

1998-74
ACCEPTED (7-0)

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (3; including 2 imm.)
Zenaida asiatica

Location: Rocky Ford; Otero County, Colorado

Date: September 16, 1998

A White-winged Dove was reported on "Eurasian Collared-Dove Lane" earlier in the summer. On this day, Brandon Percival and I pulled into the lane about 7:30 a.m. We observed the three doves at distances of about 50-100 feet for about 10 minutes. I put the birds in my Kowa TSN-40 Scope, but we mainly observed with binoculars (mine are B & L Elite 10X40s). We were surprised to see that there were actually three, not just one, White-winged Dove present. The birds were perched together in a large cottonwood on the edge of a hay field. We saw them perched and in flight. The two immature birds were as the one adult except that both were: 1) slightly smaller, 2) shorter-tailed, 3) less light gray (were slightly darker and browner), 4) had gray facial skin, 5) had duller red legs, 6) the black slash on the neck was smaller.

Description:

There was one adult and two grown young (see differences above). The birds were large, plump doves about 10-12" long -- probably slightly larger than Mourning Doves, but similar to Eurasian Collared-Doves in size. They were long, plump and small-headed. The adult was overall tan with grayish tones. It had a long square tail, brown in the center with the distal half tipped white. The body of the bird was plain and unmarked. The undersides were slightly paler than the upperparts. The legs and feet were reddish. The iris was dull red. The facial skin was blue (young had gray facial skin). There was a black teardrop shaped mark on the side of the face. The bill was blunt, rounded at the tip and gray. There was a distinct 1/4" white bar visible along the lower edge of the folded wing. In flight this bar was a large white patch on the inner half of each wing.

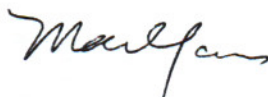
Similar Species:

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 (Eurasian Collared-Dove) 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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