

25-94-40

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

*Accepted*

INCA DOVE  
Columbina inca

Location: Two Buttes Reservoir; north of Springfield; Baca County, Colorado

Date: November 6, 1994

Setting:

I was birding with Joe Himmel, Joe Roller, Brandon Percival and Scott Seltman in the small wooded area below the dam at Two Buttes Reservoir. We were walking along the dirt road and looking into the heavy tangles and undergrowth along the borders to the small ponds. Scott Seltman found the Inca Dove perched low in trees just about 20 feet away. We watched the bird with binoculars while it was perched and while in flight as it flew from perch to perch in leafless cottonwoods from 9:00-9:45 a.m. The sun was good. Observation distances ranged from about 20-120 feet. Scott Seltman videotaped the bird for several minutes.

Description:

The bird was a small dove, about 8" long. It was slim and small-headed. It was overall grey. It had a reddish eye, a small grey bill and pink feet. It was darker grey above and lighter grey below. Its body plumage was heavily marked with darker feather edges, giving it an overall scaled appearance. In flight it had a rufous flash in the primaries. It had a long thin tail with white edges. The undertail coverts were grey. The underside of the tail was black at the base and white at the end.

Similar Species:

The small head, plump body, grey coloration and small bill all indicate a dove. The small size eliminates Mourning and Rock Doves. The heavily scaled upper parts and lack of spots on the wing coverts eliminate 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). I saw the Lafayette Inca Dove and the two Vineland, Colorado Inca Doves in November 1992.

This report was prepared from notes made after observation.

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