

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 but spreading populations have become established in dry habitats on leeward sides of most islands since introductions by HDFG in the 1960s, and with one individual dispersing as far as Nihoa, *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*.

In 1929-1930 several Mourning Doves 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, by 1968 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. By 1974 there was an estimated breeding population of 500-1500 birds breeding locally in nw. Hawai'i I (Walker *in* Scott et al. 1986); 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-mid-2010s 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. Additional high counts have included 30 at the N end of Saddle Road 6 Jan 2014, 30 N of Kawaihae 6 Jan 2014, and 45 at Waikalua 28 Jul 2015.

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 Kahukoua in w. Maui. In Dec 2004-Jan 2005 a roost was discovered at Kealia Pond, with counts of up to 300 (9 Jan 2005), and roosts were also found in the Ulupalakua area, with 100 observed in late Nov 2010 and 2011, and 250 estimated there 3 Nov 2011; searches of the area at other times of year found few or none. On **Kaho'olawe** a Mourning Dove was sighted flying over Waikahalalu'u 9 Jan 2003, one or more may have been seen earlier, and on [Christmas Bird Counts](#) 4 were tallied 17 Dec 2014 and 8 on 14 Dec 2015. There are as yet no records from Lana'i, although they likely have dispersed there given appropriate dry habitat throughout the island. On **Moloka'i**, individuals were reported along the S coast 4

Nov 2007, near Ohiapilo Pond 12 Feb 2008, at Pu'u O Hoku Ranch in Apr 2008, and W of the airport 15 Mar 2015; they seem as yet to be established on this island. 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 then observed increasingly at Honouliuli Unit of PHNWR through 2016 (e.g., [HRBP](#) 5778, 5894), with high counts of 18 in Oct 2004, 25 in Jan 2008, 30 in Oct-Nov 2009, 45 in Nov 2011, and 72 in Dec 2012; we assume they were breeding in the vicinity. During 2004-2016, small numbers have also been observed at nearby Waiawa Unit of PHNWR, West Loch Shoreline Park, and the Ewa Plain, 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 (LSUNMS 177911-2; [HRBP](#) 6708-6709), an exhausted vagrant was reported on Pihea trail in Koke'e 4 Sep 2002, and two were recorded near Ele'ele 10 May 2008. In 2009-2016 1-2 have occasionally been reported from the S and W portions of the island. On Lehua Islet, *Ni'ihau*, 4 were observed 15-18 May 2012, 2 were found 6-8 Aug 2012, and one was photographed 19 Jul 2015 ([HRBP](#) 6712), and on *Nihoa*, one was photographed 10 Sep 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6710-6711).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>