

climates of the world. Several varieties are described as inhabiting North America, but only one, so far as we have ascertained, visits Canada; and it is so generally known in the country, that it appears almost superfluous to give any description of it here. The principal peculiarity of the bird, however,—we mean its amazing gregariousness, is not often witnessed to its full extent in this Province, and we shall therefore give the interesting account furnished by Wilson in full, it is as follows:—

“This remarkable bird merits a distinguished place in the annals of our feathered tribes,—a claim to which I shall endeavor to do justice; and, though it would be impossible, in the bounds allotted to this account, to relate all I have seen and heard of this species, yet no circumstance shall be omitted with which I am acquainted, (however extraordinary some of these may appear,) that may tend to illustrate its history.

“The Wild Pigeon of the United States inhabits a wide and extensive region of North America, on this side of the great Stony Mountains, beyond which, to the westward, I have not heard of their being seen. According to Mr. Hutchins, they abound in the country round Hudson’s Bay, where they usually remain as late as December, feeding, when the ground is covered with snow, on the buds of juniper. They spread over the whole of Canada; were seen by Captain Lewis and his party near the Great Falls of the Missouri, upwards of 2500 miles from its mouth, reckoning the meanderings of the river; were also met with in the interior of Louisiana by Colonel Pike; and extend their range as far south as the Gulf of Mexico; occasionally visiting or breeding in almost every quarter of the United States.

“But the most remarkable characteristic of these birds is their associating together, both in their migrations, and also during the period of incubation, in such prodigious numbers, as almost to surpass belief; and which has no parallel among any other of the feathered tribes on the face of the earth, with which naturalists are acquainted.

NOTE.—The family is called COLUMBINÆ or COLUMBIDÆ, from the Latin, *Columba*, a dove. It contains a number of closely allied genera, the proper arrangement of which appears to have given much trouble to Ornithologists.—Audubon makes three genera in North America, *Columba*, *Starnas* & *Ectopistes*, and the species are:—

1. *Columba fasciata*, Band-tailed Dove.
2. *C. leucocephala*, White-headed Dove.
3. *C. Zenaida*, Zenaida Dove.
4. *C. montana*, Key-west Dove.
5. *C. passerina*, Passerine Dove—Ground Dove.
6. *Starnas cyanocephala*, Blue-headed Ground Dove.
7. *Ectopistes migratoria*, Passenger Pigeon.
8. *E. Carolinensis*, Carolina Long-tailed Dove.

These, with the exception of *E. migratoria*, are all confined to the Southern and Western portions of the continent. We understand that several others have been added since the publication of Audubon’s works.

In the British Isles there are four indigenous species:—

- 1st. The Ring Dove, Cushat, or Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*.
- 2nd. The Rock or Wild Pigeon, *Columba livia*.
- 3rd. The Smaller Wood Pigeon, *Columba anas*.
- 4th. The Turtle Dove, *Columba turtur*.

All the varieties of the domestic Pigeon, both of America and Europe, have the Rock Pigeon, *C. livia*, for their stock.