

## MOURNING DOVE

*Zenaida macroura*

**naturalized (non-native) resident, recently established**

*Z. m. marginella*

This well-known dove breeds throughout N America S to Panama and the Caribbean Is, withdrawing from n. areas in winter (AOU 1998). They colonized Bermuda naturally but have not been purposefully introduced anywhere except the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* (Long 1981, Lever 1987), where small populations have become established since introductions by HDFG in the 1960s.

In 1929-1930 several individuals were brought to an unknown locality in the Hawaiian Islands for breeding and eventual liberation (Caum 1933), but no reports of wild birds resulted. Thirty-five years later, in 1962-1965, a total of 168 Mourning Doves from a California game farm (subspecies *Z. m. marginella*; PP examination, BPBM) were released by HDFG on Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ranch, nw. **Hawai'i I** (Swedberg 1967a, Lewin 1971, Long 1981, Lever 1987) but were not considered established by Walker (1967). They began to disperse in 1966, showing up 8 km from the release site on the Pu'uanahulu Ridge (Lewin 1971; see also *E* 47:94, 48:30) and at nearby hunting stations in 1968. By 1974 there was an estimated breeding population of 500-1500 birds (Walker *in* Scott et al. 1986), established and breeding locally in nw. Hawai'i I; they were not considered established by Berger (1972) but considered established by Pyle (1977) and Berger (1981). Beginning in the 1980s Mourning Doves were reported from Waikoloa, Captain Cook, Kawaihae N. Kohala toward Hawi, along the Saddle Road, at Pohakuloa SP (*E* 46:136), and near Keaau. Most reports were of single birds, frequently seen on roadsides in open country. In 1989-1990 Mourning Doves were observed repeatedly at a large open grain pile in Kawaihae harbor area including a count of >50 among many hundreds of [Spotted](#) and [Zebra](#) doves 2 July 1989. Subsequent observations in the 1990s-2000s were generally of < 5 birds, primarily near Pu'uanahulu and Waimea, but including one report of 1-3 near Na'alehu at the far s. end of Hawai'i I.

In the 1990-2000s Mourning Doves began appearing sporadically on other islands, suggesting natural dispersal north from Hawai'i I. On **Maui** one was reported at Kanaha Pond 30 Aug 1992 and two were flushed from a roadside in Kula 27 Mar 1995. Following these observations they were observed sporadically and in small numbers during 1996-2009 throughout central sections of the island and as far afield as Hamakuapoko, Kaupo in e. Maui and Olowalu and Kahkuloa in w. Maui. In Dec 2004-Jan 2005 a roost was discovered at Kealia Pond, with counts of up to 300 (9 Jan 2005). On **Kaho'olawe** a Mourning Dove was sighted flying over Waikahalalu'u 9 Jan 2003, and one or more may have been seen earlier. On **Moloka'i** individuals were reported along the S coast 4 Nov 2007, near Ohiapilo Pond 12 Feb 2008, and at Pu'u O Hoku Ranch in Apr 2008. On **O'ahu** observers were surprised to find two Mourning Doves feeding with Spotted Doves at Ki'i unit of JCNWR 14 Sep 2002. Beginning 26 Jan 2004 Mourning Doves were observed increasingly at Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR through 2009 (e.g., [HRBP](#) 5778, 5894), with high counts of 18 on 27 Oct 2004, 25 on 5 Jan 2008 and 30 Oct 2009, and 30 on 15 Nov 2009; we assume they were breeding in the vicinity. During 2004-2009 small numbers have also been observed at nearby Waiawa Unit of PHNWR and West Loch Shoreline Park but the species has not yet been substantially reported from elsewhere on O'ahu. On **Kaua'i** 2 were shot during damage control from a

small population discovered near Lihue Airport 24-31 Aug 2000, there is a report of an exhausted vagrant on Pihea trail in Koke'e 4 Sep 2002, and two were recorded near Ele'ele 10 May 2008.

#### [Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

#### [Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2009. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 1 (31 December 2009)  
<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>