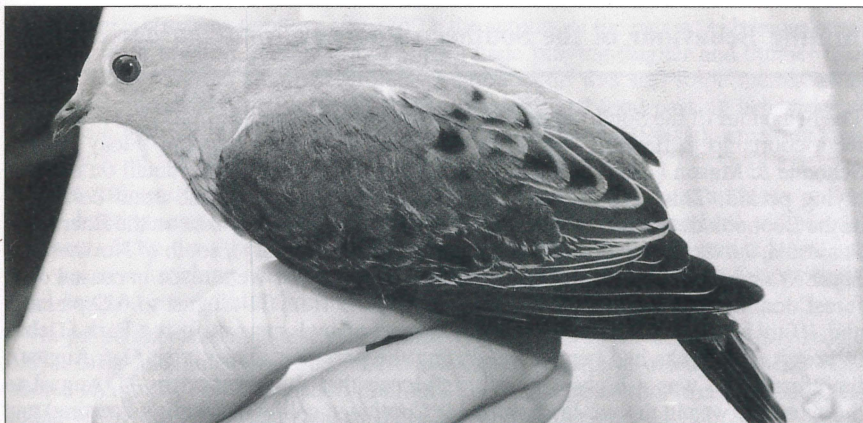


Records of the Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* for Broome, North-western Australia

Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves *Ptilinopus regina* live in northern Australia and on islands in south-eastern Indonesia. They frequent patches of rainforest and mangal (mangrove communities) as small as 2 ha. So far there is no evidence of seasonal movements in the Top End and Kimberley populations (Johnstone 1981, 1983; Johnstone & Burbidge 1991). Resident populations have been recorded from the semi-arid far north of Dampier Land around Cape Leveque and Cygnet Bay and islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago, some 250 km from Broome (Johnstone 1981, 1983; Johnstone & Burbidge 1991). One vagrant was reported from Broome in 1990 (Higgins & Davies 1996).

On 19 December 1995 during a mist-netting session in a Broome garden, a Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove was captured. This is significant as it is only the third record for this area. The first was caught in the same garden in November 1990 (Higgins & Davies 1996) and the second in January 1994 when one was observed with other doves on electricity wires outside the same premises (Collins 1995). The property is located behind an area of vine thicket and this particular bird had obviously been eating a purple or black fruit that had a high fluid content (probably from Damson *Terminalia* sp. growing in the garden), as it proceeded to deposit copious amounts of fruit and liquid over the bander. Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves in the Kimberley have been reported to take fruits of *Garuga floribunda*, *Polyaulax cylindrocarpus*, Red Condoos *Mimusops elengi*, Wild Randa *Aidia racemosa*, Banyan *Ficus virens* and *Ziziphus quadrilocularis* (Johnstone & Burbidge 1991). On the Dampier Peninsula these doves can be found in dense vine thickets dominated by figs *Ficus* spp., *Celtis philippensis*, Damson *Terminalia* sp., Cajuput *Melaleuca cajuputi*, Australian Ebony *Diospyros ferrea*, Olive Plum *Cassine melanocarpa*, and vines such as *Caesalpinia*; also mangal and Paperbark *Melaleuca leucadendra* forest (Johnstone 1981, 1983). It appears that small numbers of these doves have colonised Broome gardens and adjacent patches of remnant rainforest locally known as vine thickets. It may be that there is also an irregular movement of birds along the coast during the early wet season, possibly in response to fruiting trees. In denser, more luxuriant patches of rainforest in the north-western Kimberley the doves are thought to be resident (Higgins & Davies 1996). Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves in the eastern states are reported to be nomadic in the drier part of their range, moving over considerable distances in search of fruiting trees, and there is some suggestion of a north-south movement during the wet season (Crome & Shields 1992).



Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove mist-netted in Broome, W.A., 19 December 1995

Plate 51

Photo: P. Collins

The Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves in Western Australia have been assigned to the race *ewingii* (Johnstone 1981). Both birds caught were in full adult plumage and had completed primary moult; the bird caught in December 1995 had a brood patch developing which suggested that it may have been breeding in the area. Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves breed in the Northern Territory from November to March (Storr 1977) and in Queensland during the late dry and early wet seasons (Crome & Shields 1992). No field description was taken, but a series of colour photographs was taken to show the main features (Plate 51). These match the colouration of *P.r. ewingii* shown in Figure 2 of Johnstone (1981).

These records, together with that of Wells & Wells in 1990 (Higgins & Davies 1996), extend the range of the Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove some 250 km farther south than previously recorded and suggest that the Dampier Land population in the south-western Kimberley may be more mobile than previously thought.

We thank David and Ali Pentelow for permission to mist-net in their garden, and Ron Johnstone for his helpful comments on the manuscript and for supplying copies of relevant literature.

References

- Collins, P. (1995), *The Birds of Broome — An Annotated List*, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome.
- Crome, F. & Shields, J. (1992), *Parrots and Pigeons of Australia*, National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife and Angus & Robertson, Sydney.
- Higgins, P.J. & Davies, S.J.J.F. (Eds) (1996), *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*, vol. 3, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Johnstone, R.E. (1981), 'Notes on the distribution, ecology and taxonomy of the Red-crowned Pigeon (*Patagioenas regina*) and Torres Strait Pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*) in Western Australia', *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* **9**, 7-22.
- (1983), 'Birds' in Mackenzie, N.L. (Ed.) 'Wildlife of the Dampier Peninsula, South West Kimberley, Western Australia', *Wildl. Res. Bull. West. Aust.* **11**, 1-83.
- & Burbidge, A.H. (1991), 'The avifauna of Kimberley rainforest', in McKenzie, N.I., Johnston, R.B. & Kendrick, P.G. (Eds), *Kimberley Rainforests of Australia*, Surrey Beatty, Sydney.
- Storr, G.M. (1977), 'Birds of the Northern Territory', *Spec. Publ. West. Aust. Mus.* **7**.

By PETER COLLINS and ROSALIND JESSOP, *Broome Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 1313, Broome, W.A. 6725 (present address: P.O. Box 97, Cowes, Victoria 3922)*