

UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: Eurasian Collared-Dove

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Streptopelia Decaocto

DATE: September 19, 2004

TIME: 4:30 – 4:45 PM

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: ~15 minutes

NUMBER: 1

AGE: ?

SEX: ?

LOCATION: Jordan River Walkway; approximately 100 meters south of the bridge at the Rose Hill Golf Course. Bird was observed both flying and perched on a power-line.

COUNTY: Salt Lake

LATILONG:

ELEVATION:

DISTANCE TO BIRD: ~20 meters

OPTICS USED: 10x42 Leica

WEATHER: sunny with light southerly winds; cool.

LIGHT CONDITIONS: sunny; the sun was behind me while observing the perched bird.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

The bird was first noticed as it flew over me and landed on a powerline. On landing the bird sang its characteristic, rapidly delivered, three noted song: two coos in quick succession followed with a third drawn-out coo.

The bird was perched with its belly facing me for most of my observation (it was perched on a power line about 10 meters off the ground and I was about 10 meters from the base of the powerline) and allowed me to initially make the identification based on the size: the bird was larger and heavier bodied than a Mourning Dove. The head was smallish in proportion to the body size. Overall the bird was noticeably larger than a Mourning Dove.

The square-ended and broad tail was relatively long and its underside pattern was quite diagnostic; a wide terminal white tail band (about an inch+ wide) with gray undertail coverts. The contrast of the gray undertail coverts and white tip was pronounced. The visible parts of the primary feathers on the perched bird were dark.

The feathers on the belly and back were light gray. The black collar could be clearly observed in addition to a white edging on its upper side. The bill was black and medium sized. The red eye color was clearly observed. The feet were a very dull grayish-pink

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: Song delivered 2x: three coos with the first two delivered in quick succession followed with a third.

BEHAVIOR: The bird was first observed on a short, gliding flight to land on a powerline. The bird perched for the entire observation on the powerline.

HABITAT: residential area adjacent to the Jordan River.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Mourning Dove: This species is significantly smaller bodied than the Eurasian Collared-Dove, has a longer pointed tail, does not have a collar, does not have a white band on tail, and has a clearly different mournful cooing song.

Ringed Turtle-Dove: This species is about the size of a Mourning Dove (while the described bird was significantly larger and heavier-bodied than a Mourning Dove), has white undertail coverts that do not contrast with a white tip (the described bird showed clear contrast between the gray undertail coverts and the ~1 inch wide white band on the underside of the tail tip), the primaries are light (not dark colored as observed on this bird), and finally the song of this species is also quite different from that heard (three coos with the first two in quick succession and a longer drawn out third coo – this pattern was repeated twice).

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES: REFERENCES CONSULTED:

I have recently moved to Salt Lake after a 1 ½ year sabbatical in Tallahassee, FL. During that time I had observed hundreds of Eurasian Collared-Doves. A Tallahassee, FL local birding hot-spot (Spring Hill Waste Treatment Facility) frequently may host up to 50 Eurasian Collared-Dove at one time. They had become relatively common breeders in this part of Florida in 2003.

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING _____, NOTES MADE LATER X , FROM MEMORY X

OBSERVER: Jack Skalicky

SIGNATURE:

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CITY: Salt Lake City

STATE: Utah

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PERMISSION: I GIVE MY PERMISSION TO POST THIS SIGHTING RECORD ON THE INTERNET IN AN AREA:

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC X , RESTRICTED TO THE RECORDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS _____

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD: None that I'm aware. I had meant to report this bird

to one of the listservers but I was very busy early that week and by the time I'd remembered it seemed rather pointless to report.

DATE PREPARED: September 25, 2004

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO _____, DRAWING _____, TAPE _____, OTHER _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
2795 Indian Hills Drive, Provo, UT 84604

OR EMAIL TO: records@utahbirds.org