The Blond Frosty Ringneck dove (previously known as “Frosty”), ADA color #11, recognized in 1989. Very similar in coloration to the "blond" colored Ringneck is a combination of the Blond (dB) and Frosty (Fr) genes. The inner web area of both the primary & secondary flights on both wings are grizzled (frosted). There may be white splotches in the tail feathers and on the back of the head. The neck ring is black with whitish tips. The eye color is usually red/brown, not orange typically seen in the Blond Ringneck. When trying to distinguish a "frosty" mutant, look for the "grizzling" or "frosted" areas of the primary & secondary flight feathers and a possible "bill stripe" in young. NOTE: in any pairing of two birds that are "frosty" or in combination with "frosty" there is a 25% probability of dead embryos or new hatchlings. The mutant "frosty" in a double dose of the gene causes a "lethal gene" 25% of the time.

The Silver Diamond dove, ADA color #113. Thought to be the first color mutation in Diamond doves. A dilute silver-gray color overall. Not showing any of the “bluish” or “rust-brown” coloring of the Wild Type. A delicate gray covering the head, neck, breast and wing coverts. The upper body is a little darker with the underline lighter (often almost white). The white wing dots have lost their dark edging. This mutation breeds true and is recessive to Wild Type. A key to identifying this variety is opening the wing and observing the dilute, "peach" coloring of the inner primary feathers edged in a medium to light grey (NO black edging at all). Females can be lighter overall than males.
President’s Message

Hello everyone,

I hope this finds everyone and their birds well and getting warmer day by day. With April here many breeding seasons are either under way or close at hand. Remember your Spring Check List: Look over your Cages & Flights for any Needed Repairs! Time to Clean & Sanitize Everything! Select Your Pairings & Set Up Their Record Sheets For The Season! Order your Bands & Prepare for this year’s Babies! Worm your birds! (especially if they contact the ground.) Sit Back, Observe & Enjoy Your Doves! Remember the Newsletter Archives are full of articles that can help you better your management and increase your success with your birds.

It is with great pride and respect that we announce the formation of the “Dr. Wilmer J. Miller Award” recognizing his years of dedication and continued scientific study of our beloved doves. Seeing Dr. Miller recognized and honored in this way is definitely a highlight of my term as president. See the article on page 3 to understand better the impact Dr. Miller has had on our hobby. Congratulations Dr. Miller.

Due to the current economy, etc., we were contacted by a few members about extending the membership deadline, reducing membership fees and/or changing criteria for being in the Directory. The Board discussed all options. We are all feeling the harder times, sharp increases in feed bills, etc. The Board felt our membership fees are very reasonable and need to be kept the same to carry the club forward. The Board did extend the deadline for the Directory by 6 weeks. Instead of a March 1st cut off, we will be accepting memberships until April 12th. Any paid member at that time will be in the Directory if they so wish. Look for your 2009 Members & Breeders Directory around May 1st. Please let us know if you do not receive yours by May 8th.

As you have obviously seen we are still producing the DoveLines, sent through the mail, in Black & White. We expect it to remain this way as we work through a budget. We also expect that without raising dues, increasing the number of advertisers and/or if we do not get many more members opting to not receive a DoveLine through the mail (viewing the full-color issue on line), we will not be seeing color back in the mailed issues any time soon. At some point in time, the Board will be making decisions about the DoveLine. A few members have suggested a vote on the issue. Due to previous lack of participation and not receiving a majority for a quorum, our constitution no longer provides for a membership wide vote. However it does dictate a period for the Board to hear from and consider opinions from the membership. The club does belong to you. We really need to hear from you! In the last 2 months we have heard from less than 10% of the membership about this issue. Please contact us and let us know your thoughts on membership fees and the DoveLine issues. E-mail is free, a Post Card is $0.27, a Letter $0.42, or call one of the Board members. My cell is: 301-606-6965.

I wanted to thank Beverly for sending me the cut-out shown on the front cover. It was part of a card she sent me. The work involved is obvious. I now have it displayed and enjoy it every day. I also wanted to thank the membership for sending their Letters to the Editor, Articles and Photos. This form of participation has picked up lately which is great to see and a big help in putting the DoveLines together. Please keep them coming. Also, please let me know what you would like to see in the DoveLine, what helps you the most.
Dear Jeff,

I was a little disheartened to read some of the letters to the editor in the last issue of the Doveline. I appreciate the fact that the editor has allowed opposing views a forum to register their opposition. I must say, however, that in my opinion the board of directors made the only logical decision when it came to changing the names of the color varieties of our birds. I am so sad to see this issue has polarized so much of our membership. We have all gravitated to this association because of our common interest in doves and it would be ideal for us to all be "on the same page."

Prior to visiting Dr. Miller last month, I myself was in the boat with the opposition. These names have been the same for many years now and why do we need to change them? I visited Dr. Miller to pick up birds I had purchased from him. We had an incredible chat during this visit and my knowledge of the field of genetics grew existentially. I realize that Dr. Miller was one of the voices behind the research that prompted the changes. It only makes sense to call our birds what they represent genetically. Anything other than that is misleading especially to newer members of our hobby or club. Change does not come easy for many of us. I am well aware of that and that was the likely basis of where my initial reluctance to the changes came from. In this instance change is for the better. We no longer feed our birds the things we fed them 20 years ago. Scratch grains and simple cracked corn are things of the past. As we learned more of the physiology of our avian companions, we "changed" their diets to better meet their needs. Simple changes for the betterment of our hobby. Over the years, many names or classifications of animal and plant species alike have "changed" as our scientific knowledge grew. I believe this to be much the same. This was not some highhanded decision made by any member or group of members within our association. Many years of research have gone into many aspects of Streptopelia risoria (our Ringneck doves). As keepers and propagators of this species we should feel a great deal of reverence to the men behind the science. So little is known genetically about many species commonly kept today. We are so fortunate to not be included among that group. We need not turn a blind eye to what research tells us. To do so is a proverbial slap in the face to the researchers who have spent so many years sorting it all out for us. Our organization seeks the respect and the support of the Zoological and scientific communities. If we are to not adapt the changes they have proven scientifically appropriate, how can we seek acceptance within these communities?

I do not mean to offend anyone here but, it is this simple...

WE NEED TO CALL THINGS WHAT THEY ARE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN TO BE.

Sincerely,  Dean Bradford-Buckley

Hey Jeff,

Received my copy of the Jan/Feb Doveline yesterday. Was surprised to see it in black and white. Always read the "President's Message" first and was relieved to learn the reasons for the unusual issue. The ADA has my complete support in a switch to the online offering. I do look forward to the arrival, in the mail, of my copy, but tough economic times call for cost saving measures. The obvious savings in this potential switch should not be ignored by the membership. I would be happy to reduce my "pull" on club dollars by receiving and viewing my copy online. The only thing that I request is that when the copy becomes available a notification be sent to my Email. The fact that this is also a "greener" way for the club to proceed makes this even that much more the right thing for us to do as a club.

Sincerely,  Dean Bradford-Buckley

Dear Jeff,

I hated getting the B/W version of the newsletter. By all means email me the colored version from now on. And thank you so much for the article on my lovlies you did in the Fall issue. I was so happy with it. I spend so much time with these crazy birds. I just love them. My winter prep wasn't enough for this vicious Ohio winter we had and they ended up in the guest bedroom again this year in Jan., but, I'm learning!

I had an incident that I'd like to share too. I was shocked speechless when it happened. I live in the city of Columbus. My dog is old and pays little attention to anything anymore but she was outside and I heard all the Doves start their warning coo. They were loud! I look outside and a Red Tailed Hawk was hanging on the side of their little coop!!! Thank goodness I used the steel garden wire with small squares and not just chicken wire or I believe he'd have been able to get in to them. There was an indented place in the wire where he was fighting at it but it didn't give any except to bend a little bit. I worry about cats or even rats but never dreamed a Hawk was a worry in the city! Maybe you could pass along to make sure everything is Hawk proof too. They can rip and tear a lot with their feet/claws. That's what he was doing, pulling with his feet and mouth/bill. Funny part of it is, the Doves didn't make a peep for days! Hahaha. Scared them coo-less! Sharon Flick

Dear Editor,

DoveLine Color: I was disappointed to see the color gone, and was going to the Internet. I for one would not use the DoveLine Internet, or want to be one of the few that would receive a ground Black & White DoveLine either. Maybe up membership dues $1.00 per year, or charge a fee for the classifieds. Please keep the color and the ground DoveLine alive. It was the DoveLine that got me to join, not the Internet.

I also agree with Jack Burnette on the color of doves. Sometimes it is best to leave well enough alone. If it is not broken, don’t fix it. But, to improve something is good too. But change is only to be different. We have 650+ members, vote on it, that is what members do.

Thank You,  Ken Heldt,  Sheboygan, WI
The American Dove Association Board of Directors is proud to establish the “Dr. Wilmer J. Miller Award.” An annual award acknowledging the scientific study of doves and accompanied by a grant of $100. The first of these awards is presented to Dr. Wilmer J. Miller, Lifetime Member, Ames, IA in recognition of his endless work and dedication; acknowledging his scientific study into the behavior, nutrition, breeding & genetics of doves and in appreciation of his contributions to the hobby of Dove and Pigeon Keeping while sharing his knowledge and birds with others willing and eager to learn. The board also awards the amount of $100 to Dr. Miller towards his further study and understanding of our beloved doves. In following years this award will be given to others known to follow Dr. Miller’s example of observation, record keeping and interpretation while working with Ringneck, Diamond, Exotic or Foreign doves.

Over the years our club and hobby has seen hundreds of participants. From people enjoying a single Ringneck as a beloved pet within their homes to people with hundreds of doves, be them one species or a few pair each of many species. Some enjoy their doves for what they are, their sounds, their colors, their nature. Others dig deeper as they manage the pairings, observe and record the resulting offspring, breed for type, sometimes showing their best. No matter where you fall within your own dove keeping, you have had questions about your birds. Why are they acting that way, what should you be feeding them, what should you do to help them have healthy babies, is the odd bird I have a mutation? Dr. Wilmer J. Miller has devoted a large portion of his life methodically studying, recording results and sharing his findings through his writings. His studies have touched on most aspects of Ringneck dove behavior, nutrition, genetics and management. If you have not visited his website, www.ringneckdove.com, please take the time to do so.

Born July 15, 1925 in Lawton, Oklahoma. He earned an AS in 1944 from Cameron State Agriculture College, Lawton, OK; a B.A. (Zoology) in 1948 from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; and a Ph.D. (Genetics and Zoology) in 1954 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Dr. Miller finished out his teaching years as Professor of Genetics, Iowa State University, 1980-1994. He currently lives in Ames, Iowa with his wife, Lotus. A year ago, in the March - April issue of the DoveLine, through photos we visited Dr. Miller’s newly built Bird Room for Genetic Studies. An outstanding facility, well designed and constructed for Dr. Miller to continue his studies and enjoy his birds. During this past year, Dr. Miller’s health has given him some pause. Diagnosed with COPD & PAD, Dr. Miller is requiring more help to maintain his bird room facilities and flock.

Dr. Miller is one of the longest running members of our association, joining and contributing from the very beginning, before we were even the A.D.A. For years he worked with and maintained the Iowa State University Dove Colony of some 600 birds whose records extended back to 1937, while studying over 40 genetic characteristics. During his teaching years at ISU, Dr. Miller essentially completed a survey of Introductory Genetics for college students in the upper classes (Junior-Senior) level. It was aimed at the ISU course Genetics 320. The genetics notes contained 291 pages. The primary purpose was to obviate the need for furious scribbling by students in taking lecture notes, allowing them to pay attention. The secondary purpose is to correct the misleading aspects of the manipulation of Mendelism in textbooks. The notes have since turned into a text book written by Dr. Miller and published by Ginn press, “A Survey of Genetics,” Second Edition, 1991. Scanning the index at his website you see the many discoveries and contributions attributed to Dr. Miller individually or in combination with others. He developed the Cloaca Method for sexing doves and pigeons. He is widely published including over 50 contributions to Scientific Journals and Magazines. He has presented at least 15 abstracts over the years along with honoring us as Guest Speaker at the NYBS. Along with other avian writings, he has shared multiple works with the American Pigeon Journal and the Pigeon Science & Genetics Newsletter. And he has written over 64 articles for our very own DoveLine. Our single largest contributor by far.

Please take a moment and extend your thanks and gratitude to Dr. Miller for all he has done to the benefit of our hobby and the doves we all love. Contact Info: Dr. Wilmer J. Miller, 218 Parkridge Circle, Ames, IA, 50014-3645. (wjmiller@iastate.edu). We also ask that, as we develop a webpage for this award, you share with us discussions, projects, experiences, visits and photos you may have had with Dr. Miller. Please send them to the DoveLine Editor, contact information on page 1.

Congratulations Dr. Miller and Thank You so very much for the work you have done and continue to do!!
Spring Is Here
Time to Set Up Your Pairs

Ringneck Notes from John Fowler

Pearl Pied Ringneck

Picture This! Here are two photos of the neck ring area of a bird that I am calling Pearl Pied in color. The genotype is TaTa pipi. I am confident this is the bird that Abakash Konipatyi described and named “Chinmoy.” However, because this bird is a Pied and double dose Tangerine it will not have a neck ring. The two spots, that appear somewhat as a neck ring when the bird is scrunched down, are just random orange spots.

Frosty Tangerine

Left is a photo of a Frosty Tangerine. This bird is now 3 months of age. The parents are a True Tangerine (no rosy) Cock and a Frosty heterozygous Rosy Hen. Genotype of the bird in the photos: D+ Ta ?pi Fr+. Please notice that the steel blue grey color of the Ash (Rosy Frosty Tangerine) is absent. Compare this photo with the photo to the right of a color I called Tangerine Violet Neck (This photo came to me from Sara Whitby). When I received this photo several years ago, I surmised that it was TaTa Fr+ without rosy.

Tangerine Violet Neck

For Sale:

- Book - A guide to pigeons, doves and quail: their management, care and breeding. By Brown, Danny. $35.00 + 2.50 ship. Paperback, 184 pp., color photographs. Housing, feeding, catching, diseases, 30 pigeon/dove & 12 quail species. Daniel @ 407-649-7555 or Danielalmaguer@bellsouth.net.
- Mountain Witch Doves. 2008 banded. $150 each. Karl Stute, 760-745-9428, E-Mail, k.stute@cox.net.
- Ringneck doves, Tangerine Pearl & White. Greg Volzke, 402-744-4961 or gregvolzke@yahoo.com.
- Diamond doves, many colors, $20 and up, call on availability. James Kell, Sparta, Ga., 404-863-7278 or kell.james@yahoo.com.
- White Homing pigeons. Good quality & price. Would like to help someone set up for release in my area! Call: Milo Rang at 605-996-2674 or email: milor@MitchellTelecom.net.
- Capes $150 pr., Zebras $40 ea. & Peruvian doves $45 ea. All 2008 hatch & ADA banded. Pick up in Simi Valley, CA. Gene Hull: gehull@gmail.com or (805)527-8954.
- Bartlett BH $350 ea, Mt Witch female $200, Ruddy Quail $250pr (males $75), Greenwings $150pr, Tambourines $150pr. 
- Female Celebes Quail dove & female Passerine Ground doves. Can ship. Contact Fred Snow, 207-623-1217, e-mail fws319@aol.com.
- A very small dove (gray, brown, white) found in Indonesia. Known as Terkutu in that country. Beautifully melodious song. NOT a Zebra dove. Hendrik B. Weyland, 7023 Horizon Peak, San Antonio, TX 78233.
- Female Celebes Quail dove & female Passerine Ground doves. Can ship. Contact Fred Snow, 207-623-1217, e-mail fws319@aol.com.

For Sale:

- Services: Aviagems.com Website Design and Hosting for clubs, breeders, and other bird related needs. James Lavergne (337) 580-0340 after 6PM CST or james@aviagems.com.

Free For Members Club Classifieds Deadline: May 1, 2009

***** Please Remember To Contact the DoveLine Editor On An “Issue By Issue” Basis About Your Ads. *****

ADA is Not Responsible for Any Transactions.
Working Towards an A.D.A. Budget ……

Here is some of the information we have collected while working towards a budget for the ADA. Once we have figures from the Treasurer on the remainder of the annual expenses, we should be able to report a proposed budget for the next few years.

On the Membership. As of the 16th of March, we had a total of 394 people listed as members. Remove the 7 Exchange and 6 Lifetime members and we had 381 members paid thru 2009 (a few thru 2010). How does this measure up to years past? Well, 3-20-2006 we had ~466 members, we ended with ~607 for the year; 3-19-2007 we had ~446 members, we ended with ~603; 3-30-2008 we had ~461 members, we ended with ~675 and 3-16-2009 we had ~394 members, we ended with (To Be Seen). We did not have Denny send a Membership Reminder Post Card this year, but we are not too far off from past years. Considering the break-down of membership types (see table the right), this means an income to the club of $6955.00 so far for 2009, or ~$18.25 per paying member. We tend to gain members throughout the year and we have averaged a total membership of just over 600 for the past 4 years or so. We foresee a membership close to 600 by the end of this year. But, for the discussion of budget, expenses, color in the DoveLine, etc. we will be basing figures on a membership of 500 for the year.

I have averaged last year’s figures on printing and mailing the color DoveLines and looked at this year’s B&W Jan-Feb DoveLine. Printing 6 issues of the DoveLine and the Member Directory with color pages (including mailing prep and charges) averaged to just over $18 per member last year. By going back to an all Black & White DoveLine, we can save some $3.50 per member for the year. But this still means almost 80% of each membership fee will be going to printing and mailing of the B&W DoveLines and Directory. As of this printing we have heard from about 30 people willing to read their DoveLine in Full Color over the internet eliminating their printing and mailing fees completely. 30 is not many people at all. But, just 30 members are saving us over $500 for the year or reducing our total expenses by about $1.00 per member for the year. It Is A Start. If you checked out the Jan-Feb DoveLine at the website & do not need a B&W issue mailed to you, please let us know!

This Alert Has Been Circulating Through The Clubs & E-Mail Groups

House Bill #669 - The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act

The US House of Representatives will conduct a hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans & Wildlife on April 23, 2009 on House Bill #669. This bill called the "The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act" would in effect ban the importation, interstate movement and procession of most birds, fish reptiles and small animals, other than cats, dogs and farm animals. There is a very strong lobby supporting this bill (US Human Society, Nature Conservancy etc) and they are actively pushing for its passage without amendments or wording changes. Passage of this bill would be the virtual end of bird keeping and breeding, not to mention all the other specialty pets, such as reptiles, tropical fish and small animals. UNLESS YOU PLAN ON KEEPING AND BREEDING FARM ANIMALS.....Don't think to yourself that this bill is so ridiculous that it will never pass!! WE MUST ACT NOW!! First, read this carefully and visit the PIJAC web site fro more details: www.pijac.org. Second, particularity if you live in a district of a member of the committee... Contact he/she immediately and voice your concern using the talking points that PIJAC suggests. Thirdly, pass this information on to anyone you can think of that can contact committee members in their areas. Contact other bird clubs, fish clubs and anyone else you can think of. Fourth... Post this alert on any web site with a link to PIJAC for information.

PIJAC POSITION -- PIJAC supports the underlying intent of HR 669 to establish a risk-based process in order to prevent the introduction of potentially invasive species. It has been clear for quite some time that steps are needed to enhance and improve the current listing process for species shown to be injurious under the Lacey Act. In addition to much needed appropriations to fund staff and other ancillary support aids, the Lacey Act needs to be modernized to make the process more timely, efficient and transparent. However, HR 669 falls far short of accomplishing this objective. KEEP CHECKING PIJAC’S WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON HR669 If you have questions or wish to express your views to PIJAC, please contact Marshall Meyers or Bambi Nicole Osborn by phone at 202-452-1525 or via email at bambi@pijac.org or marshall@pijac.org.

When a pair of doves are placed together it will take anywhere from a month to a number of years for them to breed. Domestic varieties (Ringnecks & Diamonds) usually take less time to establish a pair bond and breed. Some exotic varieties may never breed in your aviary. This is where the challenge of keeping doves comes in. To begin the process you should provide your birds with nesting sites to choose from and plenty of cover for security and privacy. You may want to plant trees and place other plants in your aviary for cover and nesting. Doves generally lay two eggs which hatch after 12 to 18 days. The young then leave the nest three to four weeks later. It is not uncommon to see some pairs (especially domestic varieties) lay all year beginning on a new clutch every six weeks. This is not recommended because it is unhealthy for the birds. After three or four clutches the breeding for that year should stop by either removing nesting materials or separating the birds.

For mating, doves should have plenty of head room. At least 8” from the perch to the cage/aviary top and 6-7” for tail room. The nest should be placed out of the way, at a lower (intermediate) level than at the highest perch. Otherwise, the doves may roost in the nest and dirty it up before the nesting cycle takes over. Doves are not known for their nest building expertise. Dove nests are generally flimsy structures with just a few twigs seemingly thrown together. It is important that you help them by placing "nesting boxes" for them to build nests in. Nesting boxes can be elaborate or simple. They can be constructed of wood or could simply be an old Tupperware dish. You decide. Most doves prefer open nests, not covered. It is wise to put more nests in a flight/cage than you have pairs because they like to choose their own nesting site. You may want to put them at various heights as well.

For Ringnecks, the nest itself should be approximately 7”x 5”x 3” deep. Other sizes will work. In fact some people use plastic plant or gardening containers. They are slightly smaller than the dimensions given, have drain holes, and can be red in color, all drawbacks!! The red color first frightens the doves. Then they get used to it. The holes have to be plugged or the nest material can fall through. And the smaller size can be too cramped for best results. But the convenience of disposability and replacement capability can outweigh the drawbacks. Set the nest crosswise on top of a flat perch (or even on the floor of the smallest cages) using one or two clothes pins to fasten it to the side wire.

The pictures below show a Ringneck Dove utilizing a gallon milk container and a soap solution container as a nest. A wire hanger is made from a clothes hanger which allows the container to be hung in the corner of the breeder cage. Two small drain holes in the bottom of the milk container helps water to drain if by chance rain gets into the nest. The half gallon milk containers cut in a similar fashion also work for Diamond dove pairs set-up in a breeder cage.

Some people use large deep wicker baskets, even plant hangers by removing the rope of hangers and attaching the basket to a platform. The doves hunker down inside the nest when they see someone, thinking they are out of view. Plus the babies need to be a few days older to fledge over the edge of the deeper basket. A front area or ledge allows the young & parents a place to sit; plus the nest does not receive the full impact of the bird landing on the basket, most will land on the front & then step up into the basket. The green basket & yellow bowl were purchased at the local "dollar" store & work great.

The above pictures shows several types of nest platforms in which wicker baskets or plastic containers can attached to. I attach the wicker baskets & plastic containers with short roofing nails or staples. The "box" type can be left as is & filled with hay, etc. Size can vary of the wooden platforms; 6" square is a standard size to build & will fit most dove species. I prefer to have the sides at least 2" or more high to help keep the nesting materials in. The box type is an old parakeet box, with the top & half the front removed.
Do not use any type of fastener that leaves a raised head. Eggs can be cracked or punctured by it. Pictured above is a plastic feed/seed bowl typically sold in pet stores and can also substitute for a nest container. It is good to hot glue a few pieces of nesting material in them to help hold the nest the pair builds. These bowls are slick sided & the hay, twigs, etc. can be pushed from inside leaving no materials for the eggs or young. The metal hangers are used to hang the bowl on the wire sides & can be easily made by anyone who can weld or at your local metal shop.

You may have to help the doves start the nest. Dried, cut Alfalfa, Bermuda, or other grass about 4-6” long are usable for nesting material. But freshly fallen pine needles are the best single nest material to use. (White Pine pictured to the right) If they are not available keep in mind two needs: 1) A soft material to keep the eggs from breaking and 2) clutchability for the squabs to cling to for the vigorous feeding movements and proper leg development. If the squab has to clutch the toes of the parent, it is likely to be dropped out of the nest as the parent gets off. Then the squab usually suffers exposure (cold) and lack of feeding, often dying. The parents will not seek out and feed or brood squabs out of the nest. Generally, out of the nest squabs will be fed when the feathers spread out of the sheath enough to cover the skin. It is most enjoyable and relaxing to watch the doves busy themselves carrying nest material one at a time to the nest and arranging them. Usually, the female will nest coo intermittently with wing flaps, and the male will seek out material and carry them to the nest. Occasionally a “tug of war” for the material occurs, if the female is too anxious and grabs the material before the male feels he has placed it properly. The doves will appear very industrious for a few days. In fact sometimes there is a danger of their burying the eggs with the nest material!

References:  

CAPE DOVES - The Tiny, Exotic Dove ThatBreeds Like A Pigeon
by Richard Puccini

The African Cape Dove is a very popular dove species. It is as small as a Diamond Dove or a Parakeet. Cape Doves are very hardy, and are easy to house, feed, and breed. Cape Doves are a charming dove to watch and have the unique ability to hover in flight much the same as a hummingbird. Cape Doves are very hardy and thrive in the heat. They do well in small outside cages or in large flights. They are extremely docile and tame little doves and can not in any way be considered flighty. Capes thrive on a good finch mix and because of their small size they do not eat much. They may, however, require additional feed when raising babies which they do quite readily. Cape Doves are dimorphic, with males and females appearing quite different. Cape Doves breed best in small 2ft. square cages. They require two nesting boxes as they will often have eggs on one side while raising babies on the other. These little doves are quite endearing. Their beauty, small size, tameness, and ability to breed in small cages have made the Cape Dove a very popular species.
The A.D.A. is Proud to be Affiliated & Exchange Knowledge with:

- Avicultural Society of America (A.S.A.)
  http://www.asabirds.org
- Zoological Association of America (Z.A.A.)
  http://www.zaoa.org
- National Finch and Softbill Society (N.F.S.S.)
  http://www.nfss.org
- Game Bird & Water Fowl. Org (G.B.W.F.)
  http://www.gbwf.org

Canadian Dove Association
P.O. Box 135, Plattsville, ON, NOJ 1SO
http://www.canadiandoveassociation.org/

A.D.A. at the National Young Bird Show, Oct. 31, 2009

N.Y.B.S. - Executive Inn East is No More

Many people attending the National Young Bird Show in Louisville would stay at the Executive Inn East. This is also where we would hold our Friday Presentation. Reality is, the Executive Inn East has been leveled. So for making reservations, here is a list of other hotels and motels in the area. The Executive In West is now called the Crowne Plaza-Louisville Airport. We had not yet secured where our Friday Presentation will be held. Our Annual meeting will be in the Show Hall Friday afternoon as usual.


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The B.O.D. extended the time for memberships to be accepted into the Directory. Look for Your Directory around the 1st of May.

www.Ovabid.com
Online Fowl & Hatching Egg Auction

A.D.A. Membership Levels
$20.00 Regular, $10.00 Junior (16 years and younger), $21.50 Family (husband/wife/children, same address), $16.00 Senior Citizen (60 years and older), $30.00 International (outside US or Canada).

See Membership & Order Form at:  www.DoveLine.com
Or Contact:  ADA Secretary, 7637 Haynes Road, Georgetown, IN 47122
(812) 923-3483 - e-mail: secretary@doveline.com

DoveLine Newsletter Contributors
Editor, Jeff Downing

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Calendar Of Events

2009 Mt. Hope, OH Auction Dates:
For Exotic Sales and Swap Meets Contact:
Auction Barn (330) 674-6188, www.mthopeauction.com

*June 28, 2009: Mountain View Dove Exposition, Moscow, ID. Contact: Cleve Potter, 208-882-3075 (Please leave message).

*August 28, 2009: W.R.P.A. Summer Show, Emigsville, PA. Contact: Barry Wagner, 717-653-6146, adn8691@yahoo.com


*August, 2009: Kentucky State Fair, $2.00 entry fee. Prize money: $7, $5, & $3. Also $5 for each Best of Breed & $20 for each division: Fancy, Flying, Utility, Dove. Contact: KFEC Entry Dept., P.O. Box 31730, Louisville, KY 40233.

September, 2009: APWS Convention, Contact: www.apwsbirds.com or apwsbirds@dmv.com

*October 30, 2009: American Dove Association, NYBS, Pre-Show Activities & Annual Meeting, At the Fair & Exposition Center and (TBA), Louisville, KY.


October, 2009: Kennewick, WA. Sand & Sagebrush Show. Benton-Franklin Fairgrounds. Contact: Sara Whitby, 509-528-4123, Email: wwingsaviary@yahoo.com

November, 2009: Tennessee Pigeon & Dove Show, (ADA Sanctioned), Pigeon Judge - Charlie Brown, Dove Judge - George Schutt. At the Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN (Exit 239 off I-40). Contact Carrie Scott: 615-448-6510 or csdoves@comcast.net

November (TBD), 2009: 1st Annual Oregon Classic Pigeon Show at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, Oregon. Pigeons Contact: Larry Flowers (flowersfancy@aol.com) or call 503-541-5026. Doves Contact: Sara Whitby at wwingsaviary@yahoo.com or 509-528-4123.

November (TBD), 2009: Canadian Dove Association’s 29th Show & Sale, Oxford Auditorium, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada. Contact: www.canadiandoveassociation.org

November (TBD), 2009: All Age National Dove Show, Puyallup, WA. Washington State Fairgrounds. Contact Gayle Nelson - 253-531-6358. Email: the_Nelson_lofts@hotmail.com

Sex-biased Populations  (www.sandiegozoo.org)

The Reproductive Physiology division of the San Diego Zoo’s Conservation Research arm is developing a technique to remove minute blood samples from bird eggs. These blood samples are used to genetically determine the gender of the bird embryo using a gene copy machine. The Zoo and Wild Animal Park’s Bird departments, the Reproductive Physiology Division and the Avian Propagation Center (APC) have successfully incubated, in ovo sexed and are rearing two White-throated ground doves. The white-throated ground dove is currently found on the Mariana Islands and is listed as near threatened. This species is part of the Mariana bird project, which aims to prevent species extinction due, in part, to the introduction of the brown tree snake. Our population of White-throated ground doves are among several species with sex-biased populations. A sex-biased population is difficult to manage, especially when the species is endangered, as each individual effectively takes the resources of a potential breeding pair. The development and use of in ovo sexing of bird embryos by the Reproductive Physiology Division has allowed our bird departments to incubate eggs of only the sex needed to manage these bird populations and better protect them from extinction.
Thought it would benefit the membership to see what the winter of ’08-’09 brought us in Moscow, Idaho. As you can see from the photos, we can relate to being cold and snowed in.

When Renetta had a “Show & Tell” day in January she brought her father as well as a pigeon and a dove. There are 21 students in her second grade class and her teacher (Tina Woods) is a remarkable woman. Actually, the school is exceptional also. All of the children were given a photo of themselves posing with a pigeon and a Ringneck dove. They were also given a primary, secondary or tail feather of their choice. These feathers were brought from home and not pulled from the exhibits. What has come from this visit is a vision to take this showing to other classrooms as well as other schools. As you already know, the children were fascinated with an immense joy being shown. I hope this encourages some of you who have had similar thoughts to just do it. The only thing that you really need is a love to share your hobby and a good sense of humor to entertain the kids. Beware, you will be asked questions that you have never dreamt of. In love and respect, Cleve and Renetta Potter
Doves are primarily seed eaters. Being a soft billed bird they cannot crack the hulls of hard shells like a parrot. A good, clean mixture of seeds like millet, oats, milo, raw shelled peanut halves, safflower seeds and sunflower seeds is essential. When setting up your aviary; even the small cage for your pet dove kept indoors; ensure that the feed and water dishes are not below a perch and are protected from in climate weather and the bird's droppings. Wet or dirty seed can and does breed bacteria which can cause illness. For the same reason, any fruits or vegetables that are left over 24 hours should be thrown out. Doves also like “treats” like millet sprays, finely chopped & fresh broccoli heads, lettuce, strawberries, raspberries and grapes. Some doves will even eat meal worms. Other treats include: (Always fresh, finely chopped or thinly shredded) greens, shelled snow peas, spinach and carrots.

Your dove will have it's own favorites. Always wash the vegetables and fruits first and remove after 24 hours. Doves love multi grain breads as well. Adding mineral and vitamins supplements (powdered or liquid) either to the seed mix or water is a good practice to acquire. Vitamins; crushed oyster shell or limestone, is essential to their needs. "Grits" can help to break up food. Mineral blocks, cuttlebone and fortified salts are also helpful. These are often ground up and put it in a small dish. Supplements such as "gamebird crumbles" either fed separately or mixed in the seed mix is used by many fanciers. These type of feeds are many times a "medicated" feed & is a preventive for several diseases the doves & pigeons can pick up. You can also find non-medicated crumbles. Feeding the "pigeon pellets" to the exotic doves and pigeons can be easier then a seed mix. The exotic doves & pigeons often prefer the pellets over the feed mix. The unfamiliar pellets can be contaminated or become wet.

With the exception of the fruit eating species most doves and pigeons are very easy to feed in aviaries. The smaller species such as Diamonds, Zebras and Capes do well on a mixture of small seeds. A quality finch or dove mix will suffice. Using white millet and milo as the basis for a mix and then adding other small seeds can also be an option for the fancier. For Ringnecks and other medium to large doves and pigeons with non-specialized feeding habits the following mixture will prove quite adequate; 3 parts plain canary seed, 3 parts milo, 2 parts yellow millet, 2 parts white millet, 1 part split maize, 1 part buckwheat, 1 part safflower, 1 part groats. A commercial "dove mix" can be used instead of mixing your own. For Nicobars, Crowed Pigeons, Bronze-winged and other large species, wheat and other grain should replace the smaller millets. Note: many fanciers substitute a quality pigeon mix for these larger species. The aforementioned seeds and other small seeds can be added at the fanciers discretion. There are many different seed mixes available from as many dealers. John Pire uses the dove mix from Bay-Mor. He purchases the mix in the 50# bag and adds a 5# bag of safflower and a 5# bag of milo. He also has a red mineral grit available at all times for all the birds in his collection. A liquid mineral/vitamin supplement is added once a week to the water.

Feeding Fruit Eating Doves & Pigeons is a little more involved. The colorful fruit doves & pigeons take no seed or grain. Given free choice, John’s doves consume the veggies much quicker then the diced fruits contained in his mix. Always know that they will be healthier from a more varied diet. Some species enjoy mealworms and other small live foods. Efforts should be made to persuade them to take some insectile mixture. This picture shows the soft mixture John Pire uses for the species of fruit doves & pigeons he keeps. The fruits are rinsed and then diced into about 1/4" pieces (these fruits are usually available year round) then about 1/2 of the packaged dry dog food is added to the mix. One sample diet includes: 4 parts diced pear, 2 parts diced apple, 1 part sliced tomato, 1 part sliced grape & 1 part insectile mixture. Along with this mix, the diet should include a mixture of boiled rice (30g), some soaked trout pellets (10g) and 1 chopped hard-boiled egg. Some aviculturists use food items ranging from...
These are some of my ringnecks and the coop and flight area that I built. I so enjoy these birds, the time I spend with them is very quiet and relaxing.

Calcuim & Fortified Salt

The mineral dish shown to the right holds Granular F size limestone with a “three finger pinch” of fortified livestock salt (with trace elements iodine, cobalt, manganese, etc. added). Calcium Analysis shows: Calcium carbonate minimum 95%, Calcium maximum 40% & minimum 38%. Other calcium sources can be just as good, but not nearly as inexpensive. The cake is also inexpensive. The ringneck doves, Streptopelia risoria, prefer Granular F Limestone to other calcium sources like chick size oyster shell. [Canaries, finches as well as Diamond doves use it as well.] Along with the salt it seems to be necessary for continuous production in doves and finches. It is given to the doves at liberty in ceramic dishes. Calcium especially is necessary for egg laying and more so for the growing squabs. I have been told that the parents physiologically will remove calcium from their own bones to feed the growing squabs. So, if they are deficient, eating only grains, they will stop at two clutches of young until they can replenish the calcium deficiency.

From Dr. Miller’s website: www.RingneckDove.com

John also uses Purina Nutri-Blend Green Pellets. The picture below shows the pellets whole & ground up. He uses a standard blender to powder the pellets. This powder is mixed in the soft diet to make it drier, also when vitamin/mineral supplements are added. The birds are used to eating a coated fruit/veggie mix & it is much easier to get the birds to eat the additives this way.

This diet can also be given to “foster birds” which may be used for fostering the fruit dove species young. It is best to switch the foster birds to the new diet before any young of the fruit dove species are given to them for fostering. He prefers to switch the diet of the foster birds at the time he fosters the fruit dove eggs to them. This ensures that they will be eating the new diet when the young are hatched. If the young fruit doves need to be fostered after hatching, change the foster dove’s diet as soon as the young are given to them. OBSERVE that the parents are eating the new diet. BE SURE TO REMOVE ALL THE OLD DIET, INCLUDING ANY GRIT. Grit will impact the fruit dove/pigeon’s crop and can cause damage and possible death.

Soaked chick crumbs to mashed banana for their birds. Often they feed avidly on these and other unlikely things. Care must be exercised, however, in adding foods high in fats or carbohydrates. Fruit doves & pigeons are generally lethargic and unwilling to take strenuous exercise in captivity. An excess of the wrong foods will lead to obesity and death.

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Hello Jeff, I have one pair of Wild Type Ring neck doves I would like to re-home. They will be 1 year old in June and are currently un-sexed. They lived in my screen porch in large enclosure last summer. In fall I brought them in the house for the winter. When they were outside I hardly heard two peeps out of them. After being in the house for a couple of months they began cooing and it seems like that is all they do. These two doves are extremely vocal and the one dove seems to coo incessantly. At times they will flick their wings at each other and chase each other around the cage. So I think I may have two males but not sure. I was wondering if I could place an ad in the DoveLine to see if anyone in the Ohio area would like to have them. I would prefer someone take them that has an outdoor enclosure so they are not cooped up in a tiny pen. Thank you for your time and consideration, Kelly Russo, Galena Ohio

From Kelly Russo

The "diamondless" Diamond doves produced within my flock of 30 birds. Both birds are over 1 year old in these pictures. The one is a male, the Pied one was a female & had two white primary flights on each wing. Both had same parents; never tested parents for Pied gene. It may be that the Pied gene has an effect on the "diamond spots." - John Pire

Common Ground Doves in Louisiana

This adult male (right) and female (left) Common Ground-Dove (Columbina passerina passerina) were foraging at the edge of a harvested corn field off Yucatan Rd. (PR-123), ca. 4.5 mi. NE of Newellton (Tensas Parish) on 16 Feb 2009. Although the status of COGD in ne. LA is not entirely clear, it is presumed that they are very rare residents and local breeders north along the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain in LA. There are very few documented records for ne. LA. Digiscoped photo by Devin Bosler. [Article from Garrie Landry (2-09)]

Hi Jeff,

This is my granddaughter, Hannah, with our Silky dove, ET. His cooing and laughing brings peace and joy to our home. We are blessed to have him in our lives. Also, thank you for the informative newsletter. I am always learning some new way to keep ET safe and happy.

Sincerely, Kathy Steuer