

# THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

APRIL 12-16-2010



Four species of dove live in Midland. Doves are related to pigeons, which is sometimes called the Rock Dove. When the first house was built in Midland, the only dove species that nested on the Llano Estacado was the mourning dove, seen top left. Their nests are flimsy. Two eggs are laid, and they begin nesting in March and nest until November, so up to six sets of young are raised each year.



Inca Doves appeared in the 1940's, but are only found in town. Their original range was from the Rio Grande and south. They are small, have reddish underwings, and a “scaly” pattern on their chest.

White-winged doves arrived in 1980, and were also from near the Rio Grande. They are now the most common dove in the city limits. Their “who cooks for you” calls are a constant for people enjoying their backyard or city parks. They are larger than mourning doves. Inca doves have declined in number with their presence.



Eurasian collared doves arrived in 1996. A popular caged bird in Florida, many escaped and began breeding “in the wild.” They prefer to be around people, but like a little bit of open area, too. Although larger than white-winged doves, they have not become more numerous than the whitewinged.

**TEACHER AND STUDENT CHALLENGE;** Is there a school in town that has all four species? Let us know how many species are at your school!