Practice Week 1
Beginner Group

Goal: Familiarize yourself with the **visual** and **auditory** characteristics of the following **two** species:

- Mourning Dove
- Eurasian Collared-Dove

Visual ID: These two species are common year-round residents in urban areas, and it is possible that you will see any or all of them in your own neighborhood. Try to go outside and look for these birds to get a better understanding of their shape, size, movement patterns, and behavior. Look up each of these species in a field guide (I've provided a link to the allaboutbirds field guide in the table below) to become more familiar with their visual characteristics. Click the link to watch a video of the bird, which may also help you observe the bird's size, shape, movement, and how they might look out in the field.

Species	Code	Characteristics to look for	Video/Field Guide Links
Mourning Dove	MODO	• Plump body, small head and bill, long-tail • Wings make an airy whinny, or whistle as they take off *To differentiate from Eurasian Collared-Dove:* • Darker and smaller than EUCD • Tail is long and tapered in flight (rather than broad and squared) • Black spots on lower wings and rump (rather than uniformly gray/brown) • Dark smudge or dot on cheek (rather than dark ring on back of neck)	https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/id http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/479700
Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	• Large dove with squared tail. *To differentiate from Mourning Dove:* • Larger and heavier • Paler overall • Squared tail (rather than tapered)	https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eurasian_Collared-Dove/id http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/483137

Auditory ID: Below you will find recordings of some typical calls and songs for this week's species. Listen through the tracks and pay attention to the characteristic tone, patterns, call notes and phrasing that I have noted. After getting familiar with the recordings, go outside and see if you can hear any of these songs or calls. It will be easier for you to become familiar with and remember the songs if you hear them straight from a bird's mouth (especially if you can see the bird who is singing)! Remember- bird songs vary between individuals, and even within individual birds- try to listen to as many different songs as possible for each species to help you learn the songs!

Track #	Species	Code	Characteristics to listen for
1	Mourning Dove	MODO	The MODO song is a mournful and slow hooting, five-syllable: "oo-AAHH-hoo-hoo-hoo." Listen also to the light, airy whistle of the wings when they fly.
2	Eurasian Collared-Dove	EUCD	EUCD have a rhythmic, repeated, three-syllable hooting "coo-COO-coo!" With three syllables (instead of five) and an emphasis on the middle note, the song is rhythmically different from the mourning dove. When you are out, also listen for a very harsh and nasal sound made during flights.