

MILLER RETURNS FROM BRAZIL

After returning from 2 years in Brazil, I tried to start over with my selected doves left in the care of some friends. Almost all were dead from an epidemic of Herpes virus @#!%&***@#%&! best laid plans... (*gang aft agley!*)

I was able to get some of my stock back. I had donated a few birds to Dr. Edgar Lawton Petty in Oklahoma City about 15 years ago. He generously offered as many as I wanted. I took about 10. I got another 2 pairs of my stock from Dr. Hollander and Troy Berndt in Wisconsin, traded a couple of pair recently for some progeny I had already raised. But my thin bill ring, flair, and down color, as well as known color and blood type genotypes were mostly gone. I do have some notes to pass on since I have returned.

1. The frosty birds also have a longitudinal bill stripe about 1/16 inch wide and 1/4 to 3/8 inch long on the end of the bill! This is easy to see on blond and dark frosty birds, but harder to see on ash colors. My numbers are limited however. Can others verify this? This needs to be added to their mutant phenotype.

2. I have a pair of mature doves (dark male x orange female) that sit very well on the nest, but have not laid eggs after 4 months. They seem to recycle. Finally, I fostered to them a newly hatched albino squab which they have raised to the pin feather stage by now. Yes, sometimes males will pair if isolated, but these seem normal otherwise. I'll have to examine the "female" more closely.

3. Another strange situation involves a "menage a trois"!!!! A "trio": male rosy raised with an orange female and an ash female have laid 4 eggs twice and set on them well without any fighting or strife. The first set of eggs were infertile, the second set had 2

eggs of the 4 fertile. I'll try to let you know when, and if, the females decide to fight!?!

4. *OK! Drum beat Roll..... Trumpet....TA DAH!* My 408Y female peach pied silky ringneck dove hatched 13 Feb 73 is past her 25th birthday!!! She is still apparently healthy! She is more reluctant to move, as if she had the equivalent of arthritis to some degree. I exercise her every morning by removing her from her cage (with young diamond dove) and letting her wing fan on my hand. She seems to like it, and will often initiate the wing fanning voluntarily. She is also more reluctant to eat the milo, cracked corn, and Checkerboard green pellets that I offer as a staple diet to the other doves. So I feed her canary pellets (for the vitamin D3 and A) and finch mix of proso millet, red millet, niger seed and sesame seed. She eats the calcium source granular F and fortified salt OK as well as a little of the regular dove food. She also will eat some of the whole sunflower seeds and safflower seeds that I give the doves as a supplement now and then. Also dandelion leaves are succulent this spring and after three days of gorging she and the other doves want it about once or twice a week.

Perhaps I should mention her Reproductive Success Index for her biggest family (mating #436) with male 428E [D+dB +pi rryr (P+)]. The RSI = .835! Of 158 eggs laid, 132 were successfully raised to independence! This mating ended in June 1981.

I think my earlier summary was 221 offspring successfully raised naturally (no fostering out) for 408Y! She laid continuously for 17 years then stopped laying, but for 2 years I could foster eggs to her and her mate and they would raise those. Then I went to Belo Horizonte, Brazil and stopped trying to do more.

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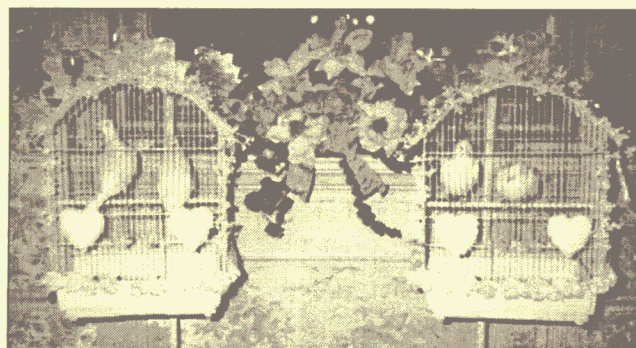
Letter to the Editor

In Defense of White Doves

Having raised white doves for the past seven years, I have often been asked to sell them so they could be released during weddings or funerals.

Refusing to sell them for this purpose, I would like to explain that the white dove would not survive after being on its own in an unknown area. I understand their feeling is a wonderful gesture of love and faith, but only harm would come to the dove once it is set to fly free in an unknown area. They are also easy prey for hawks because of their color. My doves have free flight around the aviary and yard which is home for them, which I can keep an eye on them. These beautiful birds are for display in cages and for breeding with free flight around the aviary.

I enjoy renting my doves for various occasions but never are they to be released. I am sending along a picture of my white doves in their display cages. ...



My sincere thanks,
Anthony J. Bono, Sr., Gretna, LA