

NEW MUTANT COLOR IN RINGNECK DOVES

BY

W. J. MILLER AND GARY HARDING

As recently as the Mar.-Apr. 89 issue of ADAN, we said finding a new mutant in doves was VERY UNLIKELY. But Gary Harding did it !!

It is a beautiful soft, light gray-blue. Perhaps the rump is more bluish than the rest of the plumage. Juveniles show a grizzling effect in the mid-wing area. It is much less marked than the pied juvenile, and maintains itself into the adult plumage. Dr. Hollander believes it resembles the mutant in pigeons called Frosty, alternative (allelic) to almond and faded. Therefore, it may be sex-linked codominant. If so, in the breeding program we should look for near white with flecks for homozygotes (purebreeding males). And it would be best to use a female in an outcross to a dark male to set up a sex-linked test. The 3 young Gary sent me are all males just now in their first clutches. In my crosses it looks like it is a dominant or codominant in the first youngsters. But the sex-linked test is delayed for at least 8 months.

The nearest this color is to any so far, is blond ivory. Without a close look you could be fooled. The major difference is the adult has a gray head on the Frosty versus a two-tone bird with the head near white in the blond ivory. The over-all color is more gray in the Frosty and a warmer near-cream color in the blond ivory.

Those of you who are itching to buy one should write to Gary Harding, 3637 S. Ohio St., Salina, Kansas, 67401, and get on the waiting list.

The source of the new color Frosty is not exactly clear. It is either a new (de novo) mutant that he obtained in 1985 from Charley Wieble, Hutchinson, Kansas, from a rosy male; or a bit more likely it was carried (hidden - hypostatic) in a white female from Gary's son's stock of white females obtained about 1984 or earlier in a swap meet or outdoor auction.

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Source of Frosty: Data from Gary Harding

about 1984

Whites; female

about 1985

Rosy; male\*  
(from Charley  
Wieble  
Hutchison, KS)

Several  
Dark rosy

Some white

Blue-gray male  
"Frosty"

consistently  
blue-gray (Frosty)  
3 pairs, 1989

Male

ivory female

Frosty

\* Lost in storm, 1986

.... W. J. Miller

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