

Common Name/*Scientific name*:

**Bar-shouldered Dove/ *Geopelia humeralis***



**Description:** The Bar-shouldered Dove is a medium-sized, long-tailed dove. Adults doves have a blue-grey head, neck and upper breast, with a distinctive reddish-bronze patch on the hindneck, with dark barring. Young doves lack this patch and barring and tend to be duller overall. There is also a distinctive pinkish bar on the lower breast. The lower body is pale. They have a blue-grey eye-ring and reddish eye. They are usually seen in pairs or small parties.

**Where seen in the gardens:** Bar-shouldered Doves are found in woodland with a grassy understorey and in nearby open areas, usually near water. In the gardens, look for them in open areas with forested areas nearby. Frequently seen in Sunshine Coast urban areas as well as woodland areas.

**Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens:** Bar-shouldered Doves feed on the ground in short grass near cover. They need to drink throughout the day. They mainly eat seeds of grasses, herbs and sedges, as well as rhizomes (small root storages).

**Nesting:** The nest of the Bar-shouldered Dove is usually hidden in dense shrubs or trees and in gardens. A thin platform is made from twigs and roots and is placed in a fork or on a branch. Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. Young doves are fed with 'crop milk', specially produced by the parent birds (a common characteristic of pigeons and doves).

**Similar Species in the gardens:** Several other dove species have been recorded in the gardens (Brown Cuckoo-dove, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Wompoo Fruit-dove) but they are quite different to this species in size and colouring. (See more detail on other birds seen in the gardens web pages).