

# Rare Animals of Louisiana



## Common Ground Dove

*Columbina passerina*

**Rarity Rank:** S1B,S2N/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Dan Lane

### Identification:

- Very small dove from 15 to 18 cm long
- Adult underparts vary from grayish brown to medium dark brown
- Forehead, face, sides of neck, breast and underparts are pinkish gray
- Crown, nape, and hind neck vary from bluish gray to grayish pink
- Black, square-shaped tail
- Feet and legs pinkish
- Dark spots on folded wings
- Wings with large cinnamon patches visible in flight

### Taxonomic comments:

Two subspecies of *Columbina passerina* breed in the United States: *C. p. passerina* is found from Eastern Texas throughout the Gulf States including Louisiana

### Habitat:

- Cultivated land including farms, orchards, and old cane fields
- Clearings, roadsides, and wood edges

### Food habits:

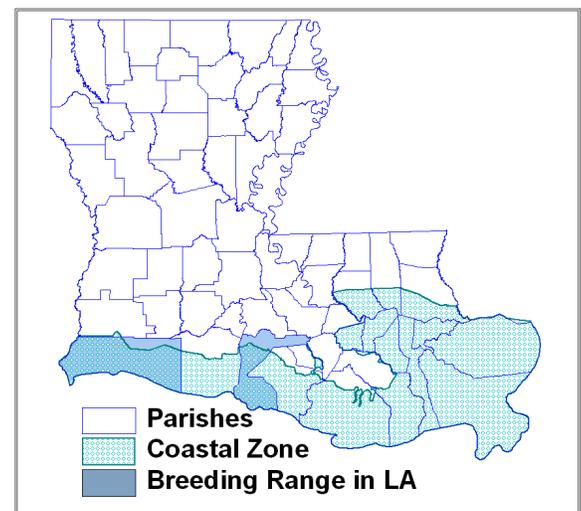
- Mostly small weed and grass seeds
- Readily feeds at feeders

### Range:

Southern parts of the United States to Costa Rica and northern South America

### Reproduction:

- Nests are typically platforms made of small roots, grass and twigs built either in small shrubs, small trees, or amongst leaves on the ground
- Pairs begin to nest in March and eggs hatch 44 days after start of incubation, typically between April and May
- Nests consist of two white eggs
- Additional clutches may be laid in October



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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## Threats:

- Loss of habitat to pine management and residential development
- Human disturbance to nesting areas
- Exotic red imported fire ants may contribute to decline

## Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protection of existing habitat through conservation of natural shrub communities and riparian zones
- restoration of degraded habitat
- Controlling exotics

## LA River Basins:

Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine

## References:

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