WASHINGTON MOURNING DOVE BANDING STUDY

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ABSTRACT: Harvest rates and population trends of Washington's mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) are poorly understood. Historical call count routes are being replaced with a nation-wide band recovery survey. WDFW biologists trapped and banded 3,981 mourning doves from 2003-2005 and 2007. Hatch year birds comprised 78% of all doves banded. Band returns (*n* = 205) show that the majority of doves are harvested locally (89%). The direct harvest rate is estimated at 2.1%; overall harvest rate is approximately 2.9%.

TRAPPING AND BANDING

Biologists used Kniffin modified funnel traps pre-baited with wheat, millet, or sunflower seed.

Doves were banded with standard USFWS bands or double-banded with $100 reward bands or plain gold bands. Reward bands allow researchers to determine the band reporting rate, currently estimated at 58%.


After Hatch Year

Biologists used wing character to determine age. Hatch year birds comprised 78% of doves trapped.

Hatch Year

Mourning Dove Banding Effort

2003	2004	2005	2007
1 - 24	1 - 24	1 - 24	1 - 24
25 - 49	25 - 49	25 - 49	25 - 49
50 - 99	50 - 99	50 - 99	50 - 99
100 - 199	100 - 199	100 - 199	100 - 199
200 - 275	200 - 275	200 - 275	200 - 275
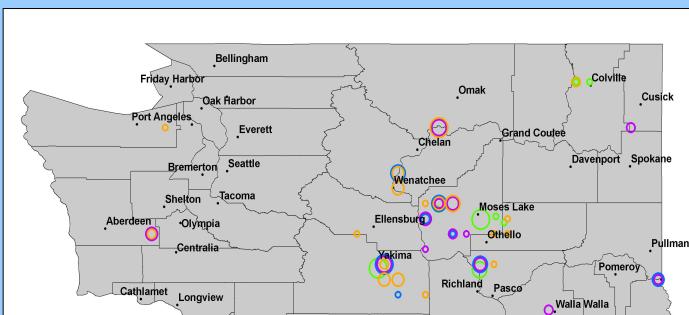
Dove banding effort was concentrated in central Washington and the Columbia Basin.

BAND RECOVERY

Mourning Dove Band Recoveries 2003-2007
→ Path of recovery
* Banding location

Mourning Dove Band Recoveries in WA
2003-2007
○ 1 - 2
○ 3 - 4
○ 5 - 10
○ 11 - 18
○ 19 - 28
* Banding location
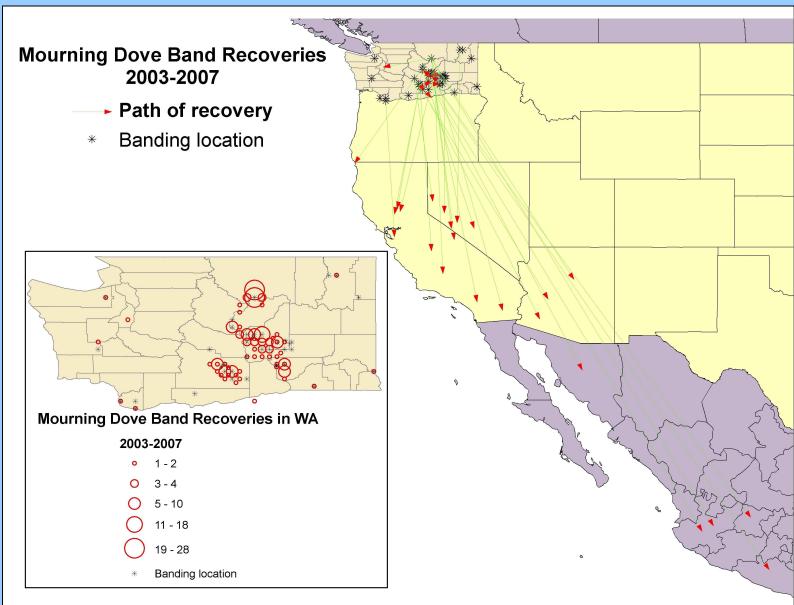
The majority of mourning doves were harvested in Washington (89%). A few made it all the way to Mexico!

YEAR	MODO TRAPPED	BANDS RECOV.	HARVEST RATE	DIRECT HARVEST
2003	919	74	4.5%	2.8%
2004	1,143	67	3.3%	2.2%
2005	1,256	47	2.1%	1.8%
2007	663	17	1.4%	1.4%
TOTAL	3,981	205	2.9%	2.1%

Harvest rates are determined by multiplying the recovery rate by the reporting rate (58%). The sample size for adults was too small to determine age-specific harvest rates.