

409-01-1982

Band-tailed Pigeon in Centre County, PA

On December 18, 1982, about 3 P.M., I saw a Band-tailed Pigeon, perched in a large oak on the edge of a farm woodlot northeast of Tusseyville, near State College, PA. While the bird was restless, flying occasionally to adjoining branches and trees, it allowed relatively close observation within 40 feet, and was observed and studied for more than half an hour. Rock Doves around the farm allowed some comparison; they are smaller, have white rump patches (which this pigeon lacked), and rarely perch in trees. All of the field marks of the Band-tailed Pigeon were observed and verified by my party on the Christmas Bird Count (Mark Roberts, Jane Richey, and James P. Bucher) using 8x40 binoculars, including the white crescent around the nape; yellow bill with black tip; red rim around the eye; yellow feet; and a 2" light grey tail band, set off from the darker grey of the rest of the tail by a narrow black band. The underparts were a lighter grey than the upperparts and tinged with pink.

Although a person on the farm reported that the bird had been around for several days, it was not seen subsequently by other observers.

This is the first Pennsylvania record for the Band-tailed Pigeon. Since 1971 birds have been recorded east of the Mississippi River in 9 other states (Alabama, Oct. 23, 1971; New Hampshire, Jan. 3-15, 1972; Florida, Sept. 25-27, 1973; Tennessee, Apr. 9, 1974; Mississippi, Dec. 2, 1978; Maine, Apr. 25-May 2, 1980; New Jersey, Sept. 17, 1980; Indiana, Jan. 11-27, 1981; Minnesota, Sept. 18, 1982) and twice in eastern Canada (Ontario, Oct. 20, 1978); New Brunswick, Feb. 1-15, 1981). (American Birds, various issues).

Edward C. Budd, 608 W. Fairmount Ave., State College, PA 16801

409-01-1982

REPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

CBC name State College, PA CBC date 12/18/82 Compiler Conrad Schmidt

Observer writing this account and date Ed Budd, 12/18/82

SPECIES Band-tailed Pigeon NUMBER, AGE, SEX one

Distance from bird(s) about 40 feet Relative size of bird noticeable larger than a Rock Dove

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.) Grey, with pinkish cast. A horizontal white line around nape, with darker, scaled feathers below.

EYE & LORNS (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) Red rim around eye.

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES yellow, with black tip

LEGS & FEET yellow

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.) grey; since at close range the bird was directly above us, and the sun low, it was difficult to make out the intensity of grey, although darker than underparts. No white rump patch.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.) lighter grey, with pinkish cast, as above.

RETRICES (Describe inner, middle, outertail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.) Generally grey. The last two inches of tail very light grey, set off by a narrow black band from rest of tail, which was darker grey.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.) Generally uniform grey. No wingbars, etc.

VOCALIZATION silent

BEHAVIOR Perching relatively high up in oaks in a farmer's woodlot, on edge of field. Would fly short distances to adjoining trees or branches when flushed. Craned its rather long neck (compared with rock dove) frequently. Rather sluggish.

Date of observation 12/18/82 Time 3 PM Weather cold (25°) Sky cover clear

Duration of observation About 1/2 hour Bird - Sun orientation bird above sun line
(sun fairly low toward horizon, but behind us; bird above us, as noted).

Exact location _____

Habitat see under behavior above Other observers Phil Bucher, Jane Richey, Mark Roberts.
Optical equipment 8x40 binoculars

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS It was possible for us to observe this bird at our leisure, and as long as we wanted to. According to a nearby resident, the bird had been around for some days (a week?). The EXACT LOCATION was on road from Tusseyville to Pa route 45; 1.2 miles NNW of Tusseyville; 0.5 miles SSE of route 45, at farm complex at jog in road.
[I had a considerable amount of field experience with this bird when I lived in the West.]

AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE AN EXCELLENT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

See other side.

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Further checking with the resident points to a probable

hawk having been seen perched in the woodlot, not the

pigeon. Several later attempts to find and photograph

the bird were all failures. These negative findings

however, do not cast doubt on the identification, in

my opinion.

Ernest Schmidt
compiler

409-01-1982

248 Voffices Ave #207
State College, PA 16801

August 14, 1983

Dear Prof. Hall:

I couldn't help but notice the non-mention
in *Am Birds*, May-June, 1983,
of the *Scrub-tailed Pigeon* seen near State College
on our CBC. The CBC regional editor was
afraid to use it because of the bird was
not photographed nor "harvested." I believed
that Merrill Wood had sent in the report to
you and so I did nothing. It occurs to
me now that I should have sent you a
copy of the observers' report, which I filed
with the CBC results. Ed Budd has
been an avid birder for over twenty years.
I have been in the field with him and have
found his ability to be excellent, although he
admits his high-range hearing isn't as
good as it was. As noted in the report,
he is quite familiar with the bird in the

West, where he lived for a number of ⁴⁰⁹⁻⁰¹⁻¹⁹⁸² years.
As also noted, Dr. Budd and the others
viewed the bird at leisure rather than just
having a glimpse of it. While it is unfortunate
that he didn't contact others immediately
of his find, it must be remembered that
he was one of four birders who saw it and
that most other area birders would have been
incommunicato because of their own
participation in the CBC. The weather on the
days following the CBC was ~~awful~~ vicious
and the woodlot where the bird was seen
was only one of a string of many, most not
near enough to a road for ready scanning.
These factors can readily explain the failure of
the many others, myself included, to locate the
bird. I reiterate my opinion, given in the
report, that the sighting should be accepted.

Yours truly,
Conrad R. Schmidt
Sec'y State College Bird Club

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Band-tailed Pigeon**

Date of Sighting: **Dec 18, 1982**

Observer(s): **Edward C. Budd**

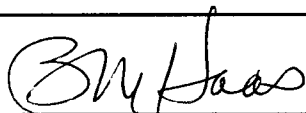
Date of Submission: **1990**

Submitted by: **Edward C. Budd thru John Peplinski**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas				X			
R. Leberman				X			
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner				X			
P. Schwalbe				X			
TOTALS			3	4			
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

11-10-90