

14-2000

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove
(Vernacular name)

Streptopelia decaocto
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 5-06-00 Time Bird Seen: 5:15 ^{intermittently until dark} to 5:20

Locality: Fish Springs NWR, Dagway, UT Wasatch County

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 8x42, Celestron binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Not App.

Light conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird, and how measured: varied at different times, closest was about 20 ft.; estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
very jump individual, spent some time on ground & in trees foraged mostly on ground

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Around housing area at Fish Springs NWR. The housing area contains the largest tract of trees around for miles

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Steve Sullivan, Fish Springs NWR, P.O. Box 568, Dagway UT, 84022

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The bird was a typical *Ereca* Dove being slightly larger than a Mourning Dove with a slightly larger build to it, making it seem bulkier. The bird was a very light pastel cream color to it with slightly darker gray primaries. Its tail was square with parallel & rounded in flight, bordered with white on the outer edges. I checked the undertail coverts to assure that they were gray, and they were. On the neck was a small black collar bordered thinly by white.



Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

The bird's familiar call is what brought me to its attention in the first place. The bird was calling from a perch.

Dove-like call: coo coo coo coo | coo coo coo coo

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

I eliminated an escape Ringed-tufted Dove by call, size, color, and the fact that this bird had gray undertail coverts, in which Ringed-tufted Doves is white.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have come in contact with this bird in my backyard in Kansas, also in Oklahoma, Colorado, & Texas.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after observation; from memory ___.

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Return to:

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