

White-winged Dove

By

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Members of this species predominantly occur from the southern United States southward as far as Panama and occasionally as far north as localized areas within Canada



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(Farrand, 1989; Kaufman, 1996; Sibley, 2003)..

These birds occur in a variety of semi open habitats such as riparian woods, desert, brush lands, chaparral, open oak woods, near mesquite or saguaros, and in altered habitats such as farmland, suburbs, and citrus groves. The adults mostly eat seeds but also eat acorns

where available and also feed on fruits, especially those of cactus. The birds mostly forage on the ground but also in trees, shrubs, and cacti. Adults frequently feed on the fruit or flowers of giant saguaro cactus in may get much of their needed water that way in deserts.

Their nests are in shrubs, trees, or cacti, ranging from approximately 4 to 30 feet above ground. The female builds a flimsy platform of sticks with material mostly supplied by the male. She usually lays two eggs, sometimes 1 to 4. The eggs are white to very pale buff in color. The parents feed the young "pigeon milk". The young leaves the nest at about 13-16 days, and the parents feed them for some time thereafter. There are two or three broods per year.

Recognition Characters: (Sibley, 2003) The adults are primarily a plain brownish color. The folded wings have a prominent white stripe along their lower edge. There is a dark spot on each side of the lower part of the head.

References

Farrand, J. Jr. (ed.). 1989. 2 Gulls to Dippers. The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. Borzoi Book. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 398 p.

Kaufman, K. 1996. Lives of North American Birds. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xxv+675 p.

Sibley, D. A. 2003. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America. National Audubon Society. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Chanticleer Press, Inc. 471 p.