

(accepted) 0-1986-01a

SUBMIT REPORT TO:

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Record type \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Disposition \_\_\_\_\_ Cx Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name Town Dove  
 Scientific Name Columba ~~town~~ town  
 Obs. date Aug 23, 1956 Time(s) 0930-0935  
 Duration of obs. Approx 5 min  
 Distance from bird 20-25 ft  
 Light conditions Excellent, no clouds  
 Optical equip. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Photo equip. None 200 mm lens  
 Notes made at time of sighting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes made later from memory X

Weather at time of this observation.  
Clear & warm

Prior weather and number of days since change  
Hot & Dry

Locality  
St. George, Utah

Date report prepared  
SEPT 21, 1956

Enter number of birds in each category.  
 Total number observed.  
3

GENDER(S)  
 Males \_\_\_\_\_  
 Females \_\_\_\_\_  
 ♀ or Imms \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unknowns \_\_\_\_\_

AGES(S)  
 Adults X  
 Juv/Imms \_\_\_\_\_  
 2/3 yr birds \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unknowns \_\_\_\_\_

PLUMAGE(S)  
 Breeding \_\_\_\_\_ Transition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eclipse \_\_\_\_\_ Dark phase \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winter \_\_\_\_\_ Light ph. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO(S)  
 Available \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.

Size - Smaller than a mourning Dove, larger than a Common Ground Dove; approx 5" - 9"

Color - Mostly gray overall with white under tail coverts, upperparts & underparts were scale like or "stuffed" in appearance.

Tail - was dark above, gray below with white outer tail feathers.

and marks which were not seen. Why not?

Chestnut markings on  
Iris. Bird was  
flushed. One bird flew  
directly away from me with  
direct rapid wing beats & it  
was in wing beats at the time.

Variations from expected field marks.

None

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Mourning Dove - Pinkish wash on uncolored underparts,  
larger, different call, black on wings.  
Common Ground Dove - smaller, only on head & neck,  
smaller, tail not as long & pointed.  
Rock Dove - larger, plumper, different call; more varied  
in markings.

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

One bird called from telephone wire on west side of  
vacant lot, two others called from wires south of  
vacant lot in middle of St. George, ut. Calls were a hoarse  
sound repeated many times.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

Residential. Vacant lot bordered by houses, trees  
& wires.

Describe bird's song or sounds.

Cooing repeated quite a  
few times.

Print reporter's name, address, phone number

MERRILL WEBB  
2063 EAST 400 NORTH  
CREM, UT. 84057  
224-6113

Signature

*Merrill Webb*

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

Have seen & shot many  
Mourning Doves. Have  
observed Indigo Doves & Common  
Ground Doves once before  
in Arizona.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

*Loren Webb*

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Species: TAWA DOVE  
(Vernacular name)

COLUMBA TAWA  
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): Aug 23 1986 Time Bird Seen: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Locality: 1700 E. 1st St. Provo, UT 84601

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: None

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Alexa 200 X  
BY LORNA WEBB

Number of birds seen: 3 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Good - clear - no clouds

Distance from bird, and how measured: 200 20-30 FT

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Heard a single bird calling which alerted me to its presence. Went outside the house & observed it on a telephone wire. I attempted to get closer it flew. I followed its general direction of flight to a vacant lot where I observed two on a wire to the left of me & another one on a telephone wire in front of me. I was able to approach the two on the wire & stand about 20-30 ft away. They called frequently to each other.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Residential - trees, houses, vacant lot & power or telephone lines.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

My parents had heard the bird talking this day  
earlier & noted that it was a different sounding

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

All three birds were on telephone wires about 20 ft. above the ground. The first thing I noticed was the scaly appearance on the underparts which continued on to the back - very unlike a Mourning Dove. The birds ~~were~~ were gray overall with the scaly-looking feathers. The birds were smaller than a Mourning Dove, but had its general shape - fairly slender with a pointed, longish tail. From below I could see that the tail was gray with white outer tail feathers. The birds didn't fly & from below I did not see the chestnut-colored primaries. But all the other field marks were visible.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The calls were a repetition of a cooing unlike Mourning Dove or Rock Dove; delivered from perches on wires. My parents had seen & heard them calling from trees near their home.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Not a Mourning Dove because of differences in size, ~~markings~~ markings (scalike) & call.

Smaller & slimmer than Rock Doves.

These birds had pointed tails & were scalike in marking & were larger than common Ground Dove which has shorter tail & no scalike markings.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I had ~~to~~ see this species & common Ground Dove in Arc. Previously, I have seen hundreds of Mourning Doves & Rock Doves before & it definitely was not any of these.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_ after  observation; from memory \_\_\_

NAME (print): MERRILL WELLS

Mailing address: 200 E. 4th St. W. W. 5th St. W.

Signature: Merrill Wells

Return to:  
Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street

The photos were taken by my brother Merrill Wells on Sept. 6, 1957