

# DOVES

The **Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) is a member of the dove family (Columbidae). The bird is also called the **Turtle Dove** or the **American Mourning Dove** or **Rain Dove**, and formerly was known as the **Carolina Pigeon** or **Carolina Turtle-dove**.<sup>[2]</sup> It is one of the most abundant and widespread of all North American birds. Its plaintive *woo-oo-oo-oo-oo* call gives the bird its name. The wings can make an unusual whistling sound upon take-off and landing. The bird is a strong flier, capable of speeds up to 88 km/h (55 mph).<sup>[3]</sup> Mourning Doves are light grey and brown and generally muted in color. Males and females are similar in appearance. The species is generally monogamous, with two squabs (young) per brood. Both parents incubate and care for the young. Mourning Doves eat almost exclusively seeds, but the young are fed crop milk by their parents.



## Basic Care Plan for Doves

- Cages should have a minimum of 2 cubic feet per bird
- Separate dominant males in different cages
- Clean cages daily & replace floor papers
- Exercise birds daily by letting them out of cage to fly around
- Feeding Wild Bird Seed with a little Wild Game Chow added to it for the vitamins.
- Provide fresh water for drink and bath\* each day
- Provide different levels of branches or perches for dominant birds to help prevent fighting or separate birds
- Allow access to sunlight
- Provide nesting boxes (4x6 to 6x6) filled with straw or shredded paper.

