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Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Ringed Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia "risoria"*

In many parts of the world, the Ringed Turtle-Dove is a common cagebird, known by a variety of names such as the Ringed Dove, Ring-necked Dove, Java Dove, and Barbary Dove. Smith (1987) suggested the name Domestic Collared-Dove be used for all types of *S. "risoria"*. It is believed that the birds are not a distinct species but a naturally occurring mutant of the African Collared-Dove (*S. roseogrisea*) (Goodwin 1983). Because of their popularity and resultant escapes from captivity or intentional release, feral birds may be found virtually anywhere. The white doves used by magicians are a variety of the Ringed Turtle-Dove, and numbers of these are released during weddings and other ceremonies.

Habitat. Like most doves, Ringed Turtle-Doves feed largely on grain and seeds and are especially attracted to (and dependent on) bird seed supplied by humans. In fact, the birds have become so tame, they frequently fly inside the homes of local residents to be fed (B. Pranty, pers. obs.)! In St. Petersburg, Ringed Turtle-Doves nest along quiet residential streets and alleys. In typical dove fashion they lay 2 white eggs in a flimsy stick nest in a tree or shrub. Incubation takes 14 days, and the young fledge at 14 days of age (Goodwin 1983). It is not known how many broods are raised per year.

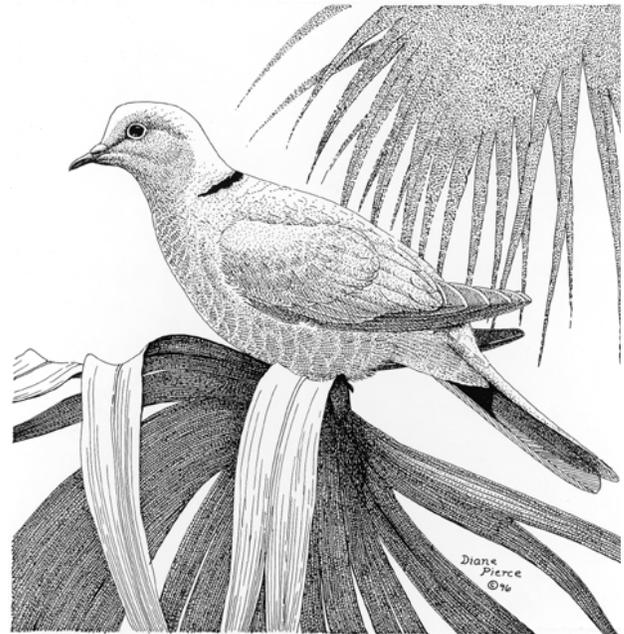


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Seasonal Occurrence. Ringed Turtle-Doves are year-round residents in Florida.

Status. Occasionally, a breeding population becomes established, as in St. Petersburg, where 3 nesting pairs were found by S. Grimes in 1953 (Sprunt 1954). This population still exists, but remains confined to a small part of the city. First reported in Florida in Dade County in 1922 (Bailey 1925), Ringed Turtle-Doves have now occurred in 27 counties in the state (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). During the Atlas project breeding was confirmed in St. Petersburg in Pinellas County, in Okaloosa County in May 1988 (S. and J. Brickell, BBA data), and on Walt Disney World property in Orange County in 1988 (M. Gudger, BBA data). "Possible" breeding records were found in Okaloosa, Hernando, Pasco, Broward, and Dade counties; and "probable" breeding records occurred in Pasco, Dade, and Monroe counties.

Easily confused with the much more common and widespread Eurasian Collared-Dove, the Ringed Turtle-Dove is slightly smaller and paler. The best way to separate the 2 is by voice. The Ringed Turtle-Dove gives a rolling "kooeek-KRRRROOOO(aw)," while the Collared-Dove's call is a simple, "kuk-KOOOOOOO-kook" (Smith 1987). Turtle-Doves also give a unique "heh-heh-heh" excitement cry (Goodwin 1983), which gives it its specific name *risoria* is Latin for laughing (Smith 1987).

Only documented records of Ringed Turtle-Doves are shown on the accompanying map. The Atlas project received numerous other reports, which did not rule out the possibility of the birds being misidentified *Eurasian Collared-Doves*.

Little research has been conducted on the Ringed Turtle-Dove population in St. Petersburg, but it is known that some Turtle-Doves are interbreeding with Eurasian Collared-Doves also present in the area (Smith 1987). However, a few hundred *S. "risoria"* were still present in St. Petersburg through December 1995 (B. Pranty, pe

commun.).

Bill Pranty

Ringed Turtle-Dove

