

RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION Records of Vermont Birds

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES:

White-winged Dove

NUMBER OBSERVED: 1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS

Rodney Olsen
Henry Trombley

LOCATION: Dead Creek WMA, Addison

DATE: 5/28/13

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1 hour

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum 100 yards Minimum 30 yards

WEATHER:

wind direction _____ wind speed _____

sky cover _____ light in relation to observer's position temperature

The bird was seen from many angles over the time that it was observed. When we were the closest, the lighting was behind the bird so that the only photo evidence was taken from an iphone revealing just a silhouette with no color or field marks could be seen.

The view with binoculars were much more clear and provided confirmation. The bird then later moved to better lighting offering many clear looks. Unfortunately, no more pictures were taken, instead, we focused our efforts on recording the call.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.) Binoculars

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS: None

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo yes (poor quality) Tape Recording yes Specimen _____

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited

Henry Trombley submitted the recording of the calling bird and has the blurry, nondescript photo in his possession.

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

The White-winged Dove was seen amongst the thickets located at the edge of Dead Creek.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

The White-winged Dove got our undivided attention when we heard it calling and it was quite vocal throughout the time it was observed. It was first seen sitting in an exposed tree (dead elm I think) and allowed us to get to approx. 30 yards. This was the closest we got to it.

It seemed to prefer the exposure offered by choosing perches on dead trees.

It was not seen feeding rather it was observed flying from perch to perch, usually 20+ yard distances. It eventually flew across the highway and was heard more than it was seen. When it was seen, it displayed the classic field marks of the white on the wings and tail.

It did not let us venture too close and we felt that we were always pursuing it.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)

The song was the reason we found the White-winged Dove in the first place, it was clearly different from a Mourning Dove and worthy of investigation. Fortunately, Henry Trombley had his iPhone that helped to identify the bird. The call was identical to that of the White-winged Dove on his Stokes App. The Dove called throughout the observation and the recording was submitted by Henry Trombley.

DESCRIPTION: (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

Relative size and shape:

I thought it was similar to a Mourning Dove but I was immediately struck by the broad tail with the large white band. It also had a stockier look although I'm not sure if that is a quality that sets them apart or if it was just my own impression.

Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape):

The head was clearly that of a dove. There was an obvious black streak under its cheek/eye.

Feet and Bill (shape, color, length):

Upper back:

Lower back and rump:

Wings (shape, length, markings): In flight there were the obvious, symmetrical white wing patches. When at rest on the perch we could see the white on the wings edge.

Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:

Tail (shape, length, markings): A wider tail than a Mourning Dove with a wide terminal white band. The white band was obvious when sitting on a perch as well as when in flight.

IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND

HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?

Mourning Dove- CALL was obviously not a Mourning Dove. In flight the White-winged Dove had an exquisite display of white wing "bars" on a darker wing and a white tail band.

COMMENTS: (was age or sex determined?, etc.)

There is no question in my mind that this bird was a White-winged Dove.

I heard the recording that Henry submitted and I was able to hear the dove on two occasions in the track. Hoping you can too.

It is unfortunate that the quality of the recording is fairly muted but it was taken at a considerable distance, but, I think you'll find it of good enough quality to recognize the White-winged Dove amongst the other species.

The age and sex was not determined.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

This report was written from notes taken during _____ immediately after _____ the observation, or written from memory X (please attach copies of notes if available)

NAME Rodney Olsen SIGNATURE (not req'd) _____

MAILING ADDRESS 8 Mountain View Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491

DATE 5/29/13

Return electronically (preferred) to: vbrc@vtcostudies.org or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055