



July 1, 2008

Gene Wilhelm
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Thank you for your report of a Eurasian Collared-Dove in Butler from July 7-30, 2006 to Pennsylvania Birds and the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee.

After two rounds of voting, the sighting was accepted as a Class IV- A record; a record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

Many committee members felt the submitted photo was slightly overexposed and did not distinctly show the proper contrast of the primaries and the body. There was no description of the under- tail coverts and they were not evident in the photograph. There was no mention of size of the dove.

The record is probably of a Eurasian Collared-Dove, but a Ringed Turtle-Dove was not convincingly eliminated.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Witmer
Chairman: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Record# 409a-02-2006

JUNE – JULY 2006

Butler County

Locations: Butler City (BC), Poplar Forest (PF), Poplar Manor (PM), Slippery Rock Borough (SRB) and Slippery Rock Township (SRT).

The weather in June and July for northern Butler County was above average for precipitation (7 ¼ inches in June and 6 ¾ inches in July) and maximum temperatures never reached 90 degrees F. in SRB like they did on four days in Pittsburgh 50 air miles to the south.

The **Wild Turkey** had a good breeding season with 3 hens and 18 fledglings checking backyards and wood lots in PF and PM almost on a daily basis just yards from traffic busy Kelly Boulevard. A pleasant surprise were 3 male N. **Bobwhites** singing early most mornings on the boundary of SRB-SRT throughout June and July. Fortunately, PF and PM still retain dense mixed forest that has been a last holdout for 8 species of raptors this year: 1 pair of **Cooper's Hawk** produced 1 juvenile as did a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Two **Broad-winged Hawk** juveniles were vocal and aerially active until the end of July as was 1 juvenile **Red-tailed Hawk** that continuously visited the surroundings of a number of bird feeders in PF and PM seeking chipmunks.

A handsome male **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, in full breeding plumage, visited bird feeders 7/7 on the north side of BC (MB, LB). The bird repeatedly tried to court and mate female **Mourning Doves** but to no avail. The dove was still present on a daily basis to 7/30 and sporadically thereafter. The species constitutes a new county record (see photo elsewhere).

Four species of owls were recorded in PF this season: **E. Screech Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Barred Owl** and a vocal male N. **Saw-whet Owl** between 6/1-5. Two **Common Nighthawks** were heard and seen 7/11 flying over PM. Although absent as a breeder for two years, a pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** bred in the dense PF spruce plantation and was noted 6/1 carrying food to the nest. Also, a pair of **Winter Wren** was seen 7/5 feeding 4 fledglings on White Oak Drive in PF. A male **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was repeatedly tape-recorded singing his breeding song in June and July but no mate or nest could be found. The **Eastern Meadowlark** did well this breeding season after convincing a landowner in PF not to mow his large field covered with tall grass until after August 1:2 pairs produced 7 fledglings, the best nesting record in the past three years in SRB. Finally, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Bobolink** and **Purple Finch** failed to nest in PF or PM this year.

Observers: **Gene Wilhelm**, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057, (724) 794-2434, genewilhelm@aol.com, Marcie Brown, Larry Brown and Joanne Wilhelm.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). First seen at feeder on July 7, 2006 by Marcia and Larry Brown, 113 Brandon Road, Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 724-283-5338. Accompanying photo shows all the diagnostic ID marks in identifying the species plus hearing the characteristic cooing. I personally identified and heard the bird on July 19, 2006 between 0912-0924 with clear skies, great light, 50' from the bird at table feeder.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (Streptopelia decaocto). First seen at feeder on July 7, 2006 by Marcia and Larry Brown, 113 Brandon Road, Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 724-283-5338. Accompanying photo shows all the diagnostic ID marks in identifying the species plus hearing the characteristic cooing. I personally identified and heard the bird on July 19, 2006 between 0912-0924 with clear skies, great light, 50' from the bird at table feeder.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove (Streptopelia decaocto)

Date of Sighting: 7 July 2006 to 30 July 2006

Location: BUTLER CITY

County : BUTLER

Observer(s): Marcie Brown, Larry Brown, Gene Wilhelm

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Gene Wilhelm

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson				X				
B. Coulter						X		
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS	2			2	1	1		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

2/4

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/21/08

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove (Streptopelia decaocto)

Date of Sighting: 7 July 2006 to 30 July 2006

Location: BUTLER CITY

County : BUTLER

Observer(s): Marcie Brown, Larry Brown, Gene Wilhelm

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Gene Wilhelm

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson				X				
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS	5			1	1			
DECISION								

Comments: 5/2 GO TO 2ND Round

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/10/07