

Contrasting Points In The Middle Of Two Ring-Doves (Aves: Columbiformes)

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ABSTRACT

In this world, there are many ring-doves. Perspective Bangladesh, there is only one Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in nature but very similar other exotic species Barbary/Fawn dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) is available in the aviary. After a long time of observation of *S. risoria* (fawn dove/Barbary dove) with the wild species *Streptopelia decaocto*, only the size difference was prominent. In addition, due to selective breeding, the fawn doves have gained many colour mutations. *Streptopelia decaocto* is a completely wild bird and *S. risoria* is a domestic or cage bird all over the world. There were differences in their voice quality and learning behaviour (Table 1; Plates 1-5).

Keywords: Ring doves, *Streptopelia decaocto*, *Streptopelia risoria*, Barbary dove, Fawn dove, domestication, selective breeding, colour, mutations

INTRODUCTION

In the case of the Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), *decaocto* was a servant girl transformed into a dove by gods to escape her unhappy treatment. Eurasian collared-doves made their way to North America via the Bahamas, where several birds escaped from a pet shop mid-1970s. Bird feeders and trees planted in urban and suburban areas are the main factors in the species colonization of the continent (www.allaboutbirds.org). Whereas, the Barbary dove/Barbary turtle-dove (*Streptopelia risoria*/Turtur risorius, Latin word *risoria* means laugh) has so long been domesticated in England that its original habitat has become rather uncertain (Alderson, 1911) [1]. *Streptopelia/Spilopelia* these genera are considered synonyms of *Columba* (Gibbs et al., 2015) [2]. In Bangladesh, *Streptopelia* has 4 genera (Kabir, 2021) [3]. Baker (1913) [4] mentioned two subspecies of *Streptopelia risoria*—*Streptopelia risoria risoria* (Indian ring-dove) and *S. r. xanthocyclus* (Burmese ring-dove). The objective of this article is to make a complete difference between two common ring-doves of Bangladesh though one is wild and the other one is domestic as well as exotic bird.

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO TYPES OF DOVES

There are some differences between two types of ring-doves

but specifically size, colour, voice, and learning behaviour were the basic point on this query.

Table 1: Difference between *S. decaocto* and *S. risoria*.

Features	<i>Streptopeliadecaecto/Columba decaocto</i>	<i>Streptopelia risoria/Turtur risorius</i>
Alternative names	Eurasian collared dove, Indian/Eurasian ring-dove, Collared turtle-dove	blond ring-dove, domestic ring-dove/collared dove, fawn dove, Barbary dove/Domesticated turtle-dove
Subspecies	Goodwin (1970) [5] mentioned three subspecies of this dove— <i>Streptopelia decaocto decaocto</i> (in India), <i>S. d. stoliczkae</i> (China), and <i>S. d. xanthocyclus</i> (in Burma)	Baker (1913) [4] described two subspecies of this dove— <i>Streptopelia roseogrisea roseogrisea</i> , and <i>S. r. arabica</i>
Distribution	Asia, Europe	Southern Europe, Western Asia, and various parts of Africa
Domestication history	This is completely wild	Long domesticated form of the African collared dove, <i>S. roseogrisea</i> , and it has past hybridization with <i>S. decaocto</i>
Dependency	Largely dependent on man for food in winter	Completely depend on humans
Total length	32 cm	30 cm
Tail length	Larger tail	Smaller than <i>decaocto</i>
Voice	Very clear and narrow	Coarse laughing voice
Colour	Primaries are black; rump feathers are silver	Light drab primaries; rump and upper tail feathers are grayish drab; under parts and under tail feathers are near black and white
Mutations	Since this is wild, so it has no other colour mutations	Ringneck dove is available in over 40 colour mutations are a little more complicated because some of the mutations are sex-linked and some are co-dominant (Soucek, 2006) [6]
Status	Wild birds; resident but shows local migration (Ali and Ripley, 2001) [7]	Often locally established feral or semi-feral condition (Goodwin, 1970) [5]
Learning behaviour	For its wilderness, it is not easy to handle	Due to domestication, this is easy to pet
Longevity	18 years	23 years



Plate 1: *S. decaocto*



Plate 2: *S. risoria*

Photo Courtesy: @Jim Merritt, Macaulay Library © (2023)



Plate 3: Sample from taxidermy (left-ventral; right-dorsal) (source: van Grouw) [8].



Plate 4: Colour variation (source: Fitter and Richardson [9] **Plate 5:** Wing feathers (source: van Grouw) [8]



CONCLUSIONS

Perspective Bangladesh, there are vast possibilities to breed *S. decaocto* with *S. risoria* in the cage. In petshops or home, many people keep this dove *Streptopelia risoria* (fawn dove). We could study the genetic material of the squab after identifying their different parents *S. decaocto* and *S. risoria*. *S. risoria* is a small version of *S. decaocto*. Kabir (2014) [10] unconsciously mentioned the breeding or colour genetics of the Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) instead of fawn dove (*Streptopelia risoria*).

The flying of *S. risoria* is very poor and cannot cope with the natural environment, and it has no homing ability. In addition, due to domestication and huge selective breeding it has gained huge colouration as well as a crested bird (Kabir, 2019) [11] and *S. decaocto* are completely wild till now. For storing the purity of the genetic material of *S. decaocto*, we should special care of *S. risoria* as if they could not escape from the cage. People sometimes catch wild doves to keep in the cage. For strong 'Wildlife Act' now doves in Bangladesh are surviving well and increasing enormously in nature (Kabir, 2020) [12].

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