

# DOVES OF LOUISIANA

## IDENTIFICATION & STATUS



Dove hunters should consult the annual regulations pamphlet for dove hunting regulations

### MOURNING DOVE

(*Zenaida macroura*)



Photo by Alan D. Wilson, [naturepicsonline.com](http://naturepicsonline.com)

#### Identification:

- Length: 10.5 inches
- Medium-sized, somewhat slender dove with very thin neck
- Black bill
- Long tail, pointed at tip
- Feeds on grass seed and waste grain

**Distribution:** Statewide – most abundant in agricultural settings.

**Legal Status:** Game Bird – Seasons set annually. Daily aggregate bag limit for mourning doves and white-winged doves is 15.

### WHITE-WINGED DOVE

(*Zenaida asiatica*)



Photo by Dick Daniels, [carolinabirds.org](http://carolinabirds.org)

#### Identification:

- Length: 10 inches
- Large, chunky dove
- Fairly long, black bill
- Pale blue, teardrop-shaped orbital ring to eye
- Pale gray-brown head, neck, back, belly, and upperwings, with darker brown primaries
- Bold white wing patch, visible at rest
- Long tail is slightly rounded at tip

**Distribution:** White-winged doves are expanding their range in Louisiana and are most frequently found in parishes south of Alexandria, although some parishes north and east of Alexandria, such as Natchitoches, Red River, DeSoto, Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, and Lincoln have reported sightings of white-winged doves as well.

**Legal Status:** Game Bird – Seasons set annually. Daily aggregate bag limit for white-winged doves and mourning doves is 15.

### COMMON GROUND-DOVE

(*Columbina passerina*)



Photo by Dick Daniels, [carolinabirds.org](http://carolinabirds.org)

#### Identification:

- Length: 5.5 inches
- Small, chunky dove
- Black-tipped orange bill
- Gray-brown back and upperwings
- Breast and head scaly
- Black spotting on wing coverts
- Cinnamon inner webs of primaries visible in flight, and occasionally at rest
- Cinnamon wing linings
- Short tail is slightly rounded at tip
- Tail is brown centrally, with black edges and white corners

**Distribution:** Common ground-doves have been verified in most Parishes in the state with the exception of Parishes in the north-central portion of the state as well as Beauregard, St. Helena, W. Baton Rouge, Ascension, St. James, and Assumption parishes.

**Legal Status:** Protected – non-game. May not be harvested.

### EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

(*Streptopelia decaocto*)



Photo by Pizzodisevo, [flickr.com](http://flickr.com)

#### Identification:

- Length: 12 inches
- Pale gray head and underparts
- Thin black collar with white upper border
- Gray upperparts
- Dark primaries
- Long, squared tail

**Distribution:** Statewide

**Legal Status:** May be harvested along with mourning doves and white-winged doves. No bag limit provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass of the bird. Fully dressed Eurasian collared-doves (those without a fully feathered wing and head naturally attached to the carcass) shall be included in the daily bag limit for mourning doves.

### RINGED TURTLE-DOVE

(*Streptopelia risoria*)



Photo by Eric de Leeuw, [flickr.com](http://flickr.com)

#### Identification:

- Very similar to Eurasian collared-dove in appearance
- Length: 10 inches
- Pale creamy-buff head and underparts
- Thin black collar
- Grayish upperparts
- Long-squared tail
- Escaped cage bird with small populations in several cities

**Distribution:** Spotty throughout the state, mostly in urban settings.

**Legal Status:** May be harvested along with mourning doves and white-winged doves. No bag limit provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass of the bird. Fully dressed Eurasian collared-doves (those without a fully feathered wing and head naturally attached to the carcass) shall be included in the daily bag limit for mourning doves.

### ROCK DOVE, ROCK PIGEON OR COMMON PIGEON

(*Columba livia*)

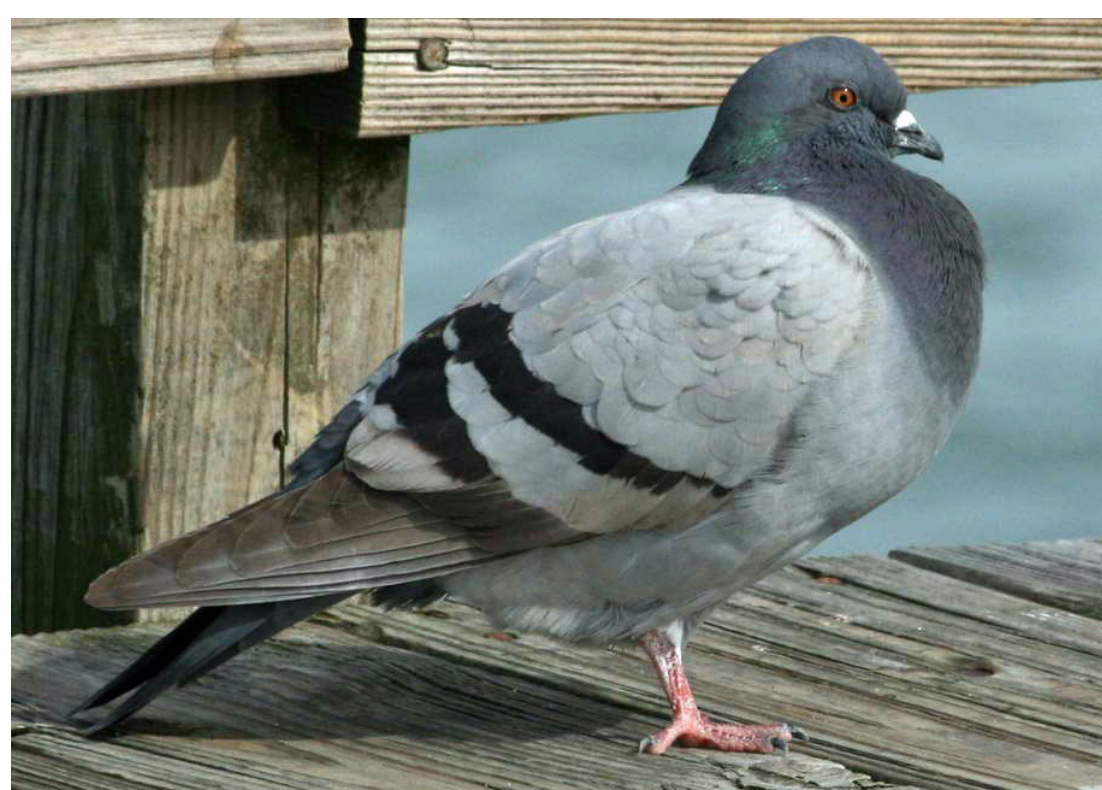


Photo by Dick Daniels, [carolinabirds.org](http://carolinabirds.org)

#### Identification:

- Length: 11 inches
- The familiar “pigeon” of cities and parks
- Large, chunky dove
- Medium length tail is squared off at tip
- Highly variable plumage (some can be entirely chestnut, white, black or anything in between)

**Distribution:** Statewide – common in cities, towns, around grain bins and cattle feed lots.

**Legal Status:** Unprotected – May be taken year round.

### INCA DOVE

(*Columbina inca*)



Photo by J. N. Stuart, [carolinabirds.org](http://carolinabirds.org)

#### Identification:

- Length: 6.5 inches
- Small, slender dove
- Black bill
- Blue orbital ring
- Pale gray-brown body is darker on back and upperwings and is extensively scaly (including upper and belly)
- Cinnamon inner webs of primaries visible in flight, and occasionally at rest
- Long tail slightly rounded at tip
- Tail is brown centrally, with black edges and white outermost tail feathers

**Distribution:** Inca doves are becoming increasingly common in Louisiana and are found throughout most of the state.

**Legal Status:** Protected – non-game. May not be harvested.