

FERTILE FINGERS

CUSTOM-BUILT AVIARIES

Specializing in Bolt-Together and Hanging

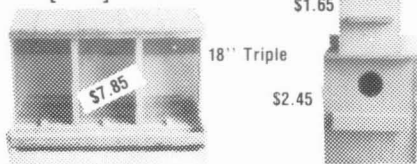


T. George Clymire

12515 Wagner Street Los Angeles 90066
(213) 822-5010

BIRDS AND AVIARY SUPPLIES

"we ship anywhere" \$.94
[714] 748-3847



- BOOKS • CAGES
- COCKATIELS • LOVEBIRDS • PARAKEETS
- ZEBRA FINCH • PLANIT products • NEST BOXES
- CARRYING CASES • FEEDERS • PARROT CUPS
- PARROT STANDS • WROUGHT IRON

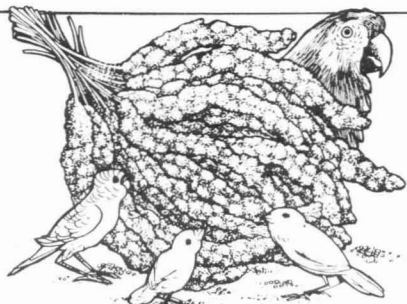
S. CLAUSE

SC
ranch

Credit Cards Accepted
VISA master charge

P.O. BOX 866,
POWAY, CA. 92064

FOR CURRENT CATALOG/INFORMATION
SEND Self Addressed Stamped Envelope
QUANTITY DISCOUNTS ON ALL PRODUCTS



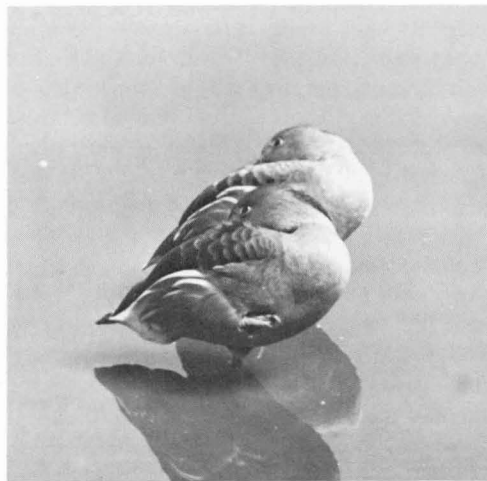
SUPERIOR QUALITY
DOMESTIC

Spray Millet

60 PLUMP, FULL STEMS PER BUNDLE!

2 BUNDLES (APPROX. 6 lbs.) \$17.00
POSTAGE PAID CONTINENTAL USA
(CALIF. RESIDENTS ADD 6½% STATE SALES TAX)

A.P.S. Inc.
BOX 28521
SAN JOSE, CA. 95126



FULVOUS TREE DUCKS

Photo taken by Pat Witman, photo contest winner, 1978.
(photo in color on back cover)

Fulvous Tree Ducks

(*Dendrocygna bicolor helva*)

by Francis Billie

Scientific names usually describe the animal they are attached to as can be seen in the case of the Fulvous Tree Duck. *Dendrocygna* is a combination of Greek and Latin words meaning tree and swan. *Bicolor* is Latin and, of course, means two colors. Latin *helvas* means the color of honey. Thus you have a swan-like critter of two colors (one of which is honey-like) that has some relationship to trees. Well . . . that is a pretty close description.

The Fulvous Tree Duck is a large sized, long-legged, long-necked duck of a deep yellow or tawny color. Natives of Mexico call it "pato silvon" which means whistling duck. These ducks have an amazingly large range. They can be found in Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Northern Mexico, South America, India and East Africa. The distribution of this duck is remarkable since it is not a migratory bird in the true sense. It moves about a little as food resources change. Throughout all this range there is no local or geographical variation in the duck's plumage. They are the same everywhere with, of course, some slight variations on the individual level.

The term tree duck as applied to this species is a misnomer, as it is neither a tree percher or a tree nester. Rarely it will nest in a hole in a hollow tree but its usual nesting site is in the grass near the edge of a

pond or swamp. Twelve to fifteen eggs form the usual clutch but sometimes in the wild larger nests are found — due probably to more than one female laying in the same nest. It is well known that many individuals of this species are careless about laying their eggs in another's nest.

In the wild, Fulvous Tree Ducks are difficult to find since they inhabit dense thickets of marshy ponds and if surprised will often stand rigidly with their long necks up-stretched. In this pose they may be easily mistaken for the standing stalks of surrounding vegetation.

Once the bird is spotted, however, it is easily approached. If one comes too close the duck will duck into the tall grass or nearest thicket, or they will dive into the water and when they rise to breathe they surface only their head and that concealed among the water plants. Most predators soon abandon the pursuit.

In captivity Fulvous Tree Ducks are hardy and breed readily. They are aggressive toward other, smaller ducks during the breeding season. Here in Southern California I have kept and bred this duck for many years. At times I let the parents raise the young and sometimes I'll gather the eggs and put them in the incubator. The young ducklings are easy to raise in a brooder.