

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Columbiformes  
**Scientific Name:** Gallicolumba xanthonura

**Family:** Columbidae  
**Common Name:** White-throated Ground Dove

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None

**Photo (Male):**



**Photo (Female):**



## NATURAL HISTORY:

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other Mariana Islands and Yap, Micronesia

**Habitat:** Forest  Desert  Grassland  Coastal   
 Riverine  Montane  Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Circadian Cycle:** Diurnal  Crepuscular  Nocturnal  Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Cold Tolerance:** To 70° F  To 60° F  To 50° F  To 40° F   
 To 30° F  To 20° F  Other 35 – 40 F

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other 95 – 100 F

**Diet:** Frugivore  Carnivore  Piscivore  Insectivore   
 Nectivore  Omnivore  Folivore  Other (Add Below)

### Captive Dietary Needs:

The species is primarily a frugivore and displays a preference for high fat and high protein foods. It often prefers foods such as legumes and insects. At Louisville, a pellet diet with low-iron and low potassium content is the basis for the daily diet. Fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables make up about 50% of the daily diet. Papaya and its seed is a preferred fruit. Birds rearing young should be fed large quantities of insects.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: Unknown Females: Unknown

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: 20 years Females: 20 years

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 7 – 12 months Females: 1 year

**Courtship Displays:** Both sexes call with a raspy, “insect-like” buzzing sound. There are several variations of this call used in courtship. In addition, the male will bow and coo. The male will often carry twigs to a hen during courtship.

**Nest Site Description:** The nest is typically large, sturdy, and thick; it can be a foot square, made of pencil-sized twigs, and be several inches thick. The hen appears to select the nest site and the male supplies nest material. The height of the nest site varies and is often above 15 feet at Louisville.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** One to two eggs is the typical clutch size.

**Incubation Period:** 17-18 days

**Fledgling Period:** 16-17 days

**Parental Care:** Both sexes actively participate in nesting and rearing young. Both sexes incubate the eggs and brood young. Hatchlings are fed crop milk for several days. At this point, adults take turns collecting insects after the young while continuing to produce crop milk.

**Chick Development:** Young birds fledge at 16-17 days. Juveniles are self-feeding at approximately 50-60 days. At Louisville, subadults are removed from the breeding pen between 6 months and 1 year depending on the level of tolerance displayed by the sire. Female offspring are tolerated the longest period. The ground dove is sexually mature at about 7 months of age for a male and 1 year for a female.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Single males and females, pairs, and family flocks with young fledglings have been observed in the field. The species is not known to form flocks of adults or subadults in the wild.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** A sexed pair of birds is typically housed without incident. On occasion, a male will be aggressive to a nonbreeding female. The male will tolerate offspring for approximately one year, but sometimes for a lesser period with male offspring. Adult females can be maintained in large, long-term flocks. Males are less compatible, however multiple male offspring representing several breedings can be housed together for a year if not for a longer period of time.

**Minimum Group Size:** 1.1

**Maximum Group Size:** 0.10

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Varies

**Comments:** Males have sometimes displayed inter-species aggression in the mixed-species display.

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**Optimal Habitat Size:** 15' (L) by 10" (W) by 15' (H) for a sexed pair

**Management Challenges:** The challenges of managing this species include the small founder size of 21 doves, the limited number of holding spaces at the small program group of 15 institutions, and the potential for adult males to be aggressive to cagemates.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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## REFERENCES:

Michael, G. 2013. White-throated Ground Dove AZA North American Regional Studbook

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## COMPLETED BY:

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