

2003-09

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE. FOR UTAH BIRD RECORDS CODING ONLY.

Latilong _____ Record type _____ Serial No. _____
 Habitat _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name RUDDY GROUND DOVEScientific Name COLUMBINA TALPACOTIObs. date NOV 2, 1991 Time(s) 4:00-5:00 P.M.Duration of obs. 4-5 MINUTES; THREE TIMES WITHIN HOURDistance from bird 30-40 FEETLight conditions CLOUDY & OVERCASTOptical equip. 8X30 BINOCS & 20X30 SPOTTING SCOPEPhoto equip. PICTURES WERE TAKEN USING A VCR CAMERANotes made at time of sighting X

Notes made later from memory _____

Date report prepared

NOV 5, 1991

Weather at time of this observation.

COOL (40-50°F) & CLOUDYVCR PHOTOS ON OCT. 31 - DAY WAS CLEAR & SUNNY

Prior weather and number of days since change

PREVIOUS COOL & WINDY WEATHER TO THE NORTH. NOT AWARE OF WEATHER CHANGES IN ARIZONA.

Locality

LYTLE'S RANCH, BEAVER DAM WASH IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, S.W. UTAH.

r number of birds each category.

Total number observed.

1

GENDER(S)

Males X

Females _____

♀ or Imms _____

Unknowns _____

AGES(S)

Adults X

Juv/Imms _____

2/3 yr birds _____

Unknowns _____

PLUMAGE(S)

Breeding _____

Eclipse _____

Winter _____

Other BASIC ADULT PLUMAGE

Transition _____

Dark phase _____

Light ph. _____

PHOTO(S)

Available _____

Enclosed _____

Description of bird: Size, colors, all field marks OBSERVED. - Unique features of this individual, if any.HEAD, NAPE & CROWN - GRAYISH BLUE.THROAT - GRAYISH-WHITE.UPPERPARTS - RICH BROWNISH-PINK COLOR ALL ACROSS BACK, RUMP & WINGS. NO GRAY COLOR ON BACK OR WINGS LIKE IN COMMON GROUND DOVE.WINGS - FLECKED WITH 10-12 BLACKISH ^{SPOTS} PRIMARIES WHEN IT FLEW. SHOWED RICH REDDISH-BROWN TONES IN ^{BECAUSE}TAIL - DARK WITH BLACK BORDERS. NEVER DID SEE ANY WHITE, ~~BECAUSE~~ IT FLEW AWAY, SO QUICKLY & DISAPPEARED INTO THICK, NEARBY VEGETATION.BILL - DARKER ^{GOING} THROUGHOUT LENGTH & ~~SHADING~~ TO A LIGHTER COLOR NEAR BASE; NOT YELLOW TROUGH.OVERALL SIZE - BLACKBIRD SIZE, BUT WITH SHORTER TAIL & MORE PLUMP BODY

NOTE - This is a first sighting for the state of Utah. We considered the possibility of this being an escapee from a zoo or a pet shop. But Vince Nowlray, a Las Vegas, Nev. birder, informed of a Ruddy Ground Dove north of Las Vegas & 4-5 in California a couple of weeks prior to this sighting. Based on this information I feel that it is more than likely a naturally-occurring bird & not an escaped one. M. Webb

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

Not much

Variations from expected field marks.

NONE.

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

COMMON GROUND DOVE - C. passerina HAS SCALED APPEARANCE ON HEAD & (Columbina passerina) BREAST. GRAYER PLUMAGE OVERALL.

C. talpacoti TOTALLY LACKED THE SCALED APPEARANCE & WAS MORE ROSY PINK COLOR OVERALL.

ALSO, I SHOWED THE VIDEO SEGMENT TO CLAYTON WHITE, B.Y.U. ORNITHOLOGIST, WHO CAME TO CONCLUSION IT WAS C. talpacoti. NEXT, WE CHECKED SPECIMENS OF

C. talpacoti IN THE B.Y.U. ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS. THERE WERE 3 SPECIMENS TO COMPARE WITH & THE BIRD WE HAD ON TAPE MATCHED THESE.

NEXT, WE CHECKED THE DESCRIPTION IN THE A.O.U. CHECKLIST & ALSO IN A TEXTBOOK CALLED DOVES & PIGEONS OF THE WORLD TO DETERMINE COMMON GROUND-DOVE JUVENILE CHARACTERISTICS & COMPARED WITH RUDDY GROUND-DOVE. CONCLUSION: C. talpacoti

Behavior of this bird. Other species seen with this one. Any interaction between birds?

THIS BIRD FED ON SEEDS & CHICKEN MASH ON A DIRT ROAD JUST NORTH OF THE LARGE TRAILER AT THE RANCH. IT WOULD CROUCH LOW WHILE FEEDING WITH BREAST CLOSE TO & ON THE GROUND. WHEN IT WALKED IT NODDED ITS HEAD. WHEN IT ~~WAS~~ FLEW IT WAS ONLY ABOUT TEN YARDS INTO SOME PLUM BUSHES, BUT IT WAS A RAPID, DIRECT FLIGHT. IT STAYED IN THE VEGETATION FOR A LONG TIME (SOMETIMES HOURS) BEFORE VENTURING OUT TO FEED.

Habitat at this location. Adjacent or near by habitat, if significant.

TREES, BUSHES & GRASS. ROAD. RANCH BUILDINGS (SHEDS, HOUSE, ETC. & A LONG TRAILER HOUSE).

Describe bird's song or sounds.

NONE DETECTED

Print reporter's name, address, phone number.

G. MERRILL WEBB
1063 EAST 400 NORTH
OREM, UTAH 84057
(801) 224-6113

Signature

G. Merrill Webb

What is your experience with this or similar birds?

NONE WITH THIS ONE. HAVE SEEN COMMON GROUND IN ARIZ. & INCA DOVE IN UTAH.

Corroborating observers not reporting separately.

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Print Name

Signature

Ruddy Ground Dove Description

Date:

Nov. 2, 1991

Temp. 40-50°F.

Time: Between 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

3 flocks of varying
time lengths

Distance: 40-60 ft.

Optical Equipment: Binocs - 8X30

Spotting Scope 15-20X

Video - Zoom lens - mark Hopkins

Light: Overcast

Description: Head, nape & crown: Gray

Throat - whitish gray.

upperparts.

(Back & wings) Rich reddish-brown tone.

Wings had distinct black
flecks.

No gray on back or wings.

underparts - clear brownish-white
breast & flanks.

* No scale-like feathers anywhere. Just clear tones.

wings - showed rich reddish-brown in
quick flight (primaries).

Tail: Black.

Bill: Dark shading to lighter color at
base.

Behavior: Fed with body close to ground.
couldn't see legs.

When it flew it was quick & direct to
a bush (Palm tree bush).

Didn't see it walk - just hunkered
down while feeding.

Sizes about the size of a blackbird.