

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCING RINGNECK FEMALE DOVE, 408Y

Five years ago (ADAN, Mar-Apr 84 issue) I reported on my peach pied silky dove, 408Y, as a RECORD HOLDER for the number of progeny --158 at that time. She is still beautiful, healthy and still reproducing. Her mate is still 559C; their progeny being banded 586's. Currently her offspring number 214, all naturally raised!!!! She is now 16 years old and for the past three years has shown signs of slowing down (like me).

Since March 86, she has had only 4 full clutches of two successfully raised. Her eggs have gotten noticeably smaller as well. Her fertility is still good. But the second egg often turns out dead embryo (12X), infertile (5X), mashed in the nest (6X), on the floor dead (3X); or missing (4X). A racoon does disturb the birds some nights throughout the year by pawing at the window (I have big windows there). So some losses are not her "fault".

Her weight has come down from over 200 g to 186 g and she is as active as any dove a quarter of her age. Frequently I show her off to visitors and take her out to perch on their fingers. She loves to wing fan during these moments, and also "trains" the visitors about the rear end events to be expected. I may tell them to feel honored to be "noticed" by such a matriarch with a known pedigree longer than practically any human.

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....W. J. Miller