

## **BRIEF FIELD NOTES**



### **POSSIBLE WHITE-EYED VIREO COURTSHIP DANCE**

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On 19 April 2018, I observed a pair of White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*) feeding in a mixed hardwood/pine forest in Ridgeland, Mississippi. They were in the understory in privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) feeding near one another. The male perched on an exposed branch about 1 m away from the female, and began singing a fast version of the typical song with feathers slightly puffed and wings slightly hanging down. This rapid song was repeated for about one minute. He then moved to within 0.3 m of the female on the same branch, and continued to sing. Then he flipped upside down on the same branch, but hung beneath the female, and began rocking from side to side and peering upward on either side of the branch. This display continued for less than 30 seconds. After finishing his performance, the pair flew off into thicker cover.

### **WHITE-WINGED DOVES INCREASE NEAR GREENVILLE**

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During September of 2013 and 2014, White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) were present in small numbers (three-four birds)

on a sunflower field on the south end of Greenville. Then, in 2015, the population increased. The afternoon before dove season opened, a friend and I watched close to 50 White-winged Doves and several hundred Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) enter the field, and land on the sunflower heads. The flight of the White-winged Doves appeared much slower than that of Mourning Doves, and the white patches on the wings flashed, making their identification easy. The following afternoon, the White-winged Doves arrived at this site later than the Mourning Doves in flocks of 10-20 birds. By the end of the afternoon, I saw approximately 150 White-winged Doves. Hunters on the field harvested around 40 White-winged doves.

I did not look for White-winged Doves in 2016, but I began seeing them around town as early as April 2017 and continued seeing them most of that summer. One bird (presumably the same individual) was regularly observed at my parents' house, and I would see them while driving along the Mississippi River levee. In September 2017, I watched over 30 White-winged Doves feed in a field four miles east of the field referenced above. This field had honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees along its perimeter, and the doves landed in these before moving into the field to feed. Some of these birds appeared to be juveniles. I have seen multiple White-winged Doves during June 2018. I believe they may be breeding in the area but have not been able to locate any nests.