

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

TEXAS DOVE MANAGEMENT

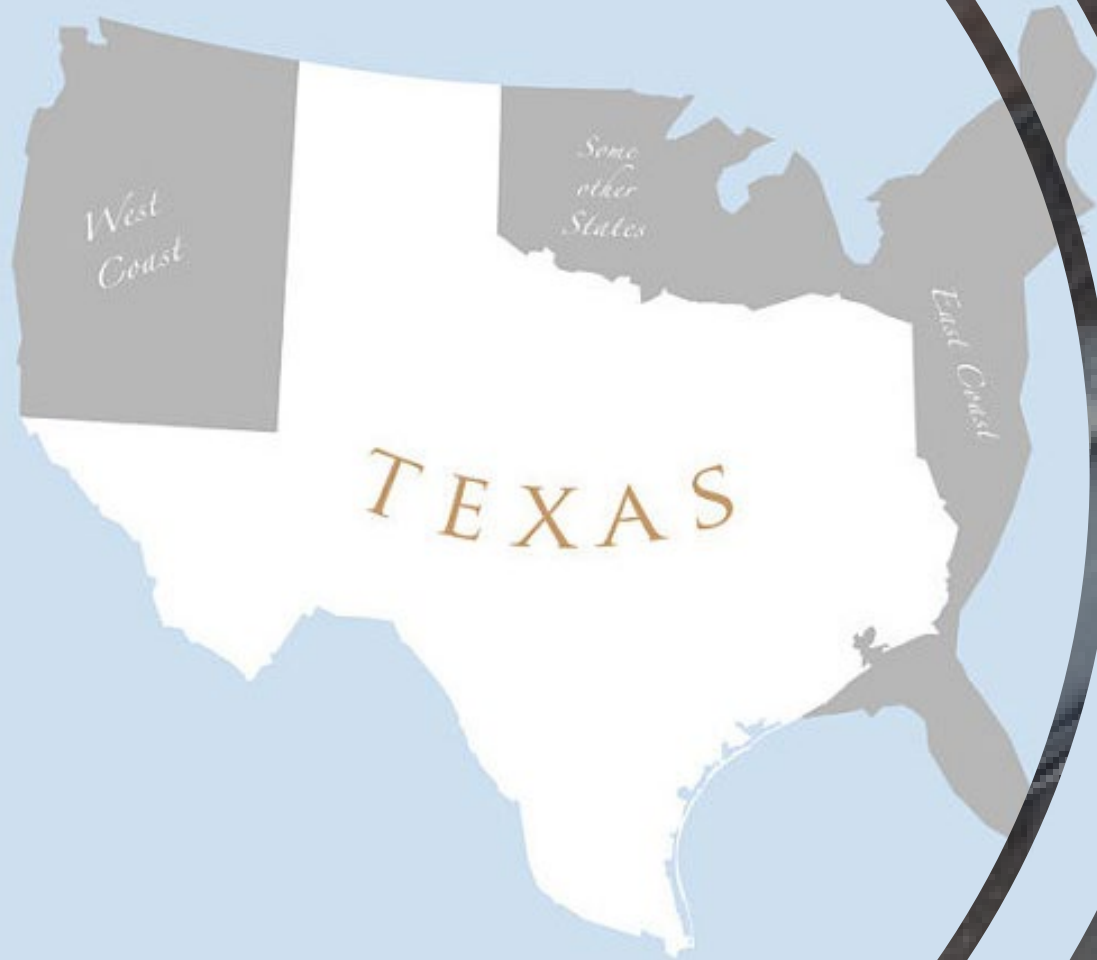


DOVE MANAGEMENT IN TX AND BEYOND

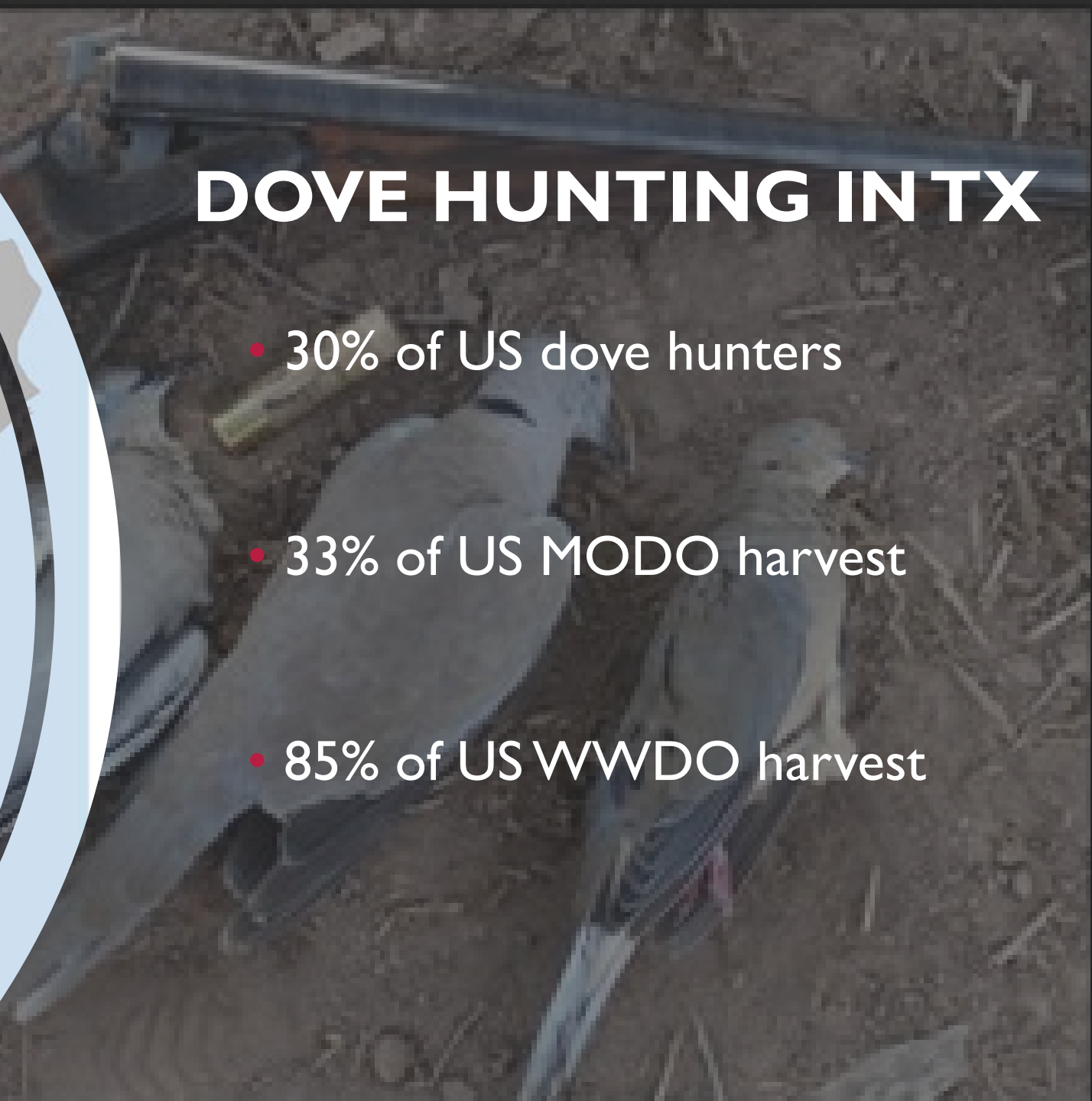
- Ecology
- Status/Harvest
- Population Management
- South Zone 2026

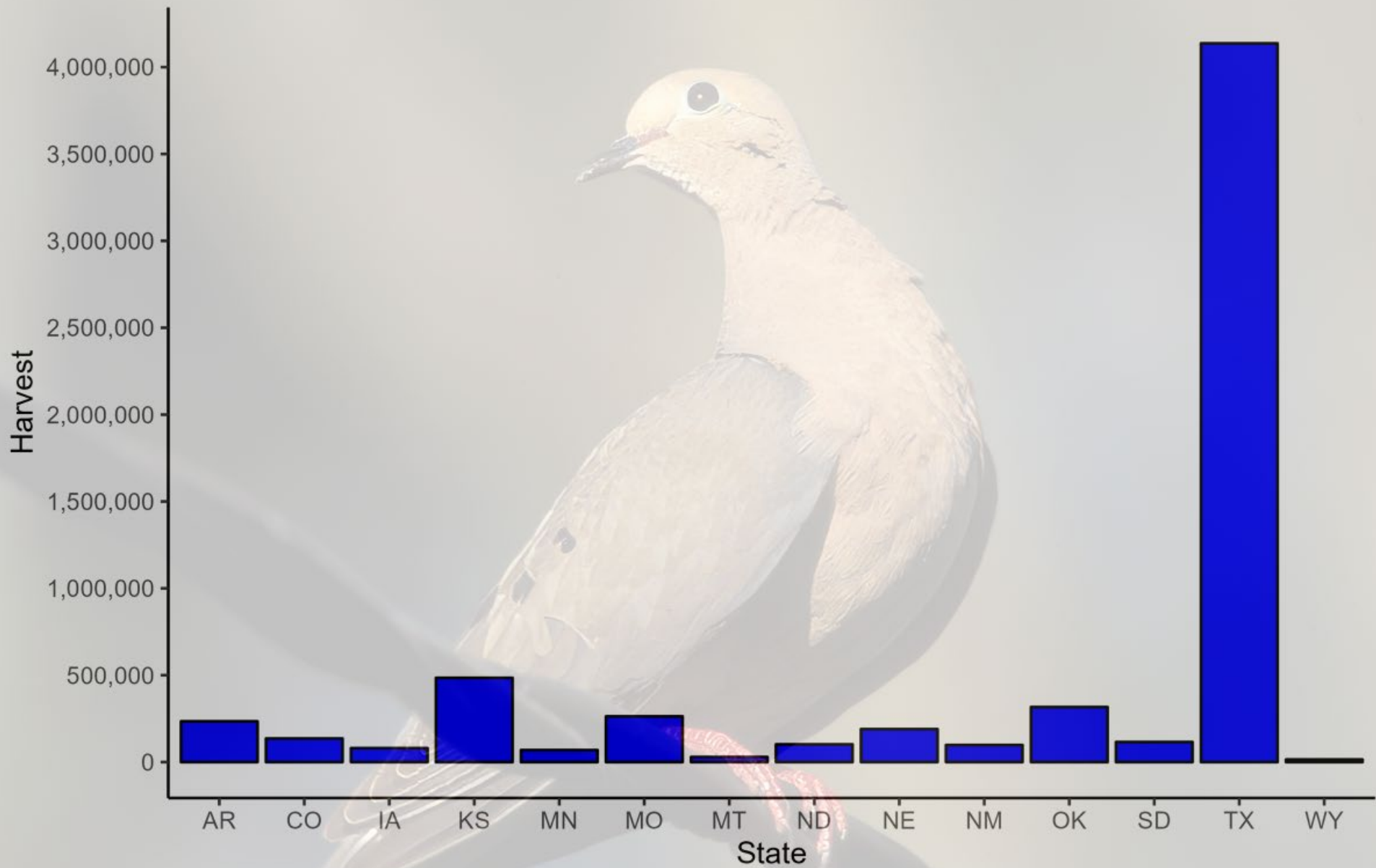


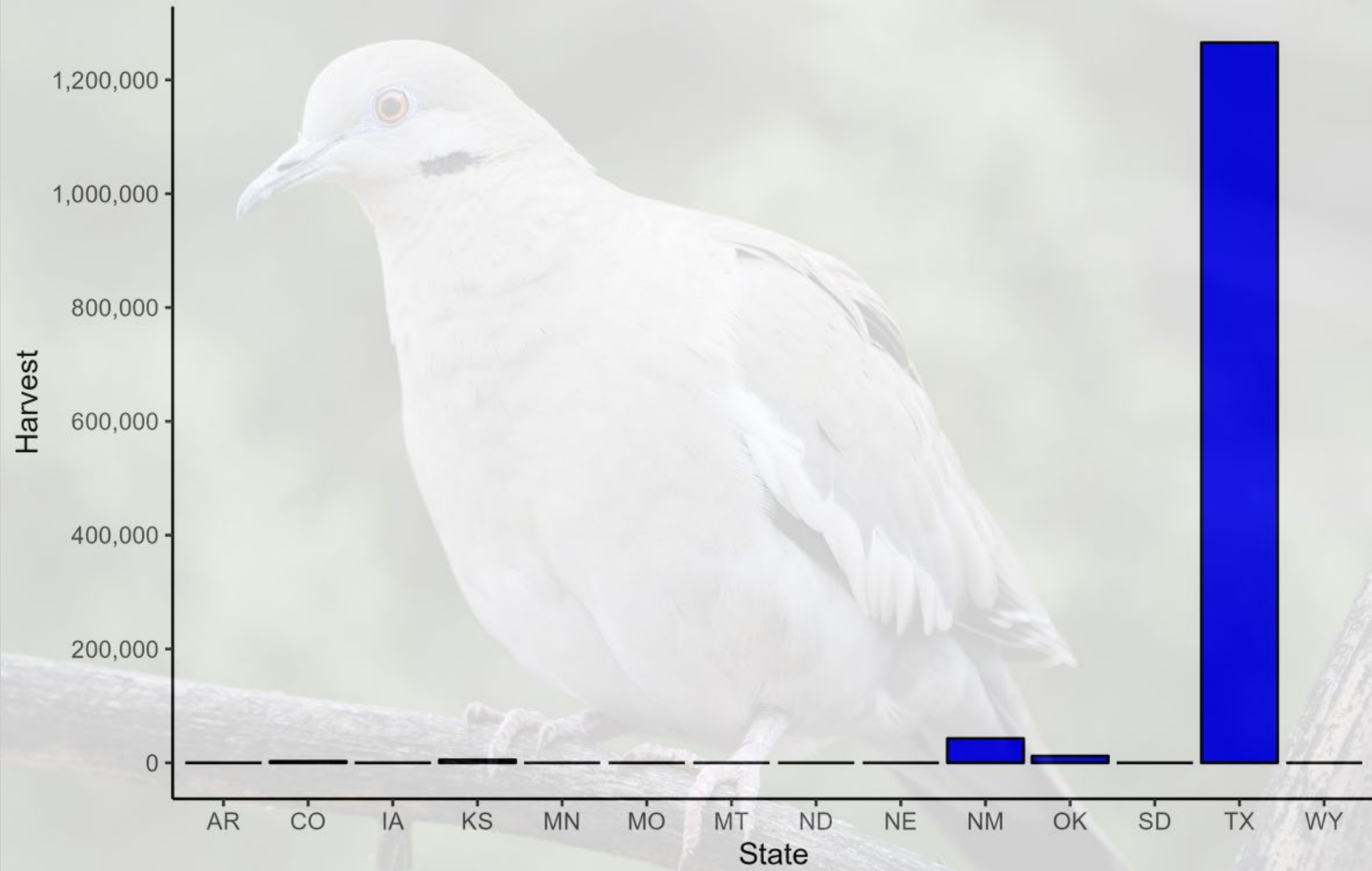
DOVE HUNTING IN TX



- 30% of US dove hunters
- 33% of US MODO harvest
- 85% of US WWDO harvest







TEXAS=DOVES

...WHY?



7 SPECIES OF NATIVE COLUMBIDS IN TX...

- Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
- White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)
- White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

- Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)
- Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)
- Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)
- Red-billed Pigeon (*Columba flavirostris*)



EXOTICS...



- Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopilia decaocto*)
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

DOVE ECOLOGY

- Migratory...or not
- Generalists
- Require food & water daily
 - Eat 20-30% of body weight/day
 - Drink 4-12% body weight/day





~2
week



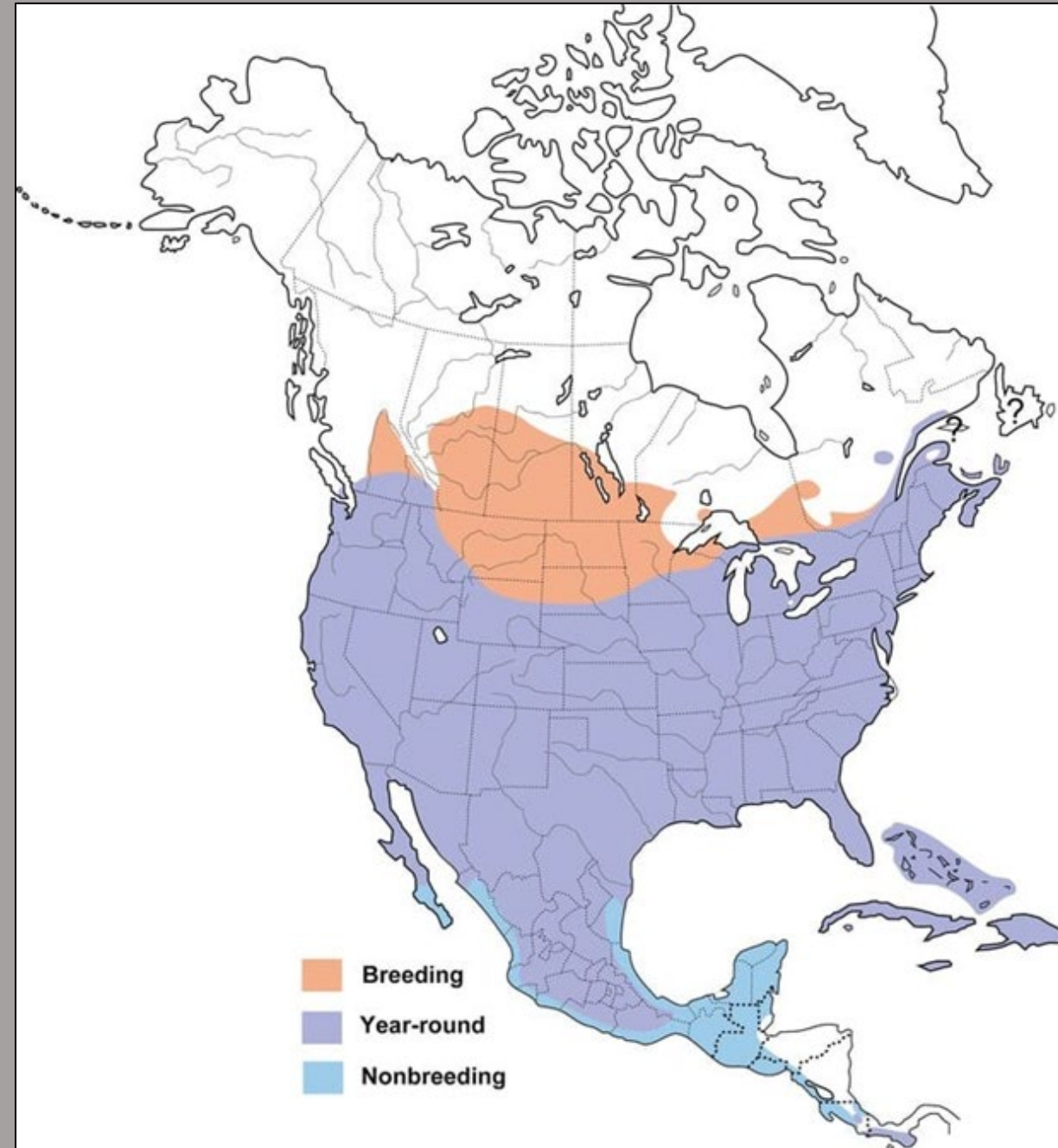






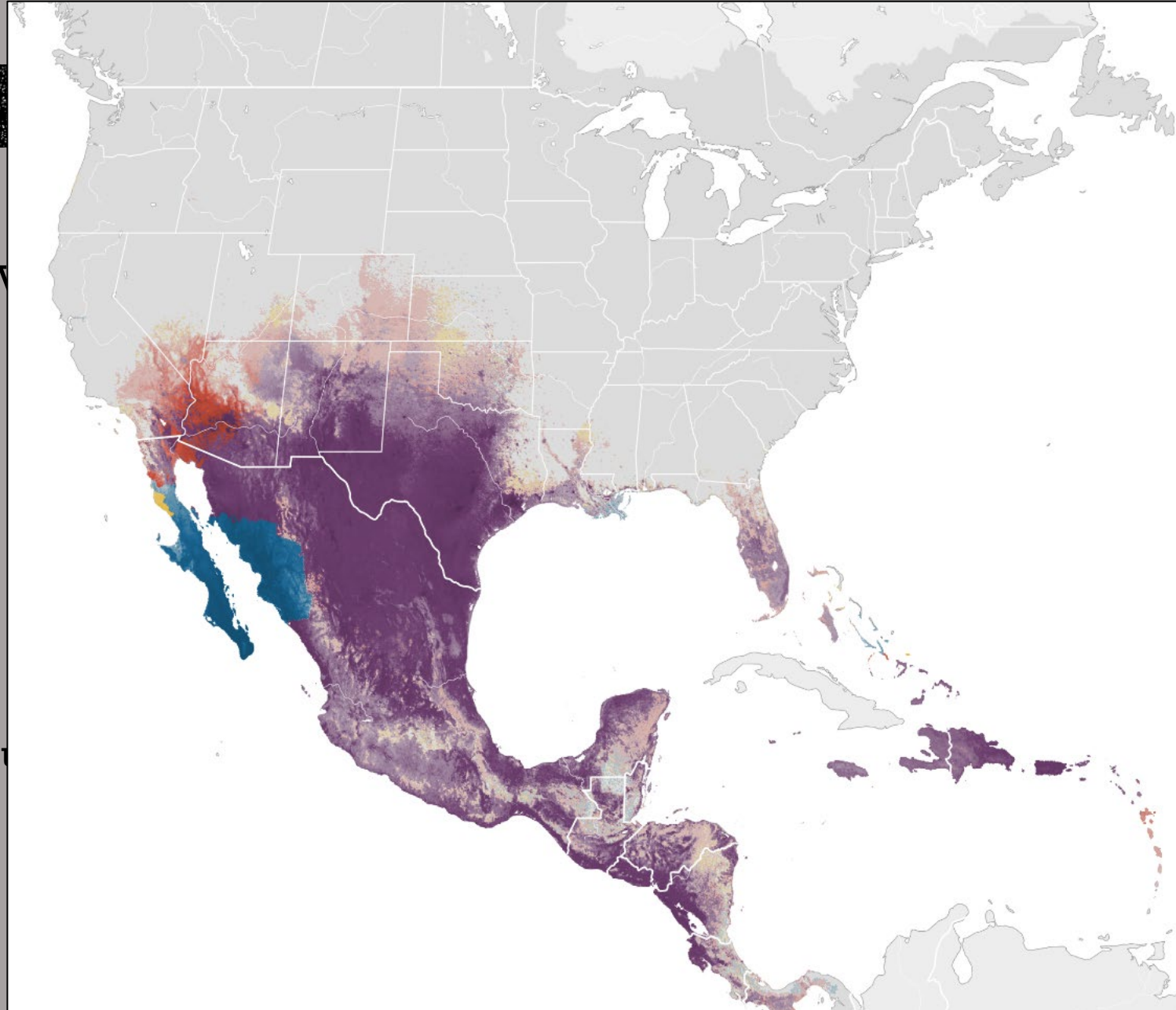
MOURNING DOVES

- NUMEROUS!....~350 million in the US
- Benefitted from European colonization
- Granivorous – hard coated seeds
- FAST! Can reach speeds of 50+ mph
- Leading gamebird in US – hunted in 41 states



WHITE-WINGED I

- Historically found in Lower RGV
- 1900-1920s: 4-12M
- 1920s-60s: <250,000
- 1960s-80s: < 1 million
- 1980s – 2000: 1-2 million
- 2000 – Now: 12+ million
- Currently...
 - 80% of population is urban/suburban
 - Expanding throughout range



EURASIAN COLLARED-D

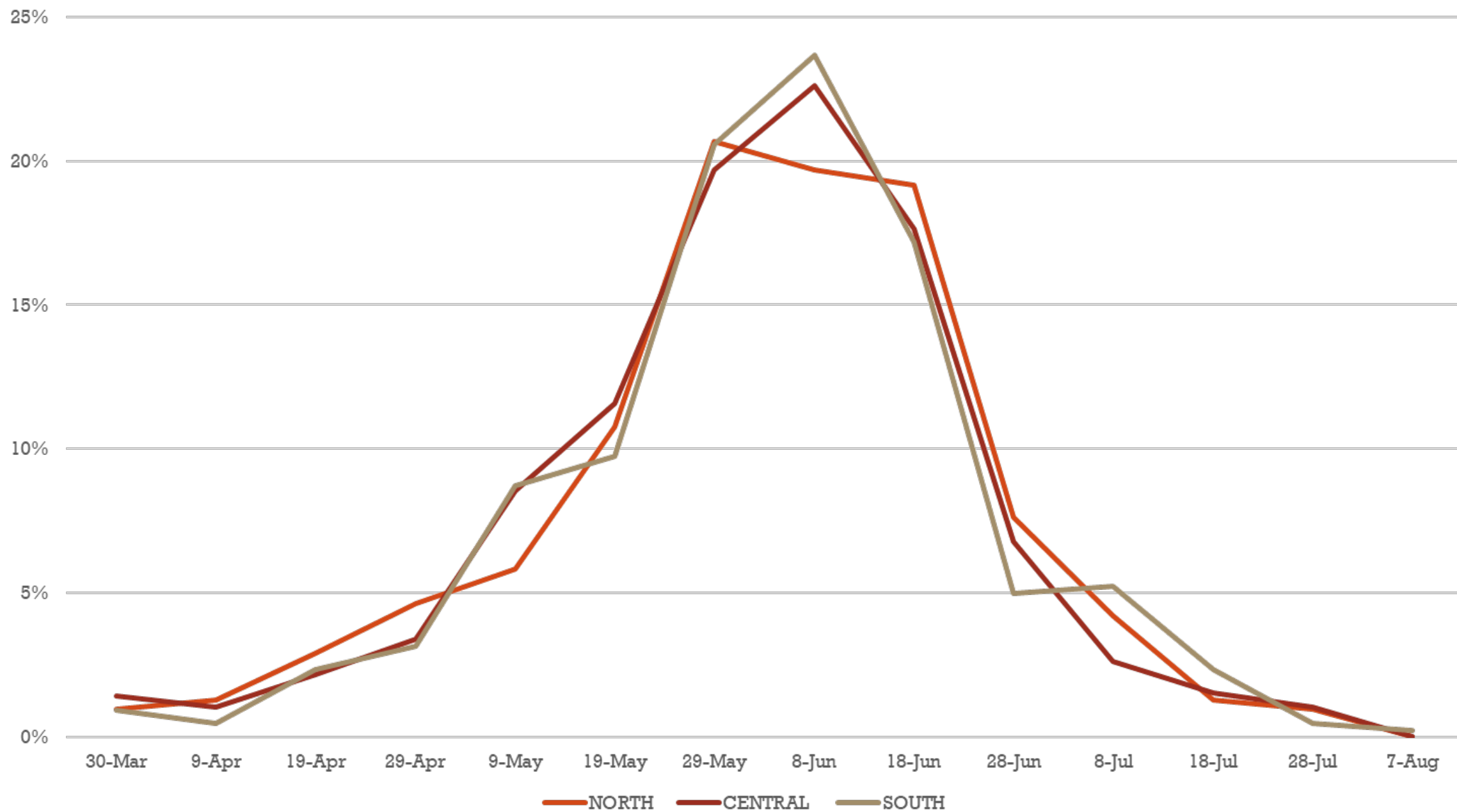
- Old World Species – South Asia to Southeast
- Colonized all of Europe in ~200 years
- Bahamas – 1974
- Florida – 1980's
- Texas – 1990's



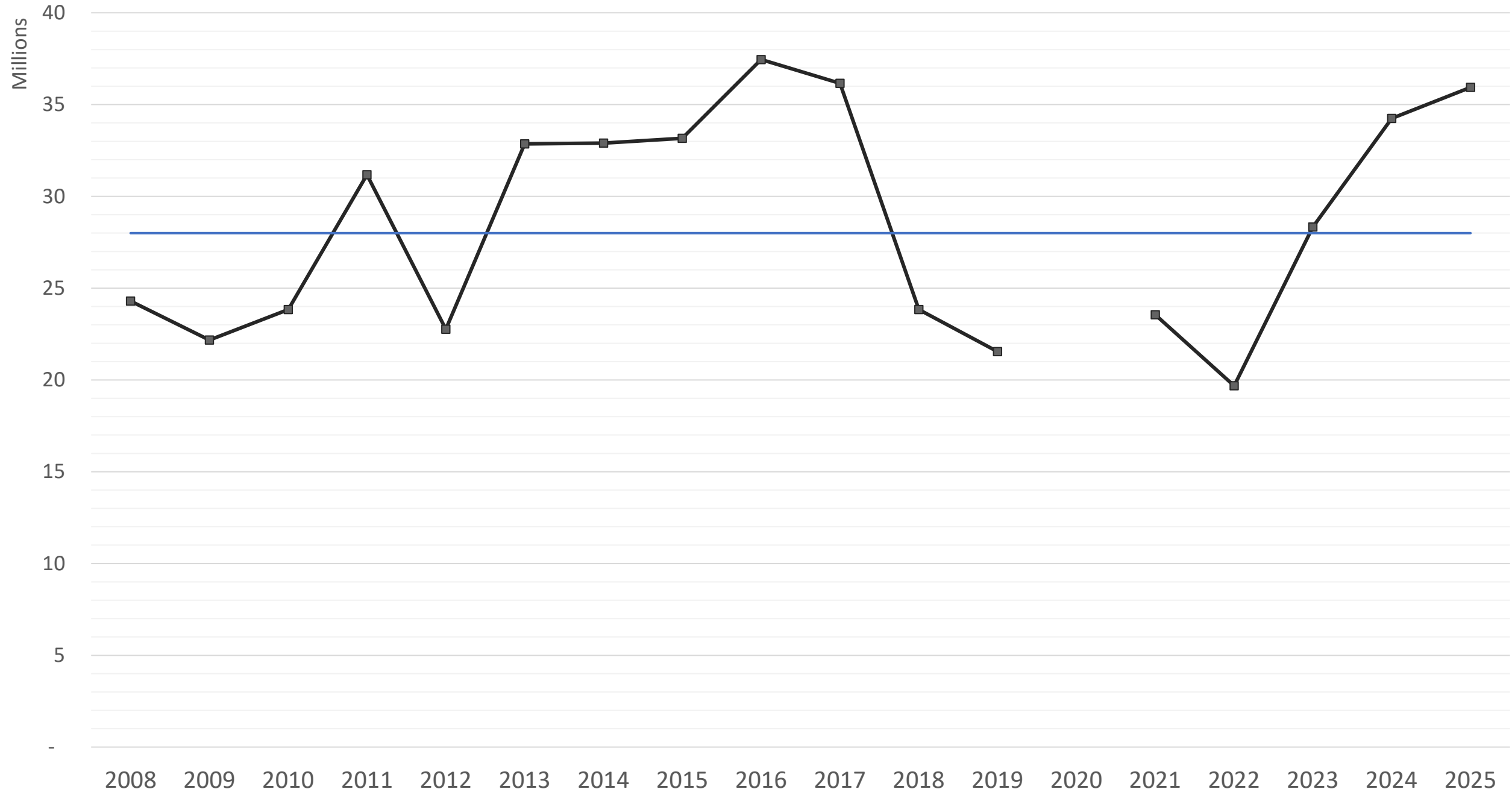
Dove Population Status



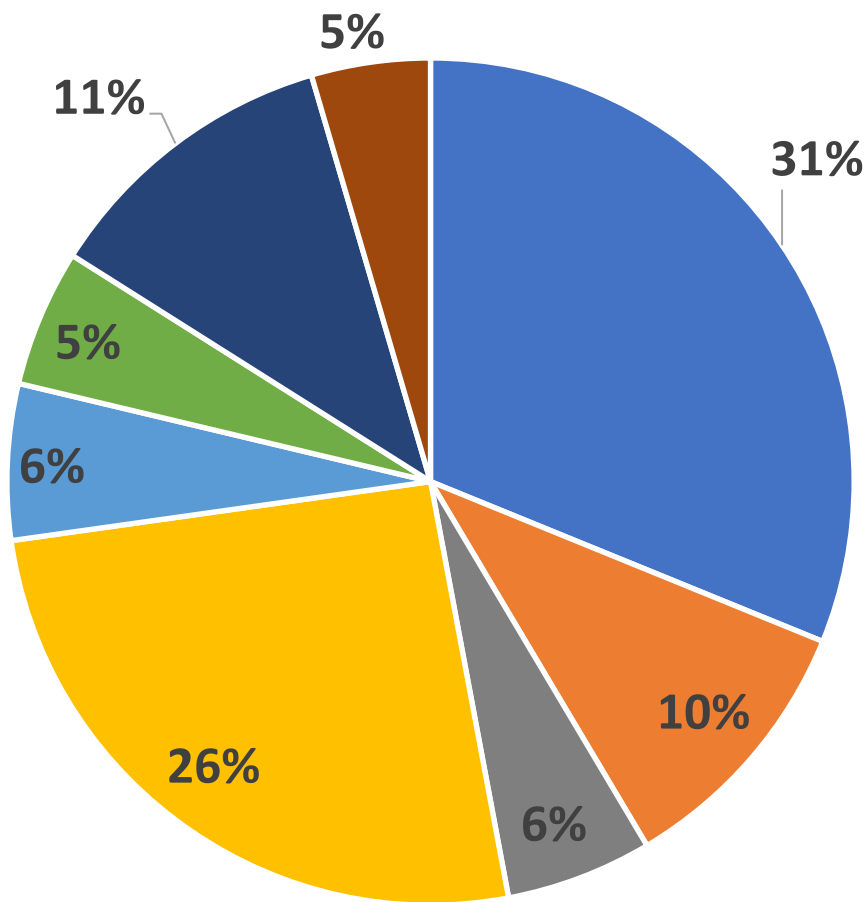
Hatch - TX Zones - Band 2003-15



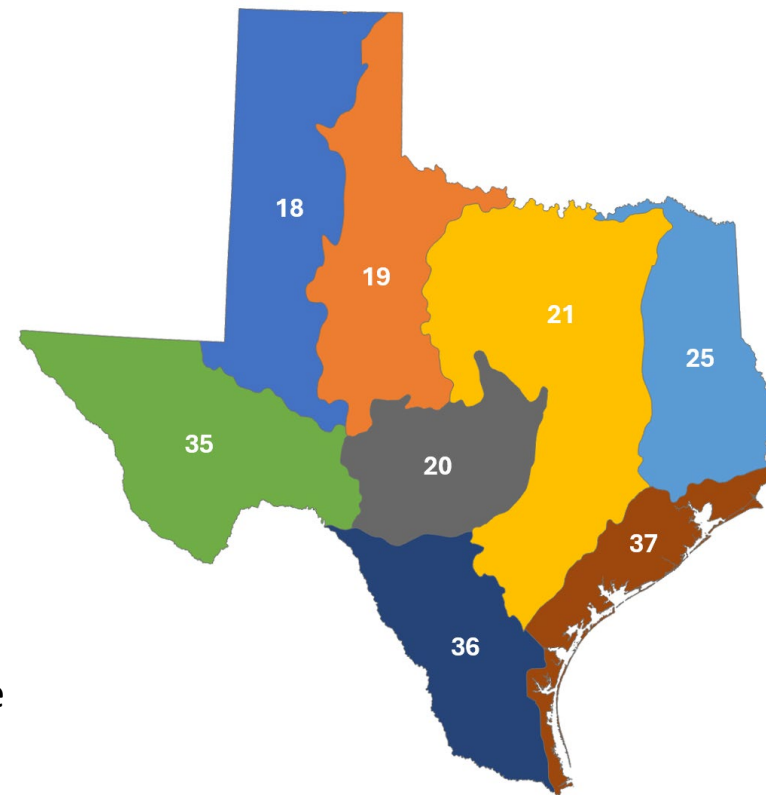
Mourning Dove Statewide Abundance



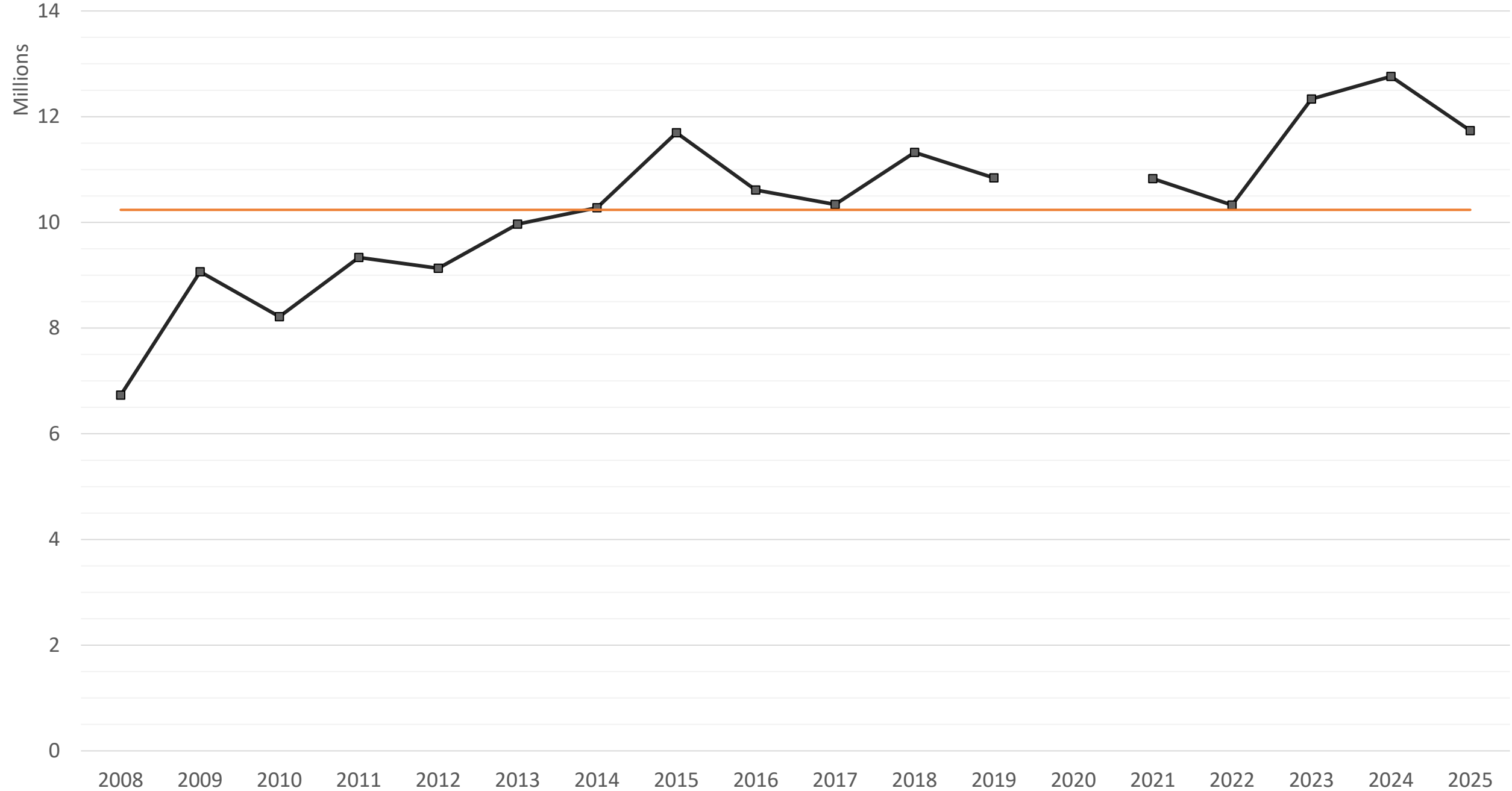
MOURNING DOVES



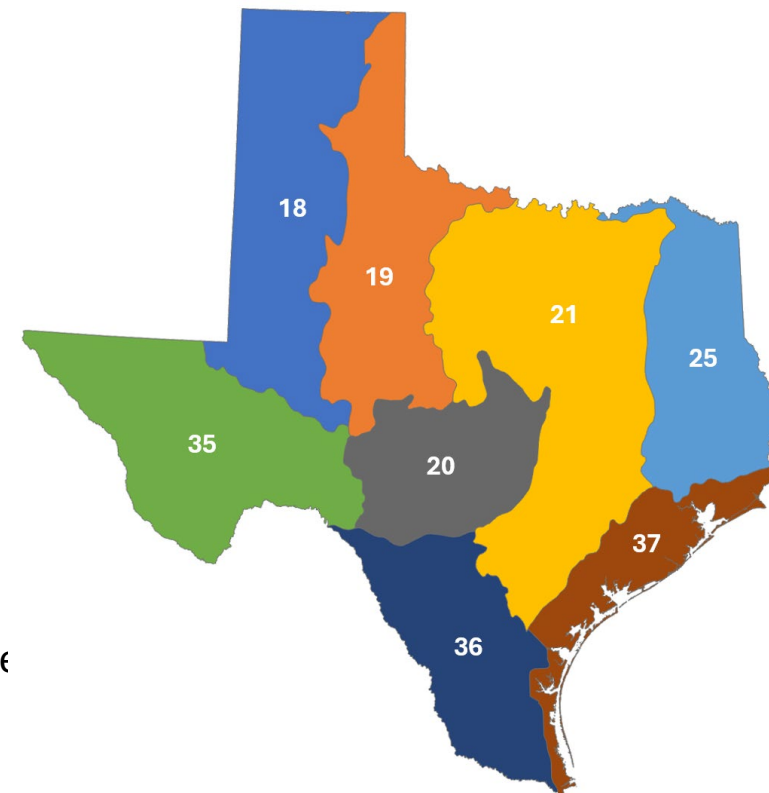
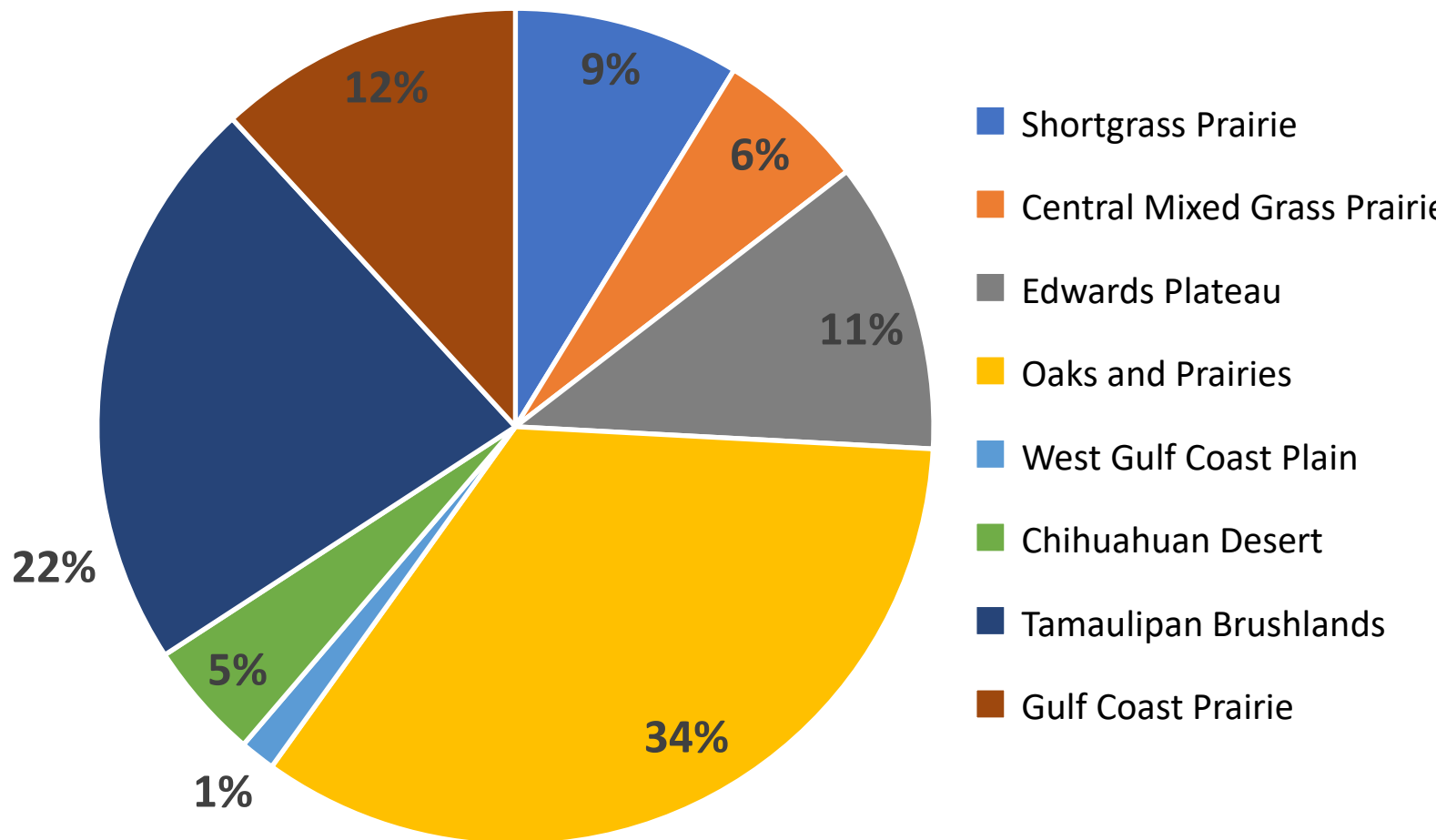
- Shortgrass Prairie
- Central Mixed Grass Prairie
- Edwards Plateau
- Oaks and Prairies
- West Gulf Coast Plain
- Chihuahuan Desert
- Tamaulipan Brushlands
- Gulf Coast Prairie



White-winged Dove Statewide Abundance



WHITE-WINGED DOVES

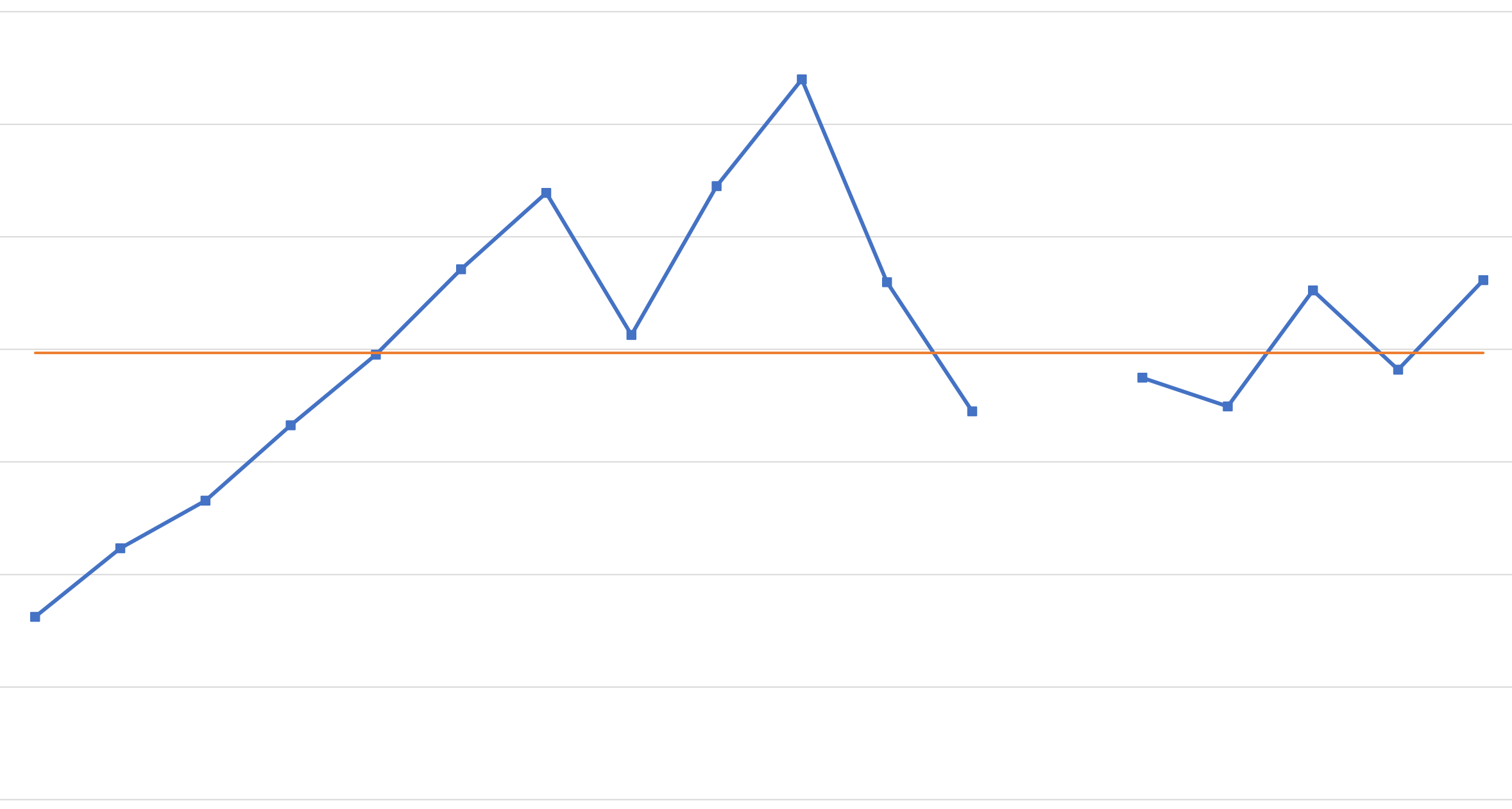


Eurasian Collared-dove Statewide Abundance

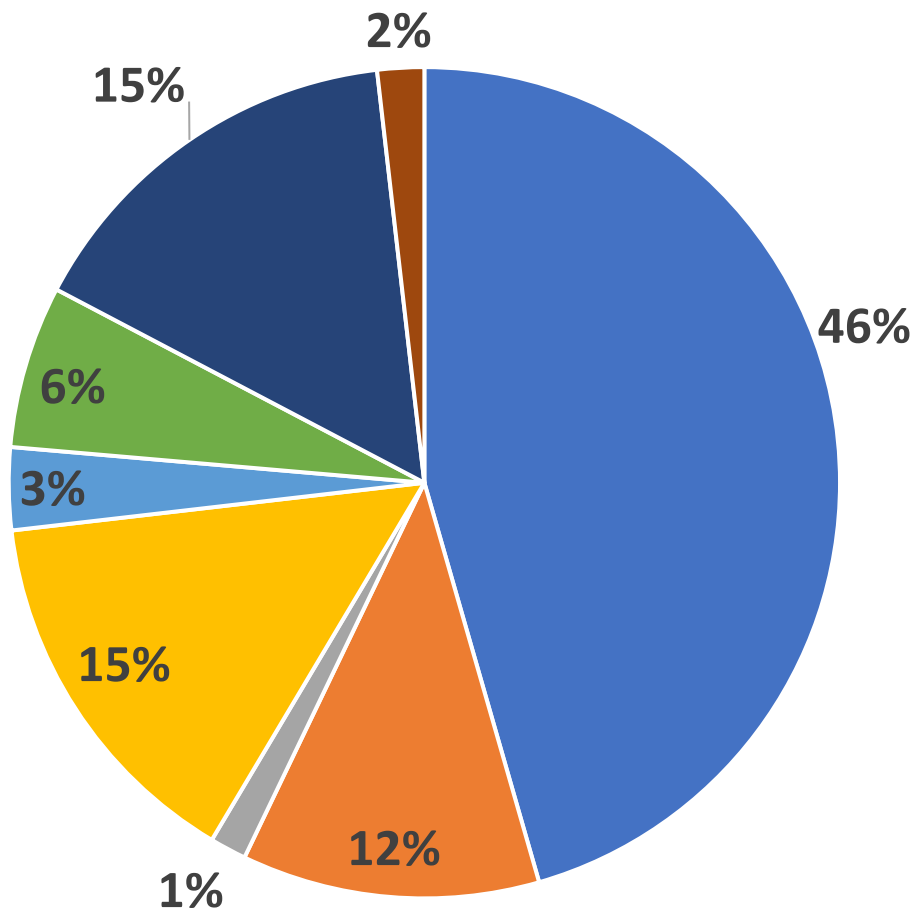
Millions

7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0

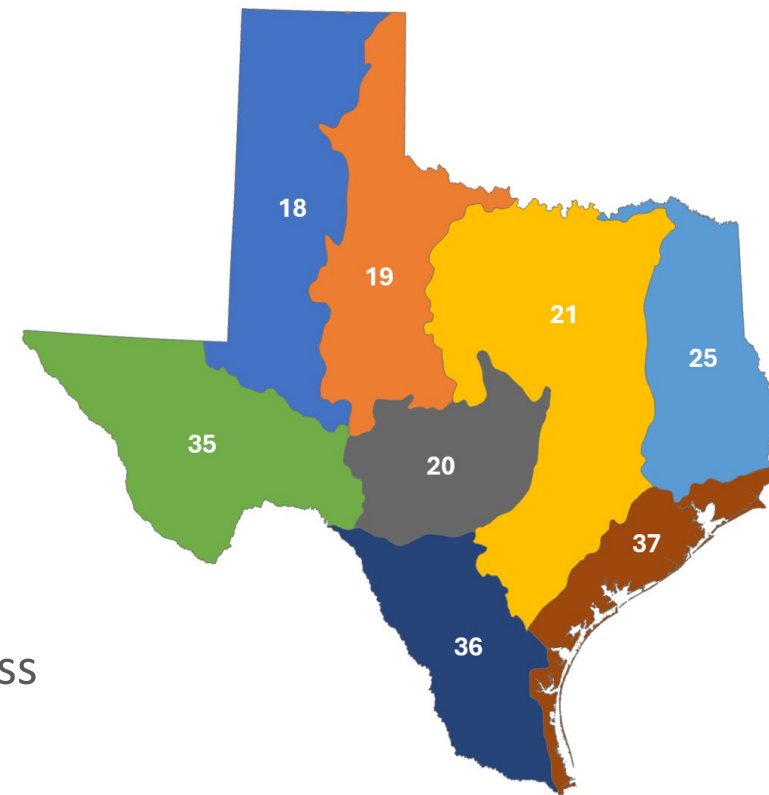
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025



EURASIAN-COLLARED DOVES



- Shortgrass Prairie
- Central Mixed Grass Prairie
- Edwards Plateau
- Oaks and Prairies
- West Gulf Coast Plain
- Chihuahuan Desert
- Tamaulipan Brushlands



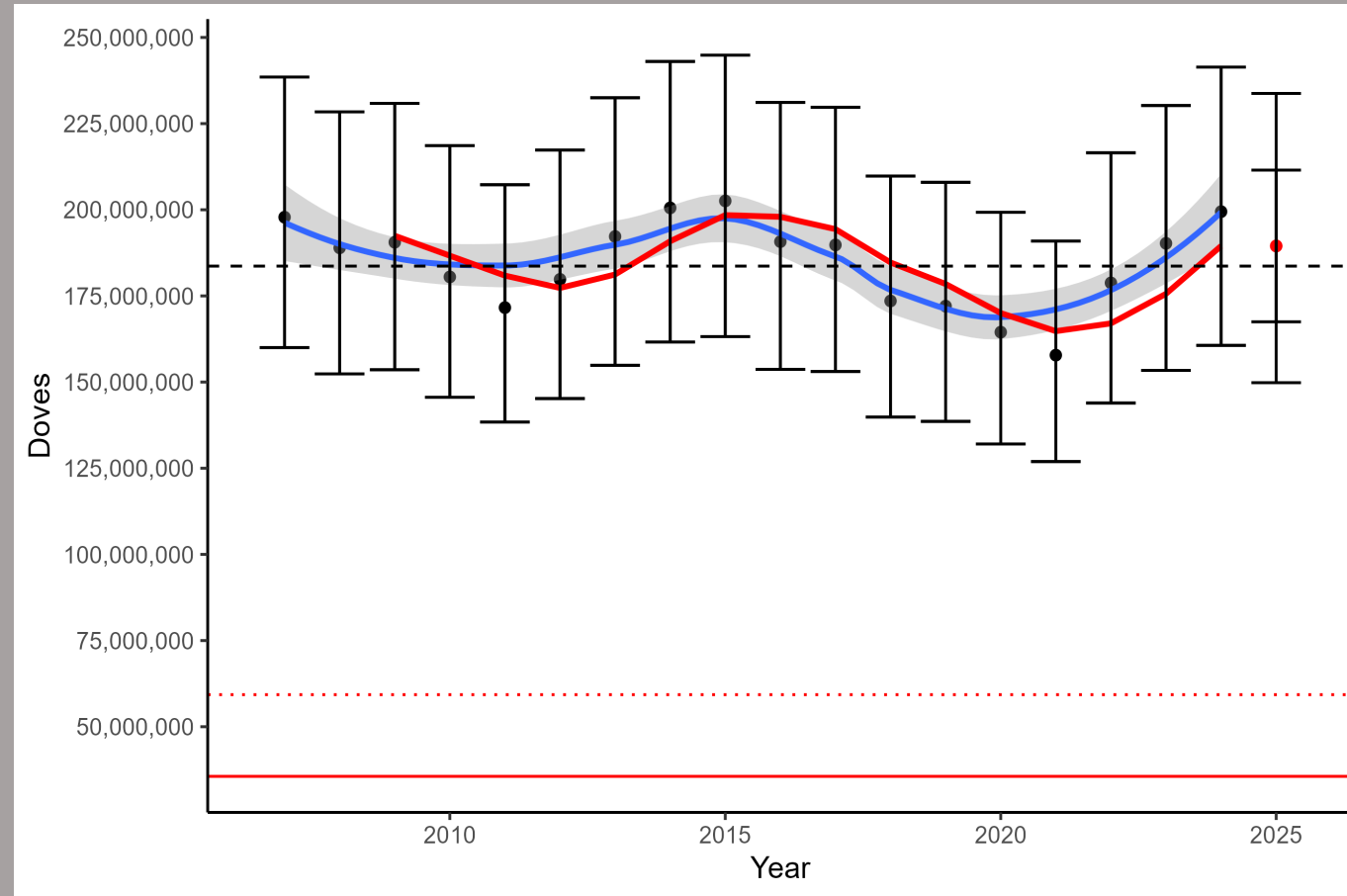
MOURNING DOVE MANAGEMENT - USFWS

- 3 primary sources of information
 - Harvest Information Program (HIP)
 - Hunter & harvest estimates
 - Band Returns
 - Abundance, survival, harvest rates
 - Parts Collection Program
 - Recruitment



HOW BANDING = ABUNDANCE ESTIMATE

- 3 primary sources of information
 - Band Recoveries (*Lincoln estimator*)
 - Harvest Surveys
 - Parts Collection Surveys
- 3 Regulatory Packages
 - Standard – 90 days/15 bag
 - Restrictive – 70 days/10 bag
 - Closed – 0 days, 0 bag



HIP — HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

HIP Survey

About how many Ducks did you bag in Texas last season?

About how many Geese did you bag in Texas last season?

About how many Doves did you bag in Texas last season?

Did you hunt Coots or Snipe in Texas last season?

 ▼

Did you hunt Rails or Gallinules in Texas last year?

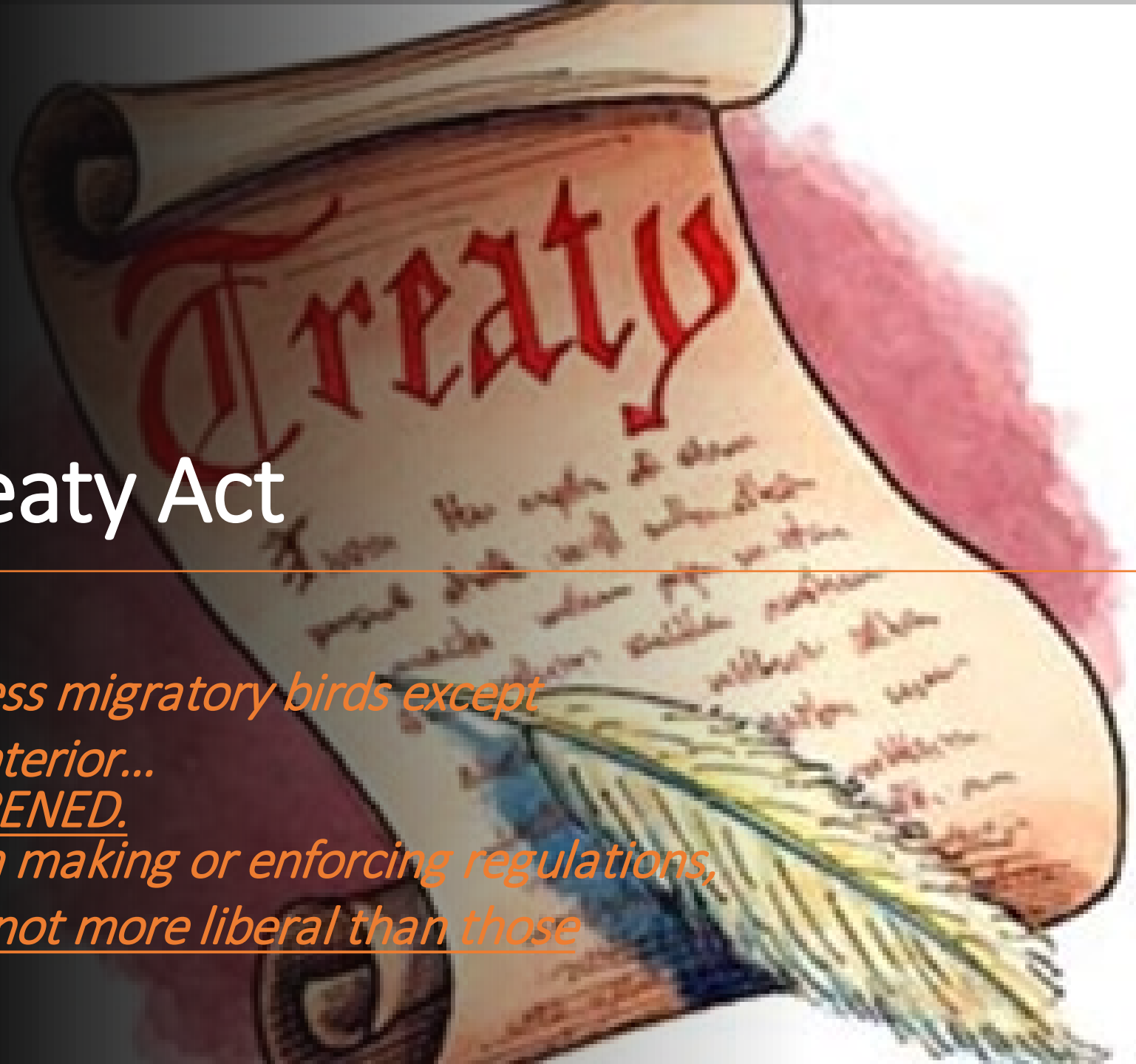
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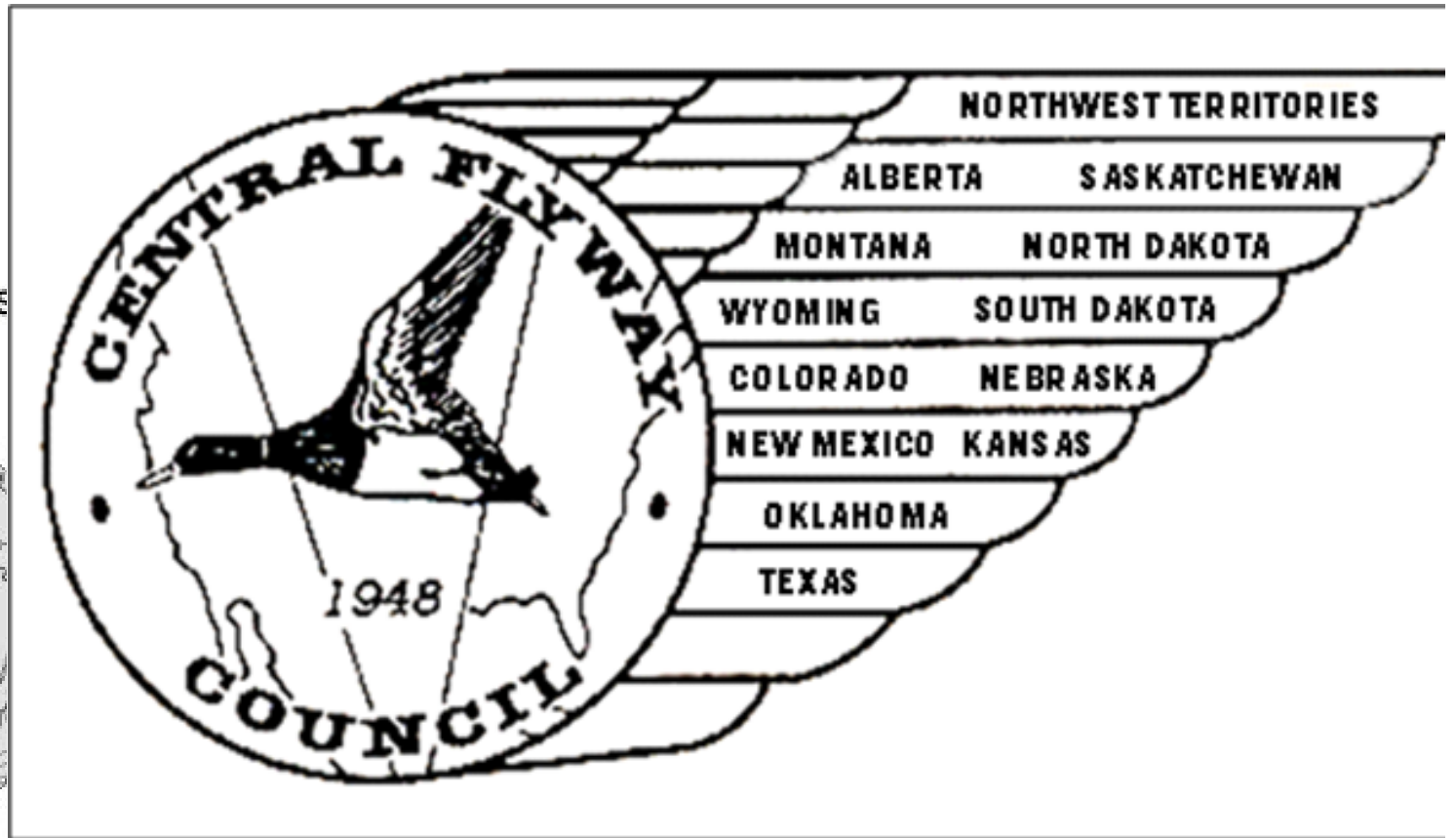
Did you hunt Woodcock in Texas last year?

 ▼

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

*...unlawful to hunt, kill, or possess migratory birds except
as permitted...by Secretary of Interior...
...SEASON IS CLOSED UNTIL OPENED.
...does not prohibit States from making or enforcing regulations,
provided such regulations are not more liberal than those
approved by the Secretary.*

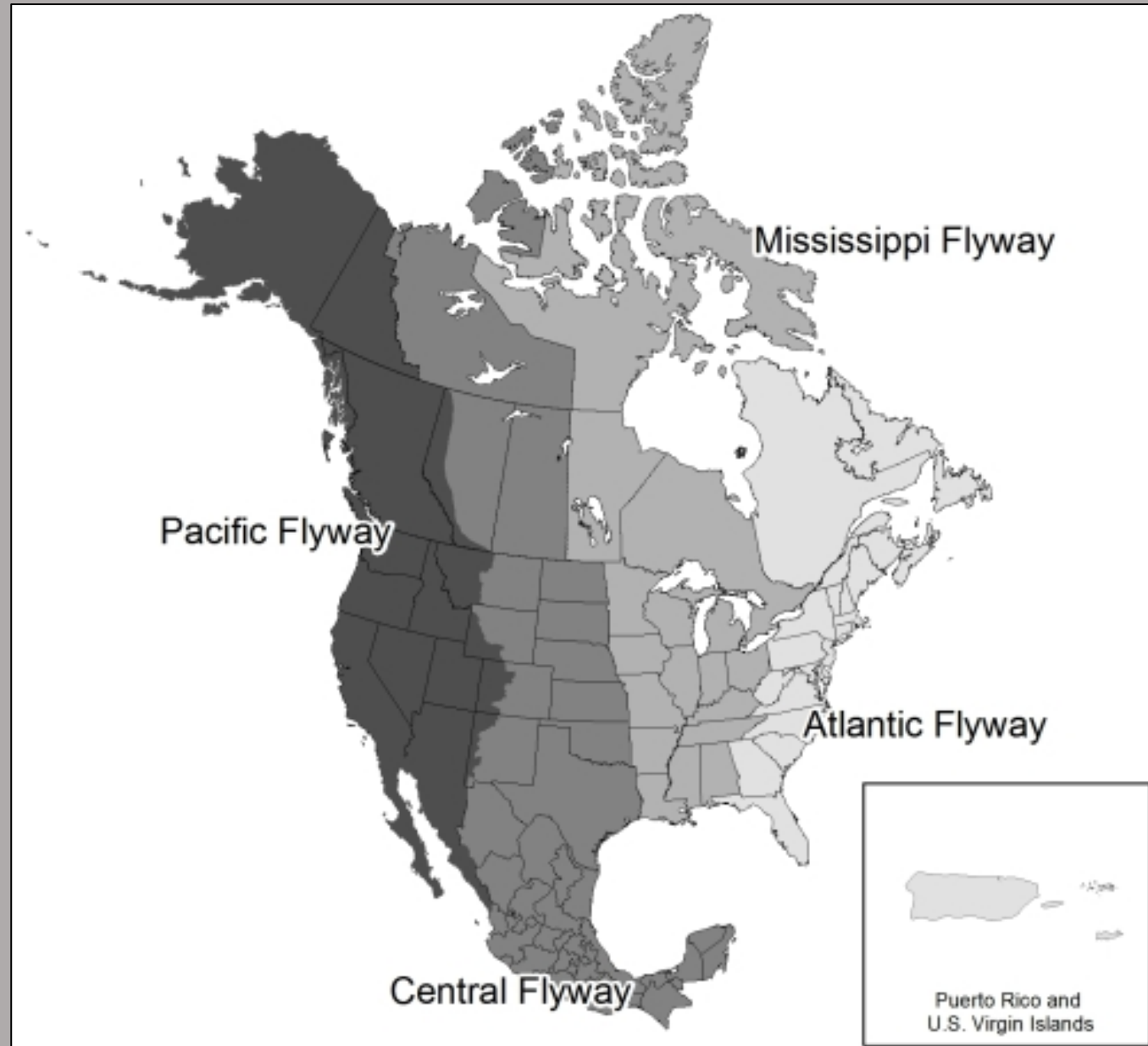




FLYWAYS

flyways

- Mig birds managed cooperatively by States + USFWS (and Canada/Mexico)
- Each of 4 Flyways has:
 - States + USFWS flyway rep
 - Council (leadership)
 - Technical committee (science)
 - Regulatory recommendations
 - From TC to Council, then...
 - From Council to Service Regulations Committee (SRC), then...
 - Published in Federal Register for public comment
 - Made Final Rule in February



TPWD regulatory process

- *Must work within USFWS frameworks...can be more restrictive, but not more liberal!*
 - Migratory Game Bird Technical Committee - *TPWD staff (science, regional input)*
 - Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee - *Represent public stakeholders*
 - TPW Commission - *Appointed by Governor*
1. Propose season dates/regulations to Commission in Jan. *(permission to publish)*
 2. Out for public comment
 3. Adopted by Commission in March

Harvest



STAMP FUNDS

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE



MIGRATORY GAME BIRD STAMP



- \$7 endorsement
- Funds used for Migratory Game Birds *throughout flyway*
 - Habitat management, improvement, creation, protection....
 - Research
 - Public hunting opportunity





Funded by Texas hunters



Migratory Game Bird Stamp Habitat Projects

TEXAS
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- *From 2022-24...*
 - *~ \$6.1 million spent*
 - *~ \$9.2 million leveraged with partners*
 - *~ 60,000 acres impacted*

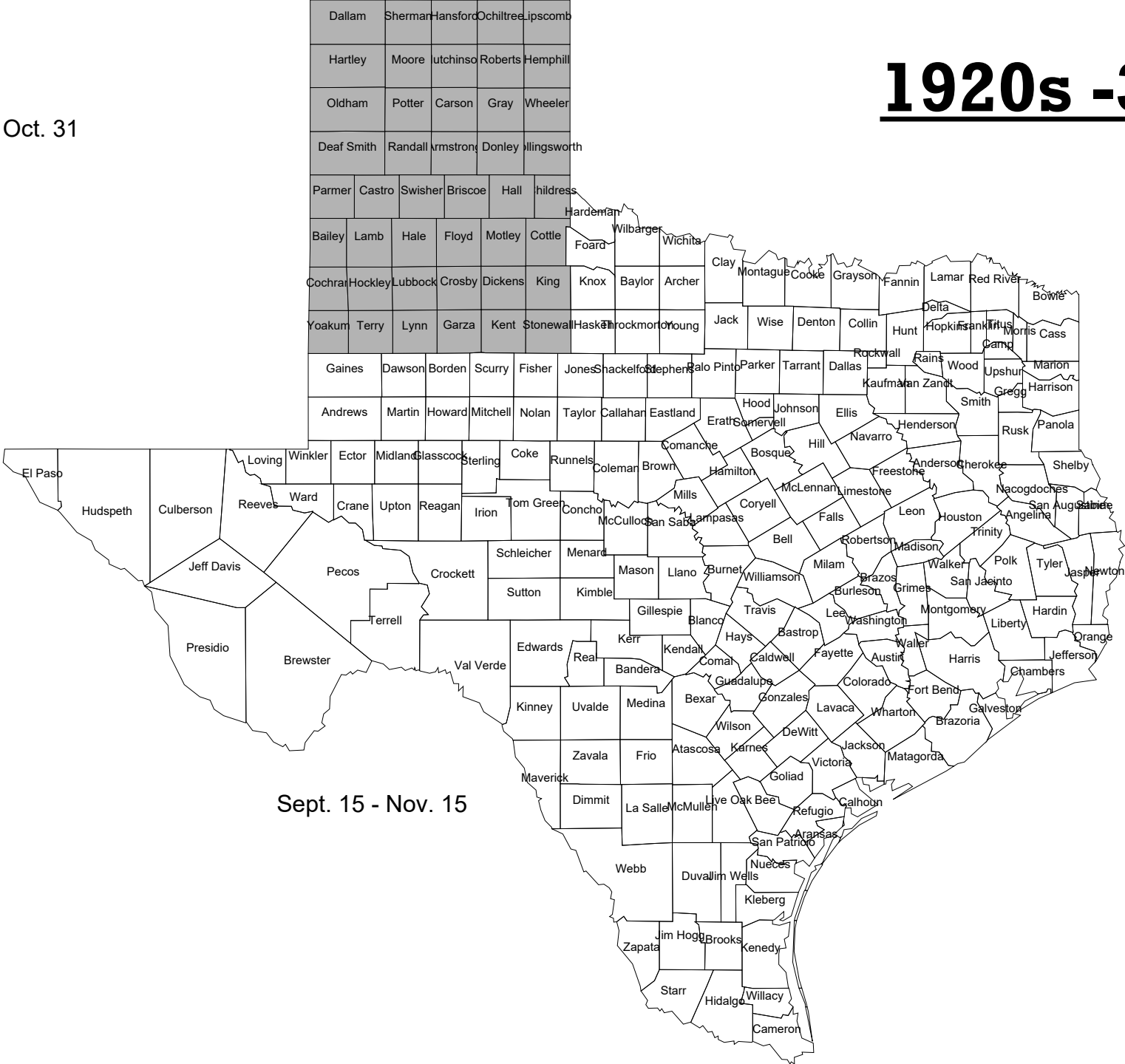


South Zone



Sept. 1 - Oct. 31

1920s -30s

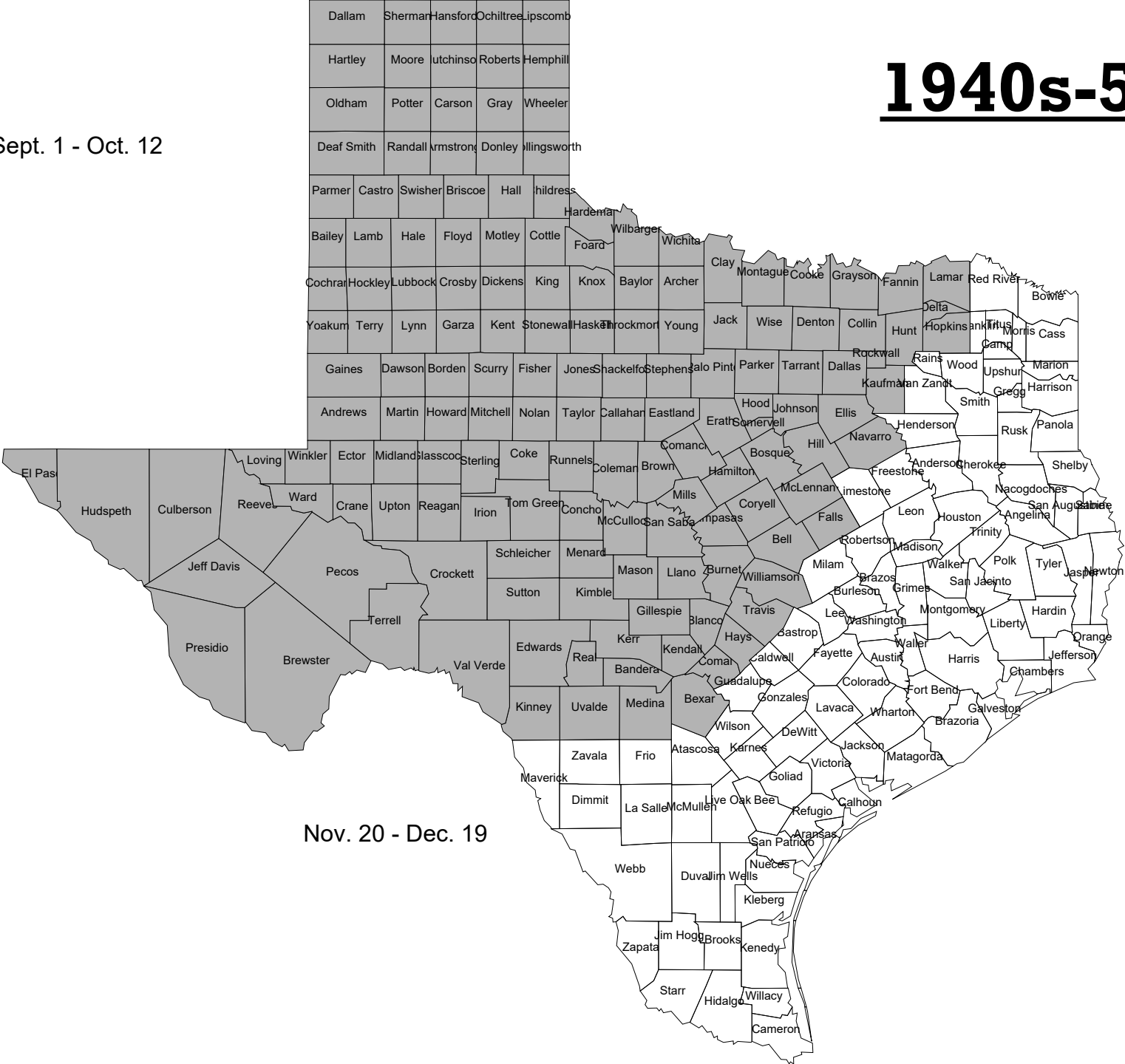


Sept. 15 - Nov. 15



1940s-50s

Sept. 1 - Oct. 12



Nov. 20 - Dec. 19

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WHITE-WINGED DOVE STAMP



1971

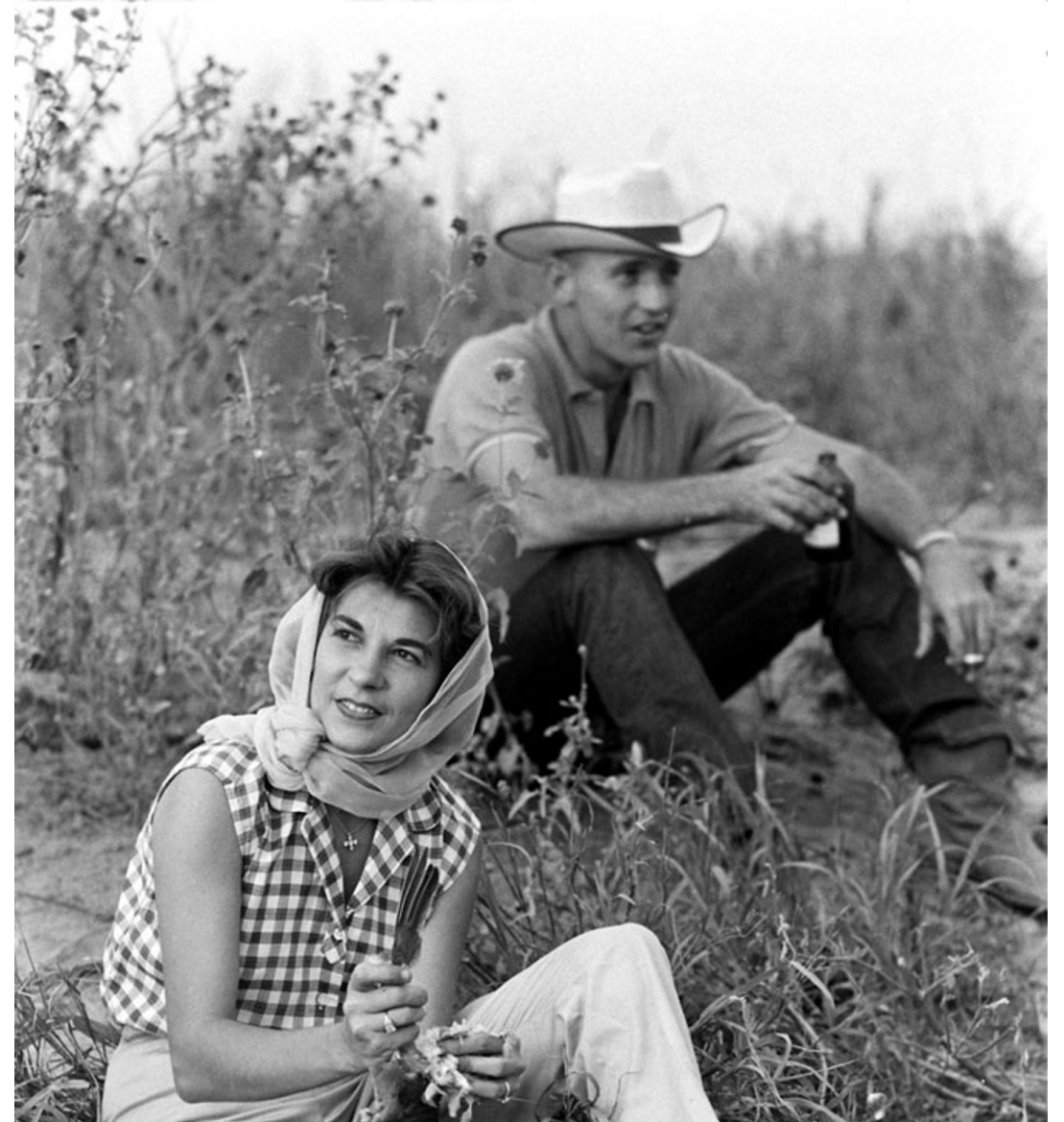
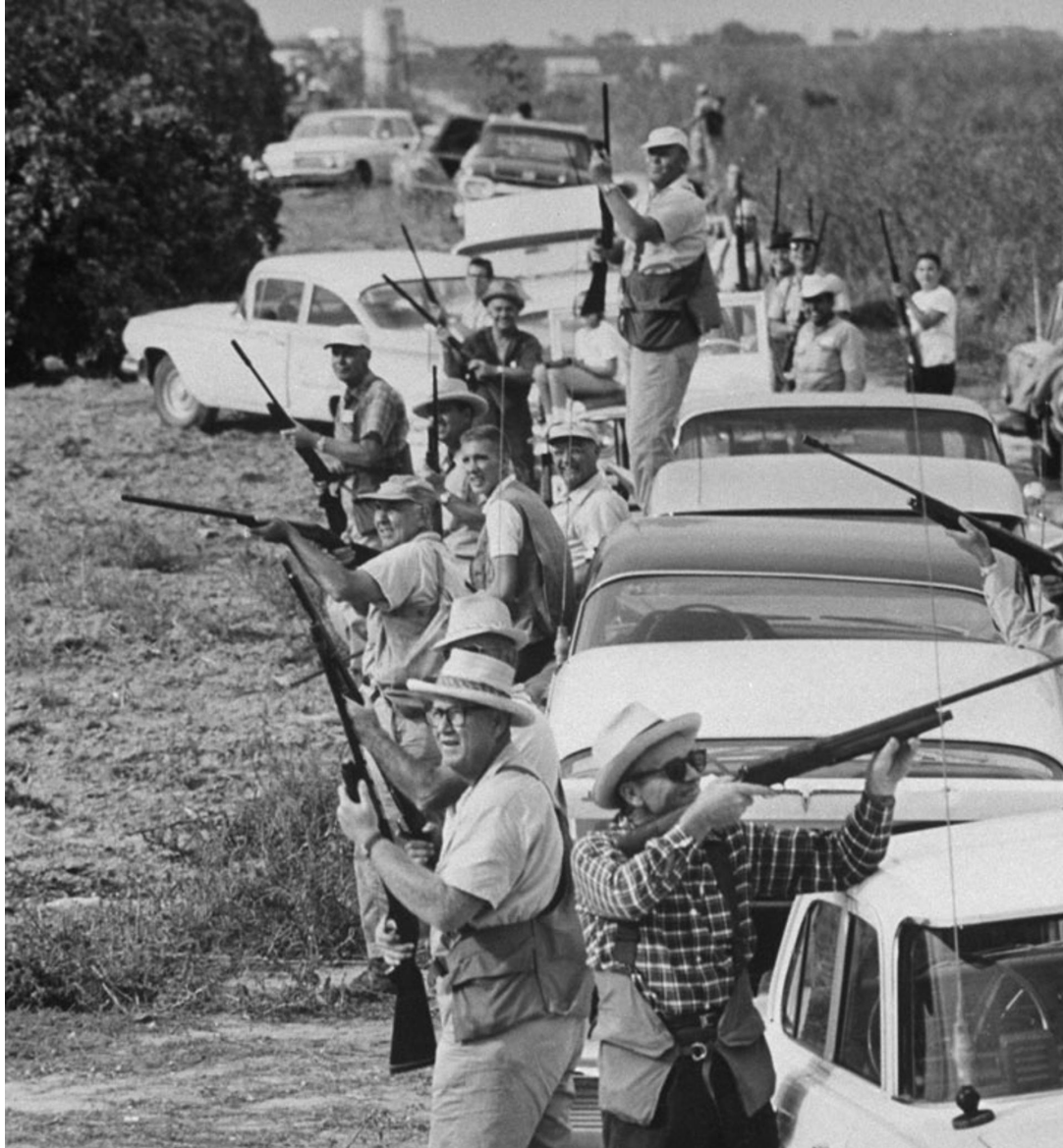
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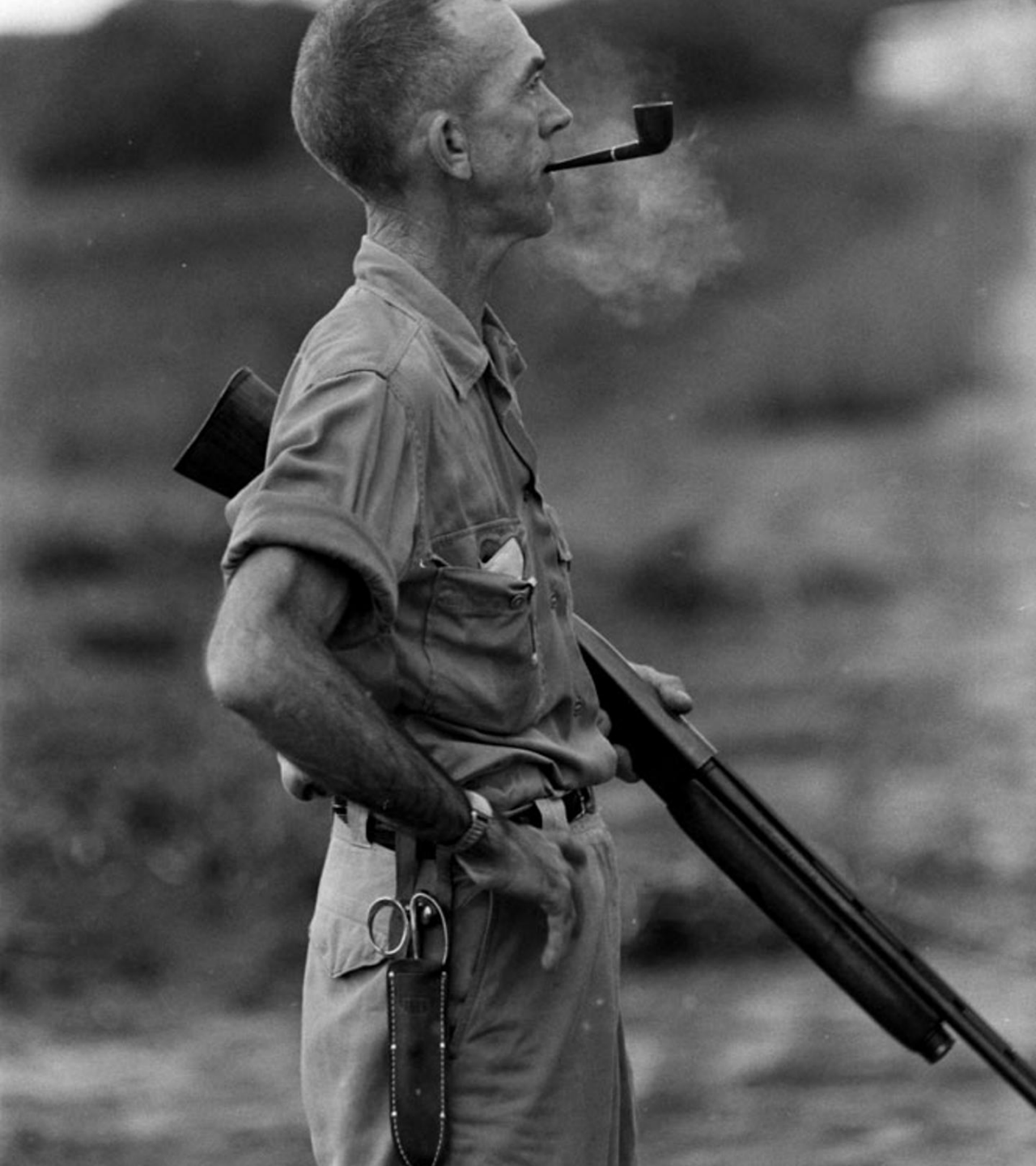
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SIGNATURE

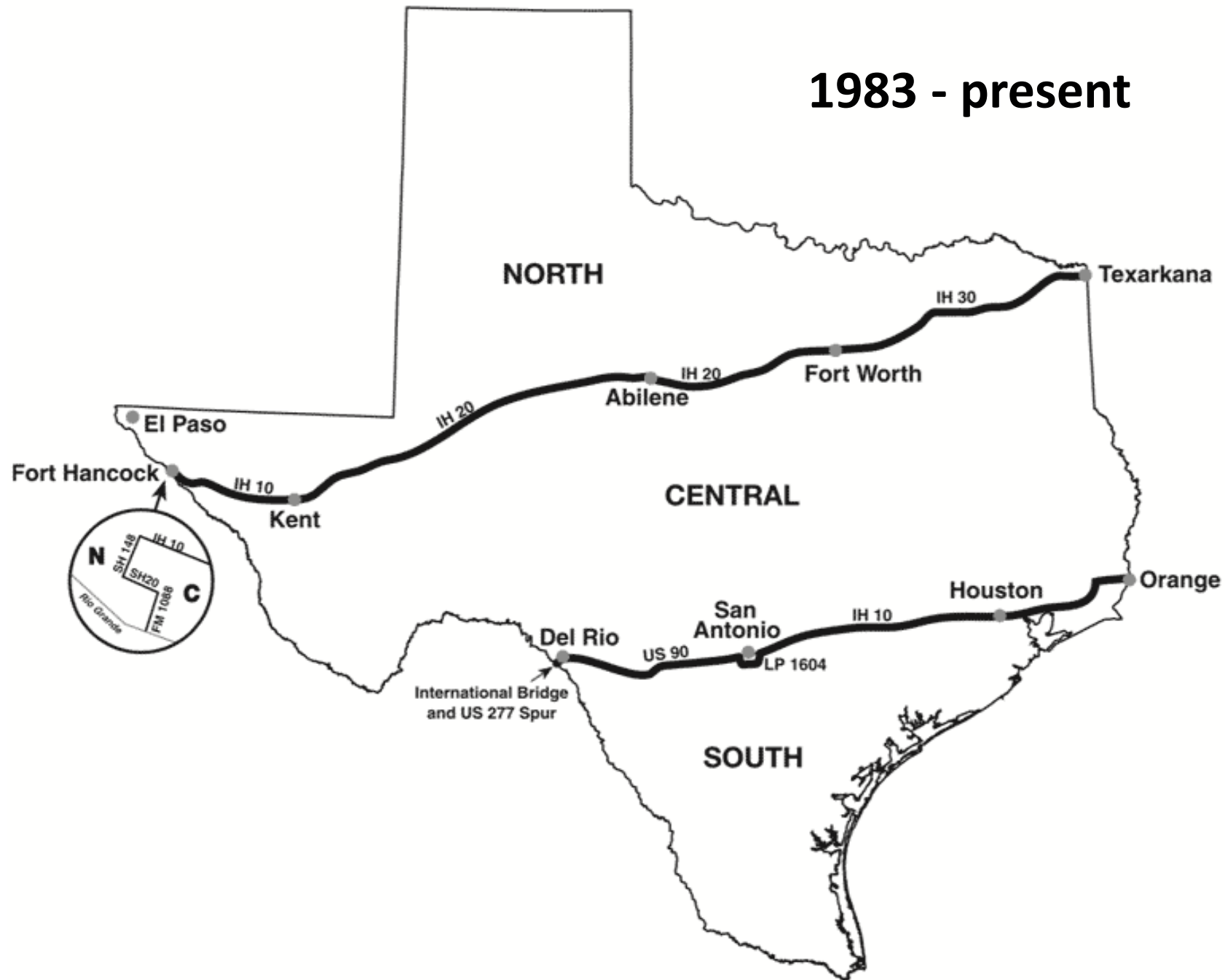
STATE OF TEXAS
PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT







1983 - present



South Zone Spring Abundance - Distance

Millions

MODO LTA = 4.7M



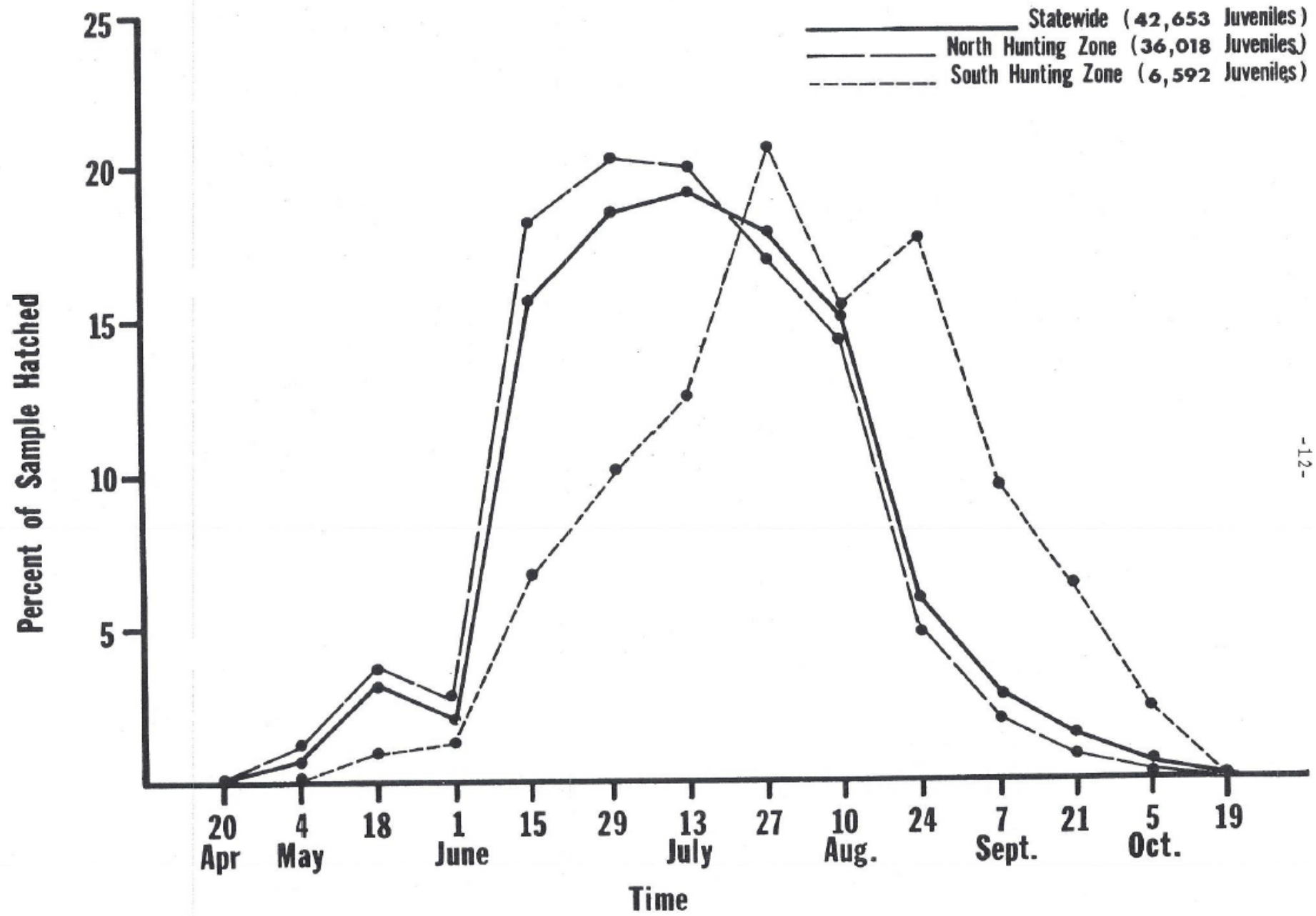
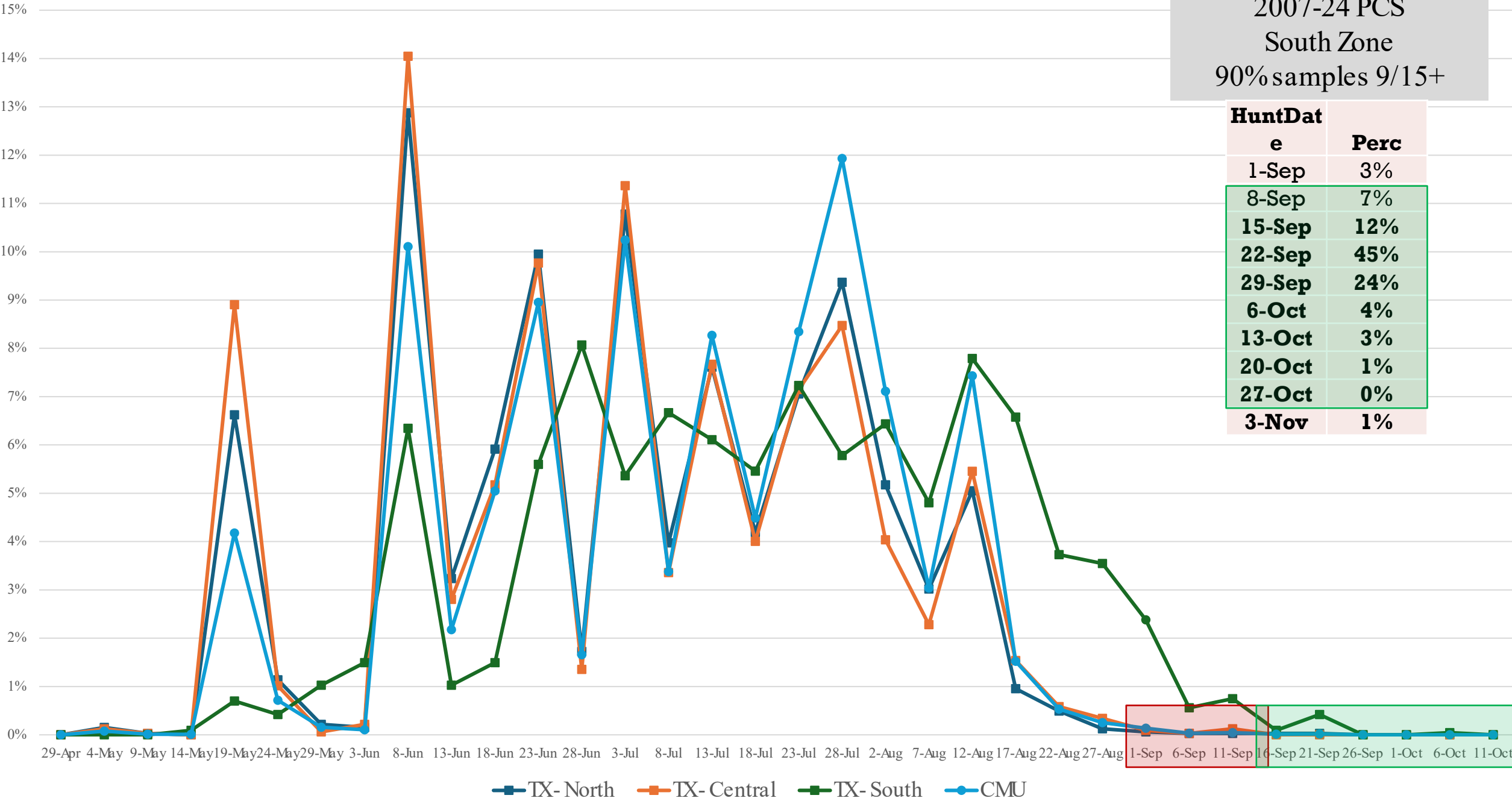


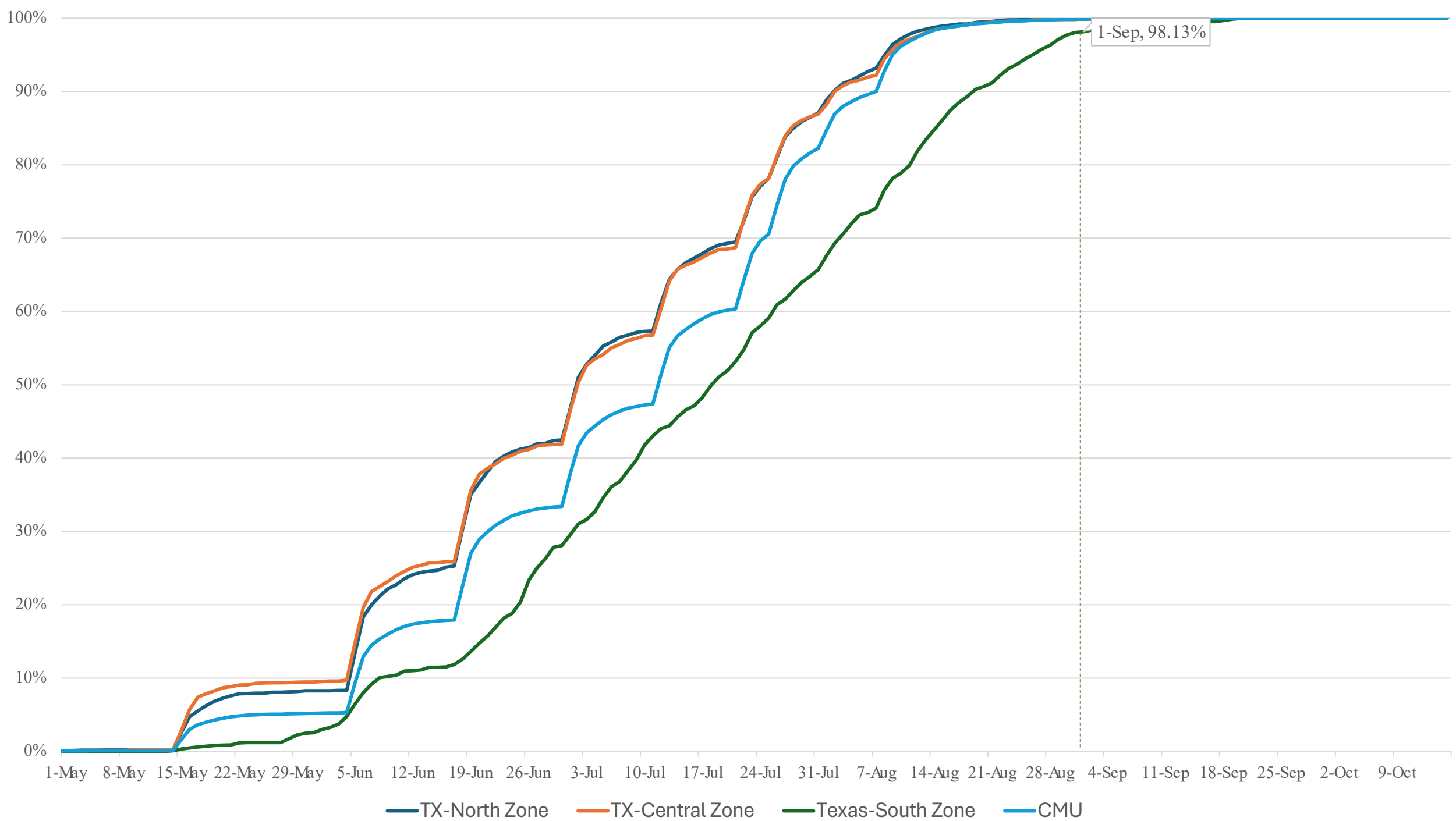
Figure 5. Hatching dates of juvenile mourning doves harvested in Texas during 1966-68.

Hatch - TXZones - PCS 2007-24

2007-24 PCS
South Zone
90% samples 9/15+

HuntDate	Perc
1-Sep	3%
8-Sep	7%
15-Sep	12%
22-Sep	45%
29-Sep	24%
6-Oct	4%
13-Oct	3%
20-Oct	1%
27-Oct	0%
3-Nov	1%







2026-27 SEASON DATES

- North Zone
 - Sep 1 – Nov 8
 - Dec 18 – Jan 7
- Central Zone
 - Sep 1 – Oct 25
 - Dec 11 – Jan 14
- South Zone
 - Sep 1 – Oct 25
 - Dec 18 – Jan 21

Help Support Future Events Like This!



Scan this code to complete a short, **voluntary** survey so that we can continue to remain eligible for funding that helps pay for events like this.

Thank you for your participation!

