

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN 'BARBARY DOVES' AND SPOTTED TURTLE-DOVES IN A SUBURBAN HABITAT. The 'Barbary Dove' *Streptopelia risoria* has been an occasional escape from captivity in suburban Adelaide (Paton and Barrington 1985), but in the Warradale area it was first noticed in Moy Avenue in early 2002. During spring that year, several individuals could usually be seen perched on wires in this street throughout the day. Within 18 months they had dispersed 0.5 km S to Gardiner Avenue.

Our garden in Gardiner Avenue has two resident pairs of Spotted Turtle-Dove *S. chinensis* as well as an ongoing stream of transients of this species, which is abundant throughout the neighbourhood. These pairs had shown no interspecific territoriality, ignoring other birds including the House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* that feed on the ground with them, but are strongly aggressive to their own species. The interactions between these and the 'Barbary Doves' are of interest.

The first *S. risoria*, a transient, appeared to be tolerated within the feeding territory of one *S. chinensis* pair, even when it occupied their currently unused nest for about four hours one day. They repeatedly approached within a few metres of the intruder but did not attack; and it is tempting to interpret this as their uncertainty whether to regard it as a conspecific or an allospecific bird.

In autumn 2004 a pair of *S. risoria* established a territory overlapping an *S. chinensis* territory in our garden. The *S. chinensis* rapidly developed aggressive behaviour toward them, soon preventing them from feeding on the ground during most of the day while allowing them to roost in a tree above the disputed territory. Aggression took the form of pursuit and wing slaps, as in fights with conspecific birds. One of the *S. risoria* pair was killed by a domestic cat in June; but within a week the territory was again occupied by a pair, which may have been the surviving original bird and another transient which had been seen in the area. These individuals were partially tame, as shown by their willingness to approach humans. On several occasions, one of them spontaneously perched

on my back or shoulder when pursued by one of the *S. chinensis*.

Over six consecutive mornings during August 2004, one *S. risoria* began advertising from a high perch just before sunrise, about 15 minutes ahead of the first *S. chinensis*. Its advertising call was slower and deeper than that of the *S. chinensis*, and was repeated less frequently. On the other hand, the *S. risoria* frequently used the 'he-he-he' excitement call, which may be homologous to the soft, drawn-out 'eeerrr' made by *S. chinensis* immediately after copulation. The excitement call of *S. risoria* was made during copulation, sometimes when alighting on a perch, and in aggressive interactions with *S. chinensis*, which replied with a variant of its advertising call. As shown by de Kort and ten Cate (2001) for another pair of *Streptopelia* species, there is some degree of response to vocalisations between related species.

In October a juvenile *S. risoria* was observed begging from one of the adults, suggesting that they had bred successfully. However, within two weeks both the pair and juvenile disappeared from the area. It is likely that there is a rapid turnover in the feral *S. risoria* population.

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