

FINAL REPORT

2018 ROBBINS BUTTE YOUTH DOVE HUNT

On Saturday, September 1, 2018, 47 youth hunters ranging in age from 8 to 17 participated in the annual Youth Dove Hunt at Robbins Butte Wildlife Management Area near Buckeye, AZ.

Participants and parents arrived at RBWMA at 4:30 a.m. for registrations and a light breakfast. Hunt sponsors were introduced. Attendees were informed of the role of AZSFWC in the hunt and the license plate program. A hunt overview and safety briefing was conducted.

At 5:30 a.m. participants, parents, and mentors were transported to the field where a single shooting line approximately ¼ mile long had been established. Once all participants were in place, the signal was given that the line was hot and the shooting commenced. Approximately 15 mentors from Arizona Outdoor Sports/SCTP and NWTF were in place to ensure the line was safe and that the participants had the best opportunity to harvest birds. AOS/SCTP Shotgun coaches were available to help any youth that was having trouble hitting birds. Due to an extremely poor flight that day, only 20 of the participants harvested birds, although everyone had opportunity. After each 30 minute session, a cease fire was called so that downed birds could be retrieved.

Following the hunt, participants brought their birds to a AZGFD check station where the participants were taught how to determine if the bird was an adult or juvenile. Birds were then taken to a cleaning station where the kids learned how to clean their birds. Demos on several ways to cook dove were conducted and all had the opportunity to taste them.

Lunch was provided to all participants, parents, mentors, and other volunteers (approximately 135).

Groups and Organizations participating in the hunt:

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Outdoor Sports
- Arizona State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
- Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation
- Youth Outdoors Unlimited

Funds Expended:

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|-------------------------|--------------|
| • Food | \$1274 |
| • Shells | \$ 350 |
| • Water/drinks/ice | \$ 275 |
| • Paper goods and misc. | <u>\$ 95</u> |
| | \$1,994 |

The AZ State Chapter of NWTF and the other sponsoring organizations appreciate the support of AZSFWC and your contribution to this event.

Steve Sams

Arizona State Chapter, NWTF



