

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

Accepted 7-0

WHITE-WINGED DOVE
Zenaida asiaticaLocation: Pueblo West; Pueblo County, ColoradoDate: May 17, 1996

This bird was noticed by the homeowner (in Pueblo West) where it was visiting his feeder and water in his back yard. Pueblo West is a newer part of the Pueblo. It is very open, grassy, prairie-like in aspect; almost desert-like in parts. The bird appeared wild and wary and was not banded. I observed the bird for about 5 minutes at 5:30 p.m. The afternoon was quite warm and very sunny and calm. Light was excellent and I observed the bird at close range (about 40 feet) with B & L Elite 10x40 binoculars. I heard the bird calling as I got out of my car -- an instantly recognizable "who cooks for you" call so familiar in the southwest. I found the bird on the ground, the only place that I did see it, in the shade under some shrubs. It flew off after about 5 minutes and landed in a tree by a neighboring home where I lost it.

Description:

The bird was an adult. It was about a foot long -- I estimated it slightly larger than a Mourning Dove. It was long, plump and small-headed. It was overall tan with grayish tones. It had a long square tail, brown in the center but broadly margined with white. The white distal half of the tail was visible from underneath in flight. The body of the bird was plain and unmarked. The undersides were paler. The legs and feet were orangish-red. The iris was red. The facial skin was blue. There was a black tear drop shaped mark on the sides of the face. The bill was blunt, rounded at the tip and gray. There was a distinct 1/4" white bar along the lower edge of the folded wing. In flight this bar was actually a large white patch on the inner half of each wing.

Similar Species:

The small size, dark rump and bare blue skin around eye eliminate Rock Doves. Band-tailed Pigeon lacks white in wing, is grayer and has a two-toned bill. Mourning Dove has spots on the wing coverts, lacks white in the wing, and has a long pointed tail. Other exotic doves lack the white in the wing and the bare blue skin around the eye. Inca and Ground doves are smaller, scaled, and have rufous, not white, in the wing. White-tipped Dove and other exotic columbids lack white in the wing.

Experience with Species:

I have seen many White-winged Doves and all other regularly-occurring North American columbids.

This report was prepared from notes made during observation.

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