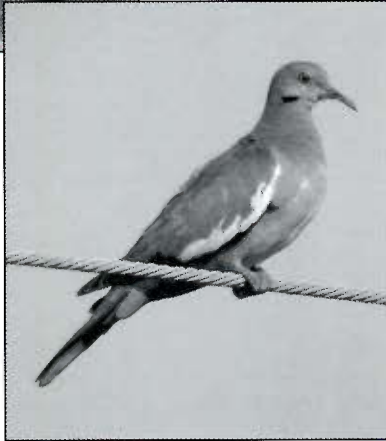


White-winged Dove at feeder in central Illinois. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

White-winged Dove near Mermet Lake, Massac County. Photo taken 5 July 2003 by Travis A. Mahan.



resident population. Records of this species are also accumulating fast as far north as Nebraska (26 records, 25 since 1994) as of fall 2003, with six for South Dakota and five records for North Dakota (Martin 2005, 2006). Eighteen records of 25 White-winged Doves from twelve Colorado counties in spring 2005 spanned the entire state and the entire spring period (Wood et al. 2005b). Many have theorized why this expansion and post-breeding season dispersal have occurred. Reasons include the various effects of global warming, as well as the concentration of human habitation in urban areas, which in turn has increased backyard bird feeding. Continuing growth in human population in the southern United States has brought increased agriculture and ornamental trees, which provide additional feeding and nesting areas for these doves.

Feeding habits

Both Inca and White-winged Doves come readily to bird feeders in residential areas, and are also known to feed on a variety of seeds and grains of grasses and cultivated grains including maize (corn) and wheat, as well as sorghum, milo, rice, wild sunflowers and oak mast. Many vagrant records in Illinois and elsewhere of the two species occur at feeders in residential areas. They appear to locate their food visually, keying on other feeding birds, which is probably why both species are often seen at feeders and places like grain elevators and often in the company of other dove species, especially Mourning, but also the Eurasian Collared-Dove. This was the case

with Illinois's longest residing White-winged Dove that appeared in Waltonville (Jefferson County) from 21 June 2003 – 20 January 2004. It was often noted feeding in the company of a dozen or more Eurasian Collared-Doves and Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) (pers. obs., mob.). Later, 25 July -5 August, a second bird, an immature, also appeared here (pers. obs.). Kentucky's second record of an Inca Dove was found in the company of three to four Eurasian Collared-Doves at a grain elevator (Yandell 2003), and another first county record Inca in Cheyenne County, Colorado was also with collared-doves (Wood et al. 2005a), and apparently this is a common occurrence there (Wood et al. 2004). A White-winged Dove in Wisconsin was reported at a feeder with Eurasian Collared-Doves (David 2005).

Major difference

The Inca Dove does differ in one major way from White-winged Dove. Mueller (1992) states that the Inca Dove is not known to migrate, but mentions that most vagrant records

are north of the current range of resident populations. He also states that most of these vagrant records are for fall and winter, but gives no reasoning for such movements, other than they often precede establishment of new breeding populations. It would be interesting to know if such movements are due to post-breeding wandering of adults (although the species breeds throughout the year, with sometimes as many as five broods in one year) or more probably, through the movements of adult females and young-of-the-year birds, which generally tend to disperse more widely than adult males in many species (Gill 1995).

Schwertner et al. (2002) give a good discussion of the White-winged Dove's much more extensive migratory movements. The nature of these somewhat complicated and varied movements of the different populations of White-wingeds can likely explain the comings and goings of the species, both in the areas of its current range expansion and in areas where it is considered a vagrant. This dove occurs throughout the year over most of its breeding range, but is found in some areas in winter where it does not breed. Some birds migrate short distances southward in winter, while others are either resident or migrate northward to inland locations (possibly the source of some vagrant records), or eastward or westward to coastal locations. Vagrant birds showing up along the East Coast of the United States are almost invariably right along the coast, although rarely a bird will be found well inland (see Davis 2006).

Illinois now has 14 published/documented (many photographed) records of White-winged Dove for the state. There are three northern Illinois records (all in Cook County), six central Illinois records (interestingly four from one county, Champaign), and three from southern Illinois, all since 1998. Dates for all of these sightings (save for one October outlier) span the period 16 April-5 August, with one bird found in June continuing through winter into the following January. Most arriving birds show up in May (six