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CFO-ORC FILE #  
COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD (X) UNUSUAL RECORD : :

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Inca Dove ( Columbina inca  
(Scientific name)

Date(s): First seen by Dave Menough on Nov 4, my report and photograph is from November 5.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk. Plumage: adult.

Locality: 1220 Apollo Drive, Lafayette Elevation:  
(Suburban subdivision) approx 5300'

Nearest town: Lafayette County: Boulder

Time(s) observed: 1100-1130 am.

Duration of observation: 30 minutes

Others who saw the bird with you (names and addresses): Tom Parker, Broomfield.

Others who saw the bird independently: Dave Menough first identified it, and called the rare bird tape (which I am the voice of in Colorado). I called several birdwatchers, and put it on the tape before leaving home. Over 100 Colorado birdwatchers saw this bird.

Light conditions in relationship to bird: Cool, cloudy day, no advantages to any sun angles.

Optical equipment used: 10 X 40 B&L Customs.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Pentax K1000 Camera with Sigma 5.6 400 mm lens. Fujichrome 100 film.

Who else photographed the bird? Dave Leatherman and others.

Describe the bird's behavior. Hanging around yard where there was a bird bath and seed feeders. I saw it fly and perch on a fence and in a fruit tree, but not at feeder.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually saw in the field.

It was a tiny dove, body size not much bigger than a house

sparrow, but with a longer, pointed tail. It may have been 8" long. The size and scaly appearance on the back, top of head, and breast eliminated the similarly shaped Mourning Dove, and indicated that it was of a dove species new to the state. The bill was relatively long, and all dark. Although other observers noted rusty patches in the wings, this field mark was hard to see from the angles I had. The tail was about 3 inches long, tapered to a pointed tip, and had white outer tail feathers visible in flight and at rest (see photographs).

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Silent

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Suburban neighborhood, neither trees nor houses mature yet.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Size eliminated Mourning Dove and pigeons. Scaly back, top of head and breast eliminated Common and Ruddy Ground-Doves. Common Ground-Dove has an orange bill with a black tip and a square tail without white outer feathers.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen Inca Doves in Arizona, Texas and Mexico previously, and even photographed them in Guadalajara, Jalisco in Jan. 1991. I have seen Common Ground-Doves in Florida, Arizona, Texas and Mexico. I have seen about 20 Ruddy Ground-Doves, mostly in Mexico, but also in Arizona.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: National Geographic and other guidebooks both before and after observation.

This report was written from reports made during ( x ), after observation ( x ), from memory ( ).

Date and time report was written: 2/21/93

Reporting observer: Duane L. Nelson

Signature:



Address: 1619 Ford St., Golden, CO 80401

All reports will be maintained with the Curator of Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO 80205.

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## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

INCA DOVE  
Columbina inca

Location: Dave Menough's home; Lafayette; Boulder County, Colorado

Date: November 8, 1992

This bird was discovered by Dave Menough and seen by many others before this date.

### Setting:

I arrived early on the morning of November 8, 1992 with Brandon Percival. We observed the Inca Dove almost immediately, at about 7:15 a.m. as it fed on the ground beneath a hanging feeder in the Menough's back yard. The area is a relatively new residential area with ornamental plantings, gardens, play areas and a scattering of larger trees. We observed this bird for about 5 minutes until it flew away into a large pine tree in the corner of the yard. We again saw the bird about 7:45 a.m. and watched it constantly until 8:10 a.m. The bird fed in loose association with House Sparrows. It fed on seed on the ground as well as in a hanging feeder. While not feeding it flew to the edge of a bird bath where it drank water and then perched quietly in the open on the branches of a large tree. During the half hour or so that we observed it we were at distances of about 25-40 yards and watched it both with binoculars and scope (while it was on the feeder).

### Description:

The bird was about 8-9" long, clearly larger than the House Sparrows. It was plump but had rather long lines for such a small bird. In proportions it was slim, small-headed and long-tailed. The bill was dark grey, small, slender, medium-long (for the delicate head) and swollen at the tip. The facial feathering extended further forward below the bill than above it. The iris was dull red and the skin around the eye was grey. The plumage was overall light grey. The grey feathers of the top of the head, back and wing were widely margined with dark grey or blackish tips to the feathers, imparting a heavily scaled look to the upper-parts. This scaling was much lighter below and on the breast (narrower dark grey margins to the feather tips). The folded wing-tips extending beyond the coverts were nearly black. The tail was long and narrow and worn at the tips. The tail was darker grey-brown above and margined white (seen in flight) but margined in black when folded. The primaries showed an interior patch of deep rufous that was sometimes visible in the folded wing, but quite obvious as a reddish flash in the spread wing (stretching or in flight). There were scattered white pin-like markings at the tips of some of the feathers of the crown and breast (seen in the scope at close range). The legs were short, and the legs and feet were dull pinkish-grey.

### Similar Species:

The small head, plump body, grey coloration, delicate bill with a swollen tip, and short pinkish legs all indicate a dove. The small size eliminates Mourning and Rock Doves, as do plumage details. The long tail, heavily scaled upperparts rule out Common and Ruddy Ground-Doves.

### Experience with Species:

I have seen many Inca and Ground Doves both in the southwestern part of the United States and in Costa Rica (from 1974-1976).

This report was prepared from notes made at the time of observation.

Mark Janos  
10 Sedum Ct.  
Pueblo, CO 81001

*Mark Janos*