

This resource is based on the following source:

Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Native to the mountainous areas of Eurasia and northern Africa, the Rock Dove, or City Pigeon as it is often called, has been introduced into all other parts of the world except Antarctica. Records of North American introductions date back to the 1600s.

Habitat. Throughout much of its introduced range the Rock Dove is closely associated with human populations. It is usually abundant in urban areas but rare or absent from rural areas, except at barns, feed lots, and highway overpasses. The Rock Dove forages on the ground and eats seeds, waste grain, and human handouts. Because they probably depend on human activities to provide food and nesting sites, it is doubtful that most populations are self-supporting.

The Rock Dove usually builds its nest on artificial structures such as building ledges, the undersides of bridges and highway overpasses, or rafters in barns and other buildings. It rarely nests in tree cavities. The nest is a flimsy accumulation of sticks and weed stems. Typically, 2 white eggs are laid and hatch in 17 to 19 days. The young become independent in 30 to 35 days of age.

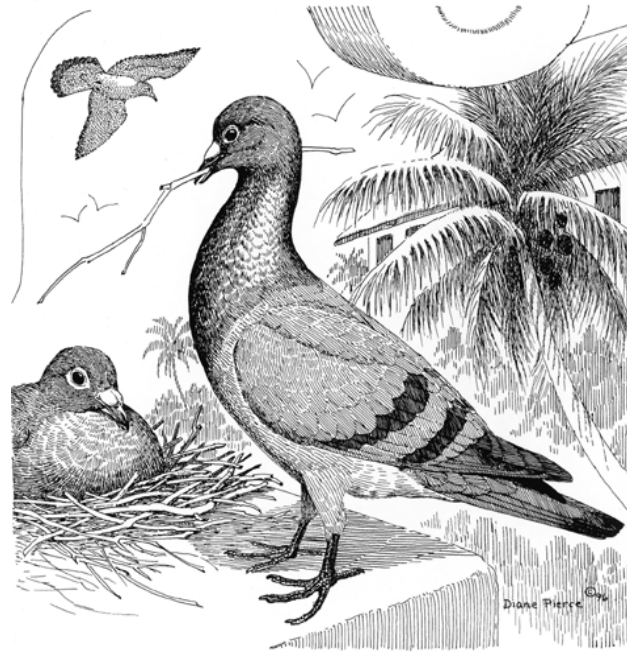


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Recently hatched young are fed on pigeon milk, a derivative of the mucous lining of the adult's crop; it is rich in fat and protein. Later, adults add seeds, stored in the crop, to the mixture, which is fed to the young by regurgitation.

Seasonal Occurrence. Nesting occurs throughout the year, and two or more broods are reared annually.

Status. It is resident throughout the state, and breeding has been confirmed in most counties.

Bruce H. Anderson

Rock Dove

