

Ringed Turtle-Doves in Brookfield

by Nancy Bent

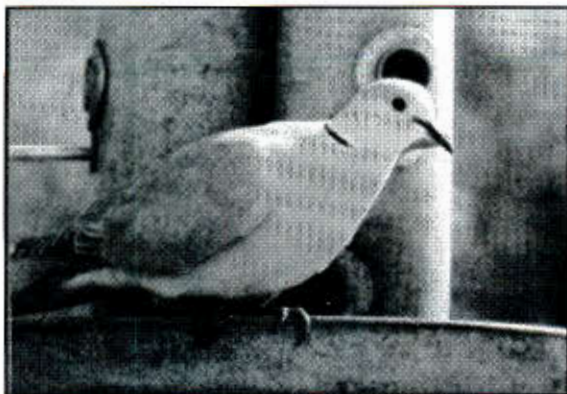
In the early 1980s a new bird species appeared in the village of Brookfield (Cook County) and on the grounds of the Brookfield Zoo when the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia 'risoria'*) arrived. Commonly kept as a cage bird, this species was observed both alone and in mixed flocks with Mourning Doves

(*Zenaida macroura*) foraging on the ground and perching on garage roofs and power lines. It quickly learned where the local bird feeders were.

Ringed Turtle-Doves, also known as ringdoves, domestic colored doves, Java doves (Goodwin 1983), or Barbary doves (Heinzel 1972, American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Peterson 1993), can range from slightly smaller than Mourning Doves to noticeably larger. Coloration is also variable and depends on the parent stock, as this species has been bred in fawn ("blonde"), albino, and pied forms, along with the wild coloration of pale rosy grey

with darker earth brown back and wings (Urban et al. 1986). In Brookfield, birds of all types can be observed at a feeder, but a careful observer will note that after some time the smaller white and pied birds will disappear and all the birds will resemble the larger, bulkier wild type with rosy grey coloration. It is probable that the more exotically colored birds are more easily preyed upon and are therefore removed from the local population. Those that do survive will then be forced to pair with the resultingly more numerous wild type birds and will tend to produce chicks of the wild type, as wild coloration is dominant to the domestic colors.

The Ringed Turtle-Dove is usually considered to be the domestic form of the African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) (Long 1981, Sibley and Monroe 1990, De-



Ringed Turtle-Doves at feeder in Downers Grove, Cook County, 3 May 1992. Photos by Sharon Tharp.