

rec'd 12-11-96

Accepted 7-0

SPECIES:White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**DATE:**

October 23, 1996

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION:

12:30 - 12:50 MDT

LOCATION:

South end of Chatfield Reservoir SRA, Jefferson County, Colorado

HABITAT:

Fairly large rabbit brush field with a small dry creek bed running through it. The area adjacent to this is under development, and much bare ground is present.

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

None.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT I USED:

Zeiss 10X40 binoculars

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

SKY: partly cloudy
WIND: From the North at 5 MPH
TEMP: 58°F

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION:

The sun shown upon the bird from directly in front of the observer (when the bird was first found) and from behind the observer (after the observer moved to the other side of the bird for better lighting).

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED:

Varied from 8 feet to 50 feet (estimate)

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN:

1 (one)

SEX:

Unknown

PLUMAGE:

Adult plumage

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR:

This bird was first observed as it flushed (along with several White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)) from the base of a small cottonwood tree near the concrete restroom at the South end of the park (see map on page 4). The bird proceeded to land in the middle of a larger alder tree where it sat on a branch near the main trunk for the remainder of my observation. The bird appeared nervous as I approached, shifting its weight from one foot to another, and looked around to get a better view of me through the branches. I decided not approach any closer (I was about 35 feet away).

SIZE:

Appeared the same size as a Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

HEAD & NECK:

Head and neck medium grayish-brown. A small, thin, black "hash" mark was present below each eye and extended a very small distance towards the back of the neck.

EYES & LORES:

At this distance (35 feet) the iris appeared dark. Eye ring and lores were light gray.

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES:

Both the upper and lower mandibles were black.

LEGS & FEET:

The legs were pink, the feet could not be seen.

UPPERPARTS:

The back and rump (seen in flight) were a uniform, medium grayish-brown.

UNDERPARTS:

Throat, neck, breast, belly and flanks were also a uniform, medium grayish-brown.

RETRICES:

Tail was rounded with large white corners. The white on the outer retrices extended up the tail farther than the inner retrices. The middle retrices were dark brown.

WINGS:**UPPERWINGS:**

Primaries, primary coverts and secondaries black. Greater and median secondary coverts white. Lesser secondary coverts light grayish-brown (same as the color of the back). When the bird was perched the only white that could be seen was a thin strip along the lower edge of the wing starting from the "bend" (below the shoulder) and extending all the way back to the black primaries.

UNDERWINGS:

Were not particularly noticed.

VOCALIZATION:

No vocalizations were heard.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

No other dove in North America has a large, white wing patch on the upper wing.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) - Same size as a White-winged Dove but has a white edged pointed tail and no white in the upperwing.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) - Have seen thousands in both juvenile and adult plumages in the last eleven years in Colorado.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) - Several seen in Kerrville, Texas in December 1989.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

National Geographic Society "Field Guide to the Birds of North America" Second Edition was consulted for scientific names used in this report.

COMMENTS:

This report was written from the notes taken in the field while observing this bird

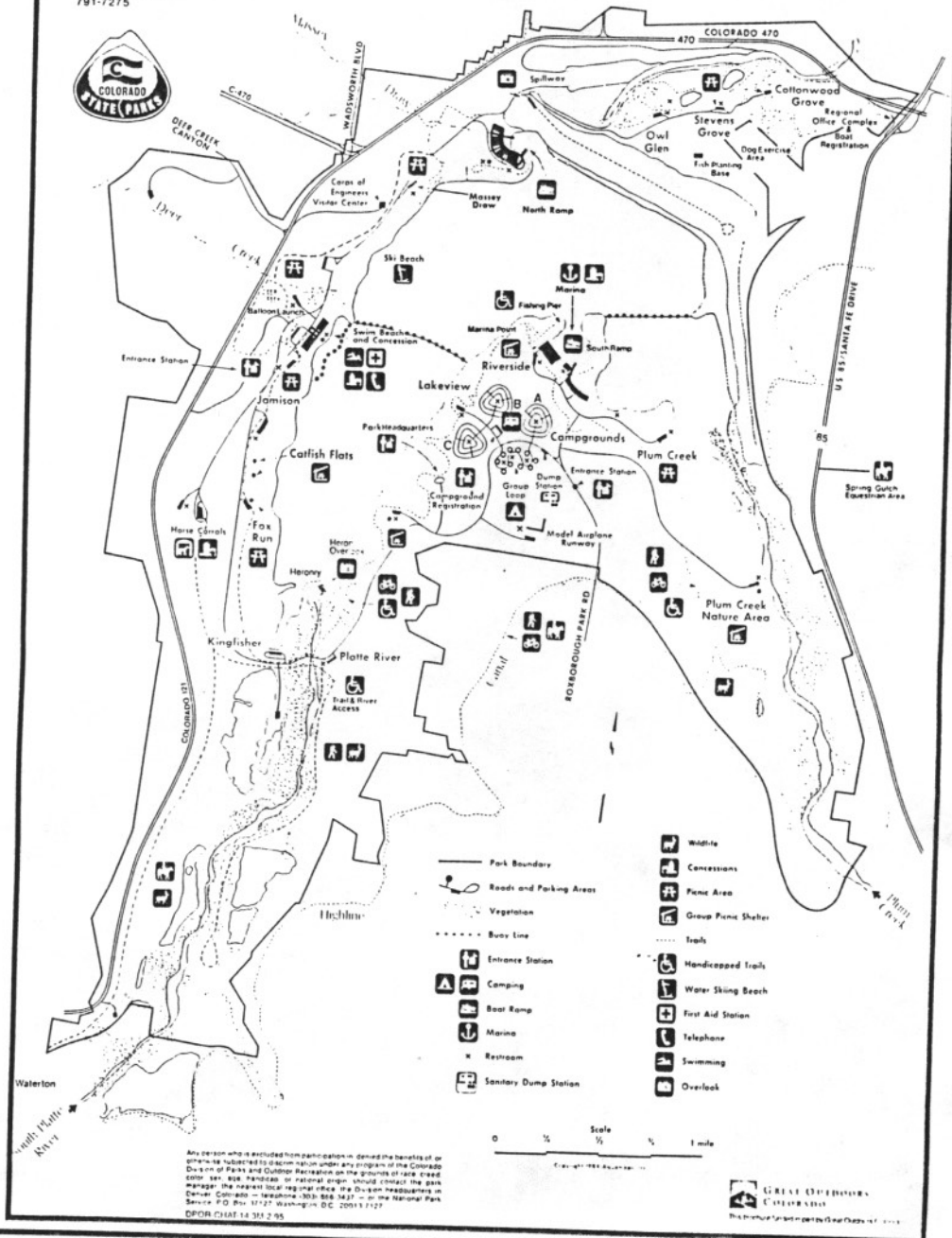
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CHATFIELD State Park

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= Location of
White-winged Dove