



Elliot's Pheasant

A.F.A. Visits A Member's Aviaries



Dave Shupert with Brown Eared Pheasant

Situated on a hillside facing East in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles, Dave Shupert has turned a fifty foot by two hundred foot lot into a serene setting — mixing aviaries with a forest of pines, avocados, and elm.

Dave came to California in 1959 from Chicago, where he developed his interest in birds more than twenty years ago. His first efforts were devoted to Cockatiels, but today he has a striking assortment of finches, psittacines, doves, pheasants, and turkeys.

Following his family west, Dave lived in Laguna Beach and San Francisco before moving to his present location eleven years ago. Shortly after settling in, he took up his interest in game-birds, concentrating on some of the rarer and endangered species. Dave hopes to contribute to the conservation of these species through his breeding program.

From the street below, the visitor must ascend a steep walkway to the frame house set at the rear of the yard. Along the path sit the aviaries on terraced pads interspersed with Bird of Paradise and Night Blooming Cirrus. An occasional Silkie hen or Silver Pheasant scurries for cover on approach to the house.

Dave's collection includes Normal and Lutino Ringneck Parrakeets, Normal, Blue, Pied, Lutino Peachface; Blue Mask, Black Mast, and Fisher Lovebirds, Cockatiels, Plumhead Parrakeets, Lady Gouldian, Zebras and Society finches, pheasants, Ocellated Turkeys, and a Mandarin Duck.

Several pairs of Greenwing Dove are mixed in with the turkeys and pheasants adding color — one pair apparently nest-

ing. Other doves included Passerines, Ruddy Ground, Cape, and Diamond, though only the Diamonds were producing this year.

Dave hatched fifteen Ocellated Turkeys in 1975 in an incubator, which he also uses for his pheasant eggs. Pheasants kept include the Elliot's, Swinhoe, Impeyan, Silver, Ghi Ghi, Gray Peacock, Germain's Peacock, Blue-eared, and his favorite, the Brown-eared. He is currently looking for a pair of White-eared.

All of the pheasants and turkeys are fed on Kruse Turkey Feed (which contains more protein than standard game-bird feed), greens, and fresh water daily with vitamins occasionally added. Pheasants are housed one pair to a flight as are the Green-wing Doves. This year's breeding produced a number of doves, Brown-eared, Elliot's and Ghi Ghi Pheasants among others.

Dave hopes to expand his facilities and is considering a move to a larger piece of ground, perhaps to Vista in San Diego County.

The top priority breeding project at the Shupert residence is the breeding of the first Albino Peach Face Lovebird. This year he raised five Lutino Peach Face split to blue. With the other mutations already in his collection the first Albino may soon be his.

With energy in abundance, Dave, a painter by trade, has taken on the responsibilities of Bulletin Editor for the California Game Breeders Association — the largest west coast game bird club. We are confident he will do well at his new task ■