

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The photographs clearly show a Eurasian Collared-Dove. It's especially fortunate that the photos depict the undertail coverts, thus ruling out domesticated "Ringed Turtle-Dove," which would have all-white undertail coverts, unlike Eurasian Collared-Dove, and this bird, which has black feathering at the base of the tail. In addition, the counties of the Eastern Panhandle are areas in which Eurasian Collared-Dove could be expected.

CM2: This is a well-documented record. The photos and description show an obvious Collared-Dove. The description is somewhat lacking in differentiating between this species and African Collared-Dove which is a possible escapee. However, given the behavior and photographs, we can reasonably eliminate African Collared-Dove as a possibility with views of the plumage and undertail. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM3: Written description supports the identification. The photos also support the identification against other similar species.

CM4: The photos were sufficient enough for me to make an identification of the bird under consideration. The black half collar crescent on a Eurasian Collared-dove is visible in one of the photos. The dark outer web lining the white square tail tip is very visible in both photos. The vocalization of the Eurasian Collared-dove is distinguishable from a Mourning Dove and other dove species, so the fact that the submitter consulted with an electronic recording (Merlin) of the birds vocalization is further support. It would have been ideal to have a recording of the vocalization, but the photos are clear enough to ID that this bird is a Eurasian Collared-dove. There was a previous sighting of a Eurasian Collared-Dove a few years ago in Martinsburg, which I believe was documented by Matt Orsie. The sighting came from Tom Masters of Martinsburg. The current sighting is only about one mile north of the previous sighting, as the bird flies. Both sightings were in the Martinsburg urban area where there are a number of abandoned buildings housing Rock Pigeons, which could be good roosting habitat for Eurasian Collared-doves. It appears to be just a matter of time before a breeding population of the Eurasian Collared-Doves is confirmed in Martinsburg, as this bird spreads its range north.

CM5: I vote to include the Martinsburg, WV sighting of the Eurasian Collared-dove record for the official State List. The EUCD was photographed which is acceptable by our bylaws. The written evidence provides a description of the found EUCD. The observer had previous experience and his report differentiated from the Mourning Dove which would be the common dove of the area. Therefore, this report meets the standards set by the by-laws for inclusion on the official State List.

CM6: Nice photos. Seems as if they might have been there for a while.

CM7: The pictures say it all. The bird is clearly a Eurasian Collared-Dove. The fact that the birds have been seen in the area for multiple years indicates they are staying around and establishing a breeding population. Thus, not just Exotic. We will likely be adding more to the state list as this species continues to expand its range.