

photographed in Pike County 40 years ago!

Whooping Cranes may once have nested in Illinois; but the chances they will ever do so again are nil. Their preferred habitat of undisturbed prairie wetland was eliminated long

ago. Also, the Whooping Cranes that once regularly migrated through the state came from populations, now extirpated.

Given the high fidelity of the remaining wild flock of Whooping Cranes to a narrow migration corridor

through the center of the country, an extraordinary weather event at the right time of year probably represents the only hope of seeing this species in Illinois again.

—Robert Hughes  
696 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60613

## White-winged Dove: First Illinois Record

by James O. Smith

About 20 Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) regularly visit our feeders, and they are usually cooing. On 22 July 1998, I was listening to the early morning weather forecast on the radio, when it dawned on me that a dove other than a Mourning was cooing outside. I ran to the door and listened. Sure enough, a different dove than a Mourning was calling. I quickly got my binoculars, and went outside to find the dove perched on a dead limb in an Austrian pine on the north side of the house. I immediately noticed the almost square tail, rather than the pointed one of a Mourning Dove. Expecting this bird to be a Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), I looked at the neck for the collar, but there was none. [Note: The first accepted Illinois record for Eurasian Collared-Dove occurred 22 December through 21 February 1997 near Carlyle Lake in southern Illinois (Meadowlark 7:58)] Instead, there was a black line about 0.5 inch long on the upper neck under the eye, extending almost from the throat toward the back of the neck. I also noticed some white on the wing coverts and a black band just above the white terminal band. The dove was also a bit larger than the nearby Mourning Doves.

As I stood about 40 feet away from it, the bird turned, then flew to a Kentucky coffeetree 150 feet distant.

Its flight resembled that of a small pigeon rather than a dove. I also saw the obvious white wing patches as it flew. I knew immediately it was a White-winged Dove (*Zenaidura asiatica*), and called other birders to come see it.

Its flight resembled that of a small pigeon rather than a dove. I also saw the obvious white wing patches as it flew. I knew immediately it was a White-winged Dove...

The dove continued to call periodically all day. I had a good look at noon, and took several photos on two different rolls of film. Unfortunately, the roll of film that had the better views of the bird got lost in the mail. The photographs from the other roll of film, however, showed enough distinguishing plumage details to confirm the state's first White-winged Dove.

About 5:30 p.m. that day, I found the dove perched in the top branch of

a large white oak (*Quercus alba*) where it remained for 10 minutes. Robert Chapel and Beth and John Chato arrived later. The Chatos didn't see the dove, but they heard it. Chapel returned at 6 a.m. the next day and saw it fly by. No one saw the bird after that. H. David Bohlen drove from Springfield on 23 July 1998, but did not find the dove.

Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy, named this species' specific epithet *asiatica*, thinking that its native home was in the East Indies. However, this is a tropical American species with large summer populations in the U.S. mostly in the West and Southwest. It was introduced in southern Florida. This species primarily eats seeds of wild flowers as well as acorns and other fruits. White-winged Doves also accept sorghum and other crop grains. In his Life Histories series (1932) Arthur Cleveland Bent describes its song as a soft flute-like Barred Owl.

This species has wandered to the nearby states of Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri.

—James O. Smith  
13474 N. 130 East Road  
Homer, IL 61849