

Ryder's Woods would not exist today if it weren't for the dedication of a small group of conservationists. In 1963, the City of Woodstock owned about one-third of what is now Ryder's Woods. Developers wanted to build on 6.5 adjoining acres which would have disturbed the area's integrity, and no doubt, the birds. The Friends of Ryder's Woods, formed from the Woodstock Garden Club, convinced city officials to nix the development plan.

"I am so amazed at what a few people with such determination accomplished back in the 1970s," said

Baade. "They fought long and hard - even standing in front of bulldozers sent to clean out the area one day - to save this small parcel of land and the potential it held for so many to come and enjoy nature. Many have done so since and I can count myself among the fortunate to have had this wonderful woods to wander in."

Ryder's Woods "has been an easily accessible and enjoyable place to bird, with enough surprises, such as Summer Tanager in the spring of 1994 to keep me coming back," she said.

Editor's Note:

We'd love to hear about your favorite little birding spot close to home. If you want to write a short article on the subject, or even if you would like someone to interview you and write it for you, please contact Sheryl De Vore at 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060. In the meantime, get out your maps and check out these little-known, but worthwhile birding hotspots in Illinois.

TABLE 1 - A comparison of field guide descriptions of two wild *Streptopelia* species with the Ringed Turtle-Doves found in the Brookfield area

Characteristic	African Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>)	European Collared Dove (<i>S. decaocto</i>) (<i>S. "Risoria"</i>)	Brookfield birds
Body size	slighter, markedly smaller 25 cm.	larger (31-33 cm.)	larger and bulkier than Mourning Doves (28-33 cm.)
Neck collar	broad, more noticeable white edges	narrower, less white edging	white edges visible to naked eye
Primaries	paler, lacking dark primaries, no dark wingtips	darker, open wing darkest on primaries, blackish wingtips	noticeably darker
Upper side of tail	darker than upperparts	uniform with rest of upperparts	uniform with upperparts
Lower half of belly	white lower belly	uniform pale grey upperparts	white
Undertail coverts	white undertail coverts	uniform pale grey upperparts, greyer undertail coverts	coverts white
"Song"	rolling, cooing notes, "cuu-curruuu", rolling kooek- krreroooooaw, usually accents first syllable	tri-syllabic, doo-doo-doo, kuk-koooooooo-kook, accents middle syllable	both songs have been heard
Call	quiet when not singing	catbird like mew call, nasal harsh kwarr	no calls have been heard

Sources: DeBenedictis 1994, Farrand (ed.) 1983, Heinzel et al. 1988, Hollom et al. 1988, Jonsson 1992, Peterson et al. 1993