

2023 Dove Draw Information Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area

This page includes information and instructions for those interested or selected to participate in a 2023 Indiana Dove Hunt Draw. It is important to note that areas participating in reserve hunts are managed by various agencies and may have unique restrictions that each hunter must follow. Please read each area's information packet carefully before pursuing a hunt.

Applying:

The application period for the 2023 Dove Hunt Draw is July 2 – Aug. 6, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted. You must obtain a valid hunting license and Game Bird Habitat stamp prior to applying. Each hunter is eligible to select one hunt date from any participating property when applying. There are no age restrictions on applying. Youth hunters may apply if they are properly licensed to hunt dove.

A HIP number is also required to hunt doves. Hunters must register at indianaoutdoor.IN.gov or by calling 866-671-4499. There is no cost to register.

Restrictions:

- Non-toxic or steel shot is required for all dove hunting. Shot size must be #6 or smaller.
- The shotgun used must not be capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.
- All dove hunters are limited to a maximum of 50 shells per hunter.
- All trash should be removed from the field after the hunt. Spent hulls are considered trash.
- No alcoholic beverages or other illegal substances are allowed in the fields.
- Do not shoot up, down, or behind the length of shooting strips. Only shoot over mowed flowers.

Bag Limit:

- The bag limit is 15 doves per person per day. Hunters must leave the field when limit is reached.

Hunting Hours:

- Shooting hours are from noon – 6 p.m. on Sept 1 & 2. After those days, shooting times are one half-hour before sunrise until sunset for the remainder of the season.

Hunt Information:

Hunters are required to sign in at the Wilbur Wright FWA office Sept. 1 & 2 by 11 a.m. ET the day of your hunt. Each managed dove field will be marked with spaced numbered hunter stakes. Stake locations will be assigned in order of drawn hunter. If you do not claim your reservation by the times indicated above, your spot will be given to another hunter or forfeited entirely. Reservations are not transferable. You may bring a hunting partner with you during your hunt. You and your hunting partner will draw a single hunting stake and sit together.

Hunters must drop harvest cards at the office location at the completion of their hunt. (Failure to return harvest card may result in being ineligible for future draws.) After the first two days, hunting is open for the duration of dove season and sign in is required at the office self-registration station prior to hunting.

Hunters must have a valid Indiana hunting license, gamebird stamp, and HIP number. Hunter's safety is very important! PLEASE KEEP SHOTS ELEVATED! Remember there are hunters on each side of you. Be aware of hunters walking in and out of fields.

Be sure to identify your game before shooting. We do not want to find any non-game or out of season species lying dead in the fields. Please do not sky bust or shoot at birds that are out of your range. The fields have been mowed to help you gauge a distance that a dove can be killed. Please let the birds work in close. This will cut down on crippling loss, which has been as high as 20% in previous years.

Hunters must harvest only their own limit and not assist a friend. Hunters may not take their guns with them in the field to retrieve downed birds. All hunters must shoot from the same side of the field (where the stakes are located). Strips have been mowed to make it easier to find birds. Please only park in designated parking areas and do not block any access lanes.

Area Information:

Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area is 1,070 acres of river valleys and associated uplands in Henry County. The Big Blue River is the western boundary, and the dark, organic soil floodplain occupies approximately one-third of the property. The remainder of the property is the adjacent uplands and the Little Blue River valley. The property has areas of mature woods, fallow cropland, prairie grasses and forbs, and other areas of early to mid-successional habitat. There are also areas of annual and perennial wildlife food plots, and there is a small wetland near the Big Blue River. An ADA accessible hunting area featuring a mix of upland and woodland is located on the property.

The property has several managed dove fields available and will award reservations to approximately 15 hunters each of the first two days of season. Most of our dove fields can be accessed by a brief walk and all fields will have parking nearby. We always attempt to leave standing cover near each stake for hunter concealment. The dove fields will differ in quality and size given the many factors that may affect the outcome of sunflower plantings.

The first days of dove season are very popular, and we ask that each sportsman do their part to keep litter contained and showcase ethical hunting to help preserve our natural resources for generations to come.

If you have questions about property rules, accessing dove fields, or other specifics, please call the Roush FWA office.

Contact:

If you have further questions, please contact the Roush FWA property office at 260-468-2165.

Roush Address: 517 N Warren Rd, Huntington, IN 46750

Wilbur Wright Address: 2239 N State Rd 103, New Castle, IN 47362

