

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

COMMON GROUND-DOVE

Columbina passerina

Family: COLUMBIDAE
B257

Order: COLUMBIFORMES

Class: AVES

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

A fairly common resident along the Colorado River and near the Salton Sea. Local and uncommon in other southern desert localities, and on the southern coast north to Ventura Co. (Garrett and Dunn 1981). A rare vagrant north to Death Valley National Monument, Inyo Co., Mono Co., and also along the coast as far north as San Francisco (Grinnell and Miller 1944, McCaskie et al. 1988). Found in desert scrub and near edges of desert riparian habitats, as well as in alkali desert scrub, desert wash, orchard-vineyard, and eucalyptus habitats. On the coast, prefers river valleys with similar growth (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Feeds almost exclusively on small seeds picked from the ground; eats a few berries. Often feeds in pairs or small groups.

Cover: Trees and shrubs in desert, cropland, and other habitats provide cover.

Reproduction: Nest is a flimsy platform placed in a shrub, low tree, or sometimes on the ground (Peterson 1961). May use an old nest.

Water: Must drink frequently. Apparently has expanded range in California with the spread of farming and irrigation (Grinnell and Miller 1944).

Pattern: Uses open habitats and edges of more dense habitats.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Yearlong, diurnal activity.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Resident within the state. Wanders in fall and spring north of breeding areas.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: Defends area around nest. Nicholson (1937) frequently found 3 pairs nesting within a 46 m (150 ft) radius in Florida.

Reproduction: Breeds from January to November in Florida (Bent 1932); may have an extended nesting period in California as well. Pair nests solitarily or in small groups. Lays 2 eggs, but 2 or 3 broods may be raised in a year. Incubation period 12-14 days. Young altricial; cared for by both parents, and fledge in 11 days. Young presumably fed crop milk initially (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

Niche: Spends much time on ground, as name implies. Preyed upon by small mammals, accipiters, and corvids.

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