

418-01-2000

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Documentation

from John Fedak

Clarion 8/30/00

Subject: Clarion County Common Ground Dove

Date: Wed, 30 Aug 2000 21:18:34 -0400

From: John and Lisa Fedak <jlfedak@PENN.COM>

To: PABIRDS@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG

Hello,

Today on the way home from work and before heading back to work I spotted a bird dust-bathing on a dirt road (fairly bad), it was small. I could see off the bat -without binoculars- that the bird was unusual. When I first put my bins on it, I could see quickly that there was barring of scaling on the breast and head. My first thought regardless of its size was that it was an very small, young mourning dove (I thought the road could be hiding part of the bird). Then I saw the bill clearly, it was red. I got to within 10 to 15 yards of it in my truck and the bird kept dust bathing. I watched it for a few minutes, not remembering what kind of dove it was. But I did have it narrowed down to Inca dove or ground dove. The bird noticed me, and walked a foot or so and I could see that the tail was small and that the scaling did not cover the whole bird. The scaling only covered the head and breast. There were a few black spots on the wings. The bird was brownish to brownish gray. It flew and I saw that the tail was dark (darker than a Horned Lark's in flight or so it appeared), and squarish, with a tiny bit of white near the outer ends. The wings showed reddish as it flew off and landed in the field.

I came home and called some people, rushed a quick shower, grabbed some seed and went back to work. On the way, I dumped the seed where the bird was on the road, but didn't have time to look for it. The sighting was a little after 4 o'clock and I watched it for over 10 minutes - maybe longer.

Margaret Buckwalter went down and found the spot and stayed for an hour and a half with no bird. However, while she was there, she said that she had some ATV's in the area.

My volleyball scrimmage ended early and I decided to check it out once again before dark. This was about 8 o'clock. There were no ATV's, but lots of baby bunnies. I looked at everyone of them with the bins. Heading back to the truck, I bounced a bunny and it ran into the field. I was just getting to the truck when I saw the bunny moving about 10 yards of the road toward the field in an open/small weed patch. I put the bins up and it wasn't the rabbit. It was the bird. It was walking and pecking at the ground. the head bobbed as it walked like a spotted sandpiper and I saw that the bill was not totally red, the tip was grayish. The bird moved into the weeds and I lost sight of it. I stayed until it was hard to see (a few minutes) but never saw the bird again. This sighting was about 2 to 3 minutes.

I am positive of my ID. The only others it could be were eliminated. Inca Dove - scaling did not cover body and bill was red. Ruddy Ground Dove - I saw 2 once, and the wings did not show enough red. Mourning Dove, the above reasons and the bird looked almost half the size of a Mourning dove, a little smaller than a horned lark. the size of the bird reminded me of a Lapland Larkspur or a large sparrow.

Directions. From New Bethlehem, take Rt 28 north. After the high school, you will pass a medical center and a meat market on the left. Beyond that there is a road to the left called Middle Run Road. It immediately goes UNDER railroad tracks. Go about 1.8 miles on this road thru the town (5 or 6 houses) of Middle Run. Just after the town there is a fairly bumpy dirt road on the right going up a hill. Take it. Go for about .3 miles. I first saw the bird on the road at the crest. The second time it was just over the crest in the field on the right. I put sunflower seeds on the road (it worked for the Clay-colored Sparrows at Piney Tract) so you should be able to see them. The second sighting was also just after a small Red Maple on the right and across from a gas line on the left. I think the morning should be good to try to see this - I will be there til 7am, before work.

Good luck and good birding.

John Fedak
Clarion County

Birdsong is the music that tunes my ears!

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*)

Date of Sighting: 30 August 2000 to 30 August 2000

Location: MIDDLE RUN

County: CLARION

Observer(s): John Fedak

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: John Fedak

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

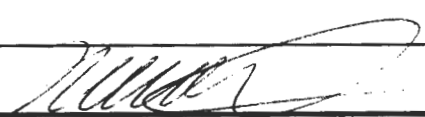
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead				X				
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
B. Lakes J. Stanley			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):-



Date: 3/3/02