

This resource is based on the following source:

Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

The White-winged Dove is native to the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and the American southwest. Accounts of breeding White-winged Doves in Florida are all based on introduced birds, but natural vagrants have occurred and still occur in Florida.

Habitat. White-winged Doves form large roosts in inland areas. They fly out to the surrounding fields to feed on wild seeds and fruits each morning and return in the evening. The song of this species is a distinctive "cu-cuk-caview." It nests in trees with dense foliage. The rather flimsy nest is built of twigs, grasses, and weed stems. One nest seen near Homestead appeared to be a mass of yellow straw (Kale, pers. commun.). The normal clutch is 2 white eggs, and the incubation period is about 2 weeks. The young birds leave the nest about 15 days after hatching. A second brood is common.

Seasonal Occurrence. Because it is so newly established little is known of the bird's breeding characteristics in Florida. It has been documented as a migrant into Florida, from the west, during October and November (Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

Status. Records of wintering individuals occur throughout Florida, some dating back to the last century. In 1959 Frank Williams released 10 pairs of White-winged Doves near Homestead; their parental stock he obtained from Tampeau, Mexico (Saunders 1980). During the succeeding several years, these birds multiplied successfully, at the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission [editor: now Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission] began capturing them and releasing them in central Florida as far north as Lake County (Williams 1978).

Aldrich (1981) concluded that the Florida population appears to be more closely related to the White-winged Dove of Hispaniola or Cuba than to that of Mexico and Texas, although all populations in the Gulf of Mexico, West Indies region belong to the same subspecific taxon, *Z. a. asiatica* (Aldrich 1981). Today the breeding population is spreading north along the east coast to Cocoa Beach and beyond. Possible breeding has also occurred north along the west coast to Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, and large concentrations occur along the Lake Wales Ridge. Roosts of more than 1,000 doves have been reported in Polk County (C. Geanangel, pers. obs.).

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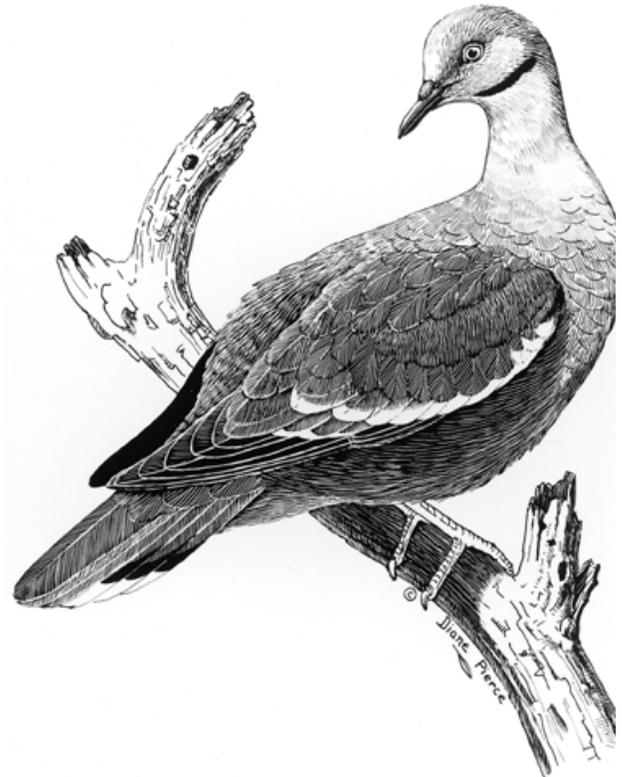


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White-winged Dove

