

Eurasian Collared-Dove – Randolph County

Unanimously Accepted to the State List (7-0)

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Although the report does not contain a written description of the bird, we can rely on the photographs to conclude that this is a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Despite the fact that the photographs are a little blurry, they do show most of the field marks of this species. The undertail pattern is not visible, which can be important in ruling out the similar African Collared-Dove, sometimes called Ringed Turtle-Dove. However, this bird seems to have huffy overtones, whereas African Collared-Dove would tend to be more of a ghostly white. Therefore, I am comfortable calling this a Eurasian Collared-Dove.

CM2: Although the description is not extensive, photographic evidence is provided that shows the gray undertail coverts contrasting with the white tail feather, along with the other characteristic field marks for this species. The birder is also very experienced with this species.

CM3: This reviewer votes to include the Eurasian Collared-Dove on the state list. The observer had prior experience and provided photos to show diagnostic narrow black collar on hindneck with white edging. The observer's report presented enough detail to accept the identification.

CM4: Photograph confirms the species.

CM5: Lighting is tough in the enclosed photos but seems to show darker primaries. I'm more influenced by the experience level of the submitter. The species is expanding its range slowly in West Virginia so this is not surprising.

CM6: The second photograph clearly shows the telltale dark streak on the rear of the neck. The species should be expected to expand beyond its Monroe county presence over time, given the spread of the range for this species.

CM7: The photograph provides sufficient positive evidence that the specimen is a Eurasian Collared-Dove. The black ring on the back of the neck is the key identifying mark since the similarly colored Mourning Dove does not have this ring. The bird was not heard vocalizing but the distinctive size, shape and color of a dove with the black half-ring on the back of the neck is undeniable. 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.