





409A-01-1996

RARE SPECIES REPORT

SPECIES: Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

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NUMBER SEEN: 1

SIGHTING DATES: July 28, 29, 30, 31, and August 1, 1996

SIGHTING TIME: Usually between 9am and 3:30pm on any given day.

LOCATION: Spring Township, Crawford County, Pa. Approximately 1 mile North of town of Conneautville, PA. (7758 Guntown Road) The home of David and Jean Nicolls.

DIRECTIONS: Head North out of Conneautville on PA Route 18. Turn left onto the first dirt road (Depot Road) after passing a Cemetery on the right and a John Deere Dealer on the left side of the road. The dirt road is approximately 1/4 mile past the John Deere dealership. The dirt road runs past the end of the lot of the John Deere dealership property. Proceed across the railroad tracks and the bridge. Bear to the left as you leave the bridge and go to the first house on the right. (About 1/4 mile). The Dove has been observed on the light pole next to the basketball court and in the dead tree to the left and behind the barn. It has also been observed on the ground behind the barn.

SIGHTING CONDITIONS: The Dove has been observed in poor to excellent light conditions depending upon the day. The binoculars used were Swift 8 X 44 Audubon. It was later observed using a KOWA telescope. The first day the Dove was observed on the light pole next to the basketball court. It was in very good light and was approximately 30 feet away. It was observed with binoculars and a telescope on different days. It has been observed for a period of time ranging from 5 minutes to half an hour or more - again depending upon which day.

DESCRIPTION - VOICE: Its call was heard on the first day as being much lower in pitch and louder than that of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). It sounded like a coo-coo-coo repeated two or three times. At the end of some series there was a "cuk" type sound heard. I compared it to the description found in Reader's Digest "Book of British Birds," 1985, by Drive Publications Limited.

SIZE: The Dove was somewhat larger than a Mourning Dove over all.

PLUMAGE: It was lighter than a Mourning Dove over-all. It was a light grey-brown above and paler below. It had a definite black collar around the back of its neck. The collar did not completely encircle its neck. The collar had a white edge on the upper and lower side of the black area. The white was more prominent on the upper side than on the lower side of the collar. The tail was not pointed like that of a Mourning Dove; nor was it edged with white along the sides of its tail like that of a Mourning Dove. The tail of this Dove was very white across the whole tip for about 3 inches towards its rump. The white then abruptly stopped and the rest of the tail was black when seen in flight. The tail was also much more squarred across the tip. The tail was also long. The outer parts of its primaries were darker than the rest of its wing feathers.

ANATOMY: Its bill appeared to be black. Its legs were a gray-fleshy color. In certain light conditions the legs appeared to be light tan.

BEHAVIOR: At times the Dove was quite skittish and nervous. At other times the Dove allowed the observer to stand close under it. When it was observed on the ground, it was very wary and kept looking at the observer. It would usually fly about 400 yards and alight in a tree or on a utility pole if it was pushed too much while trying to observe or photograph it.

AKA (Clare)

Thomas C. Nicolls

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FAMILIARITY: I have observed this species in St. Augustine, FL and in the Bennett's Point area of Bear Island Wildlife Management Area located between Beaufort and Charleston, SC.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Photographs of this Dove were taken by myself (Clare Nicolls) and Russ States of Oil City, PA. I have included 5 photographs that I took of the Dove.

SIGHTING AND REPORT BY: Clare Nicolls of 1800 Park Avenue, Beaufort, SC. At the time of observing the Dove I was staying with my Father at Conneautville, PA , 16406 for my summer vacation and also working on my Brother's farm.

Thomas C. Nicolls
AKA (Clare)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Date of Sighting: 28 July 1996 to 1 August 1996

Location: SPRING TWP

County: CRAWFORD

Observer(s): Thomas Nicolls

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Thomas Nicolls

Written Description: YES

Photo: YES

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97