

NOTES

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**A Zenaida Dove in Florida, with Comments on the
Species and Its Appearance Here**

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On 19 June 1988, while exploring an overgrown section of old state road 905 that passes through mixed mangroves and native hammock on North Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, we noticed a plump, square-tailed dove standing in the road. We readily identified it as a Zenaida Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), for the species' profile is distinctive and the diagnostic small white patch, formed by the white trailing edge of the secondaries, was apparent on the closed wing (Fig. 1). The bird repeatedly pumped its tail before flying to a dead buttonwood tree among some small mangroves about 50 m from the road. We studied it there through our 40x Quester for about 30 minutes as it preened. Later, we spread birdseed on the road for it. The dove fed at the seed at least every hour or two as long as it was definitely present. Over thirty people viewed it there until about 1900 hr on 22 June 1988. There were occasional reported observations after that date, but they could not be confirmed by numerous other searchers including the authors.

The bird's overall coloration seemed uniform cinnamon buff. The wings and upper surface of the tail were browner than the underparts. Several black spots were visible on the trailing portion of the mantle. It showed very little iridescence or vinaceous bloom on the body, although there was a hint of purple on the sides of the neck. One small black stripe was visible below the auricular region. The bases of the tail feathers from below were dark, whereas the tips appeared pale gray, almost white. In flight, in addition to white trailing edges to the secondaries, it showed pale gray tips to all but the central tail feathers, and a dark bar across the tail above the tip.

Because its belly was essentially as dark as its breast, the Zenaida Dove on North Key Largo was from the population *Z. a. zenaida* found throughout the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles east to the Virgin Islands (Ridgway 1916, Peters 1937). The nominate Lesser Antillean race has a creamy belly contrasting with its breast (Bond 1985), whereas the Yucatan population has a gray hindneck (Ridgway 1916). PWS subsequently examined specimens at the University of Miami and found an almost identical example, an adult female collected in Cuba on 18 June 1957 (UM no. 1566). The UM series is small, so inferences drawn from it could be misleading. However, the series suggested that Zenaida Doves lose much of their iridescence and bloom as spring and summer progress, possibly between breeding and molt. Breeding of the Zenaida Dove in the Cayman Islands is reported to be from February to June (Bradley 1985), while nests in Cuba have been reported from April to July (Barbour 1943). A mid-September specimen from Cuba at the UM is in fresh new plumage, suggesting that molt occurs in late summer. The single ear-spot is characteristic of females, although some males only have one (Ridgway 1916).

Based on winds in the region which prevail from an easterly quarter, the most likely origin of vagrant Zenaida Doves to the Upper Florida Keys is from the large Bahamian island of Andros, about 240 km ESE of North Key Largo. The nearest point of land in Cuba, another possible source, is about 260 km to the south. We found Zenaida Doves to

be uncommon on Andros in May 1988. We saw them only along the edges between pinelands and agricultural fields. Emlen (1977) found its density in coppice and submature pines on Grand Bahama to be 3.4 birds/km,² one of the lowest densities among species he considered permanent residents. However, in our experience, it is shyer in the Bahamas than the Mourning Dove (*Z. macroura*) and has nearly an identical call, so it might easily be overlooked. We do not know its current status in Cuba directly, but Garrido and Garcia (1975) refer to it as common in cleared areas. In the Cayman Islands, where Bradley (1985) indicated that from 2 to 10 could be expected in two hours' birding, we saw only a few in May 1987, mostly on dikes passing through mangroves. Like many West Indian species, its life history and movements are poorly known, but Audubon (from Howell 1932) believed it was migratory. There is no evidence from the directories of the American Dove Association or the International Species Inventory System that any *Z. a. zenaida* are now in captivity in the United States anywhere near southern Florida; indeed, the only birds claimed are in Oregon.

Although *Z. a. zenaida* was originally described from Florida (Bonaparte 1825) and was stated by Audubon to be a common breeder in the 1830s in the Florida Keys (as quoted in Howell 1932), there are few unequivocal records from the United States. Its history in Florida was reviewed thoroughly by Langridge et al. (1982), whose 1981 sight report, however, was not accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (Powell 1986). The only proven twentieth century Zenaida Dove record besides this one is of a bird that spent the winter of 1962-3 on Plantation Key, about 40 km south of North Key Largo (Browning in Stevenson 1963). That dove was photographed on 19 December 1962 by A. Sprunt, IV, whose diagnostic photo, showing that it also was *Z. a. zenaida*, is now at the Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS no. P229). Since the summary by Langridge et al. (1982), a second undated U. S. specimen, labeled Key West and thought to be from the



Figure 1. Zenaida Dove photographed on North Key Largo, Florida on 20 June 1988.

late 19th century, was discovered in the Charleston Museum by Henry Stevenson (*in litt.*). That specimen was recently acquired by the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF no. 21063).

Copies of Fig. 1 and several other color slides of the Zenaida Dove on North Key Largo, all taken by George F. Wagner, have been deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History. We especially thank Joseph Ondrejko, Oscar Owre, William Robertson, Henry Stevenson, Vivian Thue, George Wagner, Tom Webber, and William Zeigler for their help with various aspects of this project.

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Sight Records for Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) and Yellow-throated Viero (*Viero flavifrons*) in Puerto Rico

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The Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) is a rare migrant in the West Indies (American Ornithologists' Union 1983) and accidental in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Raffaele 1983). A single specimen was taken on Mona Island (18° 05' N, 67° 52' W) on 6 October 1953 (Leopold 1963, Raffaele 1983), but mainland Puerto Rico has no documented record (Wetmore 1927, Bond 1950, Biaggi 1970). McCandless (1961) listed a sight record for the Connecticut Warbler in southwestern Puerto Rico on 12 October 1958. Leopold (1963)