

## ABOUT FROSTY COLOR AND HOW TO TELL FROSTY AT HATCHING

To diagnose blond -frosty (double mutant) we generally have had to wait until the feathers come in on the squabs. Then they look "bluish" and have a "grizzling" in the mid-flights visible when the wing is spread out. Frosty on the dark background (single mutant) is closer to the dark (wild type) color and the grizzling is less pronounced.

We do not yet know what the homozygote =double dose frosty (which will be purebreeding) looks like. From Gary Hardings' personal communication, the double dose frosty is likely to be whitish. But the regular sex-linked recessive white is often present in the frosty males confusing the issue for now. A whitish male as an offspring from frosty x frosty parents would be good evidence that frosty is a codominant instead of a regular dominant.

The evidence is becoming clear now for the heterozygous (one gene dose) frosty that they never show a bill ring at hatching and have a whitish bill tip. So the frosty mutation has what we call pleiotrophic action. It shows "bluish" or "cool" color plus mid-wing grizzling and a whitish bill tip and (therefore) no bill ring at hatching.

W. J. Miller.....October 1990

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## WILD COLLARED RINGNECKS NOW IN THE USA

Wild ringneck doves have established wild populations in Florida and are beginning to migrate north! Eastern USA bird enthusiast William Hartranft and biologist P. William Smith have brought this invasion to my attention.

These invaders are not escapees or released from our cages: they are from Europe. They are not really our *Streptopelia risoria*, though they closely resemble our domestics. They are bigger-bodied with dark under-tail coverts, and have a different voice. They can "laugh" loudly while flying.

This invader species has already invaded throughout Europe from Turkey in the past 30 years. How they got to the U.S. A. is not clear yet. The Bahamas Islands are suspected as the recent source of origin.

We should call them the Turkish Dove. The scientific name is *Streptopelia decaocto*.

Reference: Smith, P. W. 1986 Florida Field Naturalist 14: 104-107.

"Eurasian collared-doves in Florida"

.... W. J. Miller