

A RECORD HOLDER FOR NUMBER OF PROGENY?!

by

Wilmer J. Miller
Ames, Iowa 50011

408Y is her "name". She is a neat, trim, healthy, very tame and beautiful peach pied silky ringneck dove. Perhaps nothing remarkable so far. She was hatched 13 Feb 73 in my Iowa State University dove colony and is still alive. Not too exciting you say, only going on 11 years of age, and some of us have seen or heard of Streptopelia risoria living to 19 years of age. Well, how about still reproducing at 10+ years of age?? Let's go one step further. How about continuous reproduction for 158 offspring and still going!! She and her mate(s) raised all of them naturally--none were fostered out. Read it again--one hundred and fifty-eight offspring raised to independence!!

She was put into mating at 7 months of age, produced two young (434 family) and then was switched to another male by whom she had 126 progeny fledged (436 family). In fact it was this family that I used to report on the breeding cycle interval in the Mar-Apr. 1979 issue of the ADAN. This 436 family represented a reproductive success index (RSI) of 82%--the highest I've seen for several (7 1/2) years production. And this included one year that I and my family were in Brazil. The house renter did not know how to care for doves very well and 408Y raised only 9 offspring that year. Her 3rd mate was an albino (rosy) and they raised 8 offspring (J137 family). Finally I mated her to her great, great, great, great grandson (559C, rosy pied) to produce family 586 (22 young so far) which is still going strong. Her RSI has dropped to 66%. But this is still higher than my average doves! Six of these eggs were cracked or mashed by the previous squabs.

At 6 months of age she weighed 140 grams and her current mate at 6 mo. weighed 169 grams. Currently, 27 Dec 83, she weighs 203 g and he weighs 182 g. His weight change is rather typical, but hers is extreme. She is solid.

For about 30 years I have had single pair matings. So in the beginning she was in an 18" cube of 1" x 2" welded wire mesh. Then for several years she was in a 28" x 3' cylinder cage of the same mesh. Then she was returned to a better 18" cube cage of the same mesh in the most exposed (cold) corner of my greenhouse.

The count of $2 + 126 + 8 + 22 = 158$ should be higher, in excess of 166, if I included pinfeathered squabs lost through no fault of the parents where the squabs, for example, fell out on the wire floor and got too cold to recover before I found them.

There is some inbreeding among her progeny. I am including an abbreviated pedigree of the two main families of this line, so you can see one way of doing it. Actually, my pedigree lines for doves go back to 1938. I would like to encourage all breeders to keep pedigree records--any style.

Are there any challengers for this record?

ADAN March-April 1984 : 8-9

Abbreviated Lineage of Progeny of 408Y ♀ (Partial Pedigree)

