

SPOTTED DOVE

Streptopelia chinensis

Other: Chinese (Spotted) Dove, Lace-necked Dove,
(Spotted) Turtle Dove, Ringneck Dove, Mountain Dove, *Ekaho*

S. c. chinensis

naturalized (non-native) resident, long established

Spotted Doves, native to India, China, s.e. Asia, the Philippine Is, and Indonesia, has been successfully introduced to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, s. California, and the *Southeastern Hawaiian Islands* (Ali and Ripley 1981, Long 1981, Lever 1987, Higgins and Davies 1996, AOU 1998). Birds of subspecies *S. c. chinensis* (AOU 1957; PP examination), presumably from China, were brought to Hawaii sometime prior to 1855 (Walker 1967) probably as captives being raised for food by Chinese immigrants. Escapes became established and by 1879-1900 the species was found commonly in the wild throughout most Southeastern Islands (Finsch 1880; Wilson 1890a; Slivers 1892; Henshaw 1900b, 1902a; Rothschild 1900; McGregor 1902, Shauinsland 1906; Caum 1933; Bryan 1937). Despite this, the HBAF continued to import them in the late 1920s (e.g., *HFA* 26:211-213). In 1946 Schwartz and Schwartz (1949, 1951c) estimated a total population of >88,000 birds in Hawaii, on *Kaua'i* (ca. 10,000), *O'ahu* (ca. 12,000), *Molokai* (ca. 14,000), *Maui* (ca. 17,000), *Lana'i* (ca. 3,400), and *Hawai'i I* (ca. 32,000). Scott et al. (1986) indicate that the ranges in 1977-1980 had greatly expanded since 1946 on Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i (despite this, eight more were released in 1961 by HDFG; Lewin 1971). They reached *Ni'ihau* apparently from Kaua'i in about 1930 and were widespread there by 1947 (Fisher 1951, Schwartz and Schwartz 1951c). They were not detected on *Kaho'olawe* during brief visits in 1978 and 1980 (Conant 1983a; *E* 44:65) but were found regularly (up to 20+ recorded) on all visits thereafter (e.g., Gon et al. 1992, Morin et al. 1998; *E* 59:22), and we assume they are breeding and established there.

Spotted Doves inhabit rural and urban areas commonly to 1200 m, less commonly at higher elevations up to 2300 m (Schwartz and Schwartz 1949, 1951c; Berger 1972, 1981; Scott et al. 1986). They can occasionally be found in openings within native forests (Richardson and Bowles 1964, Scott et al. 1986). Aggregations of up to 100 or more individuals can be found in dryer areas when feeding conditions are favorable. [Christmas Bird Count](#) data indicated increasing trends on O'ahu during the 1950s-2000s in Honolulu (Williams 1987), but a decrease in the 2000s-2014 ([Graph](#)), and increasing trends at Waipi'o ([Graph](#)) but no trends on Kaua'i or at Volcano, Hawai'i I ([Table](#)). Single-location high counts reported on each island during 2010-2016 included 155 at Waimea Canyon, Kaua'i 16 Nov 2013; 125 at Aloha Tower, Honolulu, O'ahu 7 Nov 2011; 94 at Kalaupapa Peninsula, Moloka'i 18 Dec 2014; 65 at Manele Bay, Lana'i 14 Jun 2010; 500 carefully surveyed at the Marriot Ocean Club golf course, Kaanapali, Maui 3 Oct 2013; and 100 NE of Na'alehu, Hawai'i I 9 May 2015.

Munro (1944) hypothesized that other introduced large doves (see [Non-established List](#)) could not gain a foothold in Hawaii due to competition with this long-established species. They are considered a gamebird and low-level hunting occurs, primarily on Hawai'i I (Berger 1981). Perkins and Swezey (1924; repeated by McAtee 1925) mentioned the ill caused by the Spotted Dove's spreading of the noxious plant

Lantana (*Lantana camara*), and considered it "a bird said to be without economic value or rather, even if the *Lantana* question is left out, injurious to some extent". But by the 2010s the Spotted Dove seemed to have found its place in the lower elevations of Hawaii, not further affecting the already destroyed native lowland environment.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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