



## 2023 Mourning Dove Hunting Fact Sheet

The 2023 Nebraska dove season (mourning dove, Eurasian collared-dove, and white-winged dove) starts Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 30, with aggregate daily bag and possession limits of 15 and 45, respectively. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset, and doves must be shot in flight. Resident dove 16 years and older, and all nonresidents, are required to have a 2023 small game hunting license and habitat stamp, as well as a 2023 Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number. HIP numbers are free and can be obtained by registering online at [GoOutdoorsNE.com](https://GoOutdoorsNE.com) or by contacting any Game and Parks district office or service center. State and federal duck stamps are NOT required to hunt doves. Eurasian collared-doves may be harvested between Oct. 31 and Aug. 31, with bag and possession limits of 15 and 45, respectively.

Dove hunters are encouraged to look for leg bands on any doves they harvest. Biologists in Nebraska and from across the country placed bands on thousands of doves during summer 2023, and hunters can play a vital role in dove management by reporting any bands they recover. To report recovered bands, visit [reportband.gov](https://reportband.gov). Nebraska is also partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters. Randomly selected dove hunters from the HIP database will be asked to save one wing from each dove they harvest during the first week of the season and mail them, postage free, to the USFWS.

Sunflowers, millet, or wheat, which generally provide good dove hunting opportunities, have been planted at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) listed below. Preseason scouting will improve your hunting success and is highly recommended. Publicly accessible lands, including federal, state, and private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters Program, can be found in the 2023-24 *Public Access Atlas*, which is available online at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://OutdoorNebraska.gov).

- North-Central: Bobcat (6 acres wheat [2 fields]), Calamus Reservoir (12 acres of milo/millet [4 fields], 10 acres sunflowers/annual weeds [4 fields]), Harold W. Andersen (2 acres annual weeds, 2 acres milo), Keller (stock tank overflow), Leonard A. Koziol (15 acres annual weeds, 8 acres milo, 3 acres corn), Myrtle Hall (annual weed patches scattered throughout pastures), Pine Glen (6 acres wheat [2 fields]), Plum Creek Valley (stock tank overflow east of county road), Pressey (30 acres annual weeds, 50 acres milo), Sherman Reservoir (3.5 acres sunflowers, 75 acres annual weeds, 90 acres milo), Thomas Creek (3.5 acres wheat [3 fields]).
- Northeast: Black Island (2 acres sunflowers/millet/milo/annual weeds, 1 acre sunflowers), Don Dworak (25 acres milo, 3 acres milo/millet), Elk Point Bend (20 acres milo/annual weeds, 30 acres annual weeds, 1 stock tank overflow), George D. Syas (25 acres milo, 3 acres milo/millet, 2 acres annual weeds), Grove Lake (6 acres wheat stubble, 90 acres harvested rye with cover crop, 20 acres annual weeds/small grains), Oak Valley (15 acres sunflowers/millet/milo/annual weeds, 2 acres sunflowers), Thompson-Barnes (8 acres sunflowers/millet/milo/annual weeds, 12 acres annual weeds), Red Fox (5 acres annual

weeds), Wilkinson (60 acres milo, 3 acres wheat stubble, non-toxic shot only), Wood Duck (20 acres sunflowers/millet/milo/annual weeds, 2 acres sunflowers, 1 stock tank overflow).

- Southeast: Alexandria (5 acres sunflowers, 5 ac upland bird mix [2 fields]), Branched Oak (8 acres wheat/rye [2 field], 18 acres sunflowers [4 fields], 8 acres corn/annual weeds [3 fields]), Dry Sandy (7 acres sunflowers [1 field]), Flathead (3 acres sunflowers [1 field]), Little Salt Creek West (3 acres sunflowers [1 field]; non-toxic shot only), Meridian (4 acres spring wheat [2 fields]), Olive Creek (annual weeds, 3 acres corn/milo), Osage (33 acres sunflowers [8 fields]), Pawnee (12.5 acres sunflowers [1 field]), Rake's Creek (5 acres sunflowers [4 fields]), Rose Creek (2 acres sunflowers [1 fields]), Rose Creek West (2 acres sunflowers [1 fields]), Schilling (25 acres sunflowers), Twin Lakes (21 acres sunflowers [5 fields], 17 acres wheat [4 fields]), James N. Douglas (11 acres sunflowers [1 field]), Wildwood (14 acres sunflowers [3 fields], 6 acres wheat [2 fields]), Yankee Hill (11.5 acres sunflowers [3 fields], 28 acres milo [5 fields]).
- Southwest: Cedar Valley (2 acres sunflowers/millet [2 fields], 5 acres annual weeds, 2 stock ponds with adjacent annual weeds), Clear Creek (44 acres rye/triticale stubble, 25 acres milo, 20 acres millet, 100+ acres annual weeds, non-toxic shot only), Enders Reservoir (6 fields of annual weeds, 5-20 acres in size), Medicine Creek (20 fields of wheat stubble, 6-25 acres in size; marijuana patches in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres), North River (60 acres annual weeds), Red Willow Reservoir (marijuana patches in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres; 5 acres ragweed/annual weeds), Swanson Reservoir (12 fields of wheat stubble, 5-24 acres in size; marijuana patches in grazed pastures, 2-3 acres; 10 acres milo), Wapiti (13 stock tanks/1 stock pond with adjacent annual weeds, marijuana patches in grazed pastures).
- South-Central: Bassway Strip (100 acres annual weeds), Bittern's Call (80 acres annual weeds, non-toxic shot only), Cornhusker (120 acres annual weeds/ corn, soybean, milo foodplots), Cozad (25 acres annual weeds), Dogwood (60 acres annual weeds), Pintail (10 acres milo/annual weeds, non-toxic shot only), Narrows WMA (5 acres milo/annual weeds), Sacramento-Wilcox (70 acres wheat stubble, 60 acres milo standing, 60 acres annual weeds, non-toxic shot only).
- Panhandle: Arnold Trupp (5 acre millet/milo), Bighorn (27 acres rye/wheat), Bordeaux Creek (100 acres grass planting with annual weeds, 15 acres millet/milo, 12 acres rye, 3 acres oats), Box Butte Reservoir (1 acre millet/milo, 15 acres grass planting with annual weeds), Buffalo Creek (4 acres millet/milo [3 fields]), Chadron Creek Ranch (12 acres rye), Fort Robinson WMA (8 acres rye), Gilbert-Baker (9.5 acres rye), Metcalf (11 acres rye), Nine Mile Creek (6 acres millet/milo/sunflowers), Petersen (70 acres grass planting with annual weeds, 11.5 acres oats/milo/sunflowers, 9 acres rye), Ponderosa (30 acres grass planting with annual weeds, 33 acres rye), Smith Lake WMA 2 acres millet/milo/sunflower, Williams Gap and Cedar Canyon can also provide good hunting opportunities around stock ponds or tanks.

Other public and private lands throughout the state can provide good dove hunting opportunities depending on local conditions. Contact your nearest Game and Parks district office or service center for area-specific information. Remember that hunters must obtain landowner permission prior to accessing privately-owned lands in Nebraska.