

EASTERNMOST RECORD OF THE BAND-TAILED PIGEON IN IDAHO

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During June 1976 a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) was sighted at the University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch Field Station (46°6' N, 114°51' W). The research station is located in the Big Creek drainage of the Idaho Primitive Area. The Primitive Area is an expanse of 5200 km² of wilderness located contiguous to and south of the Salmon River Mountains. This sighting is noteworthy because Idaho is not listed in the winter or summer range of either the coastal race or interior race of the Band-tailed Pigeon (Braun et al. 1975).

The initial sighting was on 12 June 1976. At 1010 Jerran T. Flinders observed a Band-tailed Pigeon approximately 10 m up in a Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). The sky was overcast, temperature 12°C. The bird remained stationary long enough for the following station personnel to positively identify it as a Band-tailed Pigeon: James Bennett, Charles Elliott, Arlow Lewis, Jerran T. Flinders and Steve Peck. The purplish-drab head, evident bar of white across the nape, metallic greenish-bronze on the hindneck and brownish-gray tail with its band of darker gray readily identified the adult bird as a Band-tailed Pigeon. The pigeon flew across Big Creek and was lost from sight at 1150. The bird was later observed by Elliott and Bennett on 13 June at 1950 in another Douglas-fir.

A Band-tailed Pigeon was again sighted at the Taylor Ranch Field Station on 29 May 1977.

Literature references reveal that the Band-tailed Pigeon was first reported by Merrill in 1897 in what is now northern Idaho (Burleigh 1972). Two specimens were taken in 1947 in southern Idaho. One, a female (Carnegie Museum 131818), was collected on 20 June on Reynolds Creek, Owyhee County; the other, a male (Carnegie Museum 132402), on 5 October at Bogus Basin in Boise County (Burleigh 1972). More recently two birds were reported at Pend Oreille Lake, Idaho, in late July 1970; the species was also reported at Campbell's Ferry on the Salmon River (Rogers 1970).

The sighting reported here occurred in Valley County and represents the easternmost reported sighting of the Band-tailed Pigeon in Idaho.

I would like to express my appreciation to Thomas H. Rogers who generously supplied the literature references and sighting records for the Band-tailed Pigeon in Idaho.

LITERATURE CITED

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