

1997-49

INITIAL CIRC 5-2

RECIRC 6-1

ACCEPT

Reporter: Stephen Buettner
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Species: Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

Date/Time: February 8, 1997, 10:30A to Noon

Location: 4610 Fox Road, Cascade, Colorado

Weather: Clear, light breeze, 35 deg. F.

Optics: Swarovski 10x42, Swarovski Scope with zoom.

Description: Overall size noticeably larger than nearby Juncos. Reddish eye with black iris, bill thin and black with nail at tip. Top of head and back of neck finely scaled; medium gray-brown. Very faint, small blackish patch behind and slightly below the eye. Breast pale buff, unmarked. Back and rump lightly barred on medium ray brown ground. Coverts and tertials gray-brown with black edgings; feather shafts dark. Tips of primaries very dark brown, rufous otherwise, forming conspicuous patches in flight or when wing outstretched. Tail about 2/3 length of head and body. Tail feathers very worn, with one outer bent and appearing ready to fall off. Outermost tail feathers extensively white. One inner tail feather appeared to be growing in, about one quarter of total tail length and appearing new. Some wear on coverts and tertials visible, but not extensive. Primaries looked in good condition. Legs and toes pink in color. Toe claws appeared sharp and unworn. No bands observed, although bird was not cooperative in showing legs well.

Behavior: Bird liked squatting in the grass in the sun. When in this posture would occasionally stretch one wing upward while being held close to the body, clearly exposing rufous patch and spreading the primaries. While perched on tree limb tail was held downward, not in line with the body.

Other: These observations made with Cindy Lippincott of the American Birding Association. Homeowner at location first saw the bird on January 18. She has had good looks at the legs and reports observing no bands. She also reported that the condition of the tail feathers was much better at that time, and that they looked ragged only after she returned from a three week trip. Homeowner, who is a birder, has taken photographs, which I did not see. She is Susan Soloyanis, 4610 Fox Road, Cascade, CO 80809, Voice 719-684-0924, Fax 719-684-0923, E-mail ssoloyan@mitretek.org.