

Rare Bird Documentation for PORC:

409A-04-2006

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Number: 1

Sex, age, plumage: adult

Date/time of observation:

07 Aug, 2006 @ around 15:00

Location:

Elephant, Bucks County, PA. Exact location was intersection of Ridge and Elephant Rds, Bedminster Twp. This is ~¼ mile south of Lake Nockamixon.

Longitude: -75.242146731

Latitude: 40.4249016798

Observer:

Bill Etter

1030 Old Bethlehem Road #2

Perkasie, PA 18944

esbittern@verizon.net

215-964-3613

Habitat: The dove was in a rural area with open agricultural fields, treeline, and several dwellings. It was seen flying from a soybean field. Mourning Doves rest on the wires over the roads in this area regularly.

Conditions: Sunny afternoon.

Distance + Optics:

The bird flew in front of my car as I was coming to a stop at an intersection. Closest distance was about 15-20 feet. No optics used.

Description:

I made notes as soon as I arrived home (within 15 minutes of the sighting):

The E. Collared-Dove flew low across the road directly in front of my car. It was chasing a Mourning Dove, providing a great comparison. When they careened low across the road together, several features of the subject bird were apparent, including the obviously bulkier structure, rounded tail, and pale plumage. I noted white outer tail feathers, a light brown back, and dark gray primaries. I did not actually see the collar, but don't feel this is a problem, given the circumstances of the observation. I've noticed on several occasions over the ensuing months that Eurasian Collared-Dove's collar is not always obvious at similar angles.

Differentiation from similar species:

All similarly sized, pale North American pigeons and doves can be safely eliminated by the noted field marks; Mourning Dove in particular, due to the direct comparison. Rock Pigeon can be eliminated by size as compared to MODO, and further eliminated by structure. While similar, Ringed Turtle Dove would be smaller, not larger than MODO, and much more pale overall than the subject bird. White-winged Dove would have an entirely and obviously different plumage, and should not appear so much larger than MODO.

Behavior:

As stated, the EUCD flew low across the road directly in front of my car, in pursuit of a Mourning Dove. The two birds crashed to the ground in the shoulder of the road, regained their composure for a few seconds, then flew rapidly away from me, this time with the MODO giving chase. Both birds disappeared over the treeline to the north. Efforts to re-find the bird were unsuccessful.

Vocalizations: None

Supporting evidence: None

Previous experience: I've visited the breeding EUCDs at the Turkey Hill store in Coatesville, Chester County, PA fairly regularly since Aug 2005, but these birds are usually static, perched high on a wire. Fortunately, I've also had the opportunity to watch EUCD on several occasions over the past few years, in southern TX, Tucson AZ, and southern FL, where it is often more abundant and lively.

Certainty of identification: Very confident

References consulted: I checked my Sibley guide later just to reassure myself that what I saw jibed completely with characteristics of adult Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Date of report: 07 Dec, 2006.

Signature of observer:

Bill Etter

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Date of Sighting: 7 August 2006 to 7 August 2006

Location: ELEPHANT

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): Bill Etter

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Bill Etter

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

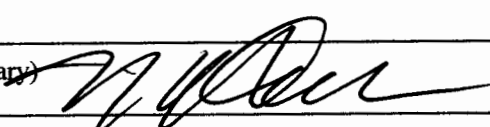
Specimen: No

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 <i>B Carter</i>				X				
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller				X				
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			3	4				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

20/08/07