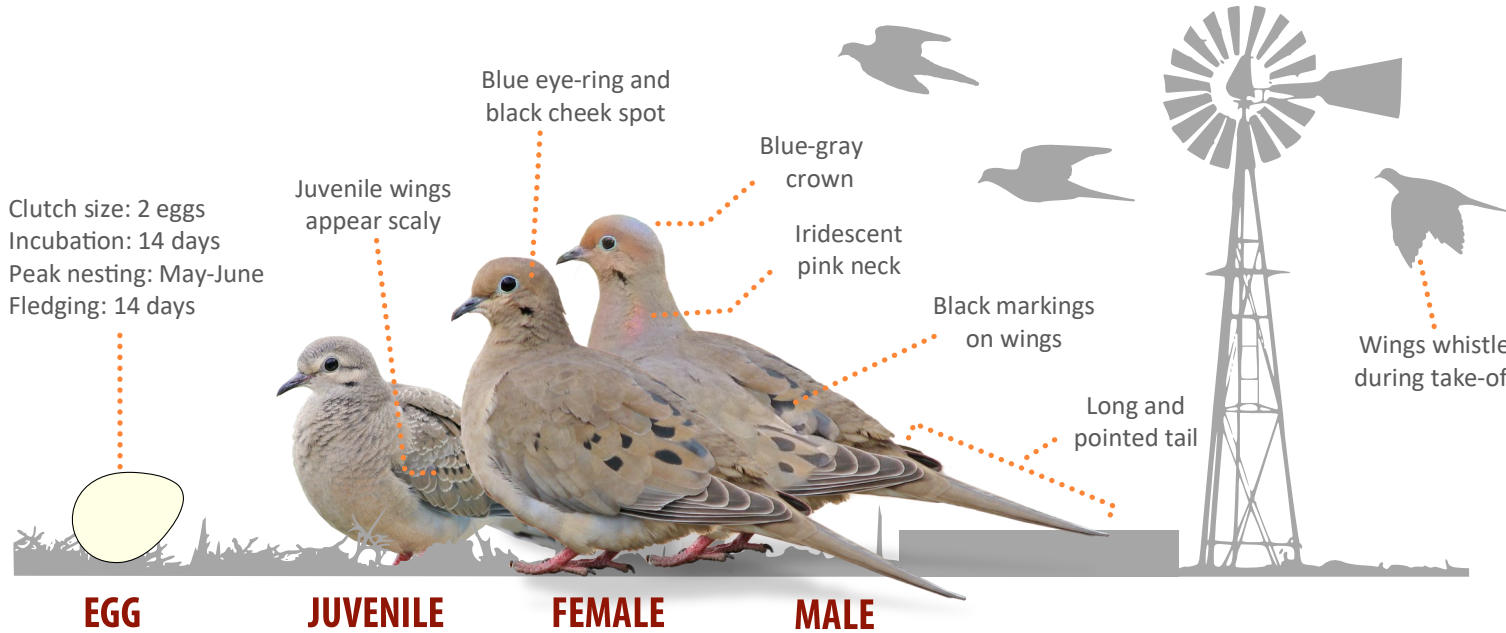


MOURNING DOVE

(Zenaida macroura)



Bird banding and biological surveys study populations and migration. In 2017, the USFWS estimated 243 million Mourning Doves. To track age, all banded birds have a birthday on January 1st.



What makes good habitat? Having easy access to food, water, cover, and space to support growth and survival.

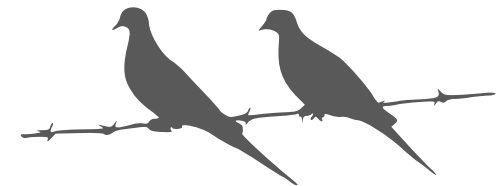
A MOURNING DOVE DIET

Doves produce nutrient-rich “crop milk” to feed chicks before they leave the nest. Mourning Doves feed almost entirely on seeds. Favorite foods include hemp, wheat, foxtail, corn, pigweed, and ragweed. After morning and evening feeding periods, doves fly to water. They also consume grit to help grind seeds.



DOVE HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Mourning Doves are the most abundant and widespread dove in North America. They live in a variety of open habitats with scattered trees, such as back yards, parks, farms, and CRP fields. Doves forage in crop fields and weedy areas with open ground where they can easily find seeds on the ground. They also need walk-up access to water. Mourning Doves nest in trees or on the ground, producing 3 to 4 broods per season. In September, migratory flocks fly south to overwinter.



9,000 THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SEEDS FOUND IN THE CROP OF ONE DOVE.

30 YEARS OLD AGE OF THE OLDEST KNOWN DOVE. THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN IS 1.5 YEARS.

99% PERCENTAGE OF A MOURNING DOVE'S DIET THAT IS MADE UP OF SEEDS.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



1.) **True / False:** A Mourning Dove can produce 8 chicks in one season.

2.) **True / False:** Dove chicks feed on worms and insects.

3.) **True / False:** Doves gather around water at dawn and dusk.

4.) **True / False:** Male and female Mourning Doves look identical.

5.) **True / False:** The U.S. has a large Mourning Dove population.

