

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Bird · Resident · here all year



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A slim, pale sandy-buff dove with a narrow black half-collar edged white on the back of the neck, a dark eye and a long square-ended tail with broad white corners. Collared doves are common in Dumfries gardens, farmyards and around grain stores, usually seen in pairs. Their arrival is one of the most extraordinary range expansions ever recorded in a European bird.

BEHAVIOUR

The song is a monotonous three-note 'coo-COO-coo' with the stress in the middle, repeated endlessly from a roof ridge or aerial, plus a harsh nasal call in flight. They feed mainly on grain and seed on the ground and are strongly associated with human food sources. Breeding can happen in almost any month, and pairs will re-use the same flimsy stick platform repeatedly.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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

FAMILY	Pigeons and doves (Columbidae)
SIZE	31–33 cm
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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