



# Pigeons and Doves in Australia

*Joseph Forshaw, William T. Cooper*

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Possibly the most successful urban birds, pigeons and doves in the Order Columbiformes are one of the most easily recognized groups. They are an ancient and very successful group with an almost worldwide distribution and are most strongly represented in tropical and subtropical regions, including Australia. In most species simple plumage patterns feature mainly grey and brown with black, white or dull reddish markings, but the highly colorful fruit-doves include some of the most beautiful of all birds.

From dense rainforests of north Queensland, where brilliantly plumaged Superb Fruit-Doves *Ptilinopus superbus* are heard more easily than seen, to cold, windswept heathlands of Tasmania, where Brush Bronzewings *Phaps elegans* are locally common, most regions of Australia are frequented by one or more species. For more than a century after arrival of the First Fleet, interest in these birds focused on the eating qualities of larger species. In addition to contributing to declines of local populations in some parts of Australia, excessive hunting brought about the extinction of two species on Lord Howe Island and another species on Norfolk Island.

In *Pigeons and Doves of Australia*, Joseph Forshaw and William Cooper have summarized our current knowledge of all species, including those occurring on Christmas, Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, and with superb artwork have given readers a visual appreciation of the birds in their natural habitats. Historical accounts of extinct species are also included. Detailed information on management practices for all species is presented, ensuring that *Pigeons and Doves in Australia* will become the standard reference work on these birds for ornithologists and aviculturists.

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