

Triplets...

An Unusual Breeding of the Pink-necked Green Pigeon

(*Treron vernes*)

by Donald G. Hanover
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My Pink-necked Green Pigeons were imported from the Philippines around 1987, along with many other species by David Mohilef and me.

First Eggs

Early in 1989, my pair of Pink-necked Green Pigeons laid two sets of eggs. The passage of time proved the eggs to be infertile. After that laying, I did not pay very much attention to the birds when they began nesting for a third time. At least, I didn't pay much attention until I observed an egg shell on the ground, near the nest site. I looked more closely and found a baby chick had hatched. About a day and a half later, I noted another egg shell on the ground. I didn't check the nest very closely at that time for fear I would disturb the birds. I never did see any signs of the third egg, which made the "event" even more important to me.

When the first baby fledged, I felt good about the success. I was overjoyed when the second baby fledged. I almost didn't believe my eyes, but I really sat up and took notice when the third baby fledged two days later.

I had never heard of any pigeon or dove laying more than one or two eggs in a clutch, let alone successfully hatching three babies. I made a close check. No, my eyes were not deceiving me, for there on the perch sat three babies with the parents.

Believe me, when I saw the three babies on that first day, I just had to go back and check and recheck to make certain the birds were actually there. I did that three or four times.

A Good Question

A first question would probably occur to a breeder. Were there any other Pink-necked Green Pigeons in the same flight, or anywhere else in the vicinity for that matter? The answer was no. There were no other birds of this species anywhere about.

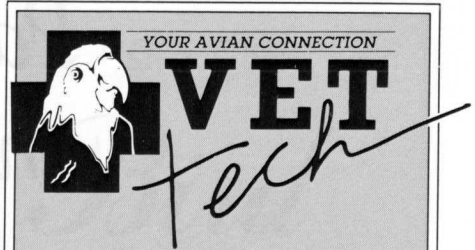
I was quite excited about this event even though it was not a first breeding. Lynn Hall had hatched two singles earlier that same year. I broke the news to Professor Carl Nather, Al Liebeman, Dale Thompson, Lynn Hall and a few others. All agreed they had never heard, seen, or read about a triple hatching like this one.

At times like this, when an unusual, significant event takes place, I wish our good friend Dr. Jean Delacour was still with us. He, perhaps, would have had some words of wisdom or insight into the situation.

I truly wonder, was this the first hatching of triplets of any pigeon or dove species? Perhaps it was. If anyone knows of such a situation elsewhere, or can shed some light on the successful hatching and/or rearing of triplets of the species, I would like to hear about it.

Though I have long been interested in birds and bird breeding, an event such as this really makes the entire activity more exciting and worthwhile.

Editor's Note: If anyone has seen or knows of a similar situation, the author would like to know about it. Responses can be addressed to Mr. Hanover c/o of the "Watchbird" editor. ●



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