

# Band Tailed Pigeon in DeWitt County

by Dale Birkenholz

Don Filkin, who owns a Christmas tree farm one mile northwest of Wapella in DeWitt County called me 15 July 1999 to describe a bird visiting his feeder he could not identify. I visited the site the next day and got good views and photos after waiting for about two hours. It was a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). I returned the next day with Rhea Edge and Ed Mock-

ford, and we got good views again with additional photos, which show the bright yellow bill with a black tip and the red orbital ring.

The bird usually appeared about 9 a.m. and again about 2:30 p.m. It landed on the feeder, and almost immediately began to feed on sunflower seeds. Afterward, it often perched in a nearby tree. Sometimes it remained



*Band-tailed Pigeon. 16 July 1999. DeWitt County. The bird was present from 13 July to 18 July at the home of Don Filkin near the town of Wapella. Photo by Dale Birkenholz.*

perched for up to two hours. Other times, it left after feeding. The bird was quite wary sometimes, while other times it permitted close activity.

This pigeon, last seen on 18 July 1999, represents the second Illinois record for this species. The first was on the Springfield Christmas Bird Count 22 December 1996. This bird visited a feeder from 22 December

1996 to 23 January 1997. (See Meadowlark: Vol. 6, pp. 82-85 for an article on the state's first Band-tailed Pigeon and its Status in Eastern North America by H. David Bohlen.)

This species typically is found in western North and Middle America from southwest British Columbia south through the mountains of Washington to Baja California, as well as into the mountains of Mexico,

El Salvador and the Honduras, among other locations. At least 49 Band-tailed Pigeon records exist for states in eastern North America outside of its typical range.

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## Second White-winged Dove for Illinois

by Robert Hughes

On 26 April 1999, a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) made a brief, but memorable appearance at Montrose Harbor in Chicago. While there, the bird actively moved from tree to tree attempting to court a domestic collared dove.

The large white wing patches and white tail corners of the White-winged Dove were conspicuous,

especially in flight. Also, the bird gave its distinctive "who-cooks-for-you" call several times. After five minutes or so of apparently fruitless courting, the dove flew to the west, and never returned. John Purcell and Kanae Hirabayashi also saw this bird.

Of all our Colubids, the White-winged Dove shows the greatest tendency to wander, with vagrants

having been found as far away as the Canadian Maritimes. This sighting represents the second confirmed record for Illinois, and given this species' wanderlust, it will undoubtedly not be the last.

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