

The First
Week's Over...
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Dove season is reopened

UNL students interested in hunting could have begun polishing their shotguns as early as Wednesday in preparation for a 45-day mourning dove season.

The Sept. 1 through Oct. 15 season marks the second consecutive year hunting doves has been legalized since the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission outlawed hunting the bird in the early 1950s.

Dove hunting this year requires a \$4.50 hunting license with bag and possession limits set at 10 and 20, respectively.

Ken Johnson, the commission's chief of terrestrial wildlife, said last year's successful dove season prompted a return to the legalized hunting of the bird. The commission had few reports of trespassing and law violations, he said, adding that dove hunters are increasing in numbers.

Despite its optimism, the commission knocked 15 days off the maximum 60-day season federal guidelines allow.

Johnson said Nebraska's dove population peaks in early September, but the migration south leaves only a few doves by the Oct. 15 deadline. The extra 15 days would not offer much good hunting, he said.

Deer hunters can no longer apply for firearm permits since they are available only in May. Archery permits, which cost \$15, still are available.

To date, the commission has issued

9,000 archery and 37,000 firearm permits, Johnson said. The archery season for deer runs from Sept. 18 to Nov. 12 and Nov. 22 to Dec. 31. Firearm permits are effective Nov. 13 to Nov. 21.

Pheasant hunters may face a scarcity of roosters when the season opens in October, Johnson said. Pheasant populations were down seven per cent according to summer counts, with southeast Nebraska showing the only increase from last year.

The Sandhills region had the largest drop with a 36 per cent decrease. Panshandlers, after a closed season last year, will have a 10-day season, Oct. 30 through Nov. 9.

The rest of Nebraska will enjoy a 44-day season, Oct. 30 through Dec. 12.

Duck hunters again will be subject to the point system. Dividing lines for the state, western hunters have an Oct. 14 through Dec. 12 season while the eastern hunters' season goes from Oct. 14 to Jan. 4. Light goose (blues and snows) hunters will have an Oct. 2 through Dec. 26 season with daily and possession limits set at five.

Dark goose (Canadas and Whitefronts) season runs from Oct. 9 to Dec. 19, excluding the Sandhills which is closed to protect flocks of Canadas. The dark goose bag and possession varies statewide.

Season ticket sales score record

A record number of season tickets has been sold for the 1976-77 UNL Cornhusker basketball season, according to Dick Beechner, administrative assistant to UNL's Athletic Dept.

Beechner made the announcement Thursday at a luncheon kicking off a ticket drive sponsored by the Rebounders Club. Beechner said all 5,457 theatre-style seats in the new sports complex have been sold.

The Rebounders Club, boosters of UNL's basketball program, will attempt to sell an additional 3,000 tickets.

The number of season tickets already sold surpasses the old mark by about three times, according to Beechner.

UNL students will be seated in bleachers on the main floor, where seating for 2,000 is available. Any overflow of students will

be seated in plank-type seats above the theatre seats.

Season tickets for UNL students cost \$8 for 11 games. Single game tickets will cost students \$1.

Beechner also announced that both teams will be seated on the south side of the court and the band will be on the north side. Preliminary games involving UNL's women's basketball team have been scheduled for at least two dates.

UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney said the season ticket drive is an attempt to make UNL's basketball program "a money-making proposition."

"We feel we have to sell in the excess of 10,000 seats each game to make money on basketball," he said. The sports center has 15,000 seats.

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