

(A) Accepted

CFO-RC FILE # 2003-301
RESULTS: Accepted

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

rec'd 5/15/03

Species: EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE (Common Name) STREPTOPELLA DECACTO (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of observation: Wednesday May 7 2003

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULT

Exact location: DOWDY DRAW, BOULDER, CO in large cottonwood trees at Bridge

County: BOULDER Nearest town: ELDORADO SPRINGS Elevation: ABT 5600.

Length of observation: 5 minutes Times(s) of observation: approx 9:30 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: BURR TOOEY, MYRON PLOOSTER, ERIC ZOROWOITZ

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): plus 16 others birders on the field trip

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's position): clear, bright light

Optical equipment used: KOWA SCOPE, Zeiss 7/42 binoculars, Leica 10/42

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): Approx 50 feet

Was bird photographed?: NO If so, have you submitted photographs? NO

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: top most dead branches of old mature cottonwood tree along Dowdy Draw Irrigation ditch at the metal bridge crossing. Riparian area.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in support identification): Flew into top of tree and remained there while we observed it. Then it flew off in SW direction.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. Describe other 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 of field notes): overall a pale tan color. No spots on wings. Head looks slightly smaller than mourning dove. Black collar marks on back of neck. orangish eye. orangish legs. Did not call or make any sound. Dark primaries. Greyish undertail.

Describe bird's call or song:

Did not call or give any sound.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Have seen this species many times in SE Colorado and in Texas. No doubt as to ID. Ringed turtle dove seems smaller & much paler almost to white to me.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have observed these two species side by side in Texas.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

Did not influence me at all Others also confirmed who knew the species.

This report was made from notes made during ✓ or after ✓ observation, or later from memory ✓

Date of written report: May 13, 2003

Reporting observer: Suzi Signature: Suzi Plooster

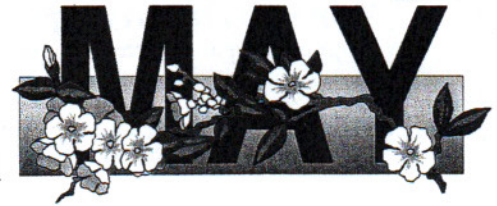
Observer's address: Plooster

Send report to: Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO. 80601

see additional page

Suzi Plooster

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Addendum to report:

This report is being sent in to document the first sighting of Eurasian Collared Dove in Boulder County, Colorado. While Eurasian Collared Dove is no longer a rarity in Colorado, it had not yet appeared in all counties in the state and I want to document this first sighting in Boulder, County.

On the first Boulder Bird Club Wednesday Roadrunners trip of the summer on May 7, 2003, the group led by Eric Zorawowicz went to Doudy Draw, Boulder, County, CO. As we left the bridge about a mile up the draw and continued a short ways south on the trail, I looked back towards the dead top branches of the old, mature cottonwood trees that grow beside the irrigation ditch near the metal bridge crossing the water, I saw a dove fly into the top area of the tree. I called out that a dove was landing in the tree. No one bothered to look at it. Hohum, just another dove. Seeing this I immediately thought back to a time, many years ago when I was on a trip with David Leatherman and we were looking for a Varied Thrush he had found previously. I remember asking him then, how he had found the bird and he said, "When you want to find a rare bird you always have to look at every bird of a similar species. i.e. if you want to find a Varied Thrush you have to look at every robin, etc.etc". I thought it very good advice and have always since tried to follow his advice.

Upon seeing that no one had bothered to look at the dove, I proceeded to give "my David talk", and said, "No one even bothered to look at the dove, and yet any day now we might have the first Eurasian Collared Dove in Boulder County, but if you don't look at every dove, you won't be the one to find it, etc, etc. I stood talking to the group and did not look further at the dove, but one gal Burr Toohey, (1630 Wilson Ct., Boulder, CO 80304) said she had never seen a Eurasian Collared Dove and proceeded to look it up in her field guide and continued to look at the bird. Soon she called us to come back and look because she was sure that the bird was indeed a Eurasian Collared Dove, from what she had seen in her field guide. Sure enough, the scope was placed on the bird and everyone in the group had good clear looks at the bird through the scope before it flew away toward the southwest. Yes, it was indeed the first sighting of a Eurasian Collared Dove in Boulder County and was clearly seen by all 20 participants on the trip.

The teacher did not unfortunately follow her own advice, but luckily "the student" took it to heart and thus became the one to first identify the bird. I was very proud that Burr had taken my advice. We owe it all to David Leatherman for that good advice given many years ago.

Suzi Plooster
May 13, 2003