

**Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission**  
**Mourning Dove Call Count Survey**  
**1018-0010**

**Section A. Justification**

1. Explain why you need to collect this information. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate this information collection.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918 (40 stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) as amended, authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior (FWS/DMBM) to determine to what extent migratory game birds may be hunted. For several species of game birds, including the mourning dove, this determination is based primarily on biological information gathered through surveys. For mourning doves, an important migratory game bird, the essential information is collected by means of the call-count survey.

2. Explain how FWS will use the information. If this is not a new collection, explain how FWS has used the information received.

This survey is a cooperative effort between State wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is conducted each spring by State and Service biologists. Form 3-159 is used by these cooperators to report survey data to the Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM). The survey data are analyzed and reports are prepared. The resulting assessment of the population's status serves to guide both the Service and the States in the annual promulgation of regulations for hunting mourning doves. Survey data are also used to plan and evaluate dove management programs and provide specific information necessary for dove research. If this survey were not used, there would be no way to determine the population status of mourning doves prior to setting regulations.

3. Does this information collection use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques? Provide the reasons for the decision to adopt this means of collection. Describe any consideration you gave to using information technology to reduce burden on the public.

The burden is minimal now. General information such as survey year, route number and location, region, and sunrise time are printed on the forms before they are distributed to cooperators. The reporting procedure requires that the respondent use pen or pencil to fill out Form 3-159. The respondent can voluntarily submit data electronically to further assist FWS-DMBM personnel with keypunching. The procedure cannot be simplified further.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show why similar information already available cannot be used or modified.

Within the Federal Government, DMBM is the sole organizational unit charged with monitoring the population status of mourning doves. As stated in #2, this survey is a cooperative effort with State wildlife agencies. Survey results are reviewed at annual technical committee meetings involving State and Service personnel. If similar sources of information were available or even possible, DMBM would be aware of them.

5. If the collection will have a significant impact on small entities, such as small businesses, describe methods used to minimize burden on them.

The Service has no knowledge of the survey's impact on small businesses or other small entities. This is the only survey of its kind in the United States. The information obtained through the survey is not available from another source either within or outside of DMBM.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal programs or policies if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Mourning dove populations are dynamic and, as a result, change in size and status from year to year. For this reason, the promulgation of hunting regulations has traditionally been an annual activity and, thus, annual assessments of the population status of the more important species, including mourning doves, are desirable. Without information on the population's status, the Service might promulgate hunting regulations that were too liberal, thus causing harm to the dove population, or too conservative, thus unduly restricting recreational opportunities afforded by dove hunting. Another consequence is that the Service would be vulnerable to litigation charging mismanagement and failure to fulfill treaty and other obligations.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

No special circumstances exist that would require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Cite and provide a copy of the 60-day Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received on the 60-day notice, and describe actions taken by FWS in response to those comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. Describe your efforts to consult with persons outside of FWS to obtain their views on the availability of data; frequency of collection; clarity of instructions, disclosure, or reporting format; and data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. Consultation should include obtaining their views on the amount of burden to be imposed and ways to minimize the burden. If circumstances prevent this consultation, describe them.

The 60-day notice was submitted to the Federal Register on 05/07/02. A Service representative meets with representatives from States within each unit annually to discuss survey procedures and results. Individual cooperators also have the opportunity to express concerns directly by including notes or letters with Form 3-159. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide a gift or payment to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors and grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis

for the assurance in statute, regulation, or policy.

Names and addresses are the only personal information obtained from survey cooperators. Our compliance with the Privacy Act assures confidentiality. Cooperators are apprised of the Act.

11. Provide justification for any questions of a sensitive nature. Include the reasons why the questions are necessary, the specific uses for the information, the explanation given to respondents, and steps taken to obtain respondents' consent.

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the information collection. Include an estimate of the dollar value of the burden hours.

There are roughly 1062 annual responses. For each response, it will take an average of 2.5 hours for a cooperator to supply the needed information. This includes the time for reviewing instructions (0.25 hours), gathering data during survey stops (2.0 hours), and completing and reviewing the survey form (0.25 hours). We estimate 50% of cooperators will voluntarily choose to submit data electronically, which adds an additional (0.08 hours) for a total of 2.58 hours. The total estimated burden is 2697.48 hours  $[(1062 \times 0.50)2.5 + (1062 \times 0.50)2.58]$ . The total dollar value of hours is estimated at \$51,262.00.

Without electronic submission (50% of cooperators)

Reviewing instructions	0.25 hrs
Gathering data	2.0 hrs
completing and reviewing form	<u>0.25</u> hrs
<b>Individual</b>	<b>2.5 hrs</b>
# of cooperators	(1062 x 0.50)
	x <u>2.5</u>
<b>Total hrs (50%)</b>	<b>1327.5</b>

With electronic submission (50% of cooperators)

Reviewing instructions	0.25 hrs
Gathering data	2.0 hrs
Completing & Reviewing form	0.25 hrs
Electronic submission	<u>0.08</u> hrs
<b>Individual</b>	<b>2.58 hrs</b>
# of cooperators	(1062 x 0.50)
	x <u>2.58</u>
<b>Total hrs (50%)</b>	<b>1369.98</b>
<b>Total hrs</b>	<b>(1327.5 + 1369.98) = 2697.48</b>
Total \$ value of hours	(2698 x \$19.00) = \$51,262.00

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual non-hour dollar cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers. Do not include the cost of burden hours described in items 12 and 14.

There are no estimated annualized non-hour dollar costs or burdens to the public.

14. Provide estimates of the annual cost to the Federal Government. Include a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses, and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

Materials and forms	\$700
Postage	\$800
Salaries	<u>\$23,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>

15. Provide the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in items 13 or 14 of OMB 83-I.

A new Internet based system was developed for the survey respondents to aid the USFWS with data entry (see item 12).

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Analytical techniques can be obtained from the annual Mourning Dove Breeding Population Status Report (attached under tab 7).

Form 3-159 sent to cooperators	Early spring
Survey	May 20-31
Collection of forms	late May, early June
Data analysis	early June
Report writing	early June
Publication date	mid June
Service Regulations Committee Meeting (recommendations on hunting season)	late June

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We are not seeking approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in item 19 of OMB 83-1.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

### **Section B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

1. Provide a table with numerical estimates of the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection methods to be used. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.

The respondent universe is all states in the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) and the province of Saskatchewan - Canada. A random sample of routes within physiographic regions were selected such that each route represents roughly 750 mi<sup>2</sup> of land area. The response rate is approximately 95% because some circumstances prevent all requested routes from being run each year.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information. Include statistical methodology, estimation procedure, degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification, unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

See the attached status report, Dolton, D.D., and R.D. Holmes. 2002. Mourning dove

population status, 2002. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. Pgs. 2-4., Baskett, T.S. 1993. Biological evaluation of the call-count survey. Pages 253-268 in T.S. Baskett, M.W. Sayre, R.E. Tomlinson, and R.E. Mirachi, eds., Ecology and management of the mourning dove. Stackpole Books. Harrisburg, PA. and Dolton, D.D. 1993. The call-count survey: Historic development and current procedures. Pages 233-252 in T.S. Baskett, M.W. Sayre, R.E. Tomlinson, and R.E. Mirachi, eds., Ecology and management of the mourning dove. Stackpole Books. Harrisburg, PA. for descriptions of statistical methods.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and deal with issues of non-response.

Phone contacts and a system of state coordinators is used to maximize timely response.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

The Call-Count Survey methodology has been improved and refined over the last 34 years. Future improvements and modifications are likely to be minor as improvements have reached the point of diminishing returns.

5. Provide the names and telephone numbers of individuals consulted of the statistical aspects of the design and the names of the FWS unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) would will actually collect or analyze the information.

Statistical consultants:

John Sauer	301-497-5662
Bill Kendall	301-497-5868

Persons collecting and analyzing data:

Rebecca Rau	301-497-5862
Bill Kendall	301-497-5868