

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD _____

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**Date:** 14 April 2001**Number seen:** two**Sex:** ?**Plumage:** Basic**Locality:** One mile W of Burlington on US 24**Elevation:** ~4167'**Nearest town:** Burlington**County:** Kit Carson**Time observed:** mid-afternoon**Duration of observation:** 2 minutes

Description: On our way back home from birding in eastern Colorado, Larry Semo and I hit a bunch of prairie towns looking for Eurasian Collared-Doves. We drove through Burlington and were not able to find any, surprisingly. However, as we decided to drive W on US 24 instead of the interstate, we were able to see two birds on the north side of US 24 about one mile W of Burlington. We saw the birds perched and the two were very similar, so I am describing them as one.

A large, pale dove that was mostly pale gray-brown all over, a bit darker and browner above than below. It had an obvious black bar on the back of the neck; I did not discern the presence of white bars above and below the dark bar, but I did not look for them. The bill was black and the eyes were dark reddish. The primaries were blackish and contrasted fairly strongly with the rest of the wing. The tail was white below with black bases to the outer pair of rectrices. The outermost rectrix on each side was black for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length of the outer web, with this black extending further down the feather than the black on the inner web of the same feather. The black on the inner web of the outer rectrices extended about to the tip of the longest undertail coverts, which were medium gray.

Similar species eliminated by description: Ringed Turtle-Dove (and presumably hybrids with that "form") have a much-less-obvious wing pattern and much less black on the underside of the tail, resulting in an obviously-different pattern. Other *Streptopelia* doves are also eliminated by the combination of plumage features described above. White-winged Dove has obvious blue eye rings that we would have seen, lacks a partial neck ring, and would have shown a white leading edge to the folded wing. No other North American species is at all similar.

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 species? I have seen 100s of Eurasian Collared-Doves (including >100 in CO) and 100s of Ringed Turtle-Doves (in captivity and in the "wild"). I have seen 1000s of White-winged Doves and I have seen one or two other species of *Streptopelia* in captivity a couple of times.

Light conditions: sun was variably behind me and to my left

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8.5x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at ~12 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Larry Semo

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none of which I am aware

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Larry Semo videotaped the birds.

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: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80603

Date report was written: 2 February 2003, from brief notes written the evening of the sighting

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X: **2001-174**

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): Eurasian Collared-Dove		(Scientific Name) Streptopelia decaocto
Date(s) of occurrence: 14 April, 2001		
Number of birds seen: Two	Sex: Unknown	Plumage: Adult(s)
Exact Location: City of Burlington		
County: Kit Carson	Nearest town: Burlington	Elevation: XX msl
Length of observation: Roughly 5 minutes total.		Time(s) of observation: Afternoon
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Tony Leukering		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): None known		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Good. Mostly sunny. Sun was to west and birds were typically to north or east of observers.		
Optical equipment used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Varied. Closest views were roughly 75 feet.		
Was bird(s) photographed? One of the observed birds was video-taped		If so, have you submitted photos? Yes, still from video
Who took the photographs? Myself		

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Small town urban setting surrounded by agricultural lands.**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): **Birds were mainly observed perched on telephone wires or telephone poles, though some were also observed in flight.**

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

While on a trip to eastern Colorado, Tony Leukering and I decided to check assorted towns in various counties to ascertain the presence/absence of Eurasian Collared-Dove for those respective villages and to document first-known occurrences for those areas. Burlington in Kit Carson County was one of our stops. It didn't take much effort of driving through residential areas before we spotted two collared-doves on the west side of town. Both birds were perched in Siberian Elm trees. They were both distinctly more robust than Mourning Doves and lacked the long tail projection of that species. The birds were a warm gray with black bills, a black nuchal collar, bicolored, squared-off tail, and pink legs. When in flight, the primaries were obviously darker than the remainder of the wing, creating a two-toned pattern. The tail was a light grayish above when perched. From beneath, the majority of the tail

was white, except that the outer rectrices were black, extending as fingers along the outer edge of the tail, which is one of the crucial indicators eliminating Ringed Turtle-Dove. The birds flew off within a minute or so, exposing the tail as wide white tips. The wings were decidedly three-toned, with darker outer wings, a grayish band through the mid-wing, and the basal wing being the warm gray-tan of the contour feathers.

Describe bird's call or song: **I don't recall any vocalizations delivered.**



Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **Rock Doves are larger and distinctly different colored and patterned. Mourning Doves are a slimmer bird with elongated tail and lacks a nuchal color. Ringed Turtle-Dove is slightly smaller than Eurasian Collared-Dove, is typically brighter colored, and has an all-white tail from below. White-winged Dove has distinct white wing patches, has darker flight feathers, and lacks a nuchal collar.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed numerous other birds in Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida.**

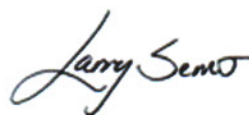
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report is from notes made during or after **XXX** observation or later from memory

Date of written report: **12/25/02**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO, 80601**