

Eurasian Collared-Dove – Greenbrier County (February 2022)

Unanimously Accepted for the State List (7-0)

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: The attached photograph clearly depicts a Eurasian Collared-Dove, and recent records considered by this committee indicate that the species seems to be expanding its range northward from neighboring Monroe County.

CM2: The submitted record has a good description of the bird and a photograph that provides sufficient field marks to identify the bird as a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Given the close approximation of Ronceverte to Union and observations of this species in the last two years in this general area, it is likely that these doves are finally expanding their range beyond Union.

CM3: One of many successful species introduced to the North American fauna in recent history, the Eurasian Collared-Dove was first released the mid-1970s. Since its introduction, this dove has spread quickly across the North American continent. This reviewer votes to include the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) on the State List. The report included a visible description and differed from the Mourning Dove which was in the immediate vicinity. The observer had previous experience with this collared-dove as did the second observer. A photograph was included with the report which gave definitive identification proof. The report did not compare to the African Collared-Dove, but I believe the photograph gives enough evidence to eliminate it due to no black trailing edge to the underwing and lack of all white undertail coverts.

CM4: Photographic evidence is consistent with this species. Location and species description are adequate.

CM5: They have spread into that area. Nearby Union, WV is a known haven for them in the last several years. Ronceverte is only 10 air miles from Union. I lightened up the enclosed supporting photo to show the additional clinching ID characteristic of gray undertail in addition to the nape semi-collar and dark primaries.

CM6: Clear photographic evidence was presented. The reporters were experienced with the species, and this county has recorded the species previously. In addition, the species regularly occurs in Monroe county which is nearby. There is considerable evidence that this species is slowly gaining a foothold in the state, and I expect that it will soon be off of the review list.

CM7: As usual the photo is the key to the identification of this dove. The photo shows a clear black half-neck ring. There are two possible doves in North America with a black half-neck ring and both are introduced. The two possibilities are Eurasian Collared-Dove and Ringed Turtle-Dove. However, Ringed Turtle-Doves are only escapees in southern cities and do not have any known established populations in the US. Additionally, Ringed Turtle-Doves are mostly white on the tail and the photo indicates a darker bird although the lighting makes this marker difficult to verify. However, Eurasian Collared-Doves have also been seen in this general area of WV and would be more expected.