

BAYOU CITY BIRDING

ZINE #5

PIGEONS & DOVES

Pigeons and doves are plump birds with short legs, whose small heads bob as they walk. Look for them year-round as they pick seeds and other food off the ground, perch on power lines, and roost/sleep on tree branches and other structures.

Birds are in order of size, with the largest ones first.

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MOURNING DOVE



ROCK PIGEON
(with double wing stripes)



WHITE-WINGED DOVE



ROCK PIGEONS



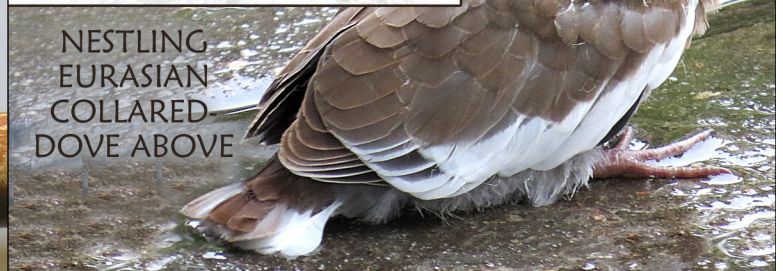
INCA DOVE



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE



FLEDGLING WHITE-WINGED DOVE BELOW



NESTLING EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE ABOVE

LEARN MORE...

By working to recognize birds' songs, you'll be able to ID birds hidden from view. Males do most of the singing, performing mostly in late winter through early summer to attract mates and claim/defend territory. The line drawings display a simple form of audio "sonogram," showing how each song's pitch goes up and down. Try drawing sonograms to describe what you hear, which will help you recognize patterns and remember each bird's song. To learn more, consider using an app like iKnowBirdSongs or Chirp! Bird Song, but never play their recorded songs outside because they will distract and distress birds in the area.

Download more of the Bayou City Birding Zines at WhiteOakBayou.org

ROCK PIGEON (ROPI)

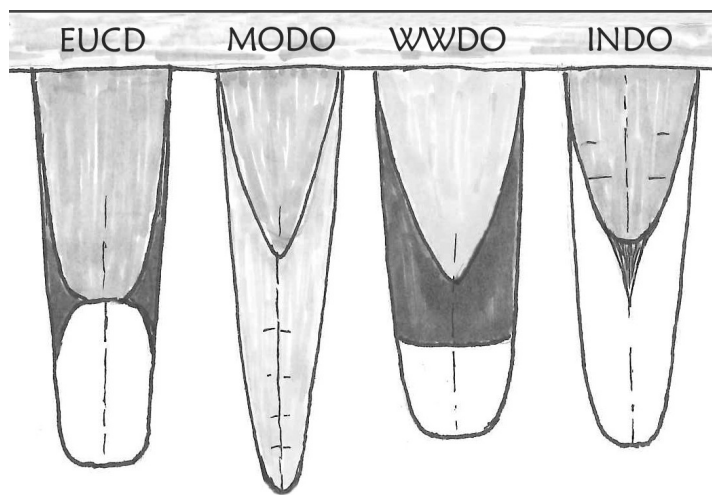
LOOK FOR: A big plump bird—the one you find on city streets and anywhere else handouts are available.

FIELD NOTES: Pigeons were domesticated more than 5,000 years ago, with some escaping and returning to the wild. Those most like their ancient ancestors are two-tone gray and have two dark bars across their folded wings, with males having more green/purple highlights on their necks than females. Other pigeons show the impact of selective breeding. Look and see how many different colors and patterns you can find.

LISTEN FOR: A very low-pitched gravelly cooing.

1st SEEN ON _____ AT _____

DOVE TAILS AS SEEN FROM BELOW



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (EUCD)

LOOK FOR: A very pale dove with a black collar that doesn't "close" in the front. Juveniles lack the collar.

FIELD NOTES: This dove from Asia was released in the Bahamas in the 1970s and then spread across the U.S.

LISTEN FOR: The simplest song of the group, with all notes sung at the same pitch and volume. In Greek myth, the gods helped a servant girl escape by changing her into a dove, which still sing her sad songs.

who who whooo who who whooo who who whooo

1st SEEN ON _____ AT _____

MOURNING DOVE (MODO)

LOOK FOR: A soft-brown dove with dark, oval spots on the back half of its folded wings, and an extra-long, pointy tail that flares in flight to a thin diamond shape.

FIELD NOTES: Mourning Doves are becoming less common due to the expanding range of other doves.

LISTEN FOR: Wings that whistle or squeak on take-off. Their song is slow and especially sad (giving them their name), and is softer than those of the other doves.

who-oa whoo whoo whoo whoo-oa whoo whoo whoo

1st SEEN ON _____ AT _____

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (WWDO)

LOOK FOR: A soft-brown dove with a broad white stripe along the lower edge of its folded wings. In flight, a broad white slash appears on the wings.

FIELD NOTES: White-wings have been expanding their range, taking over the territory of other doves.

LISTEN FOR: Wings that slap together or whistle on take-off, and either of two songs, which are a bit coarser than that of the Mourning Dove.

"who cooks for you....?" ha who-ah haa who-ah haa

1st SEEN ON _____ AT _____

INCA DOVE (INDO)

LOOK FOR: A very small dove whose feathers have dark brown edges that make them look like fish scales. The lower edge of the folded wings is reddish-brown.

FIELD NOTES: Incas stay close to homes and buildings. On cold days they keep warm by huddling in pyramid formations, taking turns at the outside of the heap.

LISTEN FOR: Wings that rattle softly on take-off, and a song and call that seem too big for this little bird.

coo coo coo coo who oo owah who ooo ow owah

1st SEEN ON _____ AT _____

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Doves lay two to five sets of eggs per year, using flimsy nests built in just a few days. Baby birds leave the nest as soon as their wings are fully feathered and a stubby tail has begun to take form. Although these "fledglings" can look rather pitiful, they should be left alone in their parents' care unless it appears that they have been hurt.

An injured bird—or a nestling who has fallen from its nest and cannot be put back in—should be kept warm in a towel-lined box and taken as quickly as possible to The Wildlife Center of Texas. There, the bird will be cared for in the hope it can soon be released. Photos show a fledging (doing fine with its parents' help), and a nestling who was taken to the Wildlife Center. Please read more at WildlifeCenterOfTexas.org.