

Sighting of Inca Dove (*Columbiga inca*) in Moab, UT

Received by Nelson Boschen, PO Box 20, Moab, UT 84532, From Gail Lea, On Dec. 20, 1989
Phone: 801-259-6973

Bird Sighting, Fall 1989

Observer: Gail Lea
469 Sundial
Moab, UT 84532

Phone: 801-259-5501

10/28

Sat. 1:45 pm --arbor feeder

Inca Dove with english sparrow
"scaled" looking like Scaled Quail, long,
white-edge tail. Ate at feeder, more eng. sparrows
came & crowded it off. Stayed on arbor 30 sec., flew.

11/4/89

adult white-crowned sparrow in birdbath
Inca Dove at " "

(Nelson, this is all I have written down. I know I compared it in size with the sparrows, eliminated the majority of doves by size, eliminated the Com. Ground-Dove by tail length, shape & color and by the less extensive scaling. Obviously I don't think of writing those processes down. As I told you on the phone, I did not observe the rust wing patches even after being aware to look for them. The bird never flew in such a way that I could see the wings. Nor did I detect it on the closed wings.

I would have been using Bushnell 8 x 30 binos; field guides were National Geo., 1987; Robbins, 1983; Audubon Western by Udvardy, 1977)

Dec. 31, 1989, Note by Nelson Boschen: Tho fairly new to birding, Gail is one of our more competent birders. When she visited me today, I made a point to let lay visibly on my table Vol. 2 of the Audubon "Master Guide to Birding" (1985), in which I had an opaque sheet of paper paper-clipped over pgs 144 + 145, but w/a cutout open window over the imm. Mourning Dove illus. (top) + a temporarily closed window over the ad. Inca Dove illus. (btm). Eventually she picked it up, asking what I thought of the ad because she had thought of getting it. I opened it to the dove page + asked her what the species "bird" was, so far not having discussed doves at all since ~ Dec. 19. She wasn't sure what it was, but, w/no comment yet from me, she did say that it was not scaly enough + too brown for an Inca Dove. I eventually uncovered the lower window of the ad. Inca Dove, about which she said that the scaling was right, but it was also too brown. At this point I made my first statement, asking her what the bird's size was, to which she said it was only about "this long" ^{much} ~~longer~~ than the English Sparrow nearby, holding her fingers apart about this distance \rightarrow ~~longer~~ \rightarrow , or about $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, + it could stand on the $\frac{1}{2}$ " lip of the metal (?) feeder rim which the Mourning Doves could yet negotiate, + that it was much smaller than Mourning Doves. Then I removed the entire sheet of paper, exposing the other ad. Inca Dove illus. in the middle, upon which she exclaimed immediately, before even glancing at the writing on the left page, "That's the color of gray it was." So I'm convinced she actually had an Inca Dove at her feeder here in Moab, UT. I had also heard about this species visiting someone else's Moab Feeder "recently" (which, hearing of about Dec. 16, I took to be in late Nov. or early Dec.), but it was not Gail's name mentioned. However, I didn't write it down, + tho I've been trying to find out for the past 3 wks who told me or saw the species, I've had no luck so far.