

Mourning Dove



The **Mourning Dove** is a member of the dove family. The bird is also called the **Turtle Dove** or the **American Mourning Dove** or **Rain Dove**, and formerly was known as the **Carolina Pigeon** or **Carolina Turtledove**. It is one of the most abundant and widespread of all North American birds. It is also the leading game bird, with more than 20 million birds (up to 70 million in some years) shot annually in the U.S., both

for sport and for meat.

Its ability to sustain its population under such pressure stems from its prolific breeding: in warm areas, one pair may raise up to six broods a year. Its plaintive *woo-OO-oo-oo-oo* call gives the bird its name. The wings can make an unusual whistling sound upon take-off and landing. The bird is a strong flier, capable of speeds up to 88 km/h (55 mph).

Mourning Doves are light grey and brown and generally muted in color. Males and females are similar in appearance. The species is generally monogamous, with two squabs (young) per brood. Both parents incubate and care for the young. Mourning Doves eat almost exclusively seeds, but the young are fed crop milk by their parents.

