

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Early Season Migratory Bird Recommendations

2014-15 Seasons

### Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

#### Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule.

The hunting seasons for early migratory birds during the 2014-2015 hunting season shall be as follows:

**Dove:** The term “dove” refers to the following species, and only the following species: mourning doves, white-winged doves, Eurasian collared-doves, and ringed-turtle doves.

#### Dove South Zone:

September 6 – 14

October 11 – December 3

December 20 – January 15

#### Dove North Zone:

September 6 – 28

October 11 – November 9

December 10 – January 15

**Bag Limit:** Mourning and white-winged doves and fully dressed Eurasian collared- and ringed turtle-doves: Daily bag limit 15 in aggregate, Possession 45 in aggregate, but note: there is no bag limit on Eurasian collared-doves or ringed turtle-doves provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass of the bird. Fully dressed Eurasian-collared doves and ringed-turtle doves (those without a fully feathered wing and head naturally attached to the carcass) shall be included in the aggregate bag.

**Dove Hunting Zones:** The state shall be divided into North and South Dove Hunting Zones by the following boundary: Beginning at the Texas-Louisiana border on La. Highway 12; thence east along La. Highway 12 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 190; thence east along U.S. Highway 190 to its intersection with Interstate 12; thence east along Interstate 12 to its intersection with Interstate 10; thence east along Interstate 10 to the Mississippi state line.

**Teal:** September 13 - September 28

Daily bag limit 6, possession limit 18, blue-winged, green-winged and Cinnamon teal only. Federal and state waterfowl stamps required.

**Rails:** Split Season, Statewide, 70 days

September 13 - September 28

Remainder of season to be set in August with the duck regulations.

**King and Clapper:** Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate and possession 45 in the aggregate.

**Sora and Virginia:** Daily bag limit 25 in the Aggregate and possession 75 in the aggregate.

**Gallinules:** Split Season, Statewide, 70 days

September 13 - September 28

Remainder of season to be set in August with the duck regulations.

**Common and Purple:** Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, possession of 45 in the aggregate.

**Woodcock:** December 18 - January 31, Statewide

Daily bag limit 3, possession limit 9.

**Snipe:** Deferred to be set in August with the duck regulations.

### **Extended Falconry Season**

**Mourning Doves:** Statewide

September 15 - October 1

**Woodcock:** Split Season, Statewide

October 28 - December 17

February 1 - February 11

Falconry daily bag and possession limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during the extended falconry seasons and regular hunting seasons. Remainder of extended falconry seasons for ducks, rails, gallinules to be set in August with the duck regulations.

### **Shooting and Hawking Hours:**

**Dove:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Except opening day on WMA properties only, open at 12:00 noon.

**Teal, rails, gallinules, and woodcock:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 100,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits, and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective on September 1, 2014 and extend through sunset on February 28, 2015.

Billy Broussard

Chairman