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Extension Sets 3 Dove Appreciation Days Across Texas

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SAN ANGELO – Widespread rainfall across Texas should mean excellent dove hunting for much of the state, according to a Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife expert at San Angelo.

“Prospects for the upcoming dove season, which starts Sept. 1, look quite good at this point,” said Dr. Dale Rollins, Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo. “The excellent rains across most of the state have been a boon to doves and especially to dove feeding habitats. There’s such an abundance of sunflowers, that the hunter’s problem may be a dilution of doves across the landscape. Having a back-up plan that might include a stock pond or evening flyway may be good insurance for a successful hunt.”

Extension has scheduled three Dove Appreciation Days to help hunters, land managers and owners get ready for the coming season:

-Aug. 20, Stephens County, Jackson Rural Event Center – contact Leslie Neve at 254-559-2313. Registration is \$5 by Aug. 13 or \$10 at the door. Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered.

-Aug. 21, Runnels County, Winters Community Center – contact Marty Gibbs at 325-365-2219. Pre-registration is \$15 by Aug. 15 and \$25 at the door. Two continuing education units will be offered.

-Aug. 22, Glasscock County, Garden City Community Center – contact Rebel Royall at 432-354-2381. Pre-registration is \$15 by Aug. 17 and \$25 at the door. Two continuing education units will be offered.

All three programs last from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and share similar programming.

The morning sessions deal with habitat management practices and the afternoon sessions will be devoted to field tours.

“The backbone of the dove season in Texas still rests on the mourning dove, but in recent years both the white-winged dove and the introduced Eurasian collared dove have increased dramatically,” Rollins said. “The latter two doves tend to concentrate in urban settings, but usually travel to nearby fields to forage. We’ll also discuss these birds during the seminars.”

Dove hunting in Texas has changed in recent years, he said.

“Good dove hunting is something most of us in Texas have pretty much taken for granted, but what used to be a sure bet has been more erratic in recent years,” Rollins said. “Whether one is managing purely for personal recreation or for profit, the information presented at these dove seminars should improve one’s hunting opportunities.”

For more information, contact Rollins at 325-653-4576 or by e-mail at d-rollins@tamu.edu. Program updates will be posted at <http://teamquail.tamu.edu>.