

Licenses now out

One million resident hunting, combination hunting-fishing and exempt hunting licenses are on their way to license sales deputies and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices across the state.

Mailed Aug. 13, the licenses should be available for sale to sportsmen during the week of Aug. 16. They will be valid for use on Sept. 1.

P&WD officials say the 1976-77 licenses are much the same as they were last year, with buck and antlerless deer tags and turkey tags printed on waterproof, tear-resistant paper. Date of kill on deer tags this year either may be marked out in ink or cut from the tag.

License fees also are unchanged — \$8.75 for a combination hunting

and fishing license, \$5.25 for resident hunting and 25 cents for a resident exempt license.

Usual spaces for white-winged dove and federal migratory waterfowl stamps are to be found on the licenses. Hunters heading to the Rio Grande Valley for the Sept. 4-6, 11-12 white-wing dove season need a \$3 white-winged dove stamp and should obtain it before arriving in the Valley.

P&WD offices in the Valley usually have long lines in front during the whitewing season. The stamps are available at department district offices throughout most of Texas and at larger license sales deputies in major metropolitan areas.

More pheasants for Texas

BEAUMONT — With pheasant populations successfully established in portions of Liberty and Matagorda Counties, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has turned its attention to Jefferson and Chambers Counties on the upper Texas coast.

The two counties are slated to receive some 2,000 ring-necked pheasants hatched and reared at the P&WD's Management and Research Station in Tyler. Last releases will be made by late October.

According to P&WD upland game program director Al Springs, some four weeks are required to hatch eggs at the M&R Station with the pheasant chicks reared in captivity for another eight weeks.

Majority of the pheasants to be stocked this summer will go to Jefferson County.

The P&WD's pheasant stocking program in Southeast Texas began in 1967 and since that time thousands of birds have been released.

In the released areas birds not only survived but reproduced enough to set hunting season for Jan. 22-30 in portions of Liberty and Matagorda Counties.

With continued success of the stocking program, P&WD officials hope pheasant hunting will be expanded in the near future to include additional counties on the upper Texas coast.

Wildlife Dept. sets seasons

Dove season opens fall hunting action

A five-day white-winged dove season and split mourning dove seasons for both the North and South Zones have been established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Whitewing season will run September 4-6 and 11-12 from noon to sunset in Brewster, Cameron, Culberson, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy and Zapata Counties.

During the concurrent mourning and white-winged dove season one fully feathered wing must remain attached to dressed birds while being transported between the place taken and a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds imported from Mexico.

Daily bag on either mourning or white-winged doves is 10 birds, with possession of 20, for all Texas dove seasons.

North Zone dove season is Sept. 1 - Oct. 14 from noon to sunset, and Jan. 1-16, 1977, 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. In counties west of the Pecos River the season ends at sunset Jan. 15.

A similar split season is set for South Zone counties: Sept. 25 - Nov. 7, noon to sunset, and Jan. 1-16, 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Fall mourning dove hunting in those South Zone counties with whitewing season will end Nov. 2.

Last year an experimental all-day season was tried in the winter segment of the South Zone with no appreciable change in dove harvest. Hunters contacted by the Parks and Wildlife Department generally were pleased with the additional hunting opportunity whether they took more doves or not.

The last previous year of all-day dove hunting was 1950.

All of the new regulations as adopted by the P&W Commission are within frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which released the maximum allowable rules for Texas and the Central Management Unit earlier this month after study of migratory bird population reports and discus-

sion with member states, interested agencies and the public.

Commissioners were told the 1976 white-winged dove breeding population is some 530,000 birds, the third highest population within the last 10 years. Adult mourning doves posted a modest six percent increase over 1975.

The commission also set seasons and bag limits for other migratory game birds including:

King and Clapper rails: Sept. - Nov. 9, Trans-Pecos season ends Oct. 31. Bag limit is 15 in the aggregate and possession is 30 in the aggregate.

Sora and Virginia rails: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, Trans-Pecos season ends Oct. 31; daily bag and possession limit, 25, singly or in the aggregate.

Shooting hours for all rails are from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Gallinules: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, Trans-Pecos season ends Oct. 31; hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag is 15, possession is 30.

In those counties west of the Pecos River, the combined daily bag limit on gallinules and all rails is 15 with a possession limit of 30, no more than 25 of which can be sora or Virginia rails.

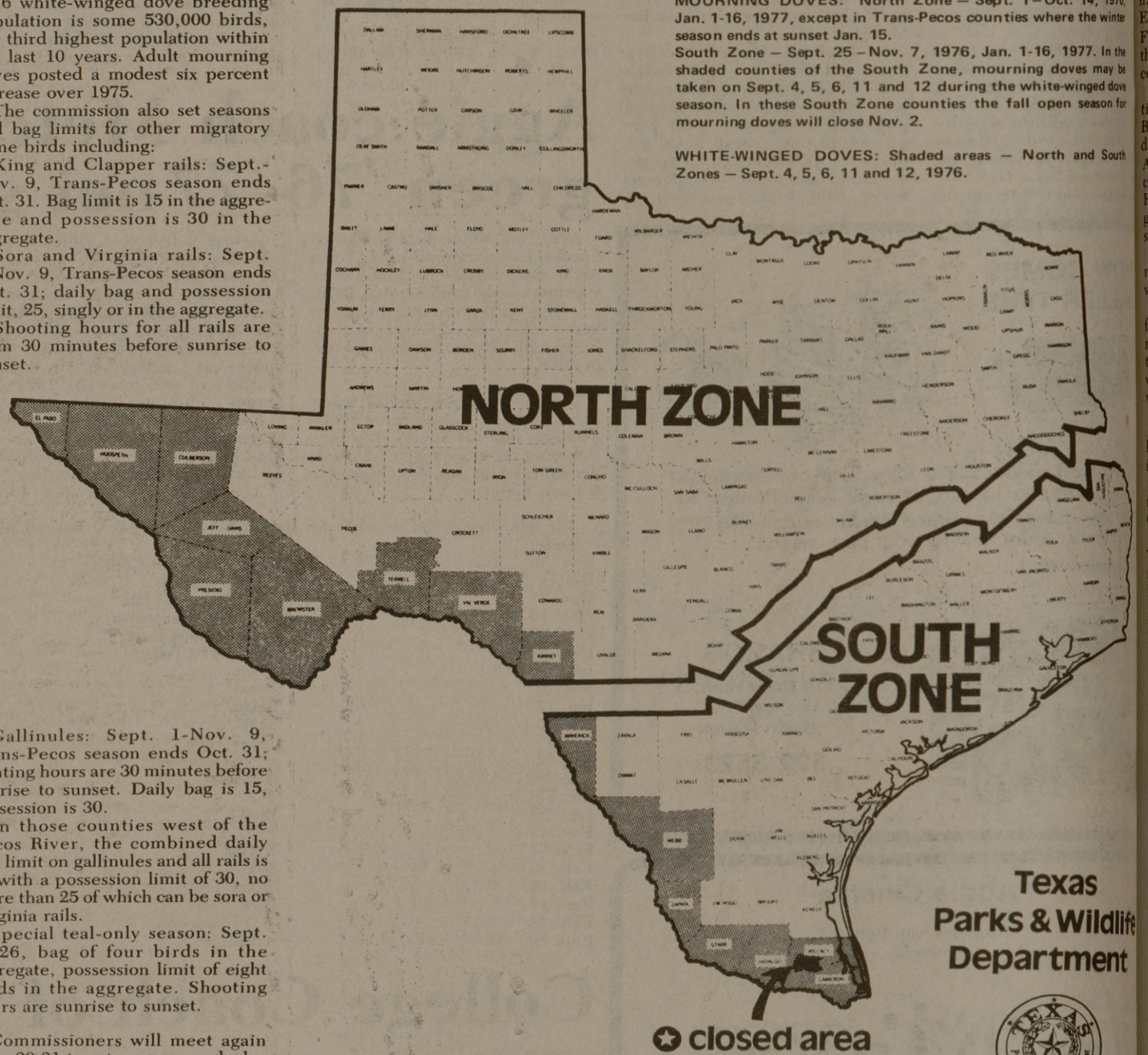
Special teal-only season: Sept. 18-26, bag of four birds in the aggregate, possession limit of eight birds in the aggregate. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

Commissioners will meet again Aug. 30-31 to set seasons on ducks, geese, coots, sandhill cranes, woodcock and snipe.

OPEN SEASONS:

MOURNING DOVES: North Zone — Sept. 1 - Oct. 14, 1976, Jan. 1-16, 1977, except in Trans-Pecos counties where the winter season ends at sunset Jan. 15.
South Zone — Sept. 25 - Nov. 7, 1976, Jan. 1-16, 1977. In the shaded counties of the South Zone, mourning doves may be taken on Sept. 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12 during the white-winged dove season. In these South Zone counties the fall open season for mourning doves will close Nov. 2.

WHITE-WINGED DOVES: Shaded areas — North and South Zones — Sept. 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12, 1976.



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Park closed for additions

AUSTIN — Improvements and additional development at Eisenhower State Recreation Area on Lake Texoma have made it necessary for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to close portions of the Grayson County park until July 1977.

Park operations officials at the P&WD say as of Aug. 9, 1976, some of the park's camping areas will be

closed so that 42 regular campsites may be converted to provide 46 multi-use sites with water and electricity with the addition of four new sites.

A picnic area will be converted to camping facilities with 20 sites and comfort station. An existing concession building will be renovated to provide a group pavilion with outdoor cooking facilities.

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