



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dove Hunting 2008

Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge

Set in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge invites visitors to slow down and enjoy the tranquil splendor found here. Located at the junction of the Great Plains and the Gulf Coast bioregions, life tends to be rich and unusual. The rare limestone geology of the Edwards Plateau adds to the mystique and fascinating plants and animals which have adapted and live here and nowhere else.

Balcones Canyonlands NWR is one of over 540 national wildlife refuges. At least one national wildlife refuge is located in every state. To learn more about refuges in Texas and the Southwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit the website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges>.

Dove hunting in Texas is enjoyed by old and young alike. Each year, millions of hunters take to the field during the opening of dove season. Sons, daughters, husbands, wives grandparents and friends enjoy good company when "dove" season opens. Many youngsters enjoy their very first hunting experience during this time; many form enduring memories from their first hunt.

Staff at Balcones Canyonlands NWR established and improved habitat in six sites using native plants. This 100 acres is open and available for dove hunting. A pond and one stream bisect the southern portion of this dove hunting area.

Dove Hunting Regulations

- You must pay for, possess, and carry a Refuge permit while hunting on all hunt units of the Refuge.
- We require proof that hunters possess a valid Texas hunting license.
- Legal game includes mourning doves, white-winged doves, rock doves and Eurasian collared-doves.
- **We require the use of non-toxic shot, approved for waterfowl hunting** (such as steel or bismuth shot).
- We prohibit shooting at other birds or wildlife during this hunt season.

- We allow hunting from noon to sunset, September 1-4, 2008.
- All hunters must be 10-years old or older. An adult 21 years of age or older must supervise hunters age 10-17 inclusive.
- We allow scouting on the property *only* during the designated dove hunting times and dates.
- We allow the use of dogs for retrieving game birds; they must be under control at all times.
- We prohibit the use or possession of alcohol of any kind on refuge lands.
- Shotguns must be plugged and hold no more than three shells at one time.
- We may immediately close the entire Refuge or any portion thereof to hunting for the protection of resources as determined by the Refuge Manager.
- No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged doves. Rock doves and Eurasian collared doves have no bag limit.
- Hunters shall kill wounded birds immediately and include these in the daily bag limit.
- We allow vehicular travel on designated roads and in parking areas. We prohibit hunting from roads and blocking access to any road or trail entering or on the Refuge.
- In addition to Federal regulations, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department laws and regulations are in effect unless further restricted by Federal law or regulation.

Hunting Safety

- Do not load your shotgun until you are at your chosen hunt site. Unload your shotgun as soon as you are done hunting.
- Do not shoot at low-flying birds under any circumstance.
- Do not shoot at birds perched on power lines.
- Be aware of the positions of your fellow hunters.

Hunting Permits

To obtain a dove hunting permit:

Hunters may purchase permits at the dove hunting area during the designated hunting times and dates or at the Refuge Office on FM 1431 during business hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dove hunting permits are \$15.00.

We accept cash, certified check, or money orders for the exact amount.

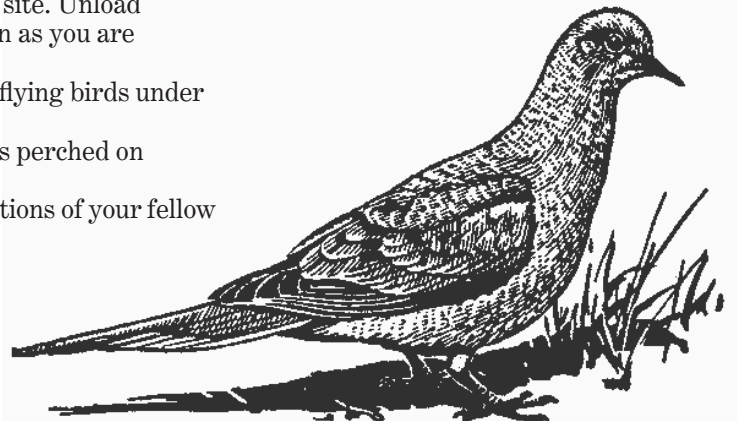
Big Game Hunting

The Refuge offers limited big-game hunting through a public draw system. We require payment of an application fee and hunting permit fee prior to hunting for big-game on the Refuge. Applications are due mid-August. For additional information, contact the Refuge Office at 512/339-9432 or visit our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/balcones>.

For further information

Balcones Canyonlands
National Wildlife Refuge
24518 FM 1431, Box 1
Marble Falls, TX 78654
512/339-9432

August 2008



**Balcones Canyonlands NWR
Map to Dove Hunting Area**

