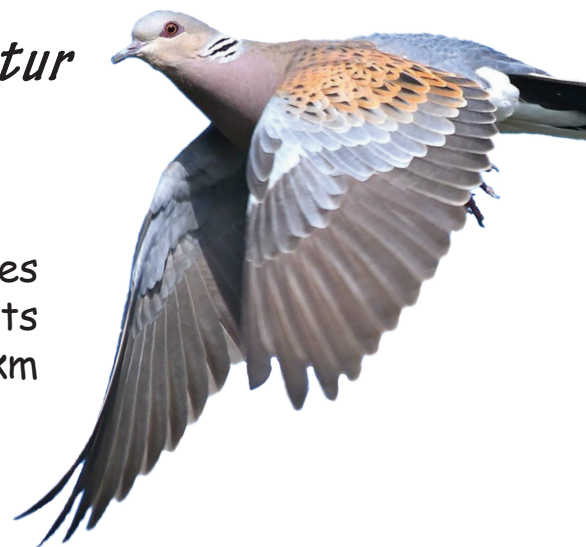




EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE

THE TURTLE
DOVE IS THE
UK'S FASTEST
DECLINING
BIRD SPECIES

Streptopelia turtur



The only migratory dove in Europe, turtle doves winter in west Africa gathering in massive roosts of up to 1 million birds. Sadly, this 5,000km migration may prove to be their downfall.

Despite their precarious conservation status huge numbers are shot as they make their migration, especially over mainland Europe, but also when they reach their wintering grounds in Senegal.



Some Countries, like France and Spain, have temporarily banned hunting this species, but is it too late to save them from extinction?

Numbers are estimated to have dropped by 80% in the past 40 years in Europe and up to 98% in the UK.

FACTS & FIGURES	
Where found	Most of Europe and the Middle East including Turkey and north Africa
Habitat	Open woodland, scrub, gardens
Diet	Seeds and grains
Average length	25-27cm
Average weight	130-150g
Number of eggs	2-3 eggs
Incubation	15-16 days
Lifespan	Around 10 years in captivity.

They generally arrive in the UK from mid April to mid May and return to Africa mid July to late September.

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST
for the European turtle dove



THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS **VULNERABLE** IUCN RED LIST

CURRENT POPULATION TREND: **Decreasing**

