

## PINK RINGNECK DOVES!!!

by

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After its importation in 1981, the tangerine mutation (Ta) in the ringneck dove, Streptopelia risoria, has posed many challenges for those of us trying to analyze it. As is already known, the single mutant form is called tangerine, and the interaction of tangerine with blond (fawn) is called orange. We call the interaction of tangerine with white, pink.

Pink ringneck doves basically look white, but there are several very important diagnostic characteristics which define this color type. Pink ringnecks have a pinkish cast on the head and upper wing feathers. Particularly the scapular and secondary wing feathers are affected. This pigmentation can be seen most easily in good lighting, but many individuals display a rich coloration that is readily detectable. As in the other tangerine types, the primary flight feathers are much less affected by the pigment that is found over the other areas of the dove. Pink ringnecks may be pearled, and do have white neck rings. The iris of the eye is a reddish color and the pupil is black. It is important to note that for positive diagnosis, adult plumage must be observed. Pink juveniles can easily be confused with whites, particularly if they are also pied.

Pink doves are more similar to light cream ringnecks than to any other color type, although distinguishing between the two is quite simple. Cream doves have the characteristic "broken", mottled iris that goes with ivory, and cream doves also have pigmented flights and tail feathers. They also have pigmented neck rings. Pink doves do not.

The first classified pink ringneck dove (617B) was produced by W. J. Miller in September of 1986, and was the result of a cross using tangerine doves from the O. F. Munsell stock. Subsequent pink doves have been produced from this and other similar matings.

More recently, several more pink doves were discovered in a large group of doves donated to Miller, by Munsell, for research purposes. These doves were classified as being pink, and were added to the research flock inventory. Many of these pink doves were immediately put into mating to further the understanding of their genetic make-up. The pink birds found in this group were all females due to the sex-linked nature of white (d<sup>w</sup>) and the breeding programs at Munsell's.

Miller and Stalder's research efforts now have several matings using and/or producing pink ringneck doves of both sexes. A pure breeding stock needs only a few more tests and should soon be available. It is important to note that pink is simply an interaction of tangerine and white. Pink doves can be found with added characteristics such as pied, silky, and pearled. These combinations have been produced, although not as a pure breeding stock.

Pink ringnecks have been sent around the country to many selected individuals including G. Schutt, G. Hernandez, K. Cline, F. Slee, and other ADA members. These new pink doves are expected to "catch-on" soon with dove fanciers and breeders.

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