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## The Origin of White-winged Doves Breeding in South Florida

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**Second Florida specimen of the Razorbill.**—There are three previous records of the Razorbill (*Alca torde*) for Florida. The species was first recorded for the state when an immature bird was picked up alive on South Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, on 1 January 1967 (Cruickshank 1967, Fla. Nat. 40: 48-49); the bird was banded and released on 7 January and remained near the release point at least until 22 January. The second record, the first for the Gulf coast, was an immature sighted at St. George Island, Franklin County, on 11 April 1976 (Patterson and Menk 1977, Fla. Field Nat. 5: 18-19); the bird was seen only for the one day. The third record and first Florida specimen is a bird found “dying” at Fort Lauderdale Beach, Broward County, on 2 November 1978 (Edscorn 1979, Amer. Birds, 33: 169-171). The specimen, also an immature, is No. 3360 in the collections of the Tall Timbers Research Station.

On 18 May 1979 Marianne Garrigues and J. D. Scott discovered a dead immature Razorbill on Santa Rosa Island, near Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida. Ms. Garrigues brought the bird to Texas where it was prepared at Texas A&M University at Galveston, then sent to me. This Razorbill, a male, has now been deposited at Tall Timbers Research Station (No. 3658). The bird is the second specimen and spring record for Florida, and the first specimen for the Gulf of Mexico coast. It is interesting that all four Florida records are of immatures.

I express my appreciation to Garrigues and Scott for recognizing the value of the bird, to S. Ray for preparing the specimen, and to H. M. Stevenson for providing information on the three previous Florida records.—KEITH A. ARNOLD, *Texas Wildlife Cooperative Collections, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.*

Fla. Field Nat. 8(2): 50, 1980

**The origin of White-winged Doves breeding in south Florida.**—There has been some confusion over the origin of the initial stock of White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) breeding in southern Florida. The recent increases in number and distribution in the region, and the capture, transportation and release of numbers of these birds into central Florida by the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) prompt me to present the facts surrounding the introduction of breeding stock in Florida before misstatements become ingrained in the literature.

Notes on the releases of aviary stock by Frank M. Williams near Homestead, Dade County, Florida, in 1959 by Fisk (1968), Ogden (1970), and Owre (1973) indicate that Williams' original stock of Whitewings included birds from Venezuela and Mexico. However, *Zenaida asiatica* does not occur in the wild in Venezuela, and Stevenson (1976), in discussing these references, said “. . . importation ‘from Venezuela’ seems in error.” The range of this species in South America is restricted to arid coastal areas of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile (Meyer de Schauensee 1970).

I asked Williams for a description of his larger Venezuelan “whitewings”, and his reply fitted that of the Bare-eyed Pigeon (*Columba corensis*) that ranges in arid coastal areas of Venezuela and Colombia (Meyer de Schauensee 1970). Its native Spanish name is *paloma ala blanca*, or white-winged dove, and this similarity of common name has been the source of the confusion. Spanish-speaking people in Mexico and other Latin American countries where the races of *Z. asiatica* are native, also call these birds *paloma ala blanca*. The larger and more tropical Bare-eyed Pigeon did not breed successfully in Williams' aviary and they were not released.

Information I received from Williams in letters and by telephone (1967-1978) was that all of the *Zenaida asiatica* stock released by him in his avocado grove near Princeton, Dade County, Florida, was derived from 4 pairs of birds obtained by him in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in 1956, and bred in his aviary in Florida. Williams' letter of 12 July 1967 to me stated "After 3 years we had bred sufficient number, total flock 30 birds, that we released 10 pairs at the proper time—March—so that they would immediately begin to mate and nest rather than consider migration to another area."

A recent FGFWFC notice published in the Florida Audubon Society-Florida Ornithological Society, *Ornithological Newsletter* (No. 9, August 1978) and the *Florida Field Naturalist* (6: 56, 1978) mistakenly noted that these birds escaped from captivity when a hurricane crushed their pen in the early 1960s.

The race of White-winged Doves breeding near Tampico, Mexico, is *Z. a. asiatica*, the same as is found in southern Texas. This race has occurred in Florida for many years, chiefly in autumn and winter when wanderers from breeding grounds in southern Texas, and possibly northwestern Mexico, followed a route around the Gulf coast (Cottam and Trefethen 1968). There is no evidence that any of these migrants remained and bred in Florida. The first breeding record for *Z. asiatica* in the wild in Florida is of members of the 10 pairs that nested in Williams' avocado grove in 1959. To my knowledge there have been no introductions of any other breeding populations of this species in Florida.

Fourteen Whitewings collected in Dade County in autumn 1978, and summer 1979, were sent to the Smithsonian Institution for identification as to subspecies. Those in breeding plumage (6) were especially valuable for taxonomic study (Saunders 1968). The report on them, prepared by John W. Aldrich, who compared them with series from southern Texas, eastern Mexico, and the West Indies, is that they are referable to *Z. a. asiatica*. He says the southern Florida Whitewings are darker than those from breeding grounds west and north of Tampico, and from southern Texas, but the degrees of difference from the other populations are not sufficient to justify their being designated a separate race.

As most of the White-winged Doves breeding in the Tampico sector are in woodlands west, southwest, and northwest of that city, it was believed earlier that Williams' stock came from one of those areas. It now seems more likely that his birds came from a locality south of Tampico in the State of Veracruz, and were taken to that city for sale. Breeding specimens from Veracruz and those of southern Florida have similar darker plumage.

I am indebted to John W. Aldrich, National Museum of Natural History, for information on his taxonomic review of the White-winged Doves breeding in southern Florida and to Herbert W. Kale, II, for suggestions concerning the manuscript. My thanks also to Frank M. Williams for the details on his introduction of the breeding stock from which this resident White-winged Dove population came.

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