

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/28/00

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Jul 1999

Rutland, Humboldt Co., IA

*John F. Smeltzer, Jr.

P-0636, IBL 70:96, 145

Record Number: 99-34

Classification:

DOCUMENTATION

John F. Smeltzer, Jr., 3015 West Lake St., Fort Collins, CO
80521

PHOTOGRAPHS

John F. Smeltzer, Jr., 22 Dec 1999, P-0636

REFERENCES

Field Reports: 70:96

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

VOTE:

□

Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa DOCUMENTATION FORM

Submitted by: John F. Smeltzer, Jr. 3015 West Lake Street, Fort Collins, Colorado

Date Submitted: January 22, 2000.

What Species: Eurasian Collared Dove

How Many: 6 individuals

Location: Town of Rutland, Humboldt County, Iowa

Type of Habitat: Seen repeatedly and photographed at bird feeder/waterer.

When: Multiple times in Summer, Fall and Winter 1999.

Observers: John F. Smeltzer, Sr. family. Rutland, Iowa

Others with you: Entire family (wife, daughter, son, father, mother, brother)

Others before you: Unknown

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The birds were photographed and photos have been submitted. If more are needed contact John F. Smeltzer, 3015 West Lake Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (970) 221-3682. These birds have been observed since July 1999. Two were first seen in late June 1999 or early July coming to the bird feeders of John and Patricia Smeltzer of Rutland, Iowa. The birds were observed throughout July and into August. John Smeltzer, Sr. reported to have heard them "calling" when he went on his early morning walks eastbound out of Rutland along the Three-Rivers Trail. Later in the summer a total of 6 individual birds were seen at one time coming to the feeders. These birds remained in the area and were photographed on December 22 and 23 by John F. Smeltzer, Jr. A phone call made today (January 22, 2000) confirms that 6 birds continue to come into the feeders. Temperature have dipped below -10 degrees fahrenheit on a couple of occasions this winter with at least one spell below -15 degrees F. The birds are very "pigeon" like. They are slightly larger than a mourning dove. Their color could be described as "buff" or "tan". The underside of their tail feathers is virtually all white. They have a distinct black "band" or slash mark around the back of their neck. The birds are very wary and may flush without too much disturbance. They spend considerable time in the nearby trees preening both before and after feeding.

Similar species and how eliminated: Mourning dove.....they were too large and the wrong color.

Common pigeon.....too small, wrong color as well.

Ringed dove.....domestic and too fragile for the environment they were surviving in.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

Yes, my mother was certain from her bird books that they were actually the "ringed dove." They are apparently in the same genus.

Viewing conditions: Optimum. Bright sunlight, 10-20 yards, at bird feeder for long time. Video tape and photos taken.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: None.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Iowa Ornithological Union.

How long before field note were made: Explained in description. Observations have been ongoing.

MAIL TO: T.H.Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240