

## Eurasian Collared-Dove – Greenbrier County (July 2021)

Unanimously Accepted to the State List (7-0)

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The written description, and especially the photographs, clearly indicate that the bird was a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Fortunately, one of the photographs shows the pattern on the underside of the bird's tail, which matches that of Eurasian Collared-Dove and rules out the very similar African Collared-Dove, also called Ringed Turtle-Dove. Furthermore, the location of this sighting is not far from the state's only known breeding population of this species in neighboring Union County.

CM2: Possibly one of the birds originally from Union or a descendent of the original group. Could suggest expansion of the colony at Union, since Fairlea is not too far away. The gray undertail coverts seen in the photographs rule out African Collared-Dove and Ringed Turtle-Dove and are more diagnostic for Eurasian Collared-Dove.

CM3: This reviewer votes to include Eurasian Collared-Dove (EUCD) on WV State List. This is sandy gray bird with narrow black collar on hindneck which is edged with white. Under tail-coverts gray, undersurface of tail with contrasting black-and white pattern are present in photos as are the black bill, and legs/feet mauve-red. The EUCD is distinguished from Ringed Turtle-Dove by gray vent versus white vent feathers. The EUCD is distinguished from Mourning and Zenaida Dove by black collar and squared tail. The Spotted Dove is darker with black and white spots on the hind neck. The observation report include excellent photographs with field marks to distinguish from other similar doves.

CM4: Photographs confirm the species.

CM5: Dark Primaries distinguish it from possible escaped African-collared Dove. Species seems to be expanding its range into West Virginia.

CM6: Clear picture. I initially thought it might be an escaped African Collared Dove but revised my thoughts after careful inspection of the photographs.

CM7: The photograph provides sufficient positive evidence that the specimen is a Eurasian Collared-Dove. The black half-ring on the back of the neck of a bird with a distinct dove shape, size and color is the key identifying mark since the similarly colored Mourning Dove does not have this ring. The three-note call mentioned by the observer is also distinctive for the species and supports the identification. The only other likely dove would be a White-winged Dove but this specimen lacks the white wing edges and the black mark is on the back of the neck, not the side.