

They call this a

## 'Rock Dove'

Real name: Feral Pigeon



They call this a

## 'Speckled Pigeon'

Real name: Rock Pigeon

And they call themselves

## 'Ornithologists'

SA Wingshooters emphatically disagrees with some of the new names used in the 7th edition of Roberts Birds of South Africa because they give rise to tragic confusion. Examples are 'spurfowl' for francolin (*frisante*), 'francolin' for [African] partridge (*patryse*) and 'speckled pigeon' for rock pigeon (*kransduif*). *Kopereend* (shelduck) is also widely known in Afrikaans as the (previously used) *bergeend*, while the *kransduif* (rock pigeon) is widely known as *bosduif* in the Cape (compared to *geelbek-bosduif* for the Rameron pigeon). The inappropriate 'red-eyed dove' (*groot ringnekduif*) is unfortunately persisted with in Roberts, causing confusion with the Afrikaans *rooi-oog tortelduif*, which is a different bird altogether. The name 'rock dove' for the feral pigeon is dangerously misleading because of hunting licence confusion with our most common wingshooting quarry, the rock pigeon. The rock dove is the wild ancestor of domestic pigeons the world over and now only occurs on the north and west coasts of Scotland and Northern Ireland and adjacent islands. The name 'feral pigeon' is widely used by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and in all English speaking countries around the world for domestic pigeons gone wild. To avoid unfortunate misunderstandings the widely accepted and common names for our gamebirds will be retained in future by SA Wingshooters as a matter of policy. We advise provincial departments to do the same to prevent criminalising decent law abiding people through unfortunate misunderstandings.

**Fortunately, they cannot prescribe to Shakespeare...**