

Conservation

Get Outdoors!

Besides going hunting and fishing, you and your family can take advantage of autumn's cooler temperatures by going camping! Fewer folks go camping this time of year, so you might have the area mostly to yourself. Plan outdoor activities like hiking, birdwatching, stargazing, campfire storytelling, and smores of course! Sounds great!

Hunting Tip

Sept. 1 is when dove hunting season opens! Make sure you are ready to go by cleaning your shotgun and getting your Hunter Education Course finished. Other hunting seasons that open during September and October are teal, resident Canada goose, several deer and elk seasons, deer gun youth season, fall turkey archery, black bear archery and muzzleloader, and pronghorn archery. Ask someone to take you hunting this fall!

Fishing Tip

The water starts to cool off in the fall, and bass slow down. They hang out in shallower areas. And they don't have as much energy to strike a lure as they do during the summer. Improve your chances by downsizing your lure, and slowing your retrieve. Fish closer to the bank, and use brighter lure colors. A topwater buzz bait might annoy a big bass enough to entice a strike.

for Kids!

Word Search: Game Birds in Oklahoma

F	S	W	J	I	T	W	U	Y	H	U	T	A	O	I	L
S	V	B	Z	W	K	N	M	P	S	M	D	Y	R	L	N
W	N	W	N	U	G	Z	C	B	C	V	G	I	O	Q	U
H	U	M	E	E	V	O	D	G	N	I	N	R	U	O	M
I	M	P	O	G	A	D	W	A	L	L	C	N	T	L	G
Y	W	A	L	D	E	E	B	O	B	W	H	I	T	E	S
T	K	C	O	C	D	O	O	W	C	D	A	B	M	N	T
K	O	L	I	A	U	Q	D	E	L	A	C	S	O	H	N
L	Z	P	X	K	N	T	L	E	T	Y	M	W	N	F	A
V	S	R	I	J	W	U	E	P	B	Z	G	E	I	V	S
L	S	I	A	X	N	R	K	I	V	O	N	S	B	B	A
E	O	O	K	I	N	K	P	N	O	U	P	K	I	N	E
B	Y	C	L	O	D	E	H	S	J	D	F	P	S	G	H
C	O	L	E	B	P	Y	E	K	I	X	M	H	J	N	P
C	A	B	G	G	M	S	D	R	A	L	L	A	M	N	A
G	K	D	W	S	N	L	K	T	O	O	C	I	K	Y	C

Circle the names of these birds that are hunted in Oklahoma:

Bobwhite	Coot	Gadwall
Gallinule	Mallard	Mourning Dove
Pheasant	Scaled Quail	Snipe
Snow Goose	Turkey	Woodcock

Some COOL FACTS about the Mourning Dove:

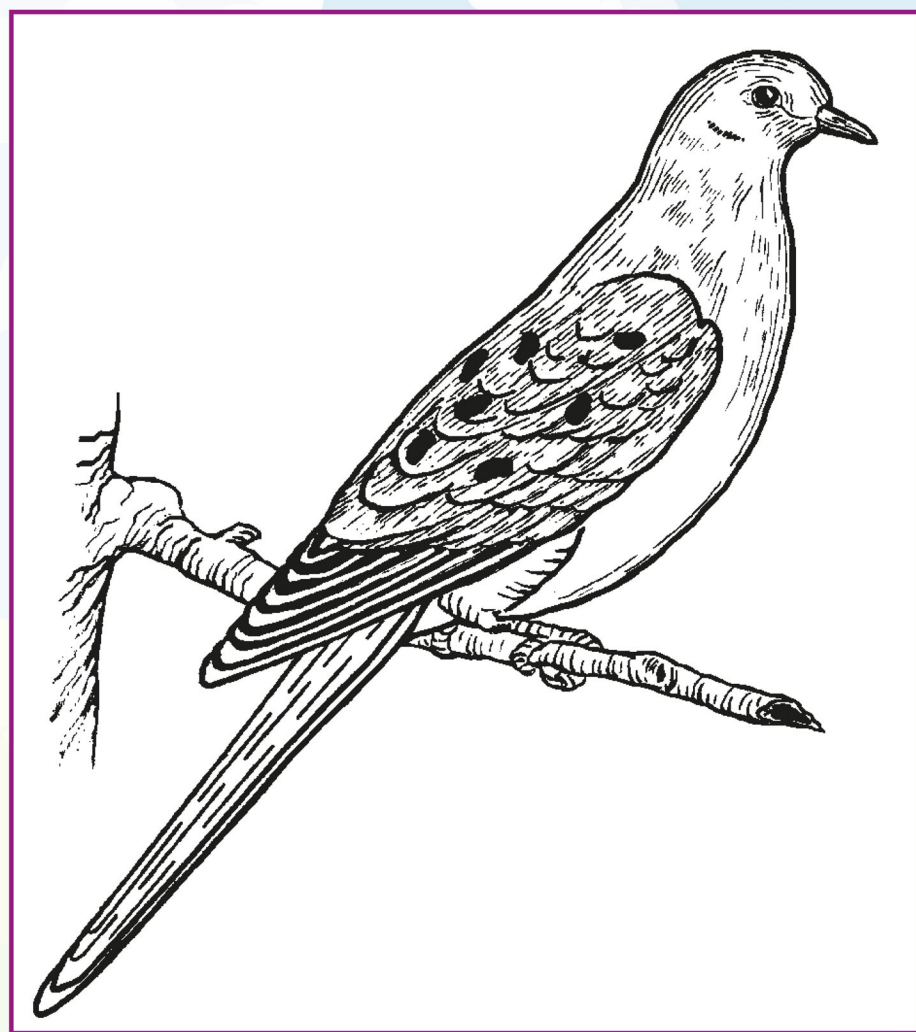
- They have light brown, buff or tan bodies, with black spots on their grayish wings.
- They fly fast with strong wing beats, often zig-zagging through the air.
- They have long pointed tail feathers are unique among all American dove species.
- These birds can be seen in almost any habitat except the deep woods.
- They are among the most abundant bird species in North America.



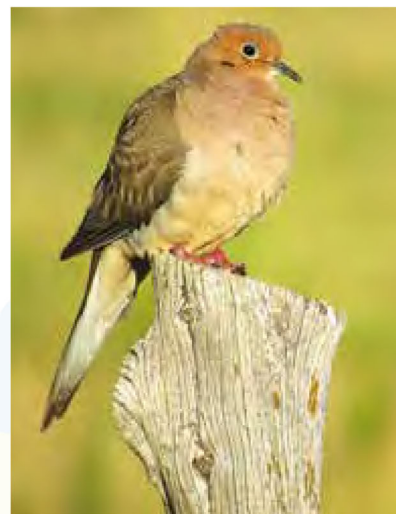
JOHN THORNTON/READERS' PHOTO SHOWCASE 2015

- In 2019, about 70,000 dove hunters harvested about 1.2 million doves in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma's dove hunting season traditionally starts Sept. 1.
- Hunters harvest more mourning doves than all other migratory game birds combined.
- The Wildlife Department traps mourning doves in summer to put a metal band on one leg as part of research.
- The average lifespan of a mourning dove in the wild is 1.5 years.
- Seeds and grains on the ground make up nearly all of their diet.

Color a Critter: Mourning Dove



AMANDA THOMAS/ODWC



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