

THE MIGRATION PATTERNS OF THE EARED DOVE IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL. P. Antas, E.H. Bucher (1), H. Matthews, & S. Mendes Júnior. Centro de Estudos de Migracoes de Aves (CEMAVE), IBDF, Brasilia, Brazil, and (1) Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Universidad de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina. In the semi-arid Brazilian northeast Eared Doves (Zenaida auriculata) breed toward the end of the wet season in colonies of millions of birds and then disperse. This dove is an important source of food for local people, but its population level seems to be decreasing and causing concern. As a result of a cooperative banding program started in 1980, 25,300 doves (mainly nestling) have been banded up to now. Recoveries (1.06%) indicate that the doves perform a S.W.-N.E. migration following the displacement of the seasonal rains across the region, and a return movement during the dry season. Variations on this main pattern may occur near mountains with a higher rainfall regime. The results support the hypotheses that the Eared Doves may perform successive breeding attempts along the migration route (itinerant breeding). Recoveries also show a high hunting pressure all year around.