

VIRGINIA
PROJECTS HAVING PRESENT OR POTENTIAL AFFECTS ON
SIGNIFICANT FISH AND GAME POPULATIONS

None of the channel straightening or deepening projects listed on the map will affect wildlife.

The reservoir projects listed have not been investigated by the Commission of Game and Inland Fish as such. We have relied on Bill Lawson and the Branch of River Basin, and call on him for this work.

The Commission's annual budget is approximately 2½ million dollars. Of this amount none is set aside specifically for investigation of civil works projects. Any work done along this line is assigned to the person most familiar to the project and is paid out of incidental State funds.

**MINUTES OF DOVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, OCTOBER 20, 1958**

ROLLAND B. HANDLEY, *Chairman*; DAN RUSSELL, *Vice-Chairman*
LEONARD FOOTE, FRANK WINSTON, ST. CLAIR THOMPSON, W. H. KIEL, JR.

A meeting of the Dove Committee of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society was held October 20, 1958, at the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, in conjunction with the 12th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners. Twenty persons were in attendance, representing various states in the Southeast and other organizations including Indiana Department of Conservation, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, North Carolina State College, Remington Farms, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation and Wildlife Management Institute.

Representatives of various organizations discussed inventory and management techniques that are summarized as follows.

Mr. Harold S. Peters presented his findings on "The Cost Estimates of Dove Hunting," as taken from his 1957 report to the Wildlife Society. Mr. Peters stated that there were more doves shot annually than the combined waterfowl species, and, in view of the amount of funds contributed to the Pittman-Robertson program, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service should recognize this fact and assign more than just one man to dove study.

Mr. Peters also gave detailed information on call counts made in studies of individual doves covering sixty-minute listening periods. His findings revealed some doves call at random while others do not. Calling behavior was apparently the same at fourteen stations in two midwest life zones.

Mr. Scott Overton described his work at North Carolina State College on the problem of applying statistical procedures to collection of kill data. Through this study he is attempting to assemble kill survey data from throughout the country that will be obtained from sources other than total license-sales structures. The objective of the survey is to obtain kill data usable in making region-wide estimates indicative of the dove population.

Mr. William H. Kiel, Jr. presented a report on banding operations, reviewing the numbers of nestlings banded and recovered for each state participating in the five-year cooperative dove-banding program. He stressed the need for more local banding of nestlings and more even distribution of banding within the individual states. He suggested that Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife game agents be requested to band nestling doves, to which Mr. Parker Smith added that Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife refuge personnel also be requested to carry out a nestling banding program.

Mr. Kiel brought to the attention of the group that a Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife employee was being assigned to conduct a study on the incidence and severity of *trichomoniasis* in doves. Individual states and cooperators will be notified of this study and informed of ways they may assist.

Mr. Walter Crissey led a discussion on dove roadside-call-count techniques and results. He emphasized the fact that more additional data were needed, citing such examples as methods of estimating relative numbers of doves in each regional population and selecting call-count routes representative of production areas, fearing that routes selected by state personnel are biased in that they have a tendency to favor more populated areas. He further pointed out that establishing routes according to life zones or physiographic regions might result in a more representative sample of the population being counted. He also suggested that for administrative and technical purposes, management units encompassing the three major migration and movement patterns be established.

Mr. St. Clair Thompson discussed losses in bands resulting from use of size 3-A bands on nestlings, stating as much as a 50 percent loss of bands will occur if nestlings of less than seven or eight days of age are banded with size 3-A bands. Some loss of bands will occur when nestlings are banded with size 3-A bands, regardless of the age. He believes the use of size 3 bands on nestlings seven days old or older will eliminate band losses.

Mr. Leonard Foote reported on dove research needs, listing them as being of a similar nature to those enumerated in Mourning Dove Investigations, 1948-1956, Technical Bulletin Number 1 of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners. He indicated a lack of follow-up on recommendations covering these needs.

Mr. Dan Russell led a discussion stressing organizational needs of a dove research and investigations program designed to promote sound management of the species. Procedural steps for establishing such an organization were suggested as follows :

1. That the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society elect or appoint a permanent, sectional, dove committee in order that continuity of effort may be realized.
2. That the duly selected permanent dove committee designate sub-committees for special studies as the need arises.
3. That the administrator of each state's duly authorized game and fish conservation agency within the Southeastern region designate a representative to serve as a liaison between the state and the permanent dove committee.
4. That state representatives, sub-committee and permanent committee members meet annually as a management unit to discuss problems and progress and to make recommendations for harvest and sustained management.
5. That from the participants at each annual meeting, one or two representatives be selected to represent the management unit, preferably as part of a nationwide system, at an annual regulation committee meeting in Washington, D. C., prior to August 1.
6. That a central point be selected, preferably Patuxent Research Refuge, at Laurel, Maryland, for submitting to, collection of, and dispersal from all general information pertinent to all dove workers and to those having special dove studies.

By unanimous vote of the members of the Dove Committee, it is resolved that the recommendations for organizational procedure, as outlined by Mr. Russell, be forwarded to the President of the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, requesting that he in turn advise the state administrators of the Southeastern region of these recommendations, requesting from them a commitment of acceptance.