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Eurasian Collared-doves Collected in Florida

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Eurasian Collared-Doves collected in Florida.—In November 1985, while vacationing at Islamorada, Monroe Co., Florida, the senior author stopped to watch a group of about 80 "ring-necked" doves (as they are widely known among aviculturalists) *Streptopelia* sp. which were visiting a groundfeeder off U. S. 1 in the neighborhood where one was first reported on 30 December 1980 (W. B. Robertson in Sprunt 1981). Prompted in part by a recently published note by Yank and Aubry (1985) as well as by his own experience in Europe, Smith studied these birds at length and concluded that they appeared to satisfy the size and plumage characteristics of the Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. About the shape but slightly larger than a White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* and much larger, paler, and more square-tailed than a Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*, these birds possessed such subtleties of plumage that it was difficult to describe them adequately. They were pale grayish sandy brown, somewhat lighter and more pinkish gray on the head, neck, and underparts than on the back and mantle with a black half-ring on the hindneck, which in many individuals seemed to be superimposed on a wider white ring. Significantly, the pinkish gray color of the underparts was essentially uniform to and including the undertail coverts. From below, the basal half of the tail was brownish black, with the remainder a shade of grayish white. However, when the birds were at rest, the tail appeared to be nearly uniform in color with the back, often showing little or no white. The

color of the primaries was browner, particularly above, than was the color of the remainder of the wing.

Kale first noted similar doves, which may have been present in the area earlier, nesting along with White-winged Doves in a nursery a few blocks west of Krome Ave. (S. R. 27) in Homestead, Dade Co. Florida, in the spring of 1982. In January 1986, Smith was watching some of their burgeoning numbers nearby when he finally heard one give a clearly trisyllabic, unrolled "kuk-koooooo'-kook" call, ruling out the possibility that it was any form of the so-called Ringed Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia 'risoria'* (hereinafter referred to as the Domestic Collared-Dove), which shares the rolling, essentially bisyllabic "kooeek-krrrroooooo(aw)" call of the African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* and now generally is considered to have descended from it (Vaurie 1961, Chappuis 1974, Goodwin 1983, Cramp and Simmons 1985). Frivaldszky, in describing *decaocto* in 1838, named it onomatopoeically based upon a Greek legend about a dove's call (as recounted by Fisher 1953); Shelley (1883) believed that *roseogrisea* was the parent species of '*risoria*'; and Hartert (1916) discussed similarities between *roseogrisea* and '*risoria*' while emphasizing the difference in vocalizations between '*risoria*' and *decaocto*. Nevertheless, many early ornithologists (and even some modern ones, reflected in A.O.U. 1983) were less certain or had different opinions as to the relationships between these taxa. Peters (1937), for example, treated *decaocto* as the parent species of '*risoria*' while others considered *decaocto* and *roseogrisea* (and hence '*risoria*') to be conspecific (*vide* Vaurie 1961). Thus, the literature abounds with nomenclatural inconsistencies, sometimes rendering it difficult to discern correctly the status or characteristics of a given population.

The problem of identification is compounded by the fact that the Domestic Collared-Dove has been the object of hundreds of years of aviculture, and considerable variation now occurs in its plumage and measurements (Goodwin 1983). A common form, often called the Blond Ringdove by aviculturists, has been marginally established in Los Angeles, California since at least 1929 (Grinnell 1929) and in St. Petersburg, Pinellas Co. Florida, since at least 1953 (Sprunt 1954). It is a bit smaller and is more creamy (usually lacking in grayish or pinkish tones) than the Eurasian Collared-Dove, with a white belly and undertail coverts and often with a noticeably white tip to the upper side of the tail when at rest. While this is the form usually depicted in field guides as the Barbary or Ringed Turtle-Dove, Smith has seen ones in certain aviaries and petshops in Florida, all giving similar vocalizations, but differing widely in size and ranging in plumage from the darker parent type (i.e. like *roseogrisea*) to pied to all white (either with or without a hindneck ring). Most are raised locally and appear currently to be sold mainly to young couples for release at their weddings(!). However, Goodwin (1983) points out that the fear of strange or moving creatures seems to have been bred out of '*risoria*', and consequently it has failed to establish a viable, expanding wild population anywhere in the world despite numerous releases.

To be certain of the identity of the *Streptopelia* doves multiplying rapidly in south Florida, Kale collected four individuals on 30 April 1986 from the population at Florida City near Homestead (Table 1). The study skins were brought to the American Museum of Natural History in New York by Smith, where they were compared to a large series of all 16 species of *Streptopelia*. Here, their identity as *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto* was confirmed. In addition to *decaocto*, eight other species of *Streptopelia* doves occurring in Africa or the orient possess dark hindneck rings. Four of these, the Cape Collared-Dove (*S. capicola*), the Vinaceous Collared-Dove (*S. vinacea*), the White-winged Collared-Dove (*S. reichenowi*), and the Red Collared-Dove (*S. tranquebarica*), all are much smaller than *S. decaocto*, or are otherwise very distinctive in plumage. The Javan Collared-Dove (*S. bitorquata*) is similar in size and color but has a scaly iridescent hindneck ring that flares at the sides as well as a whitish vent and more extensively dark undersides to the tail. The Red-eyed Collared-Dove (*S. semitorquata*) is much darker in overall color tone. Individuals

Table 1. Measurements of *Streptopelia* doves collected 30 April 1986 at Florida City, Florida.

| # | Sex | Total Length | Right Wing | Tail | Weight |
|-----|-----|--------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 390 | F | 298 mm | 180 mm | 138 mm | 173 g |
| 391 | F | 304 | 168 | 134 | 180 |
| 392 | F | 286 | 167 | 137 | 160 |
| 393 | M | 291 | 178 | 141' | 173 |

'Measured by P. William Smith after preparation; all other measurements by H. W. Kale before preparation.

of natural populations of the African Collared-Dove are smaller, especially in tail measurements, slightly paler, have a white vent, more extensively white outer tail feathers, and often show a white tip to the tail at rest when viewed from above. The nominate race of the Mourning Collared-Dove (*S. decipiens*) seems to be the most similar in size and plumage to *S. decaocto*, differing mainly in having a more deeply pink neck contrasting with a gray occipital area.

Some of these species vary considerably over their ranges, and other taxonomic treatments can be found. The discussion above generally follows Peters (1937) (except for 'risoria') and Goodwin (1983), who along with Chappuis (1974) in particular, believed that vocalizations represent a critical factor in the speciation of this group. The two generally accepted subspecies of *S. decaocto* in addition to *S. d. decaocto* apparently consist of fairly small, remote populations: *S. d. stoliczkae* in Chinese Turkestan, which is larger and paler than *decaocto*; and *S. d. xanthocyclus* in Burma, which is larger and much darker than *decaocto*, with a yellow ring of bare skin around the eye (Peters 1937, Vaurie 1961). *S. d. decaocto* occurs from India west to Europe, where it has undergone a remarkable explosion in population and range since 1930 (Fisher 1953, Cramp and Simmons 1985). It was also introduced into parts of eastern China and Japan before 1830 (Long 1981) and accidentally into the Bahamas about 1975 (pers. obs., Green 1977, *contra* Bond 1980 and A.O.U. 1983), where it is also expanding rapidly. The south Florida specimens were entirely typical of *S. decaocto* and showed no evidence of introgression due to prior hybridization with any other *Streptopelia* species, as might be expected if the population had strong avicultural roots. The probable origin of the birds in Florida is still under investigation. The results of the continuing research, along with more detailed notes on the identification and current American range of the Eurasian Collared-Dove, will be published subsequently.

Specimens HWK 393 and 391 have been given to the American Museum of Natural History and have been catalogued as AMNH 817191 and 817192, respectively. They are the first specimens of the Eurasian Collared-Dove collected in the United States.

We thank Allison Andors and Mary LeCroy of the Museum for their kind assistance and confirmation of the identity of the specimens secured in Florida. W. B. Robertson and Anthony White called our attention to important relevant papers, and Susan A. Dolder assisted with translations. This work was made possible in part by the Allen D. and Helen G. Cruickshank Award to Smith by the Florida Ornithological Society.

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REPORT

FOS records committee report.—This is the second report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee. It contains 47 records, of which 35 were accepted and 12 were not accepted because identification was not considered certain. These records include a few received by the Committee in 1982 and all those received in 1983 and 1984.

Committee members who served during this period or voted on some of the documents at a later date were Lyn Atherton, Oron Bass, Margaret Bowman, Robert Crawford, Lucy Duncan, Wally George, Wayne Hoffman, Larry Hopkins, Howard Langridge, Peggy Powell, and Henry Stevenson.

All sightings of rare birds in Florida should be submitted on the FOS Documentation Form to the current secretary of the Records Committee. Further information on Bylaws and the operations of the Records Committee may be found in the first report of the Committee (Bowman, 1983 Fla. Field Nat. 11: 42).

All records published thus far have been placed in a permanent file in the FOS Archives at the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, where they are available for research. Documents were submitted by: Lyn Atherton, Evelyn Barbig, Oron Bass, Robert Bradley, Michael Britten, Robin Carter, James Cavanagh, Ruth Cooper, Annette Cordano, Robert Crawford, William Dowling, Charles Duncan, Robert Duncan, Randall Evanson, Dave Goodwin, Gary Graves, Lise Hanners, William Hunter, Thomas Imhof, Fred Johnson, Kelton Jones, Howard Langridge, Gail Menk, Jeff Moore, Cathleen NeSmith, Bruce Neville, Stephen Patton, Peggy Powell, Tim Regan, Don Roberson, William Robertson, Ted Robinson, Tom Schooley, Betty Ann Smith, Marjorie Sokol, Bob Sokol, Annette Stedman, Stanley Stedman, Henry Stevenson, Doug Stuckey, Paul Sykes, Philip Tetlow, Clem Titzck, Tazdui Trotsky.—Peggy Powell, 2965 Forest Circle, Jacksonville, Florida 32217.