

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

ACCEPT 7-0

red 11/2/99
wpl**Species:** Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**Date:** 17 May 1998**Number seen:** one**Sex:** unknown**Plumage:** Basic**Locality:** Fowler**Elevation:** 4178'**Nearest town:** Fowler**County:** Otero**Time observed:** about 11:00 MDT**Duration of observation:** about 5 seconds

Description: While driving (with Peter Gaede) southbound along SR 50 on the southern outskirts of Fowler, I noticed a large dove flying across the road in front of me. I yelled out to Peter "COLLARED DOVE," as we were in the middle of doing a Big Day and we hadn't seen the species yet. He didn't quite see it when it was in front of us, but was able to look out the back window and see it flying still. He immediately agreed with my identification.

The bird was a large dove, seemingly larger than Mourning Dove, though there were none around for comparison. The important points that I noted were the wing pattern and the overall coloration and pattern. The bird had a pale gray head and underparts with a black nuchal collar and a tri-colored wing pattern: blackish primaries, very pale gray secondaries, and brown upper wing coverts. In addition, the rump was contrastingly paler than the brown back; I did not note the tail pattern.

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) and upperwing pattern.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none heard

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 to my left when I first saw it, behind me when we looked out the back window at the bird.

Optical equipment used: 20x10 eyeballs

Distance, and how estimated: about 12 meters at closest

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Peter Gaede

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none

If photographed, type of equipment and film: not photographed

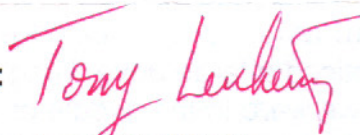
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:



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

Date report was written: This report was written from memory on 5 June 1998 and 26 October 1999.