

COLORADO BIRD ATLAS
VERIFICATION FORM

25-92-12

A

Species: Inca Dove
(Common Name)

Columbiga Inca
(Scientific)

For Atlas Office Use

RC _____
Tech Cm _____
Atl Off _____

Topo Map--Name _____

--Number Lat _____ Long _____ # _____ Lat/long _____
--Sector SE _____ SW _____ CE _____ CW _____ NE _____ NW _____

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, for research projects like the Atlas, a written description for unusual species is essential. The final atlas project must have a solid basis, and for unusual records, we require written documentation. By providing the verifying written description you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method. The Atlas Technical Committee will review the report and approve it for inclusion in the Atlas database.

This form will perpetuate your record for examination by others in the future. The Atlas requires this of every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date(s): Nov 17, 1992 Time seen 10:30 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

Locality 35942 E U.S. Hwy 50

Nearest town & county Vineland, Pueblo County

Number seen	Gender	Ages	Plumage	Photos
	Males _____	Adults _____	Breeding _____ Transition _____	Yes/No _____
	Females _____	Juv/Imm _____	Eclipse _____ Dark phase _____	Avail. _____
	Imm/O _____	2/3 yr _____	Winter _____ Light phase _____	Encl _____
	Unk _____	Unk _____	Other _____	

Distance from bird(s) 10 ft Light conditions excellent Sunny Notes made: At time of sighting X

Optical Equip _____

After observation from memory _____

Describe Habitat

Back yard - Feeder in Ash Tree. Bird bath near feeder
The two doves were sitting in the ash tree

Atlas Breeding Code Overall behavior. Did it interact with any other birds? Describe.

The birds were first observed by the resident (Joan Williams) on Sunday - Nov. 15. They returned to the feeder Monday at 7 A.M. and at 2:30 P.M. she then called me about them but when I arrived they were no longer there. The birds returned to feed at 10 A.M. Nov 17 and they were still there when I arrived. The birds were done feeding and were huddled closely together in the lower branches of the Ash tree, occasionally preening. There were House Finches very near them in the tree and the birds were slightly larger than the Finches. The birds were very tame and allowed me to approach very close.

Describe all field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc. Describe any unique features this bird had.

About 7 inches in length, same profile of a Mourning Dove (long tail)
Squared off tail - white edges were observed, overall light grey color.
Scaly appearance on breast and back, ^(heavier scaling) light grey color overall.
Dark bill, pinkish legs, Top of primaries rustred with black tips
Underprimaries reddish overall color.

What song or sounds did it make?

The birds did not call while I was there

Field marks not seen. Why not?

None

Variation from expected field marks

None

List similar species. Why and how did you eliminate them?

Ground dove - tail too long, heavy scaling on the back of the Inca doves with much white edging on the tail.

Mourning dove - Bird too small, no greenish pink tinge to the bird (it was grey). The scaling on the bird and the squared tail eliminated any Mourning Dove

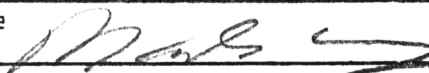
What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I've observed Inca Doves closely in Arizona and Ground Doves in Florida

Name (print)

Mark C. Yager

Signature



Street address, city & zip

113 W. Evans Pueblo, Co 81004

Telephone

(719) 543-2724

Corroborating observers not reporting separately (but encourage them to provide a report):

Name

Joan Williams

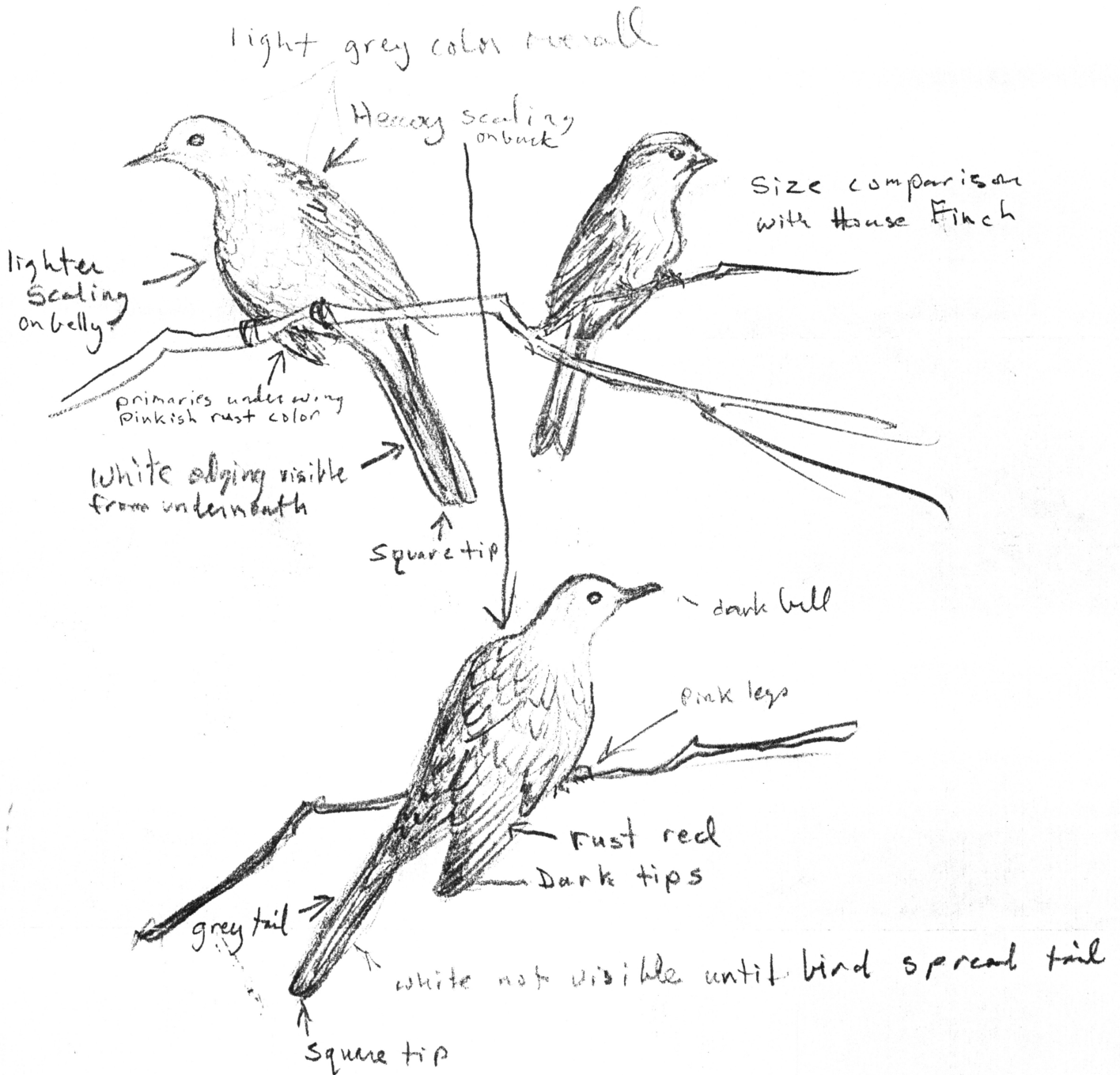
Signature

Street address, city & zip

35942 E U.S. Hwy 50 Vineland, Co 81006

(719) 948-3610

Inca Dove - Nov 17 1992 25-92-12
VINELAND CO.
11. A.M.



Sketch made immediately after observation
Mark Yaeger

25-92-12

A

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

INCA DOVE

Columbina inca

Location: Joan William's home; Vineland; Pueblo County, Colorado

Date: November 19, 1992

This bird was discovered by Joan and seen by a few others before this date.

Setting:

I arrived about 11:00 a.m. on the morning of November 19, 1992. I searched the yard and adjacent areas of this rural neighborhood east of Pueblo. The territory is brushier and more overgrown than the Lafayette Inca Dove spot. There are more trees and the houses are surrounded by farmland, pastures and widely scattered houses. The alleyway where the birds were most often seen consisted of overgrown back yards, shrubs, plantings, bare ground and bird feeders. At about 11:45 a.m. I found two Inca Doves perched side-by-side in a large cottonwood behind the Williams' house. The two birds perched closely together, touching, but seemed ill-at-ease. They walked along the larger horizontal branches and made small hopping flights from branch to branch. I watched the birds with binoculars as they flitted about 25 feet overhead. When I left about 12:20 p.m. the birds were still in place in the tree.

Description:

The birds were each about 8" long, slender and small-headed. Above they were grey with conspicuous dark scalloping. Below they seemed lighter grey with less marked scalloping. The under belly of both birds was a creamy-tan color with strongly barred lower flanks. The undertail coverts were off-white and obscurely streaked. The tail was browner above than the back and margined above by black. The tail was white below with graduated feathers of different lengths. There was a deep rufous patch in the wing visible only in flight. The head was pale grey with a small dark eye. The bill was small, bluish-grey, slender and swollen at the tip. Both birds appeared this way and looked similar. The only difference was that one bird had a slightly warmer tones with a tan wash to the grey of the undersides, while the other had a plainer greyer color to the undersides. The short legs were dull pink colored.

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 and from memory.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

