

Mourning Dove

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GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

MOURNING DOVE

Zenaidura macroura

ORDER: Columbiformes

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 12 inches long
- ◆ a soft gray-brown above with dark spots on the wings
- ◆ they have a distinctly long, pointed tail with white-tipped feathers visible in flight
- ◆ males have a bluish crown and pink chest



Where to Look

Open woods, fields and lawns. Mourning doves are often seen perched on wires and fences.



What It Eats.

Mourning Doves feed on a variety of seeds and grains. They are often seen feeding in farmland. They are also common visitors at feeders, usually on the ground below where seed has spilled.



Nesting

Mourning Doves build messy nests in shrubs and trees and lay 2 eggs. Both male and female take turns incubating the eggs.



Call or Song

Mourning Doves produce a mournful “coo-o-o-o” sound. In flight their wings also make a distinct whistling sound.



Migration?

The Mourning Dove is a year round resident of Georgia.



Did You Know

Mourning Doves are one of the 10 most common birds in North America. They are also one of the most commonly hunted game birds.