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Band-tailed Pigeon Observed in Georgetown, South Carolina

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On 16 August 1991, I observed a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) in the Maryville section of Georgetown, Georgetown Co., South Carolina. The sighting took place in an overgrown dredge disposal site just N of Martin Street adjacent to the Place-by-the-Bay apartment complex. This area is covered with dense grasses and brush (mostly 2-4 m tall) with clusters of Loblolly Pines (*Pinus taeda*), mulberry (*Morus* sp.) China berry (*Melia azedarach*), and other trees typical of waste places. There is a dirt road that crosses the area, which I frequently use for bird watching.

At approximately 0730 hr EDT, while I was walking through a China berry grove near the entrance to the area, I spotted a large bird perched among some dead branches about 15 m above and in front of me. There was a thin overcast, so I was looking through 10x40 binoculars at the bird in moderately good light against a light gray sky. I immediately recognized it as a Band-tailed Pigeon, a species I became familiar with while living in California from 1979-1982. The size, shape and general impression of this bird was of a pigeon slightly larger than a Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). I could easily see the narrow white crescent on the bird's nape, its square tail with a dark base and broad light gray band at the end, and its gray rump. After much less than one minute, the bird became disturbed by my presence and flew off northwards through the China berry grove towards an overgrown drainage canal. I continued exploring the area hoping for another look at this bird.

At 0800 hr, I found the bird again, perched in virtually the same spot it had used earlier. By this time, the sun had come out and was behind me over my left shoulder. The bird was perched in direct sunlight. As I was partially screened by intervening vegetation, I was able to approach to within 10 m of the pigeon and view it leisurely in excellent light for several minutes. I took note of as many details of the bird's appearance as I could, then wrote them down immediately

without consulting any field guide or other reference that might have affected my impression. In addition to the white nape and tail pattern noted earlier, I could clearly see the scaly pattern on the bird's nape (light feathers with dark edges) below the white crescent, its yellow feet, yellow bill with black tip, and dark eye. Overall its plumage was steely gray, with a mousy-brown tint on the head, throat, and upper breast. The bird's rump was distinctly paler than its back, wings, and tail base, was similar in color to the broad terminal tail band. This "terminal tail band" in fact occupied at least the outermost two-thirds of the length of the tail; the tail might better be described as light gray with a dark basal band. The bird's tail appeared somewhat longer and broader than is typical of a Rock Dove. I did not see any iridescence or purplish tints on any part of the bird. After studying the bird and making notes, I continued out of the area. As I left, the pigeon flew off in the same general direction in which it had flown earlier.

I returned home and attempted unsuccessfully to contact other local observers to whom I could show the bird. I returned to the area with photographic equipment, and at about 0930 hr I briefly saw the pigeon as it flushed from the opposite end of the same China berry grove, but I was unable to take any photographs, so I returned home.

At 1700 hr, Bobbie McCutcheon and I returned and quickly relocated the bird in the same China berry grove. It seemed very nervous about our presence, and immediately flew to the far end of the grove. We were able to relocate the pigeon perched in the open, and observed it from a distance of approximately 25 m for 1-2 minutes, and I was able to succeed in photographing the bird. The photographs have been reviewed by the SC Bird Records Committee and are archived as record file "8-91-1" Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University. In hazy sunlight with the sun to our left, we were able to note the general size and shape of a rather large but rather sleek and somewhat long-tailed pigeon. We could see its overall gray plumage with white nape crescent, slight gray rump and tail band, and dark gray tail base.

Over the next two days, I returned to the area numerous times with other observers. I continued visiting the area frequently over the next several weeks. I also looked for the bird throughout the surrounding neighborhoods without success.

I believe this is the first documented record of Band-tailed Pigeon for South Carolina, although there is a previously undocumented 1980 sight report from near Sumter, SC (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, Potter *in* Evans 1980). Band-tailed Pigeons show a widespread pattern of vagrancy to eastern North America, but there has always been a question as to whether these records may pertain largely or entirely to individuals escaped from captivity (A. O. U. 1983). I feel strongly that this was a truly wild bird, based on the circumstances of its occurrence, behavior, and appearance. Although the sighting took place within a residential section of Georgetown, the bird seemed to prefer a shrubby, undeveloped area (the sort of area which frequently turned up migrants and vagrants). It occurred at the time of year when post-breeding wanderers or early fall migrants would be expected, and it apparently remained only briefly in the area. The bird appeared nervous and wary and remained in the treetops, which seems typical behavior for a wild Band-tailed Pigeon. Finally, the bird had no leg bands.

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Eurasian Collared-Dove on the Outer Banks of North Carolina

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On 31 July 1994 the senior author was riding with Derb Carter and Merrill Lynch along NC 12 just south of Salvo, NC, when he observed a somewhat stocky-looking dove perched on a telephone wire. Carter turned his vehicle around, and the observers were able to view the dove closely, within 75 feet, for about 10 minutes.

The dove was a medium buff color on the head and entire underparts, with the belly the same color as the rest of the underparts. The back and mantle were slightly darker buff. The folded primaries were dark brown and contrasted with the rest of the plumage. In flight, the primaries contrasted with the buff of the rest of the plumage.

The bird had a distinct black collar that covered the back half of the neck. Otherwise, the head was immaculate buff. The eye was dark red-brown, and the bill was black. The feet were red-purple.

The tail was moderately long but was square to slightly rounded. The tail shape helped to give the bird a slightly huskier appearance than that of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), though none of the latter were present for comparison. From below, the outer tail feathers (one or two) were white on the lower one-third to one-half, but the others in the center were brown to the tip.

The bird remained on the telephone wire for about a minute or two, and it then flew to shrubs along a canal just north of the Salvo Campground. Carter obtained photos of the bird when it perched in the open in the shrubs. The bird then flew toward the town of Salvo, and the observers were unable to relocate it.

Based on the overall pinkish-buff color of the bird, it was identified immediately as a Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocta*). The very similar-looking Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*) was eliminated because this latter