

# WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species:	Eurasian Collared-Dove ( <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> )	Number: (leave blank)			
Location:	Union, Monroe County	Date:	07/14/13	Time:	09:45
Bird Seen:	09:45	To:	10:00	Age/Sex:	Adults

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Classic pigeon/dove shape. Smallish round head. Small dark bill. Plump body, large for its head size. Long, square tipped tail with white outer corners. Short legs. Larger than nearby Mourning Doves.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Head and nape fairly uniform sandy gray/brown. Base of neck with obvious black "collar" mark. Chest and breast unmarked pale sandy gray/brown, perhaps even slightly paler than the head/neck. Back and wings with a shade darker than the head and neck with more brownish influence. Primaries were dark. Undertail was gray/brown. White outer tail corners.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

None heard

Description of behavior:

Seen feeding below feeders and in a yard. Also seen in flight.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

General: Small town with surrounding agricultural areas.

Specific: Known breeding location in Union, WV. Seen on powerlines, feeding underneath feeders, and foraging through yards.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

No obstructions. Good light. Distance of 10-25 yards. Swarovski EL 10x42 binoculars and Canon 100-400mm L lens.

Previous experience with this species:

Seen numerous times in the past. A relatively common bird elsewhere in the country. Also seen in this location previously and subsequently numerous times.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Mourning Dove and Rock Pigeon are the most common confounders in the area and both are ubiquitous. African Collared-Dove is the probably the closest possible confounder and I have seen that a handful of times. Other rare pigeon/dove species are pretty easily eliminated based on plumage and would also be much rarer.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Many have seen before and after this sighting. Known breeding location

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

None needed

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

5 years. Filing a report due to continued presence in this location for many years and desire to focus Review Committee efforts on this species occurring elsewhere in the state.

Name:

Derek D. Courtney

Address:

Date:

Signature:

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee  
Attn: Wil Hershberger  
170 Stallion Ct.  
Hedgesville, WV 25427  
Or E-mail to:  
wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

This species is known as a breeder in this location and has persisted for several years in Union and local environs. Provenance is not really an issue. They are known to be breeding in the wild here per breeding bird atlas surveys. Identification seems the only issue worth discussing. Mourning Dove and Rock Pigeon are very common birds all over the state. Neither of these species exhibit the classic "collar" of the Eurasian Collared-Dove. Mourning Dove is also a noticeably smaller, more petite bird. And while Rock Pigeon exists in a wide variety of plumages, none really aligns with that of a Collared-Dove. Separation from African Collared-Dove, which could be an escapee, requires some attention. Both species have the collar mark. However African Collared-Doves are noticeably paler overall than Eurasian. This difference is most pronounced on the primaries which are lighter in African and do not show as much contrast with the mantle or rest of the wing as in its Eurasian counterpart. The undertail of an African is also appreciably light, approaching white, in coloration, and lighter than the belly, whereas in Eurasian, the undertail was more gray and darker than the belly. For those reasons. This bird checks the box as a Eurasian.

