

Case 3380***Columba roseogrisea* Sundevall, 1857 (currently *Streptopelia roseogrisea*; Aves, COLUMBIDAE): proposed conservation**

Thomas M. Donegan

ProAves Foundation, 33 Blenheim Road, Caversham, Reading, U.K.
(e-mail: thomasdonegan@yahoo.co.uk)

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Streptopelia roseogrisea* (Sundevall, 1857) for the African collared dove. The name is threatened by its senior subjective synonym *Streptopelia risoria* (Linnaeus, 1758), which is in use for the domestic form of *S. roseogrisea*. It is proposed to conserve the name *Streptopelia roseogrisea* (Sundevall, 1857) by ruling that the name is not invalid because it is pre-dated by a name based on a domestic form.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; *Streptopelia roseogrisea*; *Streptopelia risoria*; *Streptopelia decaocto*; ringed dove; ringed turtle-dove; barbary dove; African collared dove; collared dove.

1. *Columba risoria* (ringed dove, ringed turtle-dove or barbary dove) was described by Linnaeus (1758, p. 165) and later transferred to the genus *Streptopelia* by Bonaparte (1855, p. 17). Ringed doves are kept in captivity in many parts of the world, being used frequently in biological research (e.g. Zenone et al., 1979; Walker et al., 1983; Janik & Buntin, 1985; Cheng, 1986; Cate et al., 1993; Georgiou et al., 1995) or as pets by bird fanciers. Feral populations of *S. risoria* have been found in the United States (Robbins et al., 1983, p. 168; National Geographic, 1999, pp. 236–237), the Virgin Islands (Raffaele et al., 1998, p. 299), the Canary Islands (Svensson et al., 1999, p. 390), the Balearic Islands (Snow & Perrins, 1998, pp. 852–853), the U.K. (British Ornithologists' Union, 2006), elsewhere in Europe (Peterson et al., 1983, p. 131) and Colombia, South America (Donegan & Huertas, 2002). Ringed doves are considered 'introduced' in North America (American Ornithological Union, 2000; Banks et al., 2006), 'hypothetical' (pending confirmation of a sustainable population) for South America (Remsen et al., 2006), possibly introduced in Colombia (Salaman et al., 2007) and 'Category E' in the U.K. (British Ornithologists' Union, 2006).

2. *Columba roseogrisea* (African collared dove) was described by Sundevall (1857, p. 54) and is a wild species found in south-west Mauritania and Senegal, Gambia east through Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan to west Ethiopia and coastal Eritrea and Somalia and Arabia to South Yemen. *S. roseogrisea* is the name given to wild populations in all literature of which I am aware (e.g. Sibley & Monroe, 1990; Dowsett & Forbes-Watson, 1993; Baptista et al., 1997; Snow & Perrins, 1998, pp. 852–853; Svensson et al., 1999, p. 382; Gibbs et al., 2001; Johnson et al., 2001; Dickinson, 2003, p. 161; *BirdLife International*, 2005). Two subspecies are currently

recognised (Dickinson, 2003): the nominal subspecies and *S. r. arabica* (Neumann, 1904).

3. Due to their morphological similarities *S. risoria* is widely considered to be a domestic descendant of *S. roseogrisea* (Bonaparte, 1855; Goodwin, 1983; Sibley & Monroe, 1990; Snow & Perrins, 1998, p. 852; Banks et al., 2003). Some domestic and feral *S. risoria* individuals can be differentiated from wild *S. roseogrisea* populations due to leucisms (lighter feathers) which are more common in domestic populations and, possibly, average larger tail size (Goodwin, 1983; Snow & Perrins, 1998) and call (Dowsett & Forbes-Watson, 1993). However, some domestic and feral individuals of '*S. risoria*' in Colombia (pers. obs.), Tenerife (pers. obs.) and Mallorca (Snow & Perrins, 1998) are essentially indistinguishable from wild ancestral *S. roseogrisea*. Wild and domestic birds interbreed in captivity and *S. roseogrisea* is a tame species, possibly leading to multiple insertion of wild stock to domestic populations over time. Captive birds resembling wild populations interbreed freely with leucistic individuals in captivity. *S. risoria* and *S. roseogrisea* are therefore conspecific under most if not all concepts in modern use and as such have been considered synonymous by various authors (American Ornithologists' Union, 1998; Svensson et al., 1999; BirdLife International, 2005; Remsen et al., 2006; Banks et al., 2006).

4. As was noted by Gentry et al. (BZN 53(1): 28–37, 1996) for mammals, most bird species with both domestic and wild populations have only one scientific name. Examples of bird species which include or sometimes include distinctive domestic forms but for which the same name is used include *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, 1758 (domestic duck/mallard), *Meleagris gallopavo* Linnaeus, 1758 (wild turkey/turkey), *Numida meleagris* (Linnaeus, 1758) (helmeted guinea-fowl), *Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus, 1758 (common pheasant), *Coturnix coturnix* (Linnaeus, 1758) (common quail), *Melopsittacus undulatus* (Shaw, 1805) (budgerigar) and *Serinus canaria* (Linnaeus, 1758) (canary). Other bird species name-pairs *Columba domestica* Linnaeus, 1758 / *Columba livia* Gmelin in Linnaeus, 1789 (feral pigeon / rock pigeon) and *Gallus domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) / *Gallus gallus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (chicken / red junglefowl) may require Commission attention in the future but are not the subject of this application. In Opinion 2027 (Case 3010), the Commission conserved the usage of specific names for 15 Mammalia, one Lepidoptera and one Osteichthyes species based on wild species each of which was pre-dated by or contemporary with a name based on a domestic form (BZN 60: 81–84, 2003). The relevant case was controversial and generated much interest and many responses, all cited in Opinion 2027. I propose that a similar approach be adopted here for consistency and to promote stability and universality.

5. Considerable confusion is apparent in the ornithological literature as to the correct nomenclature for the ringed dove and African collared dove. The name *S. risoria* has been considered unusable by some (e.g. Peters, 1937, p. 92; Sibley & Monroe, 1990; Banks et al., 2006) but multiple examples of frequent recent usage nonetheless exist. Feral populations have been referred to in a number of ways, for example '*S. risoria*' in inverted commas (e.g. Snow & Perrins, 1998; *National Geographic*, 1999; British Ornithologists' Union, 2006), sometimes within a species account for *S. roseogrisea* (e.g. Snow & Perrins, 1998), '*S. roseogrisea* var. *risoria*' (Svensson et al., 1999) or simply as *S. risoria* (Zenone et al., 1979; Walker et al., 1983; Robbins et al., 1983; Janik & Buntin, 1985; Cheng, 1986; Cate et al., 1993; Georgiou

et al., 1995), sometimes with a note as to questions over the taxon's nomenclature (e.g. Donegan & Huertas, 2002; Remsen et al., 2006). Banks et al. (2006) recently changed the American Ornithologists' Union's official name from *S. risoria* to *S. roseogrisea* on the basis that Opinion 2027 enshrines a 'general principle' regarding the treatment of names for domestic and feral species. However, Opinion 2027 applies only to the species mentioned therein. Numerous references to the name *S. risoria* in the literature cited above and confusion caused through the proliferation of non-Code compliant systems for the nomenclature of domestic and feral forms (described further in Gentry et al., 1996, pp 28–37) are reasons behind this application.

6. The case of these two species is complicated somewhat by the apparent reference to individuals of other (currently) *Streptopelia* species in the description of *Columba risoria*. Linnaeus (1758) included only a brief, ambiguous text and referred to descriptions by Aldrovandi (1599, p. 510), Willughby (1678, p. 184, pl. 35), Ray (1713, p. 61) and Albin (1738, p. 42, pl. 45). These works include plates and descriptions of birds similar to leucistic, domestic ringed doves (Aldrovandi and Willughby plates; Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'male'), African collared dove (possibly, Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'female') and wild Eurasian collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldszky, 1838, pp. 183–184, pl. 8) (Albin's plate and description and, possibly, Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'female'). Probably as a result, Baptista et al. (1997) noted that *S. decaocto* and *S. risoria* could be synonyms. However, almost all other literature on the topic ignores Linnaeus's (1758) references to *S. decaocto* or wild *S. roseogrisea* material in the description of *S. risoria* and treats *S. risoria* as referring to domestic populations of the ringed dove, to which the majority of illustrations and descriptions referenced therein refer. In a separate paper, I intend to designate a neotype for *S. risoria* in order to stabilise its nomenclature further and note this issue herein only for completeness.

7. The confusion caused by the existence of the names *S. risoria* and *S. roseogrisea* is particularly an issue for the nomenclature of feral populations of this species, some individuals of which are indistinguishable from ancestral stock. Such birds have traditionally been assigned to *S. risoria* (references above) but recently have been called *S. roseogrisea* (Banks et al., 2006). If the Principle of Priority (Article 23.1 of the Code) were applied, the name *S. risoria* would take precedence, contrary to the position adopted for other species in Opinion 2027.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *roseogrisea* Sundevall, 1857, as published in the binomen *Columba roseogrisea*, is not invalid by virtue of being pre-dated by a name based on the domestic form *risoria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Columba risoria*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *risoria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Columba risoria*;
 - (b) *roseogrisea* Sundevall, 1857, as published in the binomen *Columba roseogrisea*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by virtue of being pre-dated by a name based on the domestic form *risoria* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Columba risoria*.

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