

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Spotted dove: pp 204-205.



### SPOTTED DOVE

**Family** Columbidae

**Species** *Streptopelia chinensis*

**Common names** Spotted Dove, Lace-necked Dove, Malay Spotted Dove

**Status** Introduced. An escaped cage bird.

**Abundance** Common in selected areas

**Size** 300 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Homing Pigeon 330 mm)

**Habitat** A bird of old gardens, parks, and forest verges.

**Worldwide range** Its origins lie in Asia and it is considered a bird of the tropics. In New Zealand its spread has been limited mainly to Auckland and nearby districts although bird sightings have come from other places such as Te Puke in the Bay of Plenty. In Australia its spread has been wider and even into Tasmania.

It is also common in some of the Pacific islands such as Fiji, New Caledonia and Samoa.

**New Zealand range** Common in many suburbs of Auckland and now slowly spreading both north to Warkworth and south to Hamilton.

### **Description**

**Head** Grey. **Neck** Delicate white spots, sprinkled over a wide black half-collar, on back of neck. **Upperparts** Grey-brown. **Underparts** Grey with a pinkish flush.

**Tail** Brown with outer feathers white, noticeable when in flight.

### **Conspicuous features**

- The undertail black and white when in flight.
- Spotted neck-collar.

### **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Fast flying showing a long tail when in flight.
- Feeds especially on gravel driveways and mown lawns.
- Calls from roof tops or chimneys.
- Commonly seen at dusk carrying out display flights, swooping steeply upwards and then stalling, dropping downwards before swooping up once again. These displays are part of its courtship ritual.

**Call** A tri-syllabic, “ku kuu kuk”, distinguishes it from the Barbary Dove which is bi-syllabic. Both species can be mistaken for the evening calls of the Morepork which are also heard in some Auckland suburbs.

**Nest** A twiggy structure at about four metres. 2 white eggs are laid.

### **Where to find – North Island**

**Auckland** – Epsom in the One Tree Hill, Mount Eden and Epsom areas.

**Auckland** – Remuera in areas near Mount Hobson.

**Auckland** – Westmere near Auckland Zoo and Western Springs. P. 297.

**Auckland** – Mangere at Puketutu Island across the causeway. P. 298.

**Auckland** – Howick on Point View Drive about 3 kms along. P. 300.

**South Auckland** – Clevedon to Kaiarau. P. 302.

**Bay of Plenty** – From Katikati to Te Puke.