

2003-14

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

rec'd 5 Mar 03

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) **Eurasian Collared Dove** (Scientific Name) **Streptopelia decaocto**

Date(s) of occurrence: **12-29-2002, and then two weeks later on 1/11/2003; daily since. The birds have been seen regularly since and recorded as noted on the Project FeederWatch forms (attached).**

First Observation: Number of birds seen: **2** Sex: **?** Plumage: **Generally, Gray overall at first sight. The birds have a black collar topped white on the back of the neck. Both birds are identical, it is not possible to sex the birds visually. It is my opinion that this is a male/female pairing due to their behavior.**

Second Observation: Number of birds seen: **2** Sex: **?** Plumage: **Generally, Gray overall at first sight. The birds have a black collar topped white on the back of the neck. Both birds are identical, it is not possible to sex the birds visually.**

Exact location: **6815 W. 61st Avenue, Arvada, CO 80003**

County: **Jefferson** Nearest town: Elevation: **6000'**

Length of 1st observation: **1 hr, 45 min** Time(s) of observation: **3:30 pm**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **myself on the first sighting.**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **In February 2003: Bob and Shirley Spencer, and Larry Semo**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **late evening, birds on lawn in front of my house. I was in my house (to the north of the birds) observing the birds eating bird seed in the lawn outside.**

Optical equipment used: **None needed**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **Front yard, 20 feet. Back yard, 35 feet**

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? **yes** If so, are you submitting photos? **yes**

Who took the photograph(s)? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **Birds first occurred along with mourning doves in front yard, grassy. Underneath deciduous crabapple tree where corn and other seed had been spilled from a hanging feeder.**

Birds occurred a second time: **January 11, 2003**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **Other than color, the birds' behaviors and general dove-like appearance were not particularly different than the other mourning doves they were feeding with. This made them easily identifiable as doves. They had the same small head and shape, beak shape and size, and general body appearance, although the gray doves were larger and chunkier overall. The gray doves pecked at the feed similarly and flew in the same manner.**

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings -- folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

I knew them to be doves because they had the exact physical characteristics of other doves that frequent my feeders, Mourning Doves. Smaller heads, plump bodies, big shoulders. These doves first attracted my attention immediately because of their color and size, and upon closer inspection, the black ring at the back of the neck. They were uniformly gray at first sight, stockier and much larger than the mourning doves that they were feeding with. There appeared to be a lighter area above the black collar. Mourning Doves are a darker gray and have spots on their wings when closed. Their chest is a light rusty color. These new doves were gray, but upon closer inspection, had a light buffy color to their back and chest. I am a novice and not studied in what to look for. I did draw what I could, though. Those drawings are attached.

I called Denver's chapter of Audubon Society and asked them what this dove could possibly be. A suggestion was made that I might look into the Eurasian Collared Doves.

I have since studied this dove and the closest doves that could look like them so I could get the plumage identification correct if and when the doves returned. The mourning doves are here everyday. So I just waited for these doves to come back with them one day. They returned January 11, 2003.

It took me many hours of observation to correctly identify these birds because I am not an experienced birder. I will notate what I could identify. I visited many internet sites to see pictures of what an Eurasian Collared Dove looked like because I could not find them in the older bird books that I had. Many of the sites also referenced a bird called a Ringed Turtle Dove. Doing a visual comparison of the pictures to each other and to the birds that I had, I settled on the ECD. In addition, I obtained a "checklist" of features of each bird that could be used to discern the differences between the two birds. I checked further for any other doves that had a "collar" and the only other dove that had one did not look anything like what I had.

The Doves that I felt were the ECDs had the following features:

Gray overall, but with sandy tones to the body. The head is lighter, and the tones darken towards the tail. Ringed Turtle Doves tend to be much lighter and can be white.

The primaries are very dark gray. Ringed Turtle Doves' primaries are not different in color than the rest of the bird.

These birds were much larger and stockier than the Mourning Doves. Ringed Turtle Doves are a little larger and are not shaped different.

The black primaries are very evident in flight, but I cannot see the inner wing colors. The birds are shy, and are always flying away, so as not to see.

Their tail feathers, when spread in flight, are white at the outer tips, about 1", with a black bar above the white. When the doves in my yard face me (sitting on a wire), I can see the underneath of their closed tail clearly. The black bar on a closed tail forms an inverted "u". Pictures of the Ringed Turtle Doves show that they are all white underneath with no dark. In addition, the tails are squared, or blunt, in contrast to the pointed tail of the Mourning Dove. Their flight is silent. I have enclosed a picture of the tail of the dove I believe to be the ECD.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: I haven't heard them call.

SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Please see discussion above.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? None

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Initial telephone consultation was made with Audubon Society for potential identification. I attempted to use older bird guides, but they do not have information on this bird. Various state government internet resources were most successful. There were some sites that provided excellent photographs, both of ECDs and Ringed Turtle Doves, which was helpful. As my knowledge grew, I was able to eliminate faulty information, such as one site's statement that "the Ringed Turtle Dove is now called the Eurasian Collared Dove". I found most of my information from sites in the southeast part of the country, i.e., Florida, Louisiana, Missouri. The bird originated there, of unknown circumstances, but imported apparently and released, and is spreading west.

This report was made from (check one) ☒ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☐ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: initiated 1/10/2003, added to 3/3/2003

Reporting observer: Chris Sedlmayr

Signature:

Chris Sedlmayr

Reporting observer's address:

6815 W. 61st Ave.
Arvada, CO 80003



Chris Sedlmayr
6815 W. 61st Ave.
Arvada, CO 80003-5301

checkLIST

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Call: Unrolled "kuk-koooOO-kook", often in series
Cry note: Harsh screaming mew
Vent and undertail coverts: Gray, no contrast with other underparts

Underside tail is white in trailing half

Outer tail feathers: Outer web mostly dark white

Size: Much larger than Mourning Dove

Color: Pale sandy brown, with buffy gray neck, head underparts

Wings: Primaries darker than rest of wing

Tail shape: Long, rounded or square

Tail underside: Dark basal underside reaches tip of undertail coverts

Behavior: Usually sly, not allowing close approach

Ringed Turtle-Dove

Rolled "kooeek-krrrooooo(aw)", with pauses
Soft jeering laugh

Whitish, often contrasting with belly

Outer web mostly white OK

Usually somewhat larger than Mourning Dove

Variable, often creamier or pinker, lacking gray tones

Primaries often not much darker than rest of wing

Variable, often more pointed

Dark basal underside rarely approaches tip of undertail coverts

Meek, usually approachable

The key characteristics in identification of Eurasian Collared-Doves and separation from the Ringed Turtle-Dove (an escape in some Kentucky locations) are below:

Eurasian Collared-Doves have a stocky build, much like a Rock Dove. They are about the same length, perhaps slightly longer, than a Mourning Dove or a Ringed-Turtle Dove.

Ring-Turtle Doves will appear similar in shape to a Mourning Dove while Eurasian Collared-Doves will appear similar in shape to a Rock Dove.

Eurasian Collared-Doves are noticeably lighter in color than a Mourning Dove. The Eurasian Collared-Dove is more of an ash gray and less brownish than a Mourning Dove. It is much grayer than most Ringed Turtle Doves which usually appear to be whitish-gray or off-white.

Generally, the head of Eurasian Collared-Doves is noticeably lighter than the body and back as in the bird on the left in the picture above.

Eurasian Collared-Doves have a black crescent on the back of the neck with a white stripe above the crescent. Ringed Turtle-Doves have the black crescent, but lack the white above the crescent.

The primaries are noticeably blackish and contrast strongly with the rest of the body.

In flight, the blackish primaries stand out against a white band that separates them from the brownish gray inner wing. When seen from above with wings spread, Eurasian Collared-Doves show 3 distinct colors. Ringed-turtle Doves show only 2 colors on the wing from above.

Eurasian Collared-Doves have a distinct 3 noted call that emphasizes the second syllable. It might be described as a "Who Whoooooooooo Who" with the second syllable being longer, louder and accented. No other Kentucky Dove has a call like this.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove tail shows a large white terminal band that contrasts strongly with a black base. Ringed-Turtle Doves also show some black on the tail, but it is much less so than the Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Hybrids are not known to exist in Kentucky. In Florida and Illinois where the species co-exist, hybrids do occur and are certainly possible in Kentucky.

<http://www.ornithology.logan.k12.ky.us/Eurasian%20Collared-Dove%20Identification.htm>