

**BAND-TAILED PIGEON**  
*(PATAGIOENAS FASCIATA)*

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G4 / MBTA; not listed under the ESA.

**Distribution:** Two disjunct breeding ranges extend: along Pacific Coast from northern WA to southern CA; and from central UT and CO south through AZ and NM and central Mexico throughout most Central American countries. Winters in central and southern CA, and throughout breeding range south of U.S.-Mexico border. Known from the Chuska Mountains on Navajo Nation; potential also for Defiance Plateau, and possibly Black Mesa and Navajo Mountain.

**Habitat:** In U.S. range, nests primarily in montane conifer or mixed-species forests dominated by pines and oaks at 1,600-2,700 m elevation (5,250-8,850 ft). Prefers pine-Douglas-fir forests and spruce-fir with abundant berry-producing shrubs in CO, northern AZ and NM; prefers Gambel's oak-dominated communities in southern UT. Migration habitat is generally same as used for nesting.

**Similar Species:** Band-tailed Pigeon has gray body, broad pale band across end of tail, yellow feet, yellow bill with black tip, and white crescent on nape of neck; Rock Dove (domestic pigeon) has various color variants, but has shorter tail, stockier body, dark bill, pinkish feet, white rump patch, and lacks white crescent on nape of neck; Mourning dove is brownish, smaller, and has pointed tail with large white spots on edges.

**Phenology:**

- l.MAR-l.MAY: arrival to breeding area (peak l.APR-m.MAY), nest building
- m.MAY-e.AUG: egg laying<sup>1</sup>, incubation (16-22 days)
- m.JUN-l.AUG: nestling period (22-29 days) (may renest after 1<sup>st</sup> young fledges)
- m.AUG-l.SEP: migration to wintering area
- <sup>1</sup>peak nesting period is estimated 16 JUN-15 JUL for CO and NM

**Survey Method:** ≥1 pedestrian survey with high-power optics for nesting pairs during 1 JUN-15 JUL.

**Avoidance:** No activity within 0.2 km (1/8 mi) of active nest site during 1 MAY-1 AUG; buffer may be less depending on activity type and duration, but not less than 0.1 km; no habitat alteration year-round within 0.2 km of nest site (=12 ha or 30 acre).

**References:**

Keppie, D.M., and C.E. Braun. 2000. Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*). In *The Birds of North America*, No.530 (A.Poole and F.Gill, Eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. (description p.2)