

## Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*



**Folk Name:** (none)

**Status:** Resident

**Abundance:** Rare to Uncommon

**Habitat:** Urban areas and agricultural sites

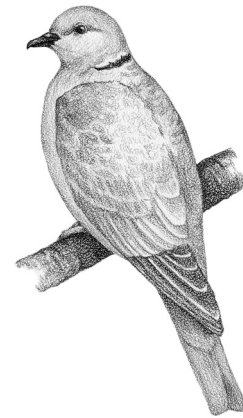
The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a true alien invader in our region. It is an exotic species that has been rapidly colonizing the United States over the past 30 years. The population in this country appears to have spread from a small population that was intentionally introduced in the Bahamas during the 1970s. To non-birders, the Eurasian Collared-Dove may resemble our native Mourning Dove as it is somewhat similar in size and appearance, but the two are distinct species. It is a larger dove, with a dark neck ring and a squared-off tail, versus no neck ring and a pointed tail on the Mourning Dove.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove appears to have first expanded into the Carolinas in the early 1990s. The first record for North Carolina was a bird photographed at Salvo on the Outer Banks on July 31, 1994. They were first found in South Carolina at Myrtle Beach in September 1994.

The first published sight record of a Eurasian Collared-Dove in the Central Carolinas was a bird sighted in Conover on April 21, 1999; however, local residents reported the birds were present at the same site in 1998. In 2000, there were six birds present, and nesting has continued at that location. Eurasian Collared-Doves were first seen in Mecklenburg County on February 25, 2003. Taylor Piephoff found one sitting on a wire along Tom Short Road, not far from where Polo Ridge Elementary School sits today. Since these initial reports, Eurasian Collared-Doves have continued their expansion, and they have now been reported in almost every county throughout the region. At some sites, more than 20 birds have been counted at one spot.

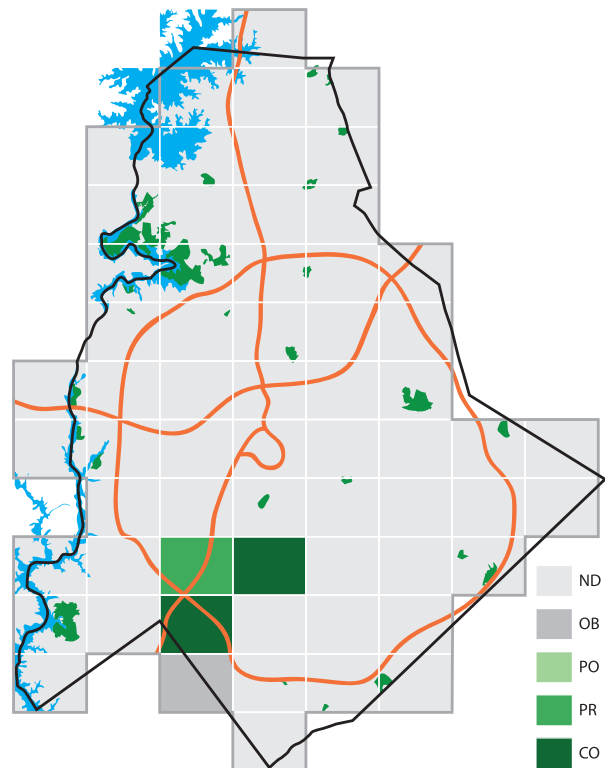


*Eurasian Collared-Dove on nest in May. (Phil Fowler)*



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Mecklenburg County BBA volunteer John Scavetto was the first to confirm Eurasian Collared-Doves nesting in the county. He found a flimsy nest at the U.S. Post Office in Pineville on April 27, 2011. He photographed young birds there on May 16, 2011. That December, the Eurasian Collared-Dove made its debut appearance on a Charlotte Christmas Bird Count.



**Mecklenburg County Breeding Bird Atlas:**  
*Very Local (PR/1, CO/2)*