

INVASIVE BIRDS

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)



Starlings were released in New York City in the 1890's by Shakespeare enthusiasts and have since spread to Alaska (Kessel 1979). European Starlings are now among the continent's most numerous songbirds.

Starlings compete with native birds for nest sites and may evict other birds from cavities and destroy the eggs and nest (Kessel 1979, Koenig 2003, Barndt 2006).

The degree of detrimental impact from competition and eviction of native species is often predicted as relatively high; however, several scientific studies have shown these activities have little effect on the survival and abundance of native birds (Koenig 2003, Barndt 2006). Since Starlings do not appear to be causing significant declines in native bird densities and are found in disturbed habitats, efforts to control this species may be a lower priority than other invasives (Koenig 2003). Starlings can carry many diseases and parasites, whenever, their importance as vectors to other animals is unknown (Cabe 1993).

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

Rock doves were introduced to the United States as pets but quickly adapted to urban conditions. The largest concern is that rock doves carry a variety of parasites and pathogens that could suppress the health of native birds in Alaska. It is less likely that rock doves will transmit diseases to humans.



The Rock Dove is native to western and southern Europe, North Africa, and south Asia. Its domesticated form has been widely introduced elsewhere, and is common, especially in cities, over much of the world.



Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

This chunky relative of the Mourning Dove gets its name from the black half-collar at the nape of the neck. A few Eurasian Collared-Doves were introduced to the Bahamas in the 1970s. They made their way to Florida by the 1980s and then rapidly colonized most of North America.

