

# Mourning Dove

# Mourning Dove

## Appearance

A slender, streamlined member of the dove family with a small head and long, pointed tail. Grayish-blue to brownish in color, with buffy underparts. Black spotting on wings and small black mark on neck. Bill black, blue orbital ring, with pink legs and feet.



Male

Males are somewhat larger than females and usually have bluish-gray crowns.



Female

Females have brownish crowns.

# Mourning Dove Sounds

From The Cornell Lab of Ornithology <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>

## SONGS

Often heard, the song of the Mourning Dove is a four/five-note “oow-oooh-who-who-who,” sometimes mistaken for the call of an owl. Males sing from obvious high perches.

## CALLS

Mourning Doves also make a variety of similar single- or double-note calls, and quieter sounds between pairs. They are noisy fliers and make whistling noises with their wings, especially on take-offs and landings.

Listen to the songs and calls at:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning\\_Dove/sounds](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/sounds)

# Mourning Dove

## Diet

The Mourning Dove's diet consists almost totally of seeds with only a minimal amount of insect materials. Sunflowers, grains, millet, and grass seeds make up the bird's diet. Seeds can be stored in a crop, and they produce a milk-like substance that is fed to their nestlings. One interesting characteristic is that Mourning Doves drink water directly and do not need to tilt their head back to drink like most other birds.

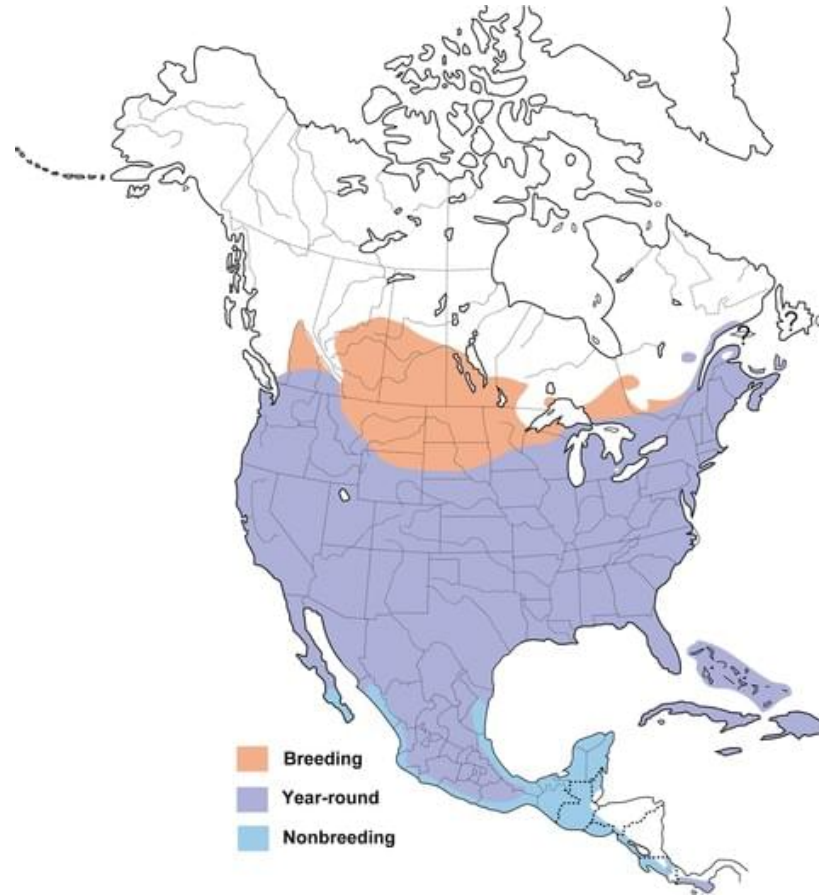


Mourning Doves eat a variety of tree and herbaceous seeds throughout the year.

# Mourning Dove

## Range

Year-round resident in DuPage County



# Mourning Dove

## Habitat

The Mourning Dove is one of the most widespread and abundant birds in North America. It is a habitat generalist and can be found in a wide variety of habitats including woodlots, edge habitat, and even around residential and urban areas. Its ability to use so many habitat types undoubtedly contributes to its common status.



Mourning Doves can be found in virtually all habitats throughout the county.

# Mourning Dove

## Behavior

Mourning Doves often congregate in flocks and can have evening roost sites consisting of many birds. Although widespread and common, Mourning Doves appear to have very short life spans for a bird their size. They can be found throughout the year in DuPage County, but there is some migratory movement as well.



Mourning Doves often can be seen in small flocks and are common birds in our suburban and urban environments.

# Mourning Dove Behavior

During the spring, they nest in trees and shrubs and have even been found nesting on the ground. Doves make a simple stick nest, and the female lays only two eggs.



Female on nest



Female with two chicks



# Mourning Dove

## Literature/Prose



### *Mourning Dove Symbolism*

Symbolically, the Mourning Dove can be associated with mourning and sorrow; these birds can be viewed as both spiritual as well as hopeful.

Although the White Dove is regarded as a universal symbol of peace, the Mourning Dove also represents the same.

In some cultures, the Mourning Dove stands for new beginnings, great expectations, and as a spiritual messenger.

The role of these birds may include helping us to find inner peace and go about our lives calmly and with purpose.

The states of Wisconsin and Michigan consider the Mourning Dove their official state symbol of peace. It is also the national bird of the British Virgin Islands.

Source: <https://glaszart.com/about/>

## Mourning Dove Feeders

Mourning Doves readily come to feeders throughout the year where they prefer small seeds and grains such as millet, cracked corn, and sunflower chips. They prefer platform feeders or simply feed on the ground around the feeders.



# Mourning Dove Names

## Common Name Mourning Dove

Named for its *mournful* calls.



## Scientific Name *Zenaida macroura*

*Zenaida* – A genus of doves named after the wife of French ornithologist Charles Lucien Bonaparte – Zénaïde Laetitia Julie Bonaparte.

*macroura* – From the Greek meaning “long-tailed.”

