

Ringed Turtle-Dove

15 Jul 1977

Des Moines, Polk Co., IA

Helen Peasley

also 3, 14 Sep; Peasley 1977, Brown 1978

Record Number: 81-IR

Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Peasley, H.M. 1977. Ringed Turtle Dove in Des Moines. IBL  
47:112.

Brown, W.H. 1978. That Ringed Turtle Dove again. IBL 43:143.

VOTE (1981): on record 2-III, 5-VI (on ID 4-III, 1-IV)

VI(III), but probably an escapee.

VI(III), Better, some description. No reason to believe got to  
Iowa on its own.

III, details good, single observer.

VI(IV), description plausible but bird was banded ergo  
possible escapee.

VI(III), See comments under record #1.

Peasley, H. M. 1977. Ringed Turtle Dove in Des Moines. Iowa Bird Life 47:112

Ringed Turtle Dove in Des Moines -- For several weeks I had been hearing a different dove call in the yard. My frequent attempts to locate the dove were unsuccessful. Several days would elapse between my hearing the calls. On July 15, 1977, I again heard the dove calling in a large oak tree in the front yard but could not locate it. Upon entering the house, I glanced through a window and on the ground about twenty-five feet away were two Mourning Doves and a dove I had never before seen. It was sand colored with a black crescent on the back of its neck and a short tail in contrast with the long tapered tail of the Mourning Dove. It was giving the same call I had been hearing for several weeks. As I watched, it chased one Mourning Dove away and disappeared behind some shrubs with the other Mourning Dove. I picked up my binoculars and went outside just in time to see the two doves flying away together, the Mourning Dove in the lead. I heard it call twice that afternoon but have not seen it since.

I was sure I had not observed this dove before. Identification of my new bird as a Ringed Turtle Dove was made easy by *Birds of North America* which lists it as "a common cage bird that has become a local resident in central downtown Los Angeles, in Tampa and Miami." Although I have four and five Mourning Doves eating daily under the Niger seed bird feeders, no Ringed Turtle Dove has ever appeared with them. After traveling over the United States and Canada looking for life birds, I certainly was thrilled to find one in my own yard. HELEN M. PEASLEY, 2001 Nash Drive, Des Moines.

Brown, W. H. 1978. That Ringed Turtle Dove again. Iowa Bird Life 48:143

That Ringed Turtle Dove again. -- One summer day in 1976 Dean Mosman, a licensed bander, received a call from a resident in the north-central part of Des Moines. The call referred to a strange bird which had been induced to enter a cage. Dean identified the bird as a Ringed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) and banded it with a F & WS band. On 15 July, 1977, Mrs. Helen Peasley called me to say that a Ringed Turtle Dove was in her yard (IBL XLVII: 112). The bird, or another of the same species, appeared in her yard on 14 September, and this time an aluminum band was noticed on the left leg. In the meantime, on 3 September I received a "what kind of bird is it?" call from R. H. Cunningham of Norwalk, a few miles south of Des Moines. From Mr. Cunningham's description this was a Ringed Turtle Dove. It had been feeding for some time on autumn olives in his yard and was quite tame. It could be approached to within a few feet and an aluminum band was plainly seen. A few days later Gene and Mrs. Armstrong saw the bird in the Cunningham yard and confirmed the identification. It has recently been learned from Dr. Dinsmore that Ringed Turtle Doves are being bred at ISU in connection with genetics studies, but it is thought improbable that the Polk Co. bird is an escapee from there. -- WOODWARD H. BROWN, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.