Archaeological and Paleontological Sites with Passenger Pigeon Remains

T. Cregg Madrigal

2025

In order to investigate the distribution and abundance of passenger pigeons (*Ectopistes migratorius*) during the Pleistocene and Holocene, hundreds of site reports and articles were reviewed to compile a list of archaeological and paleontological sites that contain passenger pigeon bones.

Paleontological and archaeological records of passenger pigeon bones were compiled by checking state, provincial, or regional surveys (e.g., Harris 2014; Sadler and Savage 2003, Theler 2000), and databases (e.g., Florida Museum of Natural History Vertebrate Paleontology database), scanning site reports and faunal analysis reports, and sending requests for information to other zooarchaeologists and paleontologists.

The resulting list of sites containing passenger pigeon is by no means complete and only includes sites up to approximately A.D. 1800.

Many faunal assemblages have been the subject of multiple reports, but only one reference is provided for each site.

Sites are grouped by geological epoch, and sorted by geographical location. Many sites are not firmly dated and/or contain strata dating to multiple time periods mixed assemblages.

Not all reports contain specimen counts (i.e., NISP). In this table, passenger pigeon abundance is presented as:

= present (no counts, only MNI reported, or otherwise unclear or unreported)

* =1-10 passenger pigeon specimens recorded

**=11-100 passenger pigeon specimens recorded

***=101-1,000 passenger pigeon specimens recorded

****=1,001 or more passenger pigeon specimens recorded