

Eurasian Collared-Dove – Greenbrier County (July 2021)

Unanimously Accepted to the State List (7-0)

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The written description and the photographs indicate that this bird was a Eurasian Collared-Dove. This may be the same bird that had been seen earlier in Greenbrier County, or its presence may be an indication that this species is expanding its range from the nearby breeding population in neighboring Monroe County.

CM2: The submitter provides photographic evidence that show most field marks clearly. The gray undertail coverts are not readily visible in the photos provided. However, other similar species have very different calls from the three note Eurasian Collared-Dove call noted in the record. Like other sightings around Lewisburg, this bird could represent an expansion of the group at Union.

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. The report form include supporting text, photographs and audio to document the species identification.

CM4: Description and photographs are accurate for this species.

CM5: Submitter has previous experience with the species just a week before and with the small population Union, WV. Photos look good for Eurasian-collared Dove. Multi toned wings and dark primaries. He mentioned audio but I could not find it included with the submission.

CM6: Clear documentation provided

CM7: The photographs 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. The only question is whether this bird is the same individual seen in Fairlea, WV (about 10 miles away) a week earlier on 4/12/21. It is certainly possible for a bird to fly 10 miles in seven days, but this is less likely given the species' generally sedentary lifestyle. The fact that it was April and in the beginning of spring migration is the only fact to give credence to the bird moving north 10 miles. Despite this possibility, I am confident enough that it was another individual and should be counted as such, given the expanding population in this region of the state.