

BREEDING CYCLE INTERVAL IN RINGNECK DOVES, Streptopelia risoria.

by

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For "commercial" production, for producing maximum numbers of progeny from quality stock, for obtaining large numbers of progeny in genetic ratios, or (best of all) for just plain curiosity, the dove fancier is interested in the reneating interval of various reproducing pairs. Season, photoperiod, nutrition, success of previous clutch, and less well known factors influence this interval. One particularly successful family I keep at home in my greenhouse can serve as an initial example.

Their cage (originally built for a 3 foot green iguana) was round, about 28" in diameter and 3' high, and made of 1" x 2" welded wire mesh. Their dark period was interrupted by 10-30 minutes of light at 9:00 P.M. every night. Sometimes much more light was given for other reasons. They ate pellets and milo as well as mineral supplement. The minerals and relatively high protein vitamin balanced pellets are very important in continuous year round breeding.

This pair was put together 4 December '73. They were far more successful than colony birds in individual mating pens at the University. Therefore, 43 intervals between first eggs of successive clutches were recorded, during which 80 offspring were successfully raised to independence to June '78.

From data in the table below one can calculate an overall average of 33 days between first eggs of successive clutches when previous clutches were successful. A range of 25 to 47 days also is noted. Season affects the interval, since April to August differs from September to March. The spring - summer intervals range from 25 - 33 days with a mean (average) of 29.5; while the fall - winter intervals range from 26 - 47 with a mean of 35.27.

I have no idea what difference, if any, occurs when the doves' breeding is managed in a more typical fashion, that is, a spring - summer breeding season followed by a fall and winter ("resting") time. Does anyone have such records?

Interval between clutches in ringneck family 436

Number of days between first eggs of successive clutches when previous squab(s) were successfully raised - Total 80 squabs.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1974 | 34 | 40 | | 26 | * | 30 | 31 | 25 | 31 | 38 | 34 | 43 |
| 1975 | 31 | 47 | 43 | * | 28 | 36 | 33 | 33 | 39 | 40 | | 35 |
| 1976 | | 39 | 34 | | 31 | 32 | 26 | * 31 | 36 | 32 | 38 | 32 |
| 1977 | | 33 | 31 | 27 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 28 | 26 | ** | ** | 38 |
| 1978 | 26 | 36 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | |

* eggs broken

** exact dates not recorded