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Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Expansion in
Nebraska: 1997-2003

Mark A. Brogie and W. Ross Silcock

Following the recognition of its presence in Florida in the mid-1980s (Smith and Kale 1986), the Eurasian Collared-Dove has spread in spectacular fashion northward and mostly westward in the interior of the United States, arriving in Nebraska only about 15 years after its discovery in Florida. Prior to its establishment in the United States, the Eurasian Collared-Dove had undergone a similarly spectacular expansion westward across Europe beginning in the area of Albania and the former Yugoslavia in the 1930s and finally colonizing Great Britain in the late 1950s. Available evidence regarding the source population for its establishment in Florida points strongly to the dense population in the Bahamas (Smith 1987). This population was established by the importation of perhaps 50 birds from the Netherlands in the early 1970s by an aviary owner. Some escaped as the result of a break-in to the aviary where they were held, prompting the aviary owner to release the remainder in 1974 (Smith 1987).

The American Birding Association (ABA) added the Eurasian Collared-Dove to its Checklist in 1994, based on an established breeding population in Florida (DeBenedictis 1994). At the time of its addition to the ABA Checklist, the records farthest from Florida were in Louisiana and Arkansas (DeBenedictis 1994). At the same time, the ABA Checklist Committee removed from its Checklist Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*: this "species" is thought to be a domestically-produced strain of African Collared-Dove *S. roseogrisea*), as it was believed that there were no longer any established, self-sustaining populations in North America (DeBenedictis 1994). There are occasional reports of Ringed Turtle-Dove in Nebraska, but all appear to be birds released or escaped from captivity.

The first Nebraska record of Eurasian Collared-Dove was a single bird at the feeder of Marty Mathieson in Shelton, Buffalo County on 29 November 1997. This bird was not identified to species until about 6 December (RH, LR; *Nebraska Bird Review* 1997, Volume 4).

Following is a table showing published and unpublished first county records of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Nebraska and first county records of nesting. For published records, references to the relevant *Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR) volume and page number are given.

While this is the most up-to-date information known to the authors, additions and corrections are welcome and solicited.

Literature cited:

- DeBenedictis, P.A. (1994). "ABA Checklist Report, 1992". *Birding* 26:92-102.
Smith, P.W. (1987). "The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas".
American Birds 41:1371-1379.
Smith, P.W. and H.W. Kale II (1986). "Eurasian Collared-Doves collected in
Florida". *Florida Field Naturalist* 14:104-107.

Table 1. Records of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Nebraska, by county, 1997-2003.

Year	County	Location	Date	Observer(s)	Comments
1997	Buffalo	Shelton	29 November		NBR 65:168; 1st evidence of breeding in state; in Kearney 22 April 1998, see NBR 66:42-43, 92, 131; 67:9
1998	Nuckolls	Superior	11 July	DEC fide SJD	NBR 66:92
1998	York	Bradshaw	22 August	JGJ	NBR 66:131
1999	Pierce	Pierce	23 July	MAB	NBR 67:95; 1st evidence of breeding in county, same date
1999	Thayer	Carleton	November	VW	
2000	Cass	Elmwood	21 February	GW	1st evidence of breeding in county, same date, see NBR 68:19, 68, 116, 158
2000	Clay	Sutton	6 August	JGJ	NBR 68:158; 1st evidence of breeding in county, same date
2000	Cuming	West Point	29 February	TB	
2000	Dakota	Dakota City	23 January	BH, JJ, RDW	NBR 68:19
2000	Dawes	Whitney	28 February	DnH	1st evidence of breeding in county 6 November 2000, nest in a hackberry tree in Chadron, reported by Phyllis Burk
2000	Hitchcock	Culbertson	23 October	RS	
2000	Keith	Ogallala	22 January		NBR 68:19
2000	Kimball	Kimball	22 August	TLE	NBR 68:158; 1st evidence of breeding in county, bird carrying nesting material in Bushnell, 31 August 2002 (MAB)
2000	Lancaster	Lincoln	17 August	KB	
2000	Phelps	Holdrege	2 September	JM, JV	
2000	Scotts Bluff	Gering	9 November	DD, PD fide AK	NBR 68:158-159
2000	Stanton		16 September	BrW	one taken during dove season is 1st specimen record

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Year	County	Location	Date	Observer(s)	Comments
2000	Washington	Blair	15 July	JeJ	NBR 68:116
2000	Wayne	Wayne	26 September	FW	
2001	Cheyenne		3 June	SJD	
2001	Dawson	Lexington	11 November	RH, LR	
2001	Deuel	Big Springs	4 March	SJD	NBR 69:62
2001	Douglas	Omaha	9 July	unk	
2001	Dundy	Haigler	29 April	SJD	NBR 69:62
2001	Garden	Oshkosh	3 June	SJD	
2001	Greeley	Spalding	21 January	CN, DN	NBR 69:11
2001	Kearney	Minden	11 April	MR	1st evidence of breeding in county, 2000 (no date) in Minden, see NBR 69:173
2001	Knox	Creighton	2 October	EB, MAB	NBR 69:173; 1st evidence of breeding in county, bird carrying nesting material, 19 April 2003 in Creighton (MAB)
2001	McPherson		10 June	JT	
2001	Morrill		9 July	SJD	1st evidence of breeding in county 12 May 2002 in Bayard, fide AK, see NBR 70:62
2001	Nemaha	Johnson	13 October	DS	
2001	Rock	Bassett	27 November	BW	1st evidence of breeding in county, juvenile bird found in Bassett, 11 July 2002 (CH)
2001	Saunders	Memphis	16 October	DS	
2001	Seward	Seward	23 September	JG	NBR 69:173

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Year	County	Location	Date	Observer(s)	Comments
2001	Thurston	Pender	16 September	DH	
2002	Box Butte	Alliance	18 February	unk	NBR 70:12
2002	Butler	Bruno	28 December	NP	
2002	Chase	Wauneta	29 December	MAB	
2002	Custer	Arnold	30 December	MAB	
2002	Dixon	Wakefield	27 January	JJ	NBR 70:12
2002	Dodge	Ames	10 September	DP, JP	NBR 70:148
2002	Fillmore	Geneva	30 March	JGJ	
2002	Furnas	Cambridge	21 April	LR	
2002	Hall	Wood River	17 January	MM	NBR 70:12
2002	Hamilton	Hampton	10 June	JG	NBR 70:108
2002	Harlan	Alma	20 October	GH, WH	NBR 70:148
2002	Holt	O'Neill	27 July	DS	NBR 70:108
2002	Johnson	Tecumseh	4 May	MAB, DS	
2002	Lincoln	North Platte	10 May	KP, WRS	
2002	Valley	Ord	29 September	RH, LR	NBR 70:148
2002	Richardson	Falls City	12 March	MAB	NBR 70:62
2002	Sarpy	Gretna	4 October	DS	
2003	Antelope	Clearwater	7 February	MAB	Best count to date: 32 birds in Clearwater 8 Feb 2003 (DH)
2003	Banner	Harrisburg	18 April	DH	

Table 1. Records of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Nebraska, by county, 1997-2003.

Year	County	Location	Date	Observer(s)	Comments
2003	Boone	St. Edward	4 January	DH	
2003	Brown	Ainsworth	10 August	EW	
2003	Burt	Tekamah	13 August	JGJ	
2003	Colfax	Howells	24 October	MAB	
2003	Frontier	Curtis	7 March	TJW	
2003	Gage		2 March	DS	
2003	Garfield		26 October	RH, LR	
2003	Howard	St. Paul	22 November	RH, LR	
2003	Franklin	Franklin	17 May	MAB, DH	
2003	Merrick	Central City	7 July	TJW	
2003	Nance	Krakow	4 January	DH	
2003	Perkins	Grant	20 May	TJW	
2003	Platte	Humphrey	4 January	DH	
2003	Polk	Stromsburg	18 January	DH	
2003	Red Willow	McCook	15 May	TJW	
2003	Sheridan	Gordon	31 August	BB, EMB, JB, MAB, DS	1st evidence of breeding in county, 2 adults and 3 immature-plumaged birds observed in Rushville, 30 December 2003 (MAB, ME, JG, DS)
2003	Sioux	Wind Springs Ranch	15 April	HH	
2003	Webster	Red Cloud	3 August	MAB, DS	
2003	Wheeler	Bartlett	14 June	MAB	

As of the end of 2003 there were still 20 Nebraska counties without records of Eurasian Collared-Dove. They are: Adams, Arthur, Blaine, Boyd, Cedar, Cherry, Gosper, Grant, Hayes, Hooker, Jefferson, Keya Paha, Logan, Loup, Madison, Otoe, Pawnee, Saline, Sherman, and Thomas.

Observers:

(AK) Alice Kenitz, (BB) Ben Brogie, (BH) Bill Huser, (BW) Bruce Wiebe, (BrW) Brant Wolff, (CH) Carolyn Hall, (CN) Colleen Noecker, (DCE) David C. Ely, (DD) Dean Drawbaugh, (DH) David Heidt, (DnH) Dan Hedberg, (DN) Don Noecker, (DP) Don Paseka, (DS) Dave Stage, (EB) Ellen Brogie, (EMB) Ed M. Brogie, (EW) Emogene Whitten, (FW) Frank Wood, (GH) Glen Hoge, (GW) Gertrude Wood, (HH) Helen Hughson, (JB) Joe Brogie, (JG) Joe Gubanyi, (JJ) Jan Johnson, (JeJ) Jerry Jorgensen, (JGJ) Joel Jorgensen, (JM) John Miller, (JP) Janis Paseka, (JS) Jon Strong, (JT) Jerry Toll, (JV) Jeff Vifquin, (KB) Keith Brown, (KP) Kevin Poague, (LE) Larry Einemann, (LR) Lanny Randolph, (MAB) Mark A. Brogie, (ME) Mike Ellis, (MM) Marty Mathieson, (MR) Mike Rader, (NP) Nathan Pieplow, (PD) Phyllis Drawbaugh, (RDW) Randall D. Williams, (RH) Robin Harding, (RS) Robert Sitzman, (SJD) Stephen J. Dinsmore, (TB) Ted Buchholz, (TLE) Ted L. Eubanks, (TJW) T.J. Walker, (unk) unknown observer, (VW) Vern Wachtel, (WH) Wanda Hoge, (WRS) W. Ross Silcock

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