

Turtle Dove

Species Description

Scientific name: *Streptopelia turtur*

The Turtle Dove is a small pigeon, just a little bit smaller than Collared Dove. It breeds in woodlands, orchards and well-wooded parks, mainly in the warmer, drier south and east of the UK. Adults feed on cereal and wildflower seeds, but feed their young 'pigeon milk' - a regurgitated, milky substance from a food-storage organ called a 'crop'.

This species is classified in the UK as Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds (2015). Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Listed as Vulnerable on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Photo: Amy Lewis

Key ID features

Blue-grey head with three or four black and white stripes on neck patch

Orangey-brown and black patterned back

Don't confuse with...

Collared dove. Has a purring 'turr turr turr' song, compared to the familiar 'hoo hoooo-hoo' of the Collared Dove. Single black and white stripe on neck



Photo: Gary Huston

Pink chest feathers



Text from The Wildlife Trusts (2018)