

2001-106

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Rec'd 11/08/01 @

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove

Number: 1

Location: Montrose, Montrose Co., Colorado

Habitat: in town

Date: 9 June 2001

Time: 1:45 - 1:50 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 ½ West Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird(s): G. Gordon Brown

Description of bird(s): We were standing in the parking lot of the McDonald's along Highway 50 in east Montrose when I spotted a large, pale dove flying over the highway. The bird circled the McDonald's several times in a slow, stiff-winged courtship flight. It appeared to be roughly the size of a Rock Dove and was noticeably larger than nearby Mourning Doves. When viewing the underside of the bird in flight, I could easily discern the darker gray undertail coverts, the extensive white areas on the distal portion of the outer rectrices, and the square-tipped shape of the tail. The bird finally landed on a telephone pole across the street, and we were able to study the bird there for a few minutes. I again noted the large size and very pale coloration, especially on the head and underparts. I also noted the narrow black half-collar, the dark gray primaries that contrasted with the paler upperwing coverts, and the striking dark gray undertail coverts that contrasted with the white undersides of the rectrices. The bird vocalized a couple of times; the call was soft series of three coo notes, coo COO-coo.

Similar species and how eliminated: The pale coloration and black collar safely eliminate all *Columbidae* except Eurasian Collared- and Ringed Turtle- doves. The combination of large size, contrasting dark gray undertail coverts, contrasting darker primaries, and call eliminate the similar Ringed Turtle-Dove.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with both Eurasian Collared- and Ringed Turtle-doves, especially the former because of its rapid recent expansion in Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with clear skies and the sun behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 25m. I used 10x42 binoculars.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes written? brief notes written immediately after sighting

How long before this form completed? written 14 June 2001