

Gentleman;

I have a suggestion regarding your policy on controlling the populations of Eurasian Collared doves. The policy of no closed season creates a large problem on opening day of the September 1<sup>st</sup> dove opener.

I have hunted the Imperial Valley opening dove season for 40+ years. This year I had scouted 5 potentially very good dove inhabited fields. I go down there 2 days early to scout both morning and evening flights into the fields.

This year, the day before the opener, there were hunters in three fields shooting at I'll assume were Eurasian doves. The result of which was a ruined opening day shoot in those 3 fields. The other two fields were not hunted prior to the opener as I observed.

As any dove hunter knows any shooting disturbance changes their later feeding habits immediately. If anyone doubts this, go to a field that was great on the first and see what it is like on the second.

My suggestion: Close the Eurasian Collared dove season two weeks prior to the September 1<sup>st</sup> opener and give the scouting sportsmen a decent chance at a successful hunt.

As you are no doubt aware the Eurasian dove primarily hang around the cities, i.e. structures and treed farms, and do not often venture into larger fields. The three areas I mentioned were near feed lots where all species feed.

If you think this has merit I would be glad to attend any California dept of fish and game meeting and express my views in front of any policymakers.

Thank you for your consideration,

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