

# Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: BIRD

Scientific Name/s: Columbiformes, Columbidae

Common Name/s: Doves

## Differentiating the Tail Feathers of Mourning, White-winged, and Inca Doves

Three widespread species of North American doves have white-tipped tail feathers. These species can be distinguished by examining the shape, width, and pattern of the tail feathers.



**White-winged:** broad, rounded tail feathers; all but central pair have large white tips. Tail fan shaped.



**Inca:** smallest; tail feathers narrow and pointed, with long white tips. Tail shape long and rectangular.



**Mourning:** tapered tail, with central feathers longest. Tail feathers broader than Inca's, with oval white tip dorsally.