new hunting season. "We are not going to take that many doves."

Don Poulson and Steve Willett voted against the plan.

"I just don't quite understand why you want to hunt them," Poulson said. "We hunt 40 species already."

State DNR biologists estimate 4 million to 5 million doves migrate from Wisconsin each fall. They believe 20,000 to 30,000 hunters would kill 130,000 to 200,000 birds a year.

Since Ohio approved hunting mourning doves in 1994, the state's population of the bird has not declined and biologists say it has increased over the last three years, said Mike Budzig, chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

Budzig told the board Ohio has about 4 million doves, and hunters killed about 200,000 last season, mostly in rural areas.

On the Net:
Department of Natural Resources:
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

Dear George Meyer:

I love your quote "When there is a dove hunting season, people won't even know it." How about this one? "When one loses his job, people won't even know it." AND by all rights, you should lose your job. You were voted out of your job 8,474 to 436 votes at the April's DNR and Wisconsin Conservation Congress meeting. If opposing the dove hunt would destroy the spring hearing process of grassroots democracy (another quote) then I would expect the Governor, the Board members and you to also honor the overwhelming support and hunters' votes concerning the Public Intervenor's office being reinstated (6,591 to 981) and that your position (Sec. Of DNR) be appointed by the Nat. Resource Board rather than appointed by Gov. Thompson. When an institution is politicized, it isn't grassroots democracy anymore.

As state officials, you have an obligation to protect our natural resources for all of us—not just one group such as the hunters. Congratulations to Don Paulson and Steve Willett who voted against dove killing. They understand and know what this committee is all about. Not adding a dove hunt does NOT TAKE AWAY any rights that hunters have now. Not having a dove hunt does not have anything to do with banning hunting in Wisconsin. What you and the DNR have done was to turn a large group of our population against hunters. And perhaps that is what you really had in mind after all. Get rid of the DNR and Gov. Thompson can appoint his own committee.

Barbara Hauke

Jim Weix's Idea →

YOUR VIEWS

April 4, 2000

Right the wrong; OK dove hunt

Editor, News-Herald: On April 10, Wisconsin sportsmen and women will have the opportunity to right a 30-year wrong by attending the annual spring Fish & Game Hearings and by voting to approve a dove hunting season. Wisconsin can then join the rest of America in enjoying this game bird.

Hunted in 38 states, the mourning dove is America's, and Wisconsin's, most popular and abundant game bird. Wisconsin residents were denied this opportunity in 1971, when a group of anti-hunting politicians railroaded a season by quietly making it a "symbol of peace." To the rest of the world, it is still a good tasting pigeon.

This proposal is backed by the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. A Wisconsin Alliance for Resources and the Environment International, the members of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA) and hosts of smaller organizations. Even the Madison-based Wisconsin Chapter of the Wilderness Society, which includes bird watchers on their board of directors, passed a motion that states: "The WCTWS believes the biological data supports the sustainability of a mourning dove season in the state of Wisconsin."

The only opposition to this proposal has been a

small, but vocal group of anti-hunters. They have attempted to mislead the public by claiming to be hunters or saying that there is a proposal for a crane season. Such is not the case.

For factual information on the subject and the location of the hearing in your county, please go to our web page at www.widovehunt.com or call your local Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources office.

★ **JIM WEIX**
President, Wisconsin Dove Hunter's Association, Mukwonago

Will we be hunting robins, bluejays next?

Editor, News-Herald: Aren't hunters ever satisfied? They already get to shoot deer, squirrels, rabbits, pheasants, ducks and many other species, but now they want to add the mourning dove to their hit list.

If the Department of Natural Resources gives in to the hunting lobby and legalizes mourning dove hunting, it will be the first step to letting hunters shoot any species they want. How long will it be before we see proposals to legalize the

sport — hunting of robins, bluejays or cardinals? There is no reason to hunt mourning doves, and they should remain protected just like all the other songbirds.

They are not overpopulated, they are not a nuisance to anyone, and there is not enough meat on their tiny bodies to justify hunting for food. By attending the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings on April 10, you can help keep the mourning doves where they belong — on the protected list.

SHELLEY DAVID
Chili

Share your opinions

Share your views, in 300 words or less.

Send your letter to: Editor, Marshfield News-Herald, 111 W. Third St., P.O. Box 70, Marshfield, Wis., 54449. You can also reach us via E-Mail at Editor@marshfieldnews Herald.com or a fax sent to (715)387-4175.

Bird lovers' thoughts

Let the doves enjoy a full life

Editor, News-Herald: The British parliament has a bill to outlaw fox hunting which has been a horse and hound sport for hundreds, maybe over a thousand years, while our Department of Natural Resources is contemplating an open season on our symbol of peace — the small and precious mourning dove. This is the bird that mates for life. That's better than many of the hunters who want to kill them.

For seven years a lone dove has frequented our bird feeders. It has most likely lost its mate to some farget practice and has never re-mated. We can hope that the DNR will take a second thought and let our bird of peace enjoy a full life.

Changing the subject to the price of gasoline. In the question of the week, four of the five people answering complained of the high price. However, John Dean of Marshfield said he had traveled in Europe and it is time we pay for what we use. It is natural for we selfish people to complain about everything we buy. In 1941 we purchased a new 6-cylinder Oldsmobile with automatic transmission for \$985 and filled it with 20-cent-a-gallon gasoline, which had a 4-cent state

gas tax. Today's gas price includes 18 cents federal tax and 24 cents state tax. At \$2 per gallon, that is 10 times the 1941 price, while the like Oldsmobile is about \$24,000 after special discount, or 24 times the 1941 price. If gasoline had increased the same percentage as the automobile, it would cost \$4.80 per gallon.

We lament about the price of gas and boast about the good deal we got on our new car. Big oil companies may be highbidding us, but the average filling station is probably making less than a year ago.

L. C. KIRK
Granton

Perspective

A broader consensus

Department of Natural Resources game warden Mark Burmeech says that there aren't that many mourning doves in Marathon County.

The reason is simple. There isn't much habitat. The mourning dove thrives on large flat areas, like harvested wheat, barley or corn fields. There are oodles of mourning doves in people's backyards, but not on hunting lands in rolling, forested central Wisconsin.

Burmeech says that the flat agricultural lands of the Deep South sustain millions of mourning doves and the mourning dove hunt there is popular with a long tradition.

So, there aren't that many mourning doves in Marathon County.

On Monday, however, the Marathon High School gymnasium was overflowing with sportsmen at the annual spring DNR fish and wildlife rule hearing. Both sides of the bleachers were jammed with people and some stretched out on the gym floor under the Red Raider basketball hoops.

The reason for the record-setting turnout was that these hunters wanted to cast their vote in favor of a legal hunting season in Wisconsin for mourning doves.

What is going on here?

Why did Marathon County sportsmen pack the Marathon High gymnasium to get a chance to kill another species of bird (43 species are now legal to shoot) that doesn't much occur in their home county?

Again, things are simple. The sportsmen wanted to send a message. They wanted to assert their primary right to shoot the mourning dove over the objections over bird loving naturalists, including those who would point out that this intended prey is the State of Wisconsin Symbol of Peace.

That's just not our take. Consider the reaction of Rep. DuWayne Johnson reported in the Milwaukee paper to the statewide 21,067 to 6,036 vote in the county hearings to start a dove season: "It's a great victory for hunters and hunting... There are those people out there who want to downright stop hunting. They don't want you to eat anything that's got a face on it."

Hometown Paper Views

There is no point for us to take a position on whether or not there should be a hunting season on mourning doves. The sportsmen have spoken. The DNR board will act. The legislature, the governor will all have their turn.

We would only argue that it is hardly thoughtful, hardly wise for the sportsmen of Wisconsin to, quite pointedly, create a political divide with naturalists on one side, hunters on the other.

That Wisconsin sportsmen would send this political message indicates how threatened they feel. Sportsmen are nervous about an animal rights minority, a growing gun restriction faction.

We would argue that the real threat to Wisconsin hunters is not from these groups, however. It is from withdrawal of land from the public hunting domain. More and more land, once open to hunters, is posted. It becomes near impossible now for Wisconsin hunters to manage the state deer herd with so many private land refuges. Scattered development, the purchase of land for recreational use, the breaking up of woods all contributes to a threatened habitat for wildlife.

The future of hunting does not depend on what hunters, a narrow minority, think. Instead, it rests on a broader public consensus about land use, including policies that preserve habitat for wildlife.

Hunters at Monday's spring DNR hearings jeered those who would protect doves. So be it. But those are the kind of people that hunters will need as allies in a larger fight.

Abbotsford / Colby Tribune

Home of Rep. Suder

Abby Tribune

Rep.Suder: I will not be voting for you even though I do like your thinking on many things. It scares me to read about your pro-hunting legislative record even though I come from a family of hunters and have hunted deer and small game myself. We don't need a hunters' amendment to our state's constitution! The NRA and the D.N.R. along with the Congressional Congress meetings (composed of hunters and congressmen) are getting way too powerful for this state. They proved that when they decided to hunt and kill the mourning dove, a small, harmless little bird that bird lovers like myself enjoy feeding and observing. People like you admitted that it wasn't right but you still did not do anything to stop it. You have been bought off by too many hunting clubs and the NRA. I love nature and I love my mourning doves. I am looking for a politician that will stand up for conservation and creating a balance between the beauty of God's living things and the hostility of man toward wildlife. I am looking for a politician who understands that we are the keepers and not just the killers of the wild. I was hoping that you would be that kind of politician but your record proves otherwise. Thank you.

Barbara Hauke

A kind old gentleman
who lives in Abbotsford -
Scott Suder's hometown
Is he against hunting or
just hunting doves?

Protect mourning doves

Editor, News-Herald: The Wisconsin DNR, along with the Dove Hunters Association, is trying to sneak a mourning dove hunting season past us. Last April, an "advisory question" was presented at the spring hearings held across the state, concerning interest in a mourning dove hunt in Wisconsin. A total of 3,382 people, out of a population of nearly five million, voted; the hunters came out ahead 2,360 to 1,022. The issue was not reported on, and if it was mentioned in any newspapers, it was quickly forgotten.

This year will be different. A small but inspired group, calling ourselves "Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves" (WCCCD), is trying to get as much truthful information to the public as possible. The DNR will have a vote on April 10 at this year's spring hearings, which are held in every county, to decide if there will be a mourning dove season or not in Wisconsin.

The mourning dove is currently protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty and State Bill 422, which declares the mourning dove to be the "State bird of peace." It is hunted in 37 out of 48 states. The states which do not have a dove season are the states between Minnesota and Maine. These states do not have a dove season because the numbers are too low to support a season without endangering the dove. The Wisconsin dove hunters estimate there are between three and 15 million doves in the state. The DNR estimates six million (last spring the DNR estimated 14 million) in the state. Based on bird surveys, counts and other information compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the actual estimate is closer to 1.5 million. This is one of the lowest populations in America.

The mourning dove needs the support of all citizens who care about the fate of one of the most popular birds at your feeder, and the most gentle bird in America. Please come out on April 10 and show your support by voting no to a dove season.

KEVIN KEARNS
Sun Prairie

Letter to the Editor

Dove hunters--

I am a resident at Fourth Street in Abbotsford. It was March 20 of this year when I heard the first sound of a mourning dove in an elm tree. They are pretty and white. They moan early in the morning to predict the weather, which I believe.

If the people want to hunt or shoot, why don't they take a crow? There is more meat on them, or a black bird. Please let the doves live and sing in the early morning and late afternoon.

As always,
Walter Schilling
Abbotsford

Read headlines — then letters that follow

Legalize dove hunting, governor says

By STEVEN WALTERS
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — Gov. Tommy Thompson said Wednesday that a Wisconsin mourning dove hunt should be legalized, since an advisory referendum this week endorsed hunting, but he won't be taking any shots at the state's official "symbol of peace."

"My position certainly was not upheld," said Thompson,

who in February said he opposed hunting the bird. "So, I will live with what the Conservation Congress (vote) came down with."

Although he had earlier said he saw no need for a mourning dove hunting season, Thompson said the Natural Resources Board should follow the "overwhelming" statewide vote and set up

limits and other rules for the hunt of the birds.

Thompson said he was very surprised that more than 27,000 people turned out at Monday night's annual statewide hearings held to advise the Natural Resources Board on hunting, fishing and outdoors issues. A plan to establish a mourning dove hunting season was approved

by more than 3 to 1.

"The board should follow what the Conservation Congress has voted for," the governor said at a bill-signing ceremony in the Capitol. "The reason for the vote was to allow sportsmen to vote on it, and even though I was opposed to it, I think it was a resounding victory for those people who want to hunt

Thompson thinks DNR should follow referendum results

doves."

Although state Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) had offered a taste of a mourning dove in his Capitol office, the governor said he has never eaten the bird.

And although he is a hunter, the governor has no plans to take aim at any of the birds. "I don't think you'll see me hunting doves," he said.

State officials estimate that

Please see DOVE page 2

Dove/Thompson says DNR should follow referendum

From page 1

4 million to 5 million of the birds migrate from Wisconsin each year. A proposed dove hunting season, which 39 states have, was defeated in 1972 and 1989.

Also Wednesday, state Rep. Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee) asked the DNR to postpone any decision on hunting doves because some people were unable to vote on the issue at the meetings Monday. At some of the meetings, organizers ran out of ballots; at others, people who wanted to vote were turned away because of overflow crowds.

"We don't turn away people at the door on election day because there isn't room or because there is a shortage of ballots," Richards said.

The DNR is scheduled to accept written testimony on the hunt until Friday. In a letter to Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer, Richards urged the agency to extend that deadline and not make a final decision at the Natural Resources Board's meeting in May.

Written comments on the proposed mourning dove hunting season should be sent to: Al Phelan, Spring Rules Hearings, Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

Residents say head of DNR should be appointed by independent agency

Madison — Residents who attended the Department of Natural Resources fish and wildlife rules hearings said an independent agency, not the governor, should appoint that department's head, vote tallies show.

More than 27,000 people turned out at statewide hearings Monday night. While the state DNR attributed the record attendance to interest in a proposal to allow mourning dove hunting, there were 69 other proposals on the slate.

One proposal would let the independent state Natural Resources Board appoint the DNR's secretary. Gov. Tommy G. Thompson currently has that power. The vote was 8,474 to 436

in favor of allowing the board, which sets policy for the agency, to appoint its secretary.

A measure to reinstate the Office of the Public Intervenor was approved by 6,591 to 981. That would restore an independent environmental watchdog office with its own funding and the power to sue the state.

The recommendations now go to the Natural Resources Board.

—Associated Press

506 S. Main
Colby, WI

Gov. Tommy Thompson
Room 115 East
State Capitol
Madison, Wis., 53702

Dear Gov. Thompson:

I have heard many Wisconsin hunters say that they would not kill the mourning dove---just like you are saying now.

Hey! That's a cop-out for you and the rest but especially for you because of your position--You can't appease both sides on this issue by saying that you won't hunt them but you will make it possible for others to hunt them.

Come on--brave hunter. Stand up for what you believe in. Why did you change your mind on the dove hunting issue? If you did because of the public vote, then you will have to go along with with the other two issues also--the appointment of a DNR Secretary and public intervenor restoration. OR you can stand up and be counted as going against all the issues which means stopping the dove hunt.

This is all unfair politics. A decision to shoot mourning doves affect all of us. Even the children of Wisconsin should be part of making the decision. Lets involve the children because it is their world too! After all, it was the school children of Wisconsin who chose the American robin as our state bird.

You are in the position to make this a better world and not let some paranoid hunters dictate as to which bird they would like to shoot next.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gaulke
506 S. Main
Colby, WI 54421



TOMMY G. THOMPSON

**Governor
State of Wisconsin**

May 30, 2000

Barbara Gaulke
506 South Main
Colby, WI 54421

Dear Ms. Gaulke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed mourning dove hunting season in Wisconsin. I appreciate the time you took to contact my office.

The Natural Resources Board, at the request of the Conservation Congress, created a proposal that would allow for the hunting of mourning doves in Wisconsin. The public provided input regarding the proposed hunting season at recent public hearings held in every county by the Conservation Congress. The proposal was overwhelmingly supported, as attendees voted approximately 21,000 to 6,000 in support.

As you know, I have expressed publicly my concerns regarding the proposed mourning dove hunt. The public will again have an opportunity to provide input to the Natural Resources Board at their May 23 meeting in Shawano. The Board will decide whether or not to approve a rule establishing a mourning dove hunting season in Wisconsin. If the proposed rule is approved, the Legislature may then review and hold additional public hearings on the rule.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy G. Thompson".

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

TGT/mch

G. mehdave

State board to vote on dove hunt today

DNR secretary says he doesn't know how disputed plan will fare

By MEG JONES
of the Journal Sentinel staff

In what many are calling a referendum on hunters' rights, the state Natural Resources Board is to vote today on a plan to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.

The vote comes six weeks after a record 27,000 people turned out at Conservation Congress hearings statewide, where residents overwhelmingly supported a mourning dove hunting season.

Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer, who strongly favors a hunt, said Tuesday that he doesn't know which way the seven-member board will vote.

"I'm concerned that some of the opponents are clearly from the anti-hunting faction," Meyer said. "They're trying to make this an anti-hunting referendum. The board should, from that standpoint alone, send the

message that they're in favor of the dove hunt."

The Shawano meeting will include input from more than 50 citizens who have signed up to express their opinions of a mourning dove hunt.

The mourning dove, which is hunted in 37 states, has become a rallying point for animal-rights activists and those who don't want an expansion of hunting in Wisconsin. On the flip side of the issue are hunters who don't want animal protection groups telling them what they can't hunt.

"Hunters put their money where their mouth is," said state Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman), a hunt proponent. "They pay for all the biologists and game wardens with their hunting and fishing fees. They got their backs up with the non-payers saying, 'We're going to decide what's going to be hunted.'"

In Conservation Congress meetings across the state in April, 21,067 people voted in favor of hunting mourning doves — the official state symbol of

Please see **DOVES** page 3

Just to show the anti-hunting group? Is that what a dove's life worth?

Doves/State Natural Resources Board to vote today on proposed hunt

From page 1

peace — and 6,036 opposed it.

Dove hunt advocates have said that it's an issue of hunters' rights. Opponents have said that there's no need to shoot a bird that provides little food.

There's been a ban on mourning dove hunting for more than 50 years, said Arnold Baer, regional representative for the Humane Society of the United

States, an animal protection agency that is not affiliated with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

"This argument that someone is trying to take away their privilege to hunt doesn't wash. They're trying to add something," Baer said.

Baer pointed to results of a recent poll that showed that most Wisconsinites are against a mourning dove hunt. According to the random telephone survey of 428 residents, which Mason-

Dixon Polling & Research conducted on May 16 and 17, 46% opposed dove hunting, 29% were in favor and 25% were undecided. The margin of error was plus or minus 5%.

John Wienke, secretary of Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves, said he worries about the size of the mourning dove population should a hunt be allowed. Wienke has sent board members information from DNR bi-

ologists who reported that the mourning dove population was more than 12 million during the fall flight three years ago. The population has dipped to 4 million to 5 million now, he said.

"These people are in charge of our natural resources. They see a natural resource that is one-third the number of three years ago or at least reported to them," Wienke said. "Why aren't they getting on the biologists to explain what the prob-

lem is rather than get on the bandwagon to shoot them?"

If the board approves the hunt, the issue will go to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform.

Committee members could schedule public hearings on the issue or take no action, which would result in the hunt going into effect.

Information on Spring Hearing
(8 hrs. of testimony)

Mourning dove hearings: Lots of talk, little action

MADISON (AP) — Two legislative committees heard hours of testimony Wednesday on a proposed mourning dove hunt, but neither took a vote on the plan to let hunters shoot Wisconsin's official symbol of peace.

Assembly Natural Resources chairman Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud said his committee won't vote on the plan, which could lead to an open season on doves next year.

That leaves any vote on the hunt's fate up to the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Alice Clausing, who said no decision had been made whether the panel would vote on it.

The committee's three options are to send the proposal to the full Legislature for consideration, to ask the Department of Natural Resources to modify it, or to take

no action, which would allow the hunt to go forward as planned.

"I did what I said I'd do. I had a hearing that was noticed to the public and I stayed here until they finished," said Clausing, D-Menomonie, whose committee heard eight hours of testimony. "Now it's a matter of getting some rest, going through the rest of it and making a decision (on a vote)."

Johnsrud, R-Eastman, who has been an outspoken advocate of the dove hunt, said his committee decided against a vote because the DNR studied the proposal for almost two years before the Natural Resources Board voted 5-2 last month in favor of the plan.

What's more, he said taking a stance on the hunt in an election year could be politically unpopular.

"When it's come this far, and for so long, we're just not going to shoot it dead and say we don't like it. We just wouldn't do that," Johnsrud said.

Clausing, who said she has not decided whether to oppose the hunt, expressed reservations about testimony DNR Secretary George E. Meyer gave her committee Wednesday morning.

Meyer told members the hunt would have a minimal impact on Wisconsin's estimated population of 4 million to 5 million mourning doves. The grayish-brown bird is known for its soft, cooing call and is a common visitor to home feeders.

Clausing questioned why the DNR didn't give more consideration to social factors

surrounding the proposed hunt, including the division between pro- and anti-hunt forces.

"That's probably the biggest issue before us and why we're here today," Clausing said. "The general public has a real concern."

Witnesses packed the hearing rooms Wednesday morning to relish old arguments.

Clausing had to stop testimony several times to chide spectators from reacting to testimony, including protests from some hunt supporters after an anti-hunt witness held aloft a mourning dove he said he had found shot in his driveway.

A handful of hunt supporters sported bright orange hats in the Senate hearing room before Clausing asked them to be removed. Others wore orange ribbons on their lapels.

Opponents claimed the hunt would decimate the mourning dove population and destroy the state's symbol of peace for sport.

"It disturbs me that the symbol that we as a

nation and as a society have chosen to use as of peace and understanding may be blown clear," John Porath of Ripon told the Assembly committee.

Supporters charged a vote against the would nullify hearings held by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, an advisory group DNR board, that drew almost 30,000 per April.

"The sportsmen of this state completely fit is an issue of hunting vs. anti-hunting," said Seidel, a member of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Waukesha County Conservation Alliance. "We'd like to encourage you to mail the hunters of this state aren't overwhelmed ants."

If approved, Wisconsin would become the state with a hunting season for the mourning. The earliest the hunt could take place would fall 2001, state officials said, and hunters would be allowed to shoot 15 doves a day under the plan.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2000

Marshfield
News-Herald

EDITORIAL

•••
YOUR VIEWS

OTHI

Ignore all hearing votes

Editor, News-Herald: They tell me that the dove vote stands, flaws and all. Are you aware that other items besides voting to kill mourning doves took place at the April DNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress meetings?

For those that are interested, 6,591 voters want (and only 981 voters disagree) that the Public Intervenor's office that was abolished in 1995 be reinstated. This office protects the state's legal resources through legal action when necessary.

In 1995, the position of Secretary of DNR was transferred by legislative action to the governor; 8,474 voters and only 436 saying no want this position to be appointed by the Natural Resources Board like it was before Thompson got into the act.

Despite the overwhelming support for these two issues and despite the fact that the paranoid Wisconsin hunters gave Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud his "right" to shoot doves, Thompson and Johnsrud indicated that, "All those conservation voters just don't know enough about these positions to come to an accurate opinion." What a self-serving, disrespectful way of doing business even for the political world. Are you willing to let our natural resources be a political football for Thompson and his buddies? If dove killing was approved because of the strong support for it, other issues should demand the same. Perhaps it would be best to ignore everything that came out of the April meeting. So many people didn't get a chance to vote and it was a put-up job for Johnsrud's "right" to shoot doves.

BARBARA GAULKE
Colby

Hunting mourning doves considered

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Department of Natural Resources may establish a hunting season for mourning doves, the state symbol of peace.

The department's Natural Resources Board meets Jan. 26 in Madison to consider plans for letting hunters kill as many as 15 apiece.

Wisconsin has millions of mourning doves, which the DNR says are hunted in 19 states including neighboring Illinois.

"I'm pretty satisfied that this is a clearly a renewable resource," board secretary James Tiefenthaler of Brookfield said. "It's a hunting opportunity and they're considered to be gourmet food."

"They're quite a bird to hunt. They're a challenge, very elusive," said Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud, chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, "and they're delicious."

Hunting could begin next year with a season running from September to October. Proposals for a

dove season failed in 1972 and 1989.

Jean Lord, a wildlife rehabilitator in Ozaukee County, called it ironic that a state would shoot its symbol of peace.

An organization called Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves opposes the idea, John Wieneke of New London said.

"There's no reason for a hunt," Wieneke said. "Hunting has a place and I'm a deer hunter but there's really nothing of value as far as meat goes on a dove. What it comes down to is killing for recreation."

The DNR announced Friday its recommendation to the board to submit the question to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, a group that advises the department on hunting and fishing rules.

During the group's annual county meetings in April attended by more than 6,700 people, the vote was 2 to 1 in favor of hunting doves.

Letters to the Editor
Letters to the Editor
Wausau Daily Herald
P.O. Box 1286
Wausau, WI

SHOOTING MOURNING DOVES IS SENSELESS!

The DNR and Rep. Johnsrud (96th Assembly District) wants us to believe that our Wisconsin hunters with guns in hand would find the "elusive" mourning dove as a good killing sport. Elusive? Those gentle little birds that eat from our feeders and build their nests in the nearest shrub by our houses? They are almost domesticated and we are led to believe that it is sporting to shoot them. It would make more sense to throw rocks at them or kick them aside while walking in your yards.

Real hunters are concerned and do not gun animals/birds down just to kill or use as target practice. They value life and justify the kill by harvesting the meat. Is a 2-inch drumstick worth taking the life of this gentle peaceful bird? As it is, we do not have great numbers of mourning doves in central or northern Wisconsin. Many are helped through the winter by feeding them. Their gentle cooing puts them in the songbird category and they are a delight to hear and watch by birdlovers.

People in the 96th Assembly District should also ask themselves if Wisconsin needs DuWayne Johnsrud in the state legislation. He has proven that he serves only himself. Taxpayers should find out how much it cost them to entertain Johnsrud's friends with a dove luncheon or how much money the Dove Hunters Association shelled out for his reelection. Many people believe that politics and big business has corrupted the DNR's mission and I believe that this is a good example of just that!

If Wisconsin ends up with a law allowing the shooting of mourning doves, it will only be because people did not get out and vote. Please come out in the April election and vote against the senseless slaughter of this gentle bird that stands for peace in Wisconsin.

Barbara Gaulke
506 S. Main
Colby, Wisconsin 54421

I have talked to many that do not want the mourning dove to be used for target practice for members of the Dove Hunters Association. We do not have great numbers of mourning doves in Wisconsin and many are helped through the winter by birdlovers. Their gentle cooing puts them in the songbird category. Shooting doves will be just a start of the slaughter of our birds. There is no way to satisfy the "so-called hunter" that wants to shoot anything that moves. The Robin has a bit more meat than a dove. Will that be an excuse to shoot them?

The people in the 96th Assembly district should also ask themselves if Wisconsin wants DuWayne Jonsrud in the state legislation. He has proven that he serves only himself. Questions should be asked about the taxpayers' expense regarding his dove luncheon for his friends. How much money did he receive from the Dove Hunters Association for his reelection? Many people believe that politics and big business has corrupted the DNR's mission and I believe that this is a good example of just that!

If his ideas are made into a law so that mourning doves can be used for target practice, it will only be because the people did not get out to vote. Please come out in the April election and vote against this senseless slaughter of this harmless bird that stands for peace in Wisconsin.

Barbara Gaulke
506 S. Main
Colby, WI 54421

To the Editor

When one speaks out against the actions of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, a group that advises the department on hunting and fishing rules, one usually gets labeled as an anti-hunter or a member of the Animal Rights Coalition. I am neither. In fact, I come from a family of hunters and have hunted myself. However, hunting isn't just killing everything that moves and having a killing season on gentle, harmless mourning doves just doesn't make sense!

This year's annual county meetings will be held on April 10th. Marathon County meeting will be held at the Marathon High School starting at 7:00 p.m. Wood County will hold their meeting at the Pittsville High School at 7:00 on the same date. So many of us were silent when the annual county meetings took place last April showing vote of 2 to 1 in favor of hunting these peaceful little birds. Whoever controls the vote controls the law. Now bird lovers must be present at their respective county locations on April 10th and vote no to a dove season. We don't need this type of hunting season in Wisconsin!

Barbara Gaulke
506 S. Main
Colby, WI 54421

Letter to the Editor:

Bird lovers--Unite! Please contact your State Assembly and Senate Representative and tell them that you are against shooting mourning doves. Ask them to support Bill SB45 prohibiting the hunting of the mourning doves. There will be a public hearing in Madison on this bill on March 22nd at 9:30 in Room 411 S. Capital Building so you must act fast

I am sure that you are aware that the powerful DNR and some hunters keep saying that it is the white dove and not the mourning dove that is Wisconsin's symbol of peace. Look through the State of Wisconsin Blue Book which is published every two years. You will find a picture and a description of the mourning dove listed under Wisconsin's symbols. Our schools use this book to teach our children about symbols, government and the history of Wisconsin. What kind of message are we sending our school children when the DNR officials and our representatives can select and add the mourning dove to the state's list of game birds? Game bird? This harmless little bird that eats only weedseed, serves as dinner for the protected hawks and builds its nest near our front doors?

State Representative Scott Suder keeps saying that the fight about the mourning dove is a fight for hunters' rights. No one, not even the hunters have the right to kill our state symbol of peace. For a decade now, the mourning dove has been protected from hunters. Mourning doves were removed from the statutory definition of game birds by Chapter 129, Laws of 1971. Section 1.10 of the statutes named the mourning dove as Wisconsin's official symbol of peace. We are hearing much about the hunters' right to hunt and fish lately, but how can their rights be taken away if they are not allowed to shoot mourning doves? They never had the right to shoot our symbol of peace in the past. Why now?

Please help to save the doves by calling the Legislative Hotline number (1-800-362-9472) and asking the people that represent you in Madison to support this bill. It was Henry David Thoreau that said, "MAN IS RICH IN PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF THINGS WHICH HE CAN AFFORD TO LET ALONE."

Sincerely,
Barbara Gaulke
Barbara Gaulke
Colby, Wis.

Dove-hunting argument doesn't make sense

To kill a mourning dove. Gosh, it's getting to be a real challenge around here.

Pesky pantywaist animal-rights freaks protest a hunt on those little rose-breasted brown birds with the sweet throaty purr synonymous with a summer evening.

To get the gunning underway, a lawmaker here in Wisconsin hosted a luncheon in his office. And he served, no less, dove au vin.

One of the representatives in my state legislature, DuWayne Johnsrud, demonstrated his commitment to overcoming the objections to dove hunting, including the nagging fact that the mourning dove was designated, nearly 30 years ago, as the "state bird of peace."

That's plain dumb, say would-be dove stalkers.

In fact, one of the lunch munchers just happened to be president of the Dove Hunters Association. That's a group with fully 1,100 members nationwide, or about the same number as the Helping Organization for People with Extra Big Toes, and its leader says designating a brown dove as the bird of peace when everyone knows it ought to be a white dove makes us a laughing-stock among other states.

But chowing down on a drumstick the size of a pinkie finger, that's no laughing matter.

In fact, says Rep. Johnsrud, the birds have more meat than you would think. Some of those lunkers run up to 8 ounces, or almost the size of a pigeon. Though you could peg six or eight of them at a time with a well-targeted rock on



jacquelyn mitchard

For the News-Herald

a bird feeder, and though the birds are so placid they walk around your feet when you're out in the yard, Johnsrud pointed out that they're deuced hard to shoot.

"They are fast. They are elusive. They can fly like a jet fighter," he said.

In April, the citizens advisory body of the state Department of Natural Resources will vote on the dove hunt.

The conference is called "public," but the overwhelming majority of people who attend are hunters, since the issues mostly concern hunting. And though it's called a conference, it's really a policy-making session to vote on the "use" of state wildlife. Many of the questions that come to a vote are about which animal populations are holding their ground sufficiently to start "using" them.

Every spring, somebody suggests that timber wolves have probably come back enough for "use" - there must be 30 of them by now. And as for doves, they're all over the place. They are, according to federal avian statistics, the most hunted bird in North America anyway.

As the head Dove Hunter Gen Ebert pointed out, objections to dove hunting are probably just a plot to deprive hunters of their lifestyle. Dove, she added, is considered a delicacy - as are termites in sub-Saharan Africa (they're best toasted, with beer).

Maybe it's just ignorance. Before the taste test, probably not many people realized how downright yummy dove really is. Of course, the special wine sauce and the wild rice probably didn't hurt the consensus (as my broth-

er used to say, on the subject of zucchini bread, add cinnamon and sugar to anything, including sweeping compound, and it's going to taste good).

You might wonder why lawmakers in the great state of Wisconsin don't have better things to do than host a roast of itty bitty, harmless birds in order to organize open season on them.

You might wonder what kind of guns we'll use on birds the size of a cheeseburger, in order not to blow away what little meat there is.

You might wonder, if we feel that our poultry-killing choices are paltry, why Wisconsin doesn't start state-sponsored Rhode Island Red farming, so there can be a chicken season. (Hey, chickens are elusive. And some of those free-range chickens can run faster than a Formula One racer...)

You might wonder all these things, but you'd be naive. Hereabouts, if it moves, we shoot it, and when it's no longer moving, we eat it. With wine sauce.

As signs in Rep. Johnsrud's office read, we "Hunt to Live and Live to Hunt."

It's a sport. It's a sport that requires no aerobic conditioning, no physical training, no endurance, no sense of fair play, no effort beyond raising your arms and squinting. This sport is played out against opponents that don't know they're in the game. All you have to know is which end of the gun goes bang and know better than to shoot at anything that wears orange and answers to the name of Al.

Hunting is a sport that keeps families together and keeps meat (including those yummy 2-inch drumsticks) on the table. In our state, what hunters say usually goes.

And so, doves, start doing what you do best.

Mourning.

Look
n
Wisconsin's
hue Book

State doesn't need season on doves

On April 10, sportsmen across the state will vote on rule changes, proposals and advisory questions. One of these questions will deal with the proposed mourning dove season.

Wisconsin does not need a mourning dove season. It is not a Wisconsin tradition, it is not a viable source of nutrition and it is not necessary to manage the mourning dove population.

When a mourning dove is cleaned, there is only one ounce of edible meat, provided the shotgun blast leaves any meat to recover. If a person really wants to have dove for dinner, there is already a dove season in Wisconsin. The rock dove, or pigeon, is an introduced bird that is not protected by migratory laws and is available for hunting year-round. The rock dove is larger, will provide more meat and will not generate the same negative response as would a mourning dove season.

The mourning dove is the most harmless bird alive - it presents a threat to nothing. Its eating habits make it beneficial to farmers, due to the fact that its preferred diet consists mostly of introduced weed seeds.

A small group of "hunters" wish to kill this inoffensive bird for nothing more than target practice. They want us to believe that if we oppose them, then we are anti-hunting or uninformed hunters who are ignorant. This is taken straight from the Wisconsin Dove Hunters web page. Come out on April 10 and tell them that we do not need a mourning dove season.

Kevin Kearns
Sun Prairie

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STRATFORD

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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715-687-4074 Fax
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Jr. - Sr. High Principal
715-687-4311
Barbara Gaulke
Grade School Principal
715-687-3535

Sen. Scott Jensen
850 South Spendale Rd
Wauscha, WI 53186

Dear Sen. Jensen:

I am writing to request that Rep. Johnson not be appointed to chair the Assembly Natural Resource Committee in 2001. Bird lovers have not been treated fairly this past year. We need an impartial person that will listen to both sides of this Mourning Dove issue. He can not be fair after seeing his luncheon of cooked doves. Sen Jensen. This doesn't have anything to do with revoking gun rights of responsible gunowners which I know you are afraid of. Even many of our hunters are aware I agree that doves hunting is unnecessary (They're not dangerous + poses no problems other than eating weed seeds), doves hunting is cruel + only provides target practice for those that want to kill just for the sake of killing - Please support Bill LRB 0973/1 as we do not need a hunting season for these peaceful, loving birds - Thank You
Barbara Gaulke
506 S Main
Cady WI 54421

Mr. Al Phelan
Spring Rules Hearings
Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Mr. Phelan:

I am writing to inform you that it is truly disappointing to find that our Wisconsin hunters would even think of shooting the peaceful mourning dove. Personally, I will never respect a hunter again if this goes through. I attended the Marathon state hearing and this didn't even come close to a democratic meeting for the following reasons:

- 1) The mourning dove was sacrificed because the hunters are so afraid of animal rights activists. Hunters were urged to vote for it regardless of their own personal feelings because lies were told about the future of hunting and fishing being in jeopardy if it didn't go through. Hunters brought their wives who were jabbed into raising their hands in favor of shooting doves. Hunters could not come forth with one good reason to kill mourning doves--only that it was their right and that their rights would be taken away if the mourning dove issue was settled.
 - 2) The dove issue was number one on the agenda with many other issues following it. However, many people left right after the first voting which tells me that they were not interested in conservation issues and that this was a "put-up job."
 - 3) Much misinformation was given at these meetings and it varied from one town to the next. Scott Osborne said at the Pittsville meeting "that dove hunting increases the revenue and that money can go toward habitat and helping the species. We were told at the Marathon meeting that there would be no extra fee for shooting doves because it would be included in the small game license. If the DNR is doing this for extra revenue, surely a dove's life is worth as much as a duck's life. Why not have the hunters purchase a dove stamp same as a duck stamp? In that way, we will be able to keep track of how many dove hunters there really are. In time, it might help save the doves from extinction. The dove population is DECREASING now and with hunters taking 15 per day, it won't be long before they go the way of the passenger pigeon. Is this really what the DNR want to go down in history for--just to appease the paranoid Wisconsin hunter?
 - 4) Instead of worrying about what will be the next species that they can kill, the DNR and hunters better start thinking of preserving habitat for our wildlife. Hunters need land to hunt on and a number of landowners are already saying that they will refuse hunters the use of their land when this goes through. I predict that this dove hunting will create a political divide between many, many groups.
 - 5) The Wisconsin hunters wanted to send a message as to how powerful they were and Mr. and Mrs. Citizen got the message. If hunters can point to a loving peaceful dove and say that they want to shoot it and the DNR allows them to do so, then this group is way too powerful and we as Wisconsin residents better do something about it. That's too much power for any group.
 - 6) This is unfair politics even though it has a fancy sounding name of Conservation Congress. You can't have a meeting with one group and make a law that affects so many. Even the children should be involved because they should be able to decide if they want their children to hear and see mourning doves twenty years from now. It was the school children of Wisconsin who chose the American robin as our state bird. Perhaps they will be able to save the doves.
- Decisions like shooting doves affects all of us. Please listen to the rest of the people. Its a world that is made for all of us--not just hunters!

Sincerely,

Barbara Hauke

Friday 09/08/2000 3:19:47pm

Name: Cash

E-Mail: cashmore@athenet.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: From a Friend

Location: the planet earth and New London

Comments: I think that it is very much my time to express a point that most of you will never be able to feel, but hope you can understand. We know that in 1971 then Gov. Lucey signed into LAW Senate Bill 422 naming the Mourning Dove the Wi. STATE SYMBOL of PEACE. This dedication was given in honor and a hope of finding Peace for those returning from a WAR that was seen as a disgrace to many Americans. As a Veteran of this war I saw first hand both the conflict in Vietnam we faced and the conflict of coming home. We were spit on in the airports. We were labeled "baby killers". We were forgotten. It took many years and alot of heartaches before we were to receive the honors we deserved. We fought in the name of Democracy and Freedom to achieve these honors and were brutally attacked not only in Vietnam, but on our home soil for our allegiance and our loyalty. Now The Wisconsin Dove Hunters Assoc., led by a protester of that same war, is again trying to dishonor those of us that fought in Vietnam. I haven't any animosity towards those that protested our involvement in the Vietnam War, but "STRONGLY DETEST" those protesters that spit in our faces when we came home. Jim Weix the Pres. of WDHA is now again "spitting" in the faces of those same Vietnam Veterans and I will not allow this to happen. An HONOR given deserves to be RESPECTED. I respect my friends. I respect That Black Marble Memorial "THE WALL" in Washington D.C.. Jim Weix calls it, and I quote, "That F---ing black wall". Please help me to continue to uphold an HONOR given to the Vietnam Veterans. Jim Weix calls Our Symbol of Peace and Hope just a pigeon. What do you expect.

Thanks,
Cash

E Mail

Tuesday 07/04/2000 8:24:44pm

Name: Val

E-Mail: dvde@pitnet.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: NewsGroups

Location: Wisconsin

Comments: No one can tell me killing is right. Killing for *necessity* may be just fine. But killing for the sake of sport (or fun basically) is not. Hunters may be able to justify killing deer, geese, whatever...because they say they eat what they kill. But it all boils down to the fun of it, in most cases. I'm sure there are still needy people who must fend for their food. But in general, if hunters were offered free venison or whatever, instead of *killing it themselves*, they definitely would not want it. And this is coming from good sources as I know many hunters and their wives will tell me the answer to that question. They all say I'm right, that getting the game is the part the hunters want to do. So, don't tell me we're the emotional ones, evidently hunters hold quite abit emotion for the hunt. We instead are the compassionate ones. I would much prefer to be in the comradship of peaceful, compassionate people, than those who feel it's fun to go shoot some helpless, defenseless being.

Now, regarding the hunting of the doves....that cannot even be justified by the "meat" it gives. How cheap life is that it can be expended for a one ounce piece of meat, if it's even eaten in the first place. No, I see it as another target for those that just have to have something to shoot at, or kill. I could list the many reasons why it's unfeasible to put the dove on the hunting list, but many of these reasons have been listed. I feel the DNR is

no more than a pro hunting organization put out by the government to do the whims of the hunters. It's no longer an ecological or natural resource department. I never see them fight *against* anything pro hunting. They are basically made up of hunters for hunters. Such a shame.

I hope the dove hunt never goes through. I also want to thank all you fine people out there who have kindness in your heart for these creatures, especially the men who stand up against this. You are truly what I consider "Men" to be, not a guntoting killer in search of helpless victims.

And to the hunters that are not in favor of this hunt, thank you...you are the special few. You are able to determine when something really is an atrocity. I hope in time you will come to understand how precious all life is, but for now, I think it's wonderful that you understand there are boundaries to everything, and this is one useless thing to add to the hunting list.

To the owners and those dedicated to this site and the fight to save the dove, I wish you well on your efforts. Thank you.

Sunday 07/30/2000 1:00:54am

Name: BJ Arndt

E-Mail: bjcarndt@hotmail.com

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: Net Search

Location: Eden, WI

Comments: I was checking information on the proposed Mourning Dove hunting season, which we are very much against. There are very few doves in our area. They are a songbird. Are they going to want a season on bluebirds, robins, and other songbirds next? Why don't they go where there is a season on doves, or shoot pigeons instead? They are much larger, tasty, and the "sportsmen" would have their fun. If this goes through, we will close our farm to ALL hunting and not buy any hunting or fishing licenses.

Wednesday 06/14/2000 2:20:12pm

Name: barry wilson

E-Mail: ajaj@bbw.tds.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: NewsGroups

Location: brighton, wis.

Comments: Hunting doves is wrong, it's just another excuse to kill another animal. Don't animals already have a tough time surviving with loss of habitat, predators, cars and pollution? Shooting small birds is a pretty disgusting excuse to kill. I think wildlife education and appreciation is so underrated!

Wednesday 06/14/2000 12:41:58am

Name: Sara J. Andrea-Neill

E-Mail: picasso1000@netzero.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: Just Surfing On In

Location: Pleasant Prairie, WI

Comments: I think the DNR should be elected not appointed by the Governor. I don't trust them to do what's right for the environment.
Sara

Wednesday 09/27/2000 12:39:50am

Name: Sarah and Libby

E-Mail: lil_dudette_69@hotmail.com & bugsiell_2000@yahoo.ca

Homepage Title: Jess and Sarah's Fanfic

Homepage URL: <http://expage.com/jessandsarahsfanfic>

Referred By: Yahoo!

Location: Port Colborne Ont. Canada

Comments: hi,

I just found a mourning dove with a broken leg. I was searching for something on how to care for him when i spotted your site. i think that shooting and killing these precious beautiful birds is a crime.

Sarah and Libby

Tuesday 09/12/2000 10:58:16am

Name: CASH

E-Mail: cashmore@athenet.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: From a Friend

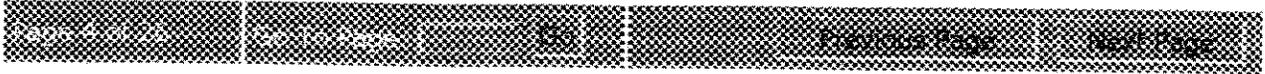
Location: new london

Comments: I would like to thank you, all, for your overwhelming support on the issue of fighting against the hunting of the Mourning Dove, our State Symbol of Peace. Not only for your e-mail, but in our personal contacts. When I'm down, you pick me back up and I appreciate your kindness. Thanks from me and my Vietnam buddies.

Cash

No Dove Hunt

[Sign this Guestbook](#)



Wednesday 07/12/2000 12:36:05am

Name: A WUNSCHEL

E-Mail: AACOLLECT@HOTMAIL.COM

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: Just Surfing On In

Location: OREGON, WI

Comments: I am embarrassed to live in a State that would designate a "BIRD of PEACE" and then approve a hunt to kill it. I am not at all opposed to hunting (yet), but that just doesn't seem right. Peace and hunting/killing don't belong in the same sentence. And we wonder why children are shooting each other. Wake up people. Ever heard of role models? It's ok to shoot anything in Wisconsin. When does the Robin hunt begin? Way to many of them around here!

Tuesday 07/11/2000 8:04:43am

Name: Wisconsin Citizens Concerned for Cranes and Doves

E-Mail: wcccd@hotmail.com

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://nodovehunt.webjump.com>

Referred By: Just Surfing On In

Location: Wisconsin

Comments: To the citizens of Wisconsin.
Below is a post from the Wisconsin Dove hunting group.
This post is to let you know that the dove season is a long way off yet and we are not though fighting the issue.
Today it might seem that the season is for sure.
Between now and Jan 2001 we still have a chance to stop the dove hunt.
BE SURE TO CHECK THE SITE FOR INFORMATION ON WHAT WE PLAN TO DO NEXT.

Saturday 06/17/2000 3:29:21pm

Name: Richard & Johanna Mihalek

E-Mail: valhalla@win.bright.net

Homepage Title:

Homepage URL: <http://>

Referred By: Clicked on a 'Guestbooks by GuestWorld' Button

Location: Washburn, WI

Comments: We are definitely opposed to hunting of Mourning Doves. It has been only in the last few years that we were able to enjoy having them in Bayfield County

In a recent bird count covering about a fourth of our county, a mere 34 were counted - an exact same amount as were counted a year earlier by volunteers for the North American Migration Count in mid-May.

It would be shameful to put these gentle birds in peril by subjecting them as "live targets" to insensitive hunting. We'd rather that any surplus of doves be left to a healthy predator-prey relationship with the hawks. It's about time that the DNR give serious consideration to predator-prey relationships in a balanced ecology rather than cater to the sportmen and their wallets. Wouldn't it be great if we could buy a "Non-hunting License" so the DNR could be financed for their programs by non-sportsmen?

Thank you folks for fighting for the doves et al.

Blazel, Ted

From: Michael Dellger [schbibik@dataplustnet.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2000 11:16 AM
To: Sen.Baumgart@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: No Dove Hunt

Dear Senator Baumgart,

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote against the proposed dove hunt, which is currently being discussed. I am saddened and appalled that such legislation could even be under consideration. To kill a bird which has been designated as the bird of **PEACE** for the state of Wisconsin is cruel and absurd. What kind of message are we sending to our children? Why must hunters constantly be searching out new life forms to kill? Aren't there enough animals in Wisconsin for humans to kill?

In my yard each day in spring and summer there are two mourning doves that fly to my roof and deck. Their gentle cooing sounds fill the air with tranquillity. I am filled with sadness and disbelief knowing that soon these birds may be slaughtered. Their cooing becomes that much more poignant.

I have never before written to any legislator about an issue; however, this concerns me greatly. I strongly urge you to vote against this legislation. Let our bird of peace continue to represent that for which it has been designated. Let not the bloodlust of hunters continue in this direction. We all have enough to eat. Let us not kill these gentle, innocent birds. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Dellger
2215 North Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53083
920/452-3354

June 19, 2000

Michael Dellger
2215 North Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Dear Mr. Dellger:

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

As you know, this proposal has now been endorsed overwhelmingly by the Conservation Congress in meetings held in every county throughout Wisconsin and by the Department of Natural Resources Board. A public hearing has been scheduled for June 21st by the Senate Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform Committee regarding administrative rules to begin the hunt in 2001. It is certainly a good time for making your views known.

Sincerely,

JIM BAUMGART
State Senator
9th Senate District

JB:jw

June 18 2000

Dear Senator Baumgart -

Although I am a hunter I do not
want Wisconsin to have an open
season on Mourning Doves - Not Now
Not ever! These birds are a sign
of peace!

Do not allow Wisconsin Citizens to
kill them.

Thank you

Errol Beck

87912 Beth Rd

Reedsburg WI 53959

20964 Co. Hwy. A
Tomah, WI 54660
June 19, 2000

Dear Senator Jim Baumgart,

Do not allow hunting mourning doves in Wisconsin.

We are not anti hunting. Two of our sons hunt deer, turkey, bear, grouse and squirrel. We take pleasure in their successful hunts and enjoy preparing wild game for the table.

We do object to hunting mourning doves in Wisconsin. We take pleasure in feeding 8 to 10 doves that come to our bird feeders. Unlike most wildlife, these are social birds we can observe and enjoy daily, merely by looking out our windows into the backyard. These birds add beauty to our environment and their lovely call adds music to the day.

Do not allow hunting mourning doves in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Edwin and Lyda Lanier
Town of Ridgeville
Monroe County



THE HONORABLE JIM BAUMGART

FAX:6082676798

Judith R. Myers
Fax: 262.947.0724

GENESIS CABLE SYSTEMS

PLEASE!

DO THE HONORABLE.

(as your title suggests)

DON'T MURDER

THE DOVES!

The Honorable Jim Baumgart:
Please sign name address & phone # to
OPPOSE DOVE HUNT IN WISCONSIN

Return to Donna Pastore

- 1 Anna Manley NEW LONDON WI
- 2 Donna Gasbarro Appleton WI 920-734-1660
- 3 Beverly H. Miller Appleton WI. 920-749-9530
- 4 Kay F. Kuzink Appleton WI 920 896-0608
- 5 Jamie Young Neenah 920 725-7439
- 6 Janine S. Froehlich Appleton, WI 920 9970739
- 7 Jilly Gless Menasha, WI 920-757-0642
- 8 Lynn Meyer NEENAH, WI 920-737-276
- 9 ~~Steve~~ MENASHA WI 920-969-1976
- 10 Steve Gasbarro Appleton WI 920-734-1660
- 11 Joan Schumann Shiocton, WI 920-986-3906
- 12 Randy D Miller App. 920-749-9530
- 13 Janet Bull App. 731-6005
- 14 Kristie Christel Keesville, 920-754-4832
- 15 Candy & Kelly Black Creek 984 3185
- 16 Catherine Kelgas Appleton 920 991-0417
- 17 Wesley Kingsbury Appleton (920) 954-5341
- 18 Angela McEhane Appleton 920-~~926~~ 9361
- 19 Todd Manley New London WI 920-735-6099
- 20 Kate Brown Menasha
- 21 Sarah Kastall Menasha
- 22 Joan Reddins Appleton WI 920-954-0616
- 23 Nancy Pierce Black Creek 984 3644
- 24 Seth Forge New London 982-5188
- 25 Tom Pederson Appleton, WI 735-2016
- 26 Michael A. Nau Appleton, WI 734-4468
- 27 Sheila L. Bauf Neenah WI 720-0471

We Oppose Dove Hunting in Wisconsin

28	Pat Esselman	Oshkosh, WI	920-235-2058
29	Susan J Hart	Appleton WI	920-734-6725
30	Jacqui Huxtable	Putnamville WI	800-687-1115
31	Betsy Mastrom	Greenville, WI	920-957-5781
31	Chad Schelfhout	Black Creek, WI	920-996-0360
32	Crystal Madsen	New London, WI	920-982-0406
33	Yvonne J Kaat	Menasha, WI	(920) 720-0036
34	Kate Larsen	Appleton, WI	(920) 882-0450
35	Kate Paedler	Appleton	
36	Ana Swanson	Hortonville	WI
37	Karen Veerkamp	Appleton, WI	920-830-4000
38	Rob Dettler	Kaukauna, WI	920-766-5607
39	Pamela Hange	Appleton, WI	920-731-9719
40	Patti Peotter	Appleton WI	920-734-7044
41	Deb Smith	Appleton WI	920-954-1049
42	Debra Kugel	Appleton WI	920-731-3534
43	Joan Rakus	WI Rapids WI	
44	Hedi Focker	Weyauwega WI	920-867-2930
45	Bill Rueder	2600 Lisa St	920-249-4778
46	Charlie Simpson	New London WI	
47	Jerry Kuehler	Waupun WI	
48	Susan Abraham	Appleton WI	920-954-1520
49	Geek Wetenkamp	Manitowoc WI	
50	Dave & Polly Coyne	Appleton WI	
51			
52			
53			
54			
55			

MARTIN HANSON

P.O. Box 707

Mellen, Wisconsin 54546

PHONE & FAX: 715-274-2344

JUNE 20, 2000

May 4, 2000

DNR Board Members:

SENATOR JAMES BAUMGART

Trygve A. Solberg
James E. Tiefenthaler
Herbert F. Benke
Gerald M. O'Brien
Howard D. Poulson
Catherine L. Stepp
Stephen D. Willett

Dear Member -

A hunting season for Mourning Doves should not take place in Northern Wisconsin. It is the northern edge of their summer range.

A person could walk through the meadows and fields here for five (5) days and be lucky to see one, with the exception of where people have bird feeders.

Professor Dick Verch, Ornithologist at Northland College, has recorded data for 29 years which points to this conclusion.

Please look at the highlighted portions of the enclosed material.

Thank you -

Yours truly,

Martin Hanson

Martin Hanson

State Senator James R. Baumgart

JUN 20 2000

This is testimony to the opposition of the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things to entertain the sport of hunting, such as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input to this matter. We hope we will make a difference in favor of the MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
Agnes Kunatmann	3022 So. 10 th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081	920 458-2502
Mary Bethke	2338 Weeden Creek Rd. 53081	920 457-3740
Mary Weendink	W4001 CTH W Sheboygan Falls WI 53085	920 564-3921
Warren Sutterlin	N 4485 River Bend Drive	920-564-2767
William H. Prepster	2334 Weeden Creek Rd. Sheb. WI 53081	920-457-3718
Marion Prepster	2334 Weeden Creek Rd, Sheb. WI	920-457-3778
Corma Jentink	3104 So. 10 th St, Sheb. WI.	920 452-4242
Gladys Richter	3017 So. 10 th St. Sheb. WI 53081	920-458-1659
Emily A. Schmitt	3016 So. 10 th St. " " "	920-452-7413

This is testimony to the opposition of the CHERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things to entertain the sport of hunting, such as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input to this matter. We hope we will make a difference in favor of the MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
1 Diane Veldboom	1513. Mertens Ave, SHEBOYGAN	4588100
2 Shirley Wilson	3305 main Ave "	457-9093
3 Patricia Wagar	3616 N. 14 th St. "	458-9304
4 Dean J Rabe	2916 S. 10 th St "	4584019
5 Jean Kampmann	1506 Knoll Crest Dr. "	452-1532
6 Becky Ryba	4112 N. 50 th St. "	457-7951
7 Doris Klee	3617 N. 20 th St. "	452-9235
8 LARA LOISELLE	1721 ERIE AVE "	457-6676
9 JOANN Seefeldt	N 6968 Highview Drive "	467-6360
Dani D. M. Stronik	2217 C. 11 th St	457-7752

This is testimony to the opposition of
the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the
hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose
the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under
any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in
insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things
to entertain the sport of hunting, such
as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input
to this matter. We hope we will make
a difference in favor of the
MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
Caryl Kolenc	2825 S. 19 th St Sheboygan	920-458-8154
Lorraine Kolenc	1717 Georgian Ave Sheboygan 53081	920-457-5398
Ron Kolenc	2825 S. 19 th St.	920-458-8154
Diana Cooper	524 N. 26	920-455-4251
Scott Cooper	1304 North 17 th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081	920-457-7132
Patty Krowiorz	3910 Madeline Lane, Manitowoc 54220	920-683-3850
Linda Hummel	335 Frederick St Ply, WI 53073	920-893-2161
Rhoda Zeimann	1778 S. 12 St. Sheboygan 53081	
Arthur Kunstman	3822 S. 10 th St Sheboygan Wis 53081	920-458-2502

This is testimony to the opposition of
the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the
hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned strongly oppose
the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under
any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in
insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things
to entertain the sport of hunting, such
as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input
to this matter. We hope we will make
a difference in favor of the
MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
Elaine J. Wohlrahe	2229 N. 24 th St. Sheboygan	920-458-3264
Margaret E. Fetterer	2122 N. 8 th St. Sheboygan	920-457-4096
Marion Grube	2411 W. 10 th St. Sheboygan	920-452-9801
Sue Ritt	718 Armstrong Ave Howard Grove, WI	920-565-2980
Jill Wohlrahe	2403 N. 20 St. Sheboygan	920-457-5810
Mr & Mrs Charles Panda	18232 County Rd Xl Keil	920-894-4925
Carol Wohlrahe	2529 N. 24 th St. Sheboygan, WI	920-458-3264
Jan Galtry	3026 60 th St. Kameoka WI	1-262-652-1977
Lenny S. Wohlrahe	1542 W. 27 th Pl. Sheb. Wis	1-920-452-4459

This is testimony to the opposition of
 the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the
 hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned strongly oppose
 the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under
 any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in
 insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things
 to entertain the sport of hunting, such
 as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input
 to this matter. We hope we will make
 a difference in favor of the
 MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
Jean Seymour	705 S 22nd St Sheboygan	920-451-3116
Torrod Jackett	" " " "	"
Cheryl Jackett	929 Citrus Lane Cleveland	693-8198
Janelle Dacosh	2118 N 8 th Str., Sheboygan ^{WI}	452-3088
Jeff Bruggink	1917 N 5th St Sheboygan	803-9947
Alfred Bannan	1816 S. 22 St Sheboygan	457-1239
LARRY Seymour	705 S. 22nd St Sheboygan	920-451-3115
Edward Schneider	716 South 22 St Sheboygan	452-6141

This is testimony to the opposition of the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the hunting of the MORNING DOVE.

We, the undersigned strongly oppose the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things to entertain the sport of hunting, such as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input to this matter. We hope we will make a difference in favor of the MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
John Henderson	2200 N. 15th St. Sheboygan WI 53081	9204574740
Elaine Rolenc	2404 Center Ave Sheboygan WI 53081	9204574740
Dennis J. Rolenc	206031 BRADY LANE ELLI WI 53080	
Betty Fohrman	615 Evans Ave Sheboygan WI 53081	920458371
Jackie Buttk	2221 N 15 St Sheb WI 53083	9206279297
Maureen Schenabeck	3208 S 18 St Sheb WI	9204589035
Landy Rolenc	1628 Terry Orchard Ave.	9204581622
D. J. Rolenc	1628 Terry Orchard Ave	

This is testimony to the opposition of
 the CLERRING HOUSE RULE pertaining to the
 hunting of the MORNING DOVE. (shoot Crows)

Well, the undersigned strongly oppose
 the hunting of the MORNING DOVE under
 any circumstances.

That bird is very beneficial in
 insect control in our environment.

We believe there are other things
 to entertain the sport of hunting, such
 as clay birds, clay ducks, etc.

We appreciate you hearing our input
 to this matter. We hope we will make
 a difference in favor of the
 MORNING DOVE NOT being hunted.

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone #
Margaret M. Brunette	2620B Cross Creek Dr.	458-1501
Carole Makrevis	2418 Wedemeyer Dr.	457-7920
as Petemann	1906 Custer Ave	452-0915
Barbara Schrimpf	3954 So. 22nd St.	452-2351
Emma Kries	2317 So 12 Street	45-75379
Emalie Wegner	1130 Ashland av	
Charlotte Smith	617 N Frank St.	920-4584966

Sheboygan Wisconsin 53081

June 20th, 2000

Mr James Baumgart
Fx - 608-267-6796

Dear Mr Baumgart

Thank you for your prompt response to my letter on the proposed dove hunt in Wisconsin.

However, it's sounds like you could be in favor of such a hunt. Remember that it is the voice of the people in your district that needs to be heard. The vast majority of person I've had conversation with on this proposal, are against it.

Wisconsin Public radio, did a straw poll and found that there was a 5 to 1 majority of call ins that were oppose to dove hunting.

I can not travel to Madison to the hearing, so I am depending on you to be my voice. Please make it loud and clear that I am opposed to dove hunting in Wisconsin.

I would sorely miss the soft cooing of these beautiful symbols of peace.

Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Sincerely

Susan Hay
6215 Fetzer Rd
Manitowoc WI 54220

Wexler, James

From: Legislative Hotline
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2000 11:31 AM
To: Sen.Baumgart
Subject: Legislative Hotline Message

Senator Baumgart;

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

Mrs Glen Conger
323 1st St
Waldo, WI 53093
(920) 528-8060

Date: 06/20/2000
Time: 11:26:00

NO CALL REQUIRED

opposed to dove hunting

Call Received by erp Senate Page

June 20, 2000

The Honorable Jim Baumgart
Fax: (608) 267-6796

Dear Senator Baumgart:

I am writing this letter in regard to the proposed dove-hunting season, to which I am strongly in opposition of.

As we all know, the dove is an extremely gentle and beautiful bird and is not a bother to anyone and it is our state symbol of peace.

If there were some reason to shoot these birds, other than the evident urge to kill, a hunting season may be in order. However, in our increasingly violent society, what kind of message does this send to our youth, or society as a whole for that matter?

I ask for your support in opposing this inhumane proposal and treatment for the wholesale slaughter of our state symbol.

Cordially,



Susan Pitroski
411 North 5th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

June 20, 2000

Mr. Jim Baumgart
Fax: 608-267-6796

Dear Mr. Baumgart:

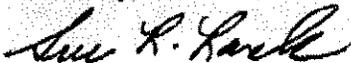
Thank you for prompt response to my letter opposing the dove hunt in Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, I cannot travel to Madison to express my abhorrence for this proposed hunt, so I have to rely on elected officials such as yourself.

I can only hope that the majority of your constituents are opposed to this sad, inhumane, attack on those peaceable birds and that you will voice opposition to this proposal.

How sad that hunters feel they don't have enough species to kill - what a world we live in!

Cordially,



Sue R. Rank
1526 North Rapids Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Henderson, Patrick

From: Sue [firstucc@excel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2000 1:15 PM
To: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: rep.kestell@legis.state.wi.us; firstcongucc@excel.net
Subject: Mourning Dove Hunt

Jim:

Just say No to Hunting Our State Peace Symbol!

Shame on the DNR, legislative reps. and hunters! I cannot believe that a hunting season will be allowed on the state "peace symbol" based on approx. 21,000 hunters in the State of Wisconsin. I am so angry and upset about this. This should not even be an issue to be discussed. What does this say about the State of Wisconsin when we allow our peace symbol to be killed? There are 38 other states allowing a Mourning Dove hunt. Let the State of Wisconsin show these other states that we stand behind what we declare and protect our "peace symbol" from being hunted.

Hunters have admitted that is a ploy so they do not lose their hunting rights and privileges. By coming up with this hunting idea, I think they're going to find more people will have more of a negative response towards them than positive. I for one already do. (I do come from a long line of hunters and fishermen and women. Although I do not hunt, I do fish).

Jim, what are you thinking when you want to agree with only 600 hunters from the Sheboygan County area that we need to kill our "peace symbol"? If it's because you could lose 600 votes – think about the thousands of other voters in your area who are non-hunters and do not agree with this hunt. This figure is not a true representation of voters in Sheboygan County.

The DNR claims that there is an ample population to sustain a hunt. So what! The ample population has not caused any reparable harm to the state.

The Mourning Dove is:

- *Peaceful. We did not make a mistake in choosing this bird as our "peace symbol." Thousands of Wisconsinites spend thousands of dollars in purchasing birdseed to feed these beautiful birds at their backyard feeders. Ask them what they think about this proposed hunt.
- *Monogamous. Other game birds and animals such as turkey, grouse, pheasant, and deer are polygamous. If a Mourning Dove loses its mate, the surviving dove usually dies within a year of loneliness.
- *Not a Nuisance. Doves do not harm crops or cause car damage. They are peaceful. Their gentle cooing sounds indicate this as well.

The Mourning Dove has:

- *Natural Predators. Doves are killed by domestic and feral cats, Red-Tailed Hawks, humans (cars), and hit windows as well.

For six years, my husband and I have lived on 32 acres and half of our property is in the CRP program. We have invested quite a large sum of money into our property to provide habitat and food for wildlife. Just this year, we had native flowers and prairie grasses planted by the DNR to help provide better habitat for wildlife. We are also planting 2,000 trees and shrubs this year on the CRP acres. We consider our entire property a wildlife refuge. When other people are complaining about wildlife damaging their property, we have learned to co-exist. My husband used to bow hunt and rifle hunt deer. However, he has given up hunting because of the idiots out there hunting now and he would rather observe the wildlife than kill them.

I have voted for you, Jim, since you first started in politics. Through the years, I thought you were open-minded and had done a great job especially regarding issues on environment and conservation. But I have to say, that your decision to agree with this hunt does not sit well with me. I hope you rethink this hunting issue.

Thanks for listening,
Suzanne K. Meves
W4451N Cty Rd A
Plymouth WI 53073
920-876-2185

Wexler, James

From: David Lagerman [davdlou@danet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2000 8:40 AM
To: sen.baumgart@legis.state.wi.us; sen.wirch@legis.state.wi.us; wisgov@gov.state.wi.us
Subject: Mourning Doves

Hello,

I've been against the mourning dove hunting all along, but I'd like to share something that happened to me a few days ago as I drove into town from my country home.

I could see a bird standing in the middle of the road, near a road kill. I slowed, even though I know the birds see us as slow, lumbering objects and always get out of the way. The bird turned out to be a mourning dove and it didn't get out of the way until the very, very last minute -- it was standing near its mate that had been killed on the road.

How can we condone killing a species that mates for life? Will the hunters be careful to kill both in a pair? We have no idea what birds feel and I'm not trying to anthropomorphize this, but I saw what I saw and we should give this aspect some thought as well.

Sincerely,
Louise Mann
W7118 Hwy U
Plymouth WI 53073
920-528-7343