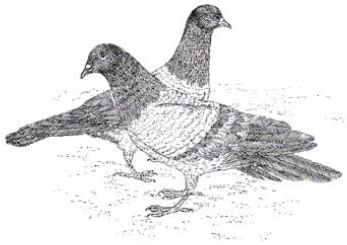
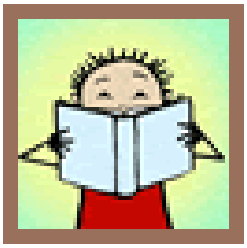
BIOLOGY, LEGAL STATUS, CONTROL MATERIALS AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Band-tailed Pigeon

Columba fasciate

Family: Columbidae



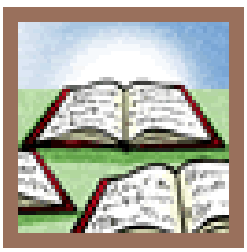


Introduction: The band-tailed pigeon is a native bird found in two distinct regions in the American West, as well as throughout Central and South America. While similar looking, it should not be confused with the rock pigeon. It is a medium size bird and relatively quiet for a pigeon.

Identification: The band-tailed pigeon has a dark overall color with a white collar on the nape. The tail is dark gray at the base and light gray across the tip. It has a purple gray head and breast with an iridescent greenish bronze patch below the white collar. Under parts are paler than the rest. Bill is yellow with a black tip. Size 13 to 16 inches, weight 12 to 13 ounces. Further information is available at:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



Legal Status: Band-tailed pigeons are classified as migratory game birds in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. A depredation permit is required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before any person may take, possess or transport migratory game birds. No federal permit is required to haze or herd depredating band-tailed

pigeons.

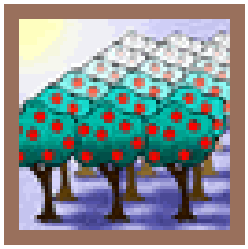
Damage: Flocks of band-tailed pigeons will damage plum and other fruit orchards by consuming the immature fruit. Extensive damage has occurred to bushberries.

Range: Common resident in hardwood and hardwood-conifer habitats, and in coniferous habitats east of the Sierra Nevada-Cascade crest. Inhabits lower slopes of major mountain ranges of the state (excluding the desert ranges); also occurs in wooded coastal zone. Especially gregarious in winter; flocks range widely in search of an abundant food source. Closely associated with oaks and acorns. Adapted locally to heavily planted residential areas where oaks are present.

Band-tailed Pigeon

Habitat: It builds a simple platform nest out of twigs and lays one or two eggs that are a glossy white color. Outside the breeding season it forms flocks, sometimes over 50 birds, and often becomes nomadic, following the acorn crop or moving to lower altitudes or other areas outside its breeding range. It often visits bird feeders.

Biology: The male and female look similar, but females are duller, with narrower white crescent and less extensive iridescence. Males are slightly larger. Juveniles lack the white crescent and iridescent patch on nape. The band-tailed pigeon makes a repeated deep hooting (like an owl) and coos, rising slightly in pitch. There is a pronounced wing clap on taking flight. Diet consists of seeds, fruit, acorns, pine nuts, and flowers. It forages on the ground and in trees in small flocks, and can travel long distances to gather food.



Damage Prevention and Control Methods

Exclusion: Plastic netting has been laid over entire fields of bushberries to protect against bird depredation. The net is held in place over the crop by a series of poles and wires. The netting is draped to the ground to completely enclose the field. The

netting can be removed and stored for the following season.

Frightening Devices: Shell crackers, bird bombs®, and bird whistlers® are effective at dispersing flocks of band-tailed pigeons. Alarm or distress calls are generally not effective on these birds.

REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL READING

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