REFERENCES


Wild Life Protection Act, 1945

Orders
Wild Life Protection Act (Amendment) Order, 1998
Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1998
Wild Life Protection (Stanmore Hill Game Reserve) Order, 1988
Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997
Wild Life Protection (Kingston and St. Andrew Game Reserve) Order, 1971
Wild Life Protection (Reigate (Game Reserve) Order, 1968
Wild Life Protection (Knapdale Game Reserve) Order, 1963
Wild Life Protection (Bogue Estate Game Reserve) Order, 1963

Regulations
Wild Life Protection (Amendment of Second Schedule) Regulation, 2002
Wild Life Protection (Hunter’s Returns) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001
Wild Life Protection (Game Bird Hunting Limit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2000
Wild Life Protection (Hunters’ Returns) Regulation, 1999
Wild Life Protection Act (Hunter’s Licences) Regulation, 1998
Wild Life Protection Act (Protection Zone) Regulation, 1998
Wild Life Protection (Hunters’ Licences) Regulations, 1973

A Hunter’s Handbook
for
Game Birds in Jamaica

June 2003
CARE AND HANDLING OF GAME BIRDS FROM THE FIELD TO THE DINING TABLE

It is often said that if handled and cooked properly, bird meat can be considered as a delicacy at the dining table. Like many other animal kills, if not handled properly and dealt with swiftly, it will become contaminated with bacteria and rendered unsafe for eating. Unpalatable flavours and odours may develop and the risk of getting food borne diseases may increase. To minimize or eliminate this problem, the following steps should be followed:

- Bring sharp hunting knives, plastic bags, clean cloth or paper towel and a cooler filled with ice each time you go out on a hunt.
- Field dress the bird promptly (remember to leave on feathered wing for Game Wardens’ inspection).
- Remove the entrails and the crop as soon as possible because the grain in the crop may ferment if not removed.
- Wipe out the cavity with a clean cloth or paper towel or wash if you have access to clean water.
- Do not pile warm birds in a mass.
- Store birds in a clean plastic bag on ice to keep them cool and keep them out of the sun.
• Always keep the muzzle of your firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times.

• Treat every shotgun as though it were loaded.

• Always make sure your firearm is unloaded and kept on safety when transporting or storing.

• Be sure that the barrel is clear of obstructions and that you have the proper ammunition for the firearm you are using.

• Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.

• Never point your firearm at anything you do not want to shoot.

• Avoid all horseplay or mishandling of any firearm.

• Never climb a fence, tree or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.

• Never shoot at a hard or flat surface such as rocks or water.

• Store all firearms and ammunition separately.

• Avoid alcohol and other drugs before or during hunting activities.

• Keep ammunition in a locked container and keep in your possession at all times.
BIRD SHOOTING IN JAMAICA

Historical Perspective

Bird shooting in Jamaica began centuries ago. At its inception, the law pertinent to regulating the sport was adopted from England where the duration of the season ran from August 12 to January 31 of the following year, to coincide with their ‘Grouse Season’. At that time, the majority of the hunters were the ‘landed gentry’, for example, overseers of estates or civil servants. Anyone who could purchase both a gun and ammunition took part in the shooting season.

Today’s Jamaican hunters actually attained their skill while rifle shooting in high schools such as Munro College, Wolmers High School and Jamaica College. This fostered bonds between friends and families and the formation of gun clubs.

There are approximately twelve recognized gun clubs operating in different sections of the island, the oldest of which is the PWD Gun Club, which started in 1937. Other clubs that followed include the Jamaica, Trelawny, Cornwall and Wanderers Gun Clubs and the Monymusk and Jackson Bay Gun, Rod and Tiller Clubs. The majority of the clubs now own or lease their shooting grounds, which are located in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Trelawny and St. Thomas. Over the years, the gun clubs have worked very closely with the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and have utilised national laws along with their own club rules, to assist with enforcement of shooting season regulations which are made under the Wild Life Protection Act WLPA).

The WLPA, enacted in 1945, and its regulations replaced the colonial laws which governed bird shooting. In 1974, the season was declared closed and this lasted for eight years. During this period the bird population increased, but by 1990 it became evident that the population was diminishing. This resulted in a comprehensive review of all regulations governing bird shooting under the WLPA by the responsible Ministry. The duration of the season, bag limits, declaration of Game Sanctuaries and Game Reserves and shooting times were reviewed, and where necessary, the regulations were amended. The duration of the season was reduced to six weeks, starting on the third weekend in August and ending on the third weekend in September of each year. Hunting was restricted to Saturday mornings and afternoons and Sunday mornings only. The shortening of the bird shooting season has contributed to the increase in the game bird

As a Responsible Hunter I will not:

- Shoot birds other than those gazetted as game birds.
- Shoot in areas designated as Protected Areas (National Parks, Environmental Protection Area, Marine Parks, Game Reserves and Forest Reserves).
- Shoot other protected animals such as crocodiles, ducks, sea birds and snakes.

• Leave all the feathers on one wing of each bird in my bag.
• Have in my possession a First-Aid Kit and the name, address and telephone number of a nearby doctor or health facility as part of my emergency plan in the event of an accident.
• Maintain a minimum distance of 64 meters between shooting stands.
• Maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from the boundaries of all Game Reserves and Sanctuaries.
• Exercise caution and consideration when shooting near populated areas.
• Submit my report form, whether or not I have shot, to the NRCA, c/o 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, either by registered mail or hand delivery on or before December 31, following the closure of the bird shooting season, or pay the prescribed late processing fee.
population. Bag limits were reduced from 30 birds per shoot to 20 and then to 15 in 1997. Since 2000, the bag limit has increased to 20 birds per shoot, with a maximum of 15 Bald-pate per bag allowed.

A review of activities over the last five seasons have revealed that the number of violations have declined, when compared to previous years. This has been attributed to stricter enforcement, public awareness programmes, peer pressure and environmental stewardship by some hunters.

**Bird Shooting Today in Jamaica**

Monitoring of the season is conducted by a contingency of wardens comprising Game Wardens, the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Environmental Wardens and NEPA officers.

Other aspects of bird shooting have changed over the years. These include the location of shooting areas, which have generally shifted from forests to fields. Many persons now buy and/or lease lands for shooting and some fields are seeded with corn and rice to attract game birds. Bird shooting contributes positively to the economy of several rural communities. It increases business activities for hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and gas stations and provides summer employment for young men who work as hunting assistants, otherwise called ‘bird boys’. The income earned by an experienced ‘bird boy’, range from JA$1,000.00 to JA$3,000.00 per weekend.

It may be argued that bird shooting threatens the game birds’ population. However, research has shown that the sport is now at a sustainable level and if the regulations are enforced and adhered to by the hunters, then there will be continued sustainability of the tradition.

The continued success of any bird shooting season in Jamaica will depend heavily on co-management between the hunter, environmental non-government organizations, land owners, and NEPA.

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**Hunters Code of Conduct**

- Not let peer pressure or the excitement of the sport prevent good judgment.
- Learn and practice safe hunting techniques.
- Know the capabilities and limitations of my gun and use it safely.
- Hunt only the prescribed game birds.
- Obey and support all regulations relating to wildlife protection and report all violations.
- Respect all landowners and always obtain permission before hunting.
- Avoid deliberate interference with another hunter and respect the right of others to lawfully share the common resources.
- Value the hunting experience and appreciate the beauty of the wild birds.
- Positively identify my target as the prescribed game bird.
- Be sensitive to and respect the feelings of those who choose not to hunt.
- Have my Firearm’s Licence/User’s Permit and Hunter’s Licence in my possession when hunting or transporting game birds.
- Shoot only during the specified days and times of the bird shooting season.
- Co-operate with NEPA Officers, Police Officers and Environmental Officers & Game Wardens at all times.
GAME BIRDS

Introduction

Doves and pigeons belong to the family Columbidae and are often referred to as Columbids. Twelve species of Columbids are found in Jamaica. These include two endemic species, three endemic subspecies and two introduced species.

Columbids are small-headed, short-legged and swift-flying birds, with pointed wings and fanned or tapered tails. The feather colouration of the female is duller than that of the male and when walking all species coo and bob their heads. They feed mainly on grains, small seeds and fruits.

Columbids are important to the ecosystem as they assist in seed dispersal and regrowth of plant species and serve an aesthetic function in the form of bird watching.

Description of the Game Birds

Under ‘The Wild Life Protection Act (Amendment) Order, 1998’ and ‘The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of Second Schedule) Regulation, 2002’ six game birds are designated. They are the White-winged Dove (Zenaida astiatica), Bald-pate (Columba leucocephala), Long-tailed Pea Dove (Zenaida macroura), Pea Dove (Zenaida aurita), Green-winged Teal (Anas crecca) and Blue-Winged Teal (Anas discors). However, only four species, the White-winged Dove, Bald-pate, Long-tailed Pea Dove and Pea Dove are declared annually to be hunted. Each is described below.

White-winged Dove

[Image of White-winged Dove]

Zenaida astiatica, commonly known as the White-winged Dove or Lapwing, is dark gray in colour, with a large white patch on its wings and a white-tipped tail. It is approximately 30.5 cm in length. Although the white patches on the wing can be seen when the bird is on the ground, they become even more obvious when the bird is in flight. While the White-winged Dove prefers dry regions,

- Percentage of birds shot per parish
  - 23% in St. Elizabeth
  - 15% in St. Catherine
  - 15% in Clarendon
  - 13% in St. James
  - 8% in Manchester
  - 7% in St. Thomas
  - 6% in Portland
  - All other parishes accounted for the remaining 13%

- Shooting effort per parish (number of shooting Sessions per person)
  - 23% in St. Elizabeth
  - 12% in St. Catherine
  - 15% in Clarendon
  - 12% in St. James
  - 9% in Manchester
  - 7% in St. Thomas
  - 7% in Portland

- Dominance of Game birds per parish
  - Bald-pates in St. James, Trelawny, Portland, St. Mary and Manchester
  - White-winged Doves in all other parishes.

Summary Statistics of permits sold and birds shot during the 1997 to 2004 Shooting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Permits Sold</th>
<th>White-winged Doves</th>
<th>Long-tailed Pea Doves</th>
<th>Bald-pates</th>
<th>Pea Dove</th>
<th>Total Birds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1046</td>
<td>41,997</td>
<td>32,372</td>
<td>34,997</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>109,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1175</td>
<td>89,700</td>
<td>32,650</td>
<td>49,489</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>171,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1194</td>
<td>66,692</td>
<td>40,016</td>
<td>60,023</td>
<td></td>
<td>166,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1278</td>
<td>48,585</td>
<td>28,440</td>
<td>30,743</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>107,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1344</td>
<td>68,675</td>
<td>33,500</td>
<td>65,356</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>167,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1398</td>
<td>58,380</td>
<td>25,020</td>
<td>75,060</td>
<td>8,340</td>
<td>166,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>55,048</td>
<td>13,942</td>
<td>55,177</td>
<td>6,857</td>
<td>131,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>31949</td>
<td>8414</td>
<td>31361</td>
<td>4766</td>
<td>76,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10228</td>
<td>461026</td>
<td>214354</td>
<td>402206</td>
<td>8340</td>
<td>1,021,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Average</td>
<td>1279</td>
<td>57628</td>
<td>26794</td>
<td>50276</td>
<td>8340</td>
<td>137,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Endemic: found only in Jamaica
The timing of the hunting season appears adequate. It occurs several months after the main nesting season. Even though some birds continue to nest during the hunting season, they rarely become the target of hunters. Collecting young birds has probably a lower impact on the population than collecting a similar number of reproductively active animals. A sufficient number of juveniles appear to survive the hunting season. However, this may change if hunting pressure continues to increase, or if exceptional climatic conditions such as hurricanes have a severe impact on survival and reproduction.

The consistency of the results over the four years justifies the decision to discontinue the annual wing assessment, and instead establish a research programme that addresses the hypotheses suggested to explain the high rate of juvenile birds among the collected animals. A study of geographical patterns in seasonal abundance appears most promising.

Summary of the 2004 Bird Shooting Season

The season was affected by two hurricanes, Hurricane Charlie which passed to the south of the island on the island two weeks before the opening of the season; and Hurricane Ivan which resulted in the premature closure of the season.

A total of 1,444 licences were sold and the following analysis of the data compiled from the returned hunters’ forms.

- 76,490 birds were shot:
  - 31,949 (43%) White-winged Dove
  - 8,414 (11%) Paloma
  - 31,361 (41%) Bald-pate
  - 4,766 (5%) Pea Dove

- Birds recorded shot in the four vegetation types:
  - 50% in inland woodland
  - 30% in field
  - 14% in coastal woodland
  - 6% in mangroves

- Shooting effort per vegetation (number of shooting sessions per person)
  - 55% in inland woodland
  - 36% in field
  - 14% in coastal woodland
  - 5% in mangroves

Bald-pate

*Columba leucomela* is commonly known as the Bald-pate or White-crowned Pigeon. The adult measures approximately 35.6 cm in length and is dark gray in colour with a distinctive white crown atop its head. This white crown is not seen in immature birds. The Bald-pate generally inhabits mangroves and wooded interior lands. During flight the bird displays very strong wing beats. Flocks of these birds are sometimes seen feeding near the coast and flying inland at dusk. Single birds and pairs are found throughout the island.

The Bald-pate is not restricted to Jamaica, but is found throughout the Caribbean and the Bahamas. Locally, they are found island wide and feed on a variety of berries including pimento, Bullet wood and Burnwood. The females nest from May to June. Primary nesting areas include mangrove forests and wooded areas near the coast, while in the mountainous areas nesting occurs in tall trees. The call of the Bald-pate is ‘Whoo? Who took two? Who took two? Who took two?’

Long-tailed Pea Dove

*Zenaida macroura* is commonly known as the Paloma or Long-tailed Pea Dove. Adults measures approximately 28 to 33 cm in length, is slim bodied with a long tapering tails and are brown in colour with black spots on the wings. The long diamond–shaped tail tipped with white is diagnostic in flight. This dove is very common in dry coastal areas and is often seen feeding in flocks.

In Jamaica, the Paloma is also found in other Greater Antillean islands, the Bahamas and Central and North America. Locally, it is widely distributed both in lowlands and mountains. The call of the Paloma is ‘ooah-o0o-oo’.

Pea Dove

*Zenaida aurita*, commonly called Pea Dove, is found throughout the West Indies and inhabits fairly open country, particularly in lowland areas. Like the Mourning Dove, they have a mournful sound but they usually slightly more curtailed. Adult males are 29.2 to 46.3 cm long, while females are 26.7 cm in length. They are stocky birds, brown above,
with a cinnamon colour about the head and neck. Black spots are on the wings and dark violet-blue streaks are above and below the ear-coverts. The sides of the neck display a purple hue. Males are more brightly coloured than the females.

Mature birds nest between May and June and spend the greater portion of their time on the ground, in search of food. They feed on grass seeds, the leaves of aromatic plants, and various kinds of berries.

Protected Birds

All birds are protected under the WLPA, except those listed in the Second Schedule, Second part. However, only the prescribed doves and pigeon can be legally hunted in Jamaica when a season is declared.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BIRD SHOOTING SEASON

Age Distribution Assessment of the Game Bird Population

Introduction

In an effort to study the age distribution of columbid game birds in Jamaica, wings of collected birds were assessed over a four year period starting in 2000. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Life Sciences – University of the West Indies, BirdLife Jamaica, protected areas management entities, gun clubs and individual hunters.

Methods

Juvenile pigeons and doves replace their ten primary wing feathers one by one from inside out during their first six month of life. The replaced feathers can be distinguished from the juvenile feathers by colour and shape. It is thus possible to identify the approximate age of juvenile birds up to six months by their wings. In all four years of the study, over 90% of the birds could be assessed by this method. Prior to the hunting seasons, the data collectors met at a workshop to standardize assessments. Teams visited hunters in the parishes of Portland, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, St. James and Trelawny.

For the four year period a number of consistent patterns were observed:

- Over 95% of the collected birds are less than 6 month old.
- The age of the collected birds suggests a strong breeding peak from April to May.
- Reproduction at lower intensity occurs over an extended period including the hunting season.
- Secondary peaks may occur but vary between bird species, region and year.

The most likely explanation for the vast preponderance of young birds is that they flock and accumulate in certain areas that are targeted by hunters because of high returns. This hypothesis is supported by observations of large number of birds appearing in shooting areas 1-2 months before the hunting season.
side of the first mentioned parochial road to its intersection with the northern side of the last mentioned parochial road; thence due south to intersect the parish boundary between St. Catherine and St. Andrew along the Ferry or Fresh River; thence generally south-easterly along the said parish boundary to intersect the high water-mark at Hunts Bay; thence due south to intersect a line off-shore parallel to and 300 feet from the high water-mark along the coastline; thence generally easterly along the last mentioned parallel line but not including the Palisadoes Peninsula to a point due south of the starting point; thence due north back to the starting point.

[NOTE: At the time of declaration for no map accompanied the description of the reserves on page 27 and 28]

Forest Reserves

All Forest Reserves are Game Reserves. These reserves are declared under the Forest Act and there are approximately 110,000 hectares of land designated as Forest Reserves. The maps showing the boundary of these reserves can be sourced from the Forestry Department, 173 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 8.

The Ring-tailed Pigeon

*Columba caribaea*, commonly called Ring-tailed Pigeon is an endemic species. It is sometimes mistaken for the Band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*), which does not occur in Jamaica, but is found throughout the western states of North America, from Alaska to Texas, and Central and South America.

*Columba caribaea* (Ring-tailed Pigeon)

- Common name: Ring-tailed Pigeon
- Scientific Name: *Columba caribaea*
- Distribution: Jamaica
- Status: Endemic
- Colour: The species is distinguished by a dark band across the upper tail, bluish green hind neck and absence of white from the wings. It has a dark beak and reddish legs. The male is bluish gray above with the head and underside being pinkish while the female is slightly duller and browner.
- Behaviour: Rarely descends to ground level, feeding high in tall trees on fruits and seeds. Found in flocks of 6-20 and can be approached quite easily.
The Band-tailed Pigeon

**Common Name:** Band-tailed pigeon  
**Scientific Name:** *Columba fasciata*  
**Distribution:** Western states of North Central and South America  
**Status:** Does not occur in the Caribbean.  
**Colour:** Purplish head and breast, yellow beak with dark tip and yellow legs. It has a narrow white band at the back of the neck which maybe absent in females and immature.  
**Behaviour:** Found in large flocks.

*Kingston and St. Andrew Game Reserve*

The Wild Life Protection (Kingston and Saint Andrew Game Reserve) Order, 1971

Starting at a point on the eastern bank of the Chalky River where it enters the sea; thence along its eastern bank to a point 1,000 feet north of the centre line of the main road leading from Kingston to Morant Bay; thence generally westerly along a line parallel to and 1,000 feet from the centre line of the said main road to intersect a point on the eastern boundary of Harbour View Housing Estate; thence due north for a distance of 2,000 feet; thence due west to intersect a line parallel to and 300 feet from the eastern bank of the Hope River; thence generally northerly along the last mentioned parallel line to its intersection with the centre line of Kintyre Road; thence generally north-easterly and generally north-westerly along the centre line of Kintyre Road to its intersection with the centre line of the main road leading from Gordon Town to Papine; thence westerly along the centre line of the last mentioned main road to intersect a line on the eastern side of Skyline Drive paralleled to and 300 feet from the centre line of Skyline Drive; thence generally north-westerly along the last mentioned parallel line to its intersection with a line parallel to and 300 feet from the centre line of the Jacks Hill Road on the eastern side of the last name road; thence generally north-westerly along a line 300 feet from and parallel to the centre line of the last mentioned road to a point 300 feet due east of the intersection of the centre lines of Jacks Hill Road and the road leading to Cherry Gardens; thence due west to the last mentioned intersectional; thence north-westerly in a straight line across country to the intersection of the centre lines of Hermitage Dam and Seaview Roads; thence due east to intersect a line parallel to and 300 feet from the centre line of Seaview Road; thence generally westerly along the last mentioned parallel line to intersect at Stony Hill the centre line on the northern side of the main road leading from Stony Hill to Cavaliers; thence generally north-westerly and generally south-westerly along the last mentioned parallel line to a point due north of the intersection of the centre lines of the last mentioned main road and Mannings Hill Road; thence due west to intersect a line parallel to and 300 feet from the centre line of Mannings Hill Road; thence generally southerly along the last mentioned parallel line to intersect a line parallel to and 300 feet from the centre line on the northern side of the main road leading from Mannings Hill to Rock Hall by way of Mt. Salus, Bean Junction and Red Hills; thence generally south-westerly and generally north-westerly along the last mentioned parallel line to a point due east of the boundary between Woodlands and Belvedere properties approximately 650 feet from the junction of the last mentioned main road and the main road leading to Belvedere; thence due west to the said boundary; thence westerly along the southern boundary of Woodlands property to its intersection with the eastern boundary of Carhampton property; thence southerly along the last mentioned boundary to its intersection with the northern side of the parochial road leading from Belvedere to the parochial road leading from glade to Ferry; thence generally westerly and generally southerly along the northern
HUNTING LAWS

Introduction

The National Environment and Planning Agency is responsible for ensuring the conservation, protection and sustainable use of Jamaica’s natural resources. This mandate is achieved partly through the enactment of various legislations, one of which is the Wild Life Protection Act.

Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA)

The Wild Life Protection Act was promulgated in 1945 and has undergone several amendments, the most recent in 2001. The Act provides legislative protection for a number of animals, including birds. The Act also regulates the bird shooting.

In general, the Act speaks to:

- the types of animals that may be hunted;
- the prohibition of hunting or possessing protected animals and protected birds (unless a season is declared);
- the punishment of persons who cause or attempt to cause direct harm to protected animals or protected bird;
- the zoning of areas in which hunting and fishing activities are prohibited; and
- the regulation of the hunting of game birds, through the declaration of a bird shooting season.

WLPA Regulations for Bird Shooting Season

The regulations specify the conditions under which the shooting season shall be conducted are as follows:

Hunter’s Licence

All hunters must be a valid Hunter’s Licence holder and must have it in their possession while undertaking bird shooting activities. The licence must be shown upon request by a Game Warden.
Game Birds

Game Birds listed under the WLPA include the Long-tailed Pea Dove, White-winged Dove, Bald-pate, Pea Dove, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal. No shooting season has been declared for the Green-winged or Blue-winged Teals.

Shooting Days and Times

During the shooting season, usually mid-August to September of each year, shooting sessions are on Saturday sunrise to 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to sunset and Sunday sunrise to 9:00 a.m.

Bag Limits

- The overall bag limit per shooting session is 20 with the exception of the Bald-pate.

- Where the only game bird hunted is the Bald-pate 30 may be shot, that is, 15 during the morning shoot and 15 in the afternoon shoot on Saturday and 15 on a Sunday.

- Where the only game bird being hunted is the Long-tailed Pea Dove or Pea Dove or White-wing Dove, only 40 can be shot on a Saturday, that is, 20 during the morning shoot and 20 in the afternoon shoot and 20 on Sunday.

- Where the game birds being hunted are Long-tailed Pea Dove, Pea Dove and White-winged Dove, a total of 40 can be shot on Saturday, that is, 20 during the morning shoot and 20 during the afternoon shoot and 20 on Sunday.

- Where the game birds being hunted are the Bald-pate and Long-tailed Pea Dove or the Bald-pate and White-wing Dove or the Bald-pate and Pea Dove or the Bald-pate, Long-tailed Pea Dove, Pea Dove and White-wing, a total of 20 each period from sunrise to 9:00 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to sunset on a Saturday and from sunrise to 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday of which the maximum number of Bald-pates shot shall not exceed 15.
Bogue Lagoon Creek Game Reserve, Montego Bay, St James [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the point where the Belmont Main Road intersects with the Lucea to Montego Bay Main Road, then going east to the point where Gordons Crossing main road intersects with the Lucea to Montego Bay main road at Bogue; then continuing on the Lucea to Montego Bay main road in a north-easterly direction to the point where Fairfield Estates main road intersects with it by the Herbert Morrison Comprehensive High school; then going in a north-westerly direction along the Lucea to Montego Bay main road to where it intersects with the Bogue Island main road; then going along the Lucea to Montego Bay main road passing the Py River to the bridge that crosses the Montego River; then going in a westerly direction along the south bank of the river to the mouth of the river; then generally due south-west following the high water mark to the blue beacon at coordinates 18° 27.792’ N and 77° 56.175’ W; then from this beacon following a straight line in north-westerly direction crossing the shipping channel to the red beacon at coordinates 18° 27.896’ N & 77° 56.263’ W; then following the high water mark first along the northern edge of Bogue Islands; then along the north-western edge in a south-westerly direction to the south-western tip of Bogue Island; then following a straight line in a south-westerly direction to the orange buoy at coordinates 18° 26.835’ N and 77° 57.392’ W; then along a straight line in a south-westerly direction to the point of commencement.

Hunter’s Game Bird Shooting Report Form

At the close of the season, all hunters must complete and return their report form by registered mail or by hand to NRCA c/o 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5 or P.O. Box 207, Kingston 5, on or before December 31. After this date, a late processing fee of $5000 becomes applicable. No subsequent Hunter’s Licence will be granted until the requisite late processing fee is paid and the returns submitted for the last hunting season.

Wing Evidence

A fully feathered wing is to remain on each bird shot for inspection by Game Wardens.

Game Wardens

Under section 13 of the WLPA, provision is made for the appointment of Game Wardens. The powers of a Game Warden are as follows:

- Enter, remain upon and traverse any lands at any time if there is reason to suspect that an offence may have been committed against the Act (Section 15, Subsection 2, WLPA).

- Search any person who may have been suspected of having contravened any provision of the Act on Crown Lands, Game Sanctuary and Fish Sanctuary (Section 16, WLPA).

- Stop and search any vehicle or boat for any animal, fish, bird, bird’s nest and/or eggs, as well as any weaponry used to trap or kill animals (Section 16, WLPA).

- Stop and detain any person violating the Act without a warrant. If such a person fails to give his name and address, a Game Warden has the power to apprehend and deliver such person into custody at the nearest police station to be dealt with according to the law (Section 17, WLPA).

- It is an offence to assault, obstruct, hinder, resist, aid, abet or incite any assault against a Game Warden (Section 19, WLPA).
Breaches of the WLPA with regards to Bird Shooting Season

Under the Act, there are three offenses in relation to the hunting of game birds:

- The hunting of any game bird during the Close Season, where “hunt” includes kill, capture or willfully molest by any method and any attempt to kill, capture or molest any animal or bird.
- The hunting of game birds, during the shooting season, on any day or time other than that declared by the Minister.
- The transfer or storage of any game bird for commercial purposes.

Penalties under the WLPA with regard to the Bird Shooting Season

A resident magistrate may award a maximum fine of $100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months for breaches of any of the aforementioned offences (Section 20). In addition, where a person is found with game birds in cold storage and there is evidence to support the suspicion that it is for commercial purposes, the game birds may be seized.

Game Reserves

Section 5 of the WLPA makes provisions for the declaration of Game Reserves. A Game Reserve is a parcel of land, body of water or area comprising both land and water. Within a reserve, the hunting of animals (including birds) removal of eggs or the nest of any bird and the use or possession of any dog, gun, catapult or any other weapon which could be used to hunt any animals or birds is prohibited. Jamaica has seventeen areas declared as Game Reserves along with all Forest Reserves (figure 1).

The Black River Upper Morass Game Reserve, St. Elizabeth [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the point where the power transmission line crosses the Black River at Haughton, going generally east along the Black River to the point where Island River joins it; then going due north along the edge of the wetlands to the point where it meets the motorable track at Barton Isle; then going generally north-west along the motorable track to the fish ponds; then north along the motorable track by the fish plant at Bartons; then going generally east along the edge of the wetlands to where it meets with the motorable track by the fish ponds at Elim; then generally east along this motorable track to where it intersects the Elim to Braes River main road at Elim; then generally east along Elim to Braes River main road for three hundred meters to where it is intersected by a motorable track; then south along the motorable track until it intersects with the Grosmond to Carmel Road then going south-west to where the Bybrook Road intersects with the Grosmond to Carmel Road; then north-west passing Brighton; then generally west passing Carmel to the point where it intersects with the Santa Cruz to Lacovia main road; then to the point where, the power transmission line crosses the main road; then back to the starting point.
The Black River Lower Morass Game Reserve, St. Elizabeth [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997 amended in 1998]

Starting at the bridge which crosses the Black River along the Slip to Lacovia main road, going generally west along the Black River where it intersects with the Holland Sugar Estate Road on the south-western end of the Estate, then in a straight line due north-west to the intersection of Whitehall Cross main road and the Middle Quarters to Black River main road at Point; then generally south along the Black River main road to where the wetlands meet this main road 1 km north of the Brampton main road intersection at Luana; then following the edge of the wetlands going generally south to the bridge which crosses the Black River at Crane Road; then going south-east along Crane Road to where it intersects with the Parottee main road at Salt Spring Junction; then going east along the Fullerswood main road for 500 meters to the point where the wetlands meet this said main road; then following the edge of the wetlands in a north-easterly direction to where the Slip main road crosses the Broad River; then 600 meters east along the Broad River to the point where it meets the motorable track; then south-easterly along this motorable track to the edge of the wetlands; then going north-east along the edge of the wetlands to where it meets the Mountainside to Lacovia main road at Develders Pass at Exeter; then generally north along the Lacovia to Mountainside main road to where it is intersected by a slip road to where it meets with the Slip to Lacovia main road at Lacovia; then north along the Slip to Lacovia main road back to the starting point.

Any person found in a Game Reserve in possession of any animal, bird, bird’s eggs or nests, will be presumed to be in violation of the WLPA. This can attract a maximum fine of $100,000, 12 months imprisonment or both if convicted by a Resident Magistrate.

It is also important to note that for each Game Reserve, there is a 50 meter distance from the boundary. This is called a buffer zone. Hunters are required to recognize this zone and refrain from all shooting activities within such zones.

Entry points to all Game Reserves are furnished with signs which clearly state that the area is a Game Reserve and no bird shooting or other form of hunting is allowed at the site.

The following pages provide boundary descriptions of the seventeen Game Reserves declared under the WLPA.

Starting at the roundabout at Negril square going generally east along the Negril to Savanna-la-Mar Main road to the point where the Sheffield to Ketto Main road intersects with the Negril to Savanna-la-Mar main road at Sheffield; then going generally in a north-easterly direction along the Sheffield to Ketto main road to the point where the Mount Pleasant main road intersects with it; then going in a northerly direction along the Mount Pleasant main road to where the Rhodes Hall Plantation private road, which is a motorable track, intersects with the Mount Pleasant main road at Mount Pleasant; then going along the motorable track in a north-easterly direction; then turning left along the motorable track in a northerly direction to the point where it intersects a second motorable track at Rhodes Hall Plantation; then turning left at this intersection going along the second motorable track in a westerly direction until the second motorable track intersects with the Negril to Lucea main road at Rhodes Hall; then continuing west along the second motorable track to the point where it meets the high water mark at Samuels Bay; then in a south-westerly direction to the point where the North Negril River enters the sea at Salt Creek; then along the North Negril River at Salt Creek to the point where the bridge crosses it; then along the centre line of the Norman Manley Boulevard in a south-westerly back to the starting point.
Mason River Savanna Game Reserve, Clarendon [The Wild Life Protection Act (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1998]

Starting at the bridge which the Mason River to Douglas Castle main road crosses the Blue River (point 1); then going in a north-easterly direction along the Blue River which also coincides with the St. Ann-Clarendon Parish boundary, to the point where a tributary meets with it (point 2); then in an easterly direction along this tributary to where the motorable track crosses it (point 3); then in a south-easterly direction along this motorable track to the junction with the Mason river-Macknie main road (point 4); then in a westerly direction along the centre line of the Mason River main road to the entrance to the Mason River Research Station (point 5); then south-westerly along the said main road for 1 km to a point where it is intersected by a motorable track (point 6); then in a northerly direction to the starting point.

Cabarita Point, Game Reserve, St. Catherine [The Wild Life Protection Act (Amendment of First Schedule) Order 1998]

Starting at the tip of Cabarita Point with geographical coordinates 17°50'450"N, 77°02'346"W; then going in a northerly direction following the periphery of the mangrove, passing Great Goat Island to a point with geographical coordinates 17°53'370"N, 77°03'500"W; then continuing along the periphery of the mangrove in a general south-easterly then northern direction to geographical coordinates 17°53'37"N, 77°03'49.5"W; then in a straight line with bearing 259° for 2.3 km to Ridleys Bay at geographical coordinates 17°50'45"N, 77°02'34"W; then from Ridleys Bay along the periphery of the mangrove in a south-western direction to the starting point.
The Great Morass Game Reserve, Parottee, St. Elizabeth [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the high water-mark at Parottee point going generally north to where it meets the Parottee main road at Parottee bay; then generally north along the Parottee main road to the bridge at Brodse point; then generally north-east along the edge of the wetlands to where it meets the main road at salt spring junction; then east along Fullerswood main road for 1 km to where it is intersected by a motorable track opposite the Slipe to Fullerswood intersection; then going generally south along the edge of the wetlands passing spice grove, Parottee and Thatchfield to the high water mark at starve gut bay; then following the high water mark in a south-westerly direction back to the starting point.

The Great Morass Game Reserve Holland Bay, St. Thomas [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the northern-most point at the bar of the Plantain Garden River going in a generally south-easterly direction following the high water mark of the coastline passing Quaco Point, Morant Point and South-East Point; then due south-west passing Folly Bay, Snook Point and Rocky Point, to Pera Point; then to the intersection of the Old Pera to Bowden Road and the Old Pera to New Pera Road; then following the centre line of the Old Pera to New Pera Road in a generally easterly direction passing Phillipsfield Road to the intersection at New Pera between the Old Pera to New Pera Road and New Pera to Rocky Point Road; then along the centre line of the New Pera to Rocky Point Road until it intersects again with the Barking Lodge to Rocky Point Road; then turning right in a generally easterly direction along the centre line of the Rocky Point Road where it intersects with the Rocky Point to Chiswick Road; then along the centre line of the Rocky Point to Chiswick Road in a generally north-easterly direction passing Chiswick and Dalvey; then going generally east along the road in the Tropicana SugarEstate which borders the mangrove passing Duckenfield Hall to the Bridge at Negro River; then going westerly and the northerly passing the airstrip, continuing north until the north in the Tropicana Sugar Estate intersects with the cane road at the foot bridge which crosses the Plantain Garden River; then along the northern-most bank of the Plantain Garden River due east back to the starting point.
**Amity Hall Game Reserve, St. Catherine** [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of the First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the point where the power transmission line crosses the Agriculture Development Company Property at the eastern most boundary; then going westerly along the power transmission line, to the point where it crosses the canal on this said property; then south along this canal until it enters the sea at Galleon’s Harbour; then from the mouth of the canal at Galleon Harbour, in a straight line to Teal Point at Little Goat Island with geographical coordinates of 17º53’118”N, 77º04’971”W; then to the point with geographical coordinate of 17º52’779”N, 77º04’683”W; then generally south-easterly along the periphery of Little Goat Island and Great Goat Island to geographical coordinates 17º51’843”N, 77º02’600”W; then north north-easterly to the bar with geographical coordinate of 17º53’235”N, 77º02’125”W where Salt Island Creek enters the sea (this area includes a section of Galleon Harbour); then along the eastern bank of the creek in a north-easterly direction to the point where the Agriculture Development Company property boundary intersects it; then north along that boundary back to the starting point.

**Alligator Pond, Gut River & Canoe Valley Game Reserve Manchester/Clarendon** [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997]

Starting at the light post, which is obliquely opposite the center line of the Coast Road at the intersection of the road from Alligator Pond River to Alligator Pond Square and the center line of the Coast Road; then in a generally easterly direction along the center line of the Coast Road through Old Woman’s Point, Gut River, Canoe Valley, and across the parish boundary of Manchester and Clarendon; then continuing along the center line of the Coast Road to the point where it intersects with the Milk River Road; then due generally north-easterly along the center line of the Milk River Road until it intersects with the Serpentine River; then along the eastern bank of the Serpentine River generally south-easterly until it joins with the Milk River; then along the outer eastern periphery of the mangrove, that is, the periphery closest to Springfield, until it meets the sea at Milk River Bay; then passing the bar along the high-water mark to a point south of the light-post at the point of the starting point then back to the starting point.
West Harbour-Peake Bay Game Reserve, Clarendon [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997; amended in 1998]

Starting at the jetty with geographical coordinates of 17º45'03"N, 77º08'46"W where the mangrove meets at Barnswell Beach in Mahoe Garden seaward, then in a generally north-westerly direction on the outer periphery of the mangrove along the coastline to the point where the Bauxite Railway meets with it at Rocky Point; then in a westerly direction along the Bauxite Railway intersecting with the Freetown Mitchelle Town main road; then in a south-westerly direction along the coastline of the Freetown Mitchelle Town main road for 1.8; then left in southerly direction along a motorable track to the edge of the mangrove at Mitchelle Town; then South westerly along the outer periphery of the mangrove direction passing Olive Park, and the fish pond to Portland Cottage, then easterly along the centreline of the Portland Cottage and to Mahoe Garden Road; then to the starting point at Branswell Beach in Mahoe Garden.

Long Island Game Reserve, Clarendon [The Wild Life Protection (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1997; amended in 1998]

Starting at the center point of Salt Island with geographical coordinates 17º48'803"N, 77º08'603"W; then in a straight line with bearing 003° to the mouth of Bowers River; then along the river for 400 metres to the point where the tributary enters Bowers River; then along this tributary in a westerly direction to the point where it meet the Freetown to Salt River main road in Cockpit; then along the Freetown to Salt River main road in a south-westerly direction, passing Bratts Hill and Tarentum to the bridge at Salt River; then along the Salt River in a south-easterly direction to the jetty at Salt River Bay; then in a straight line with bearing 101° to the starting point.