

Eastern Mourning Dove Migrating to Cuba?—A letter received under date of November 18, 1932, from Wm. W. Demeritt, of Key West, Florida, who operates a banding station at that point, contains important information relative to the movements of the Eastern Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*).

"Hunters in general agree that there have been more doves here this season than have ever been seen in any previous like season. There have been hundreds with us as is evidenced by the fact that I have banded 380 to date.

"I just returned from the traps; banded seven and had four repeaters. While there I observed a White-winged Dove in the vicinity of the traps and one was shot a few days ago. . . . "One of my returns, that was trapped on the 12th instant, was banded on January 2, 1932, and he returned to the station where he was banded, was caught again and released. When I removed him from the trap I remarked: 'What a beautiful large male he was' and on checking the number on his band I found that I had recorded the same fact on January 2, 1932.

"I recently observed over a thousand doves take their departure for Cuba. I was banding doves late one evening recently and I noticed how disturbed and restless the birds in that vicinity appeared to be. I waited and watched them and just before dark they took off, first one flock of about 500 and they were followed immediately by a second flock of 500 or more. They were flying about 1000 feet apart . . . and they shaped their course for Cuba, 90 miles away."

An examination of the ranges ascribed to *carolinensis* in both the 1910 and the 1931 Check-Lists fails to indicate that this race ever has been definitely recorded from any of the West Indies other than the Bahamas, the form recognized by recent authors as occurring in most Caribbean regions being the West Indian or Cuban Mourning Dove, *Z. m. macroura*.

At the time of Audubon, the Mourning Dove apparently did not occur (or if present, was so uncommon that it was not detected) on the Florida Keys. Nevertheless, by the late seventies, according to Maynard,¹ it was a common species throughout this region. In this statement Howell² acquiesces, and this view is further confirmed by the letter above quoted.

When consideration is given to the relatively narrow water channel between Key West and Cuba, the well-known powerful flight of the Mourning Dove, and the observation of Mr. Demeritt, it would appear almost certain that Cuba, and probably other islands of the Caribbean region, will eventually be added to the winter range of *Z. m. carolinensis*.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Western Mourning Dove in Central Mexico.—Records of *Zenaidura* in the interior of Mexico do not appear to be numerous, so the following case seems worthy of publication: An immature Mourning Dove (con-

¹ The Birds of Eastern North America, p. 344.

² Florida Bird Life, pp. 278-279.