

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD X UNUSUAL RECORD _____**Species:** Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**Date:** 26 June & 9 July 1996 **Number seen:** two(6/26) - six(7/9) **Sex:** unknown **Plumage:** Basic**Locality:** Rocky Ford**Elevation:** 4178'**Nearest town:** Rocky Ford**County:** Otero**Time observed:** about 10AM**Duration of observation:** dead bird - hours, live bird - 2 mins.

Description: While driving along westbound US 50 on the outskirts of Rocky Ford, Brian Sullivan and I noticed a dead bird on the north shoulder that was obviously a dove. One wing was partially extended and as I drove by the bird, I noticed a tri-colored pattern on the upper surface of the wing. I immediately told Brian that I thought the bird was a Eurasian Collared-Dove and I quickly pulled over so that we could retrieve the specimen. When I picked up the bird, I confirmed that it was a Eurasian Collared-Dove, by the large size (larger than a Mourning Dove would have been), the pale coloration, the black nuchal collar, the tri-colored wing pattern (blackish outer primaries, gray wing coverts, and whitish inner primaries and outer secondaries (vaguely recalling the pattern of an adult Sabine's Gull), and blackish undertail coverts

We put the bird in the car and drove off. I hadn't driven 1/4 mile when I noticed a dove on a wire on the south side of the road. As we drove by it, I checked it out and yelled, "It's a live one!" Again, I quickly pulled over and Brian and I got out and looked at the bird. The bird on the wire differed in no respect from the dead one in the car, other than it was obviously alive and obviously not in my car.

Since we were heading from the field back to the office, we dropped the specimen off at the Denver Museum of Natural History. As of this writing, the bird has still not been prepared or accessioned. On 9 July, field work again took me to the area, so I checked in on the birds and found at least six present in and near the town of Rocky Ford.

The identification of the birds is correct. The only real question is origin. The available North American field guides either do not depict this species or simply mention it in passing. Therefore, most birders do not know what it looks like or that the species is undergoing an explosive increase in population and distribution in the New World after introduction to the Bahamas and subsequent spread to Florida. At the turn of the century, this species was, in Europe, restricted to the extreme southeast corner of that continent. At some point early in this century the species achieved a releasing mechanism that enabled it to thoroughly colonize all of Europe in something less than 40 years. The species' pattern of colonization of Europe is termed "jump-dispersal", in that outposts are established well outside the leading edge of advancing occupation by dispersing individuals. The intervening areas of no invaders is then filled by dispersing individuals from both directions. There is an extensive literature on the species' invasion of Europe in the ornithological journals.

This is apparently what Eurasian Collared-Doves are doing in North America, as, while the species was still basically restricted to the Florida peninsula, it established breeding colonies in Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana. Currently, the species is found the length of the Gulf Coast from Florida to Louisiana and there are known populations in Texas and South Carolina with reports of the species from Oklahoma and

Illinois. I can only believe that the Rocky Ford population (now in excess of 12 individuals) is the result of a recent arrival of individuals dispersing from other breeding areas. I believe that the occurrence of a population in Campo may also support that explanation. In future, it won't matter if my analysis is correct or not, as Eurasian Collared-Doves will become widespread and numerous in Colorado, making the source of the Rocky Ford birds a moot point.

Similar species eliminated: Mourning Dove by shorter, squared-off tail, upper wing pattern, and head pattern; Ringed Turtle-Dove by size (too large for Ringed), upperwing pattern, and undertail coverts coloration.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The bird on 26 June did not vocalize.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing (and -sounding) species? I have seen 100s of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Florida, where I spent one whole winter. I have been urging birders everywhere to look for the beast and document its spread. I have seen uncountable bazillions of Mourning Doves (all over North America), and quite a lot of Ringed Turtle-Doves (in captivity).

Light conditions: Sun was behind me when I saw the dead bird and was mostly backlighting the live bird when I first saw it.

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: dead bird was in hand, live bird was estimated at 75 feet

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Brian Sullivan

Other observers who saw the bird independently: numerous

If photographed, type of equipment and film: photographed with Nikon 8008s with 300mm lens and 1.4x converter on Fujichrome Sensia 100 film

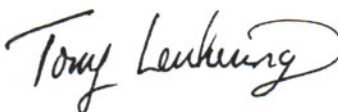
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

This report was written from notes made shortly after observation.

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 26 December 1997 (Sorry for the extreme tardiness of this report!)



25-96-34
E. C. Dove

PHOTO BY TONY LEUKERING 7/9/96

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
APR. 1997
DPS610-3

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
APR. 1997

extra



25-96-34

E.C. Dove

PHOTO BY TONY LEUKERING 7/9/96

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
APR. 1997
TPS61D

Kodak
PREMIUM
Processing
APR. 1997

extra

Also Tony Hankowicz
PHOTO 25 June & 19 July 96

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☒UNUSUAL RECORD ☐

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE | STREPTOPELIA DECACTO
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): DECEMBER 7, 1996Number of birds seen: 12 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULTLocality: ROCKY FORD Elevation: 4200'Nearest town: ROCKY FORD County: OTEROTime(s) observed: 2:15 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20-25 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

MARK JAVOS, WARREN FINCH, BOB SPENCER.

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

MANY OBSERVERS.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

BRIGHT SUNSHINEOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10x40 BINOCULARSDistance, and how measured: 30-50 YARDS

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

BIRDS WERE MOVING BETWEEN COTTONWOODS AND OTHER TREES.SOME EVENTUALLY FLEW FURTHER AWAY ACROSS THE FIELDS.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THE BIRDS WERE ABOUT THE SAME LENGTH AS A MOURNING DOVE.HOWEVER, THEY HAD A MUCH SHORTER, SQUARE TAIL AND A BIGGER BODY,SO THAT THEY WERE MUCH BULKIER THAN A MOURNING DOVE.

Description (continued):

THE BIRDS HAD A PINK HEAD AND BREAST WITH A BLACK HALF COLLAR WITH A THIN AREA OF WHITE ABOVE IT. THE EYE WAS RED, AND THE BILL, WHICH WAS LONGER THAN IN MOURNING DOVE, WAS BLACK. THE BODY WAS DARK, BUT THE TAIL HAD VERY PROMINENT WHITE CORNERS WHICH SHOWED AS A TAIL BAND FROM UNDERNEATH. THE WING TIPS WERE VERY DARK, ALMOST BLACK, AND THE FEET WERE RED.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NO CALLS GIVEN

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

COTTONWOOD TREES AROUND HOUSES AND A FARM ON E. COLORADO PLAINS.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

WHITE-WINGED DOVE — NO WHITE IN WING, BLACK & WHITE COLLAR.

RINGED-TURTLE DOVE — BODY COLOR TOO DARK, WHITE ABOVE BLACK COLLAR.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY COMMON SPECIES IN ENGLAND, WHERE I LAST SAW IT IN NOVEMBER 1996. RINGED TURTLE-DOVE SEEN IN CAPTIVITY.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NONE

b) after observation: THE BIRDS OF BRITAIN & EUROPE: HEINZEL, FITTER & PARSLOW

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory ☒
Date and time report was written: 7pm, MARCH 10, 1997

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S. 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE*Streptopelia decaocto*

Location: On Road FF about 1 mile northwest of downtown Rocky Ford; Otero County, Colorado

Date: July 11 through December 1996 (on 12 different dates)

This small colony was originally discovered by Tony Leukering. These birds were seen by scores of Colorado birders.

Background:

I had heard about this species being sighted in the vicinity but I was unable to locate them at first. I finally found them singing and perched in trees around the Good News barber shop on the north side of Highway 50 just north of town. I eventually determined that this small colony was most easily found just north of the Good News barber shop on Road FF near a house and feed lot. The birds (up to 12) were pretty easily seen. I was successful on 12 of 13 attempts. The birds frequent the large cottonwoods where they hang out together in twos, threes and fours. I occasionally heard them call, sometimes persistently, even in December. The call is clearly dovelike but unfamiliar to me. It consists of 3 notes, clear and cooing, like a Mourning Dove, but with the first note shortest, the second note accented and the third note lowest... "coo COOOOO cooo". The cooing bird actively displays to its chosen one, head bobbing and posing. The birds flap dryly when bursting into flight and frequently circle and return to a nearby perch. Sometimes they fly away to neighboring houses. All appeared to be unbanded and wild. I saw them in a variety of conditions and with both binoculars and scope.

Description:

It is a largish dove, larger and stockier than a Mourning Dove (but perhaps the same length because of the Mourning Dove's pointed tail), but smaller-bodied than a Rock Dove. It is overall unscaled, a light sandy-buff in color, generally quite light looking. The upper tail and primaries are dark gray. The wing in the perched bird shows nearly blackish primaries contrasting with the grayish coverts. In flight the wing is three-toned: light gray inner wing; bluish-gray center of the wing and blackish primaries. The undersides are similarly sandy-buff and the undertail coverts are medium gray. The tail is quite long and square. The undertail shows an extensively white tip, obvious in the fanned tail in flight, and a blackish base. The bill is dark, quite large and swollen at the tip. The legs and feet are reddish. The eye is dull red and the eyering is a silvery-blue color. The bird has a narrow black hind collar on the back of the neck.

Similar Species:

The identification of the bird is not much in question. The combination of largish size, black collar and lack of white in wing eliminate all common doves. Domestic collared doves (DCD) are eliminated by: 1) call (not rolled as in DCD); 2) large plump size; 3) grayish plumage (not creamy or pinkish as in DCD); 4) gray (not whitish) undertail coverts.

Experience with Species:

I have seen this species before in Florida.

This report is prepared from notes made after observation.

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
Streptopelia decaocto

Location: On Road FF about 1 mile northwest of downtown Rocky Ford; Otero County, Colorado

Date: July 11 through December 1996 (on 12 different dates)

I would like to argue that it is likely that this bird has arrived by natural means.

1. These birds acted wild and wary.
2. None of the birds are banded.
3. Inquiries of local residents shows that none of them raises doves or pigeons of any kind and that no one is aware of anyone who does.
4. Residents first noted them approximately the winter of 1995-1996 and they apparently arrived naturally.
5. This species is rarely kept or raised by dove fanciers (as opposed to the domestic Ringed Turtle-Dove).
6. There has been no collared-dove importation into the U.S. in 30 years.
7. Eurasian Collared Dove has demonstrated an explosive range expansion in this century. It has colonized Europe and Great Britain in the last 65 years. It reached Iceland in 1971. Although it is not known for sure how it reached the Bahamas Islands, it was present there in 1975. It colonized Florida by apparently natural means by the mid-1980s.
8. The species has a natural westward axis of expansion. It has appeared in sporadic locations north and west of Florida in the last 10 years. This includes Tennessee, Louisiana and Oklahoma. The pattern is of a sudden "hop-scotch" westward expansion of several hundred miles, followed by several years of "back-filling" of range. The appearance in Colorado fits this description.

While wild origin can never be "proven" it appears that this species is much more likely wild than the result of a local escape of caged birds.

There are subsequent reports:

- 2 photographed in Campo by Will Russell (tour group) in March 97
- 1 in Lamar first week of May '97. (Vic Zerli)