In the fall of 1984 I went to Jakarta to try to find pheasant pigeons, of which I found nine, and made arrangements to import them. As long as I was going to the trouble of getting permits and quarantine space, it seemed wise to bring in other doves and pigeons with them. There were twelve or so superb (Ptilinopus superbus) and a small number of black napes (Ptilinopus melanospila), along with other seed eating doves and pigeons. In years past I had a pair of green imperial pigeons which were very easy to keep and breed. The availability of fruit doves was poor, but with this import I really got involved with them.

In 1985 I received more superb and black napes and a small number of black backs (Ptilinopus cineta) with a promise of more. I foolishly let go of pairs and was left with five males. Of course, I never received any more black backs. Then, in 1986, I received some pink necked doves (Ptilinopus porphyreus) from Singapore.

In 1987 I received a few pairs of pink necked green pigeons (Treron vernans) and thick-billed green pigeons (Treron curvirostra), also from Singapore. The same year I purchased a pair of Jambu fruit doves (Ptilinopus jambu) from an importer in southern California. These were new imports. All birds I have had were new, wild-trapped birds which, I feel, are the easiest to work with.

In 1986 the black napes went to work. It wasn't long until I found out that black napes pick their own nest spot whether there is a nest or not... off the perches, in the feed bowl, or any place they happen to be. One pair insisted on a feed bowl. So, after losing three or four eggs, I picked the egg out of the fruit bowl, cleaned out the bowl, built a small nest, replaced...
I~

[Image 0x0 to 606x786]

Continued on page 8
I did have a problem in a walk-through aviary with the black napes. My extra black backs wanted to set on the black napes’ egg and drive off the napes. I finally solved this by removing the black backs. Black backs are being raised in California by at least two breeders now.

The thick billed green pigeons, of which I have two pair, looked like it was going to be a snap, but not so. In 1988, both pair started off well — two eggs to the nest, tight setters and good feeders for the first six to ten days, then off. I would find two well-fed babies chilled and dead in the nest. In a year’s time I had at least 14 young. I raised two and lost one of them. This year I will hand raise them after the first week. They seem to build no more of a nest than the Ptil-

Parents are quite attentive and care for them for about five or six weeks. Superbs use little or no nesting materials. All Ptilinopus lay only one egg.

In 1988, the pink necked Ptilinopus and Jambu fruit doves both nested using the same type of nest — no real nesting material. The pink necks were very attentive parents except I never saw them on the nest. I swore they left the nest when I entered the aviary 85 feet away, though they did stay close to the young. On the other hand, the Jambu are so tame you can pick them up to check the egg or the young. The only real problem with raising Ptilinopus is if something disturbs the parents at night the young sometimes get separated from them and they chill easily.
RAINBOW MEALWORMS contain 12 of the 16 elements that are found in living tissue and rich in vitamins A and B. Natural vitamin A is essential to your birds nutrition and growth. Vitamin B is required to maintain the nervous system.

RAINBOW MEALWORMS are a living food, clean and odorless. They should be kept under refrigeration at 40° to 48° (but not necessary). At this temperature they become dormant and maintain perfect condition for several months.

RAINBOW MEALWORMS are graded in four sizes for your conveniences: SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, and MIXED. Each and every worm is fresh and lively. No need for sorting or sifting. We guarantee 10% or more overcount per measure.

PROMPT SHIPMENT ALL YEAR AROUND.
INSTRUCTIONS ON CARE ARE ENCLOSED WITH FIRST ORDER.

MEALWORM COUNT
50..........................$6.24
100..........................9.00
500..........................25.92

BULK WHOLESALE PRICES
2000..........................8.80
3,000..........................10.50
5,000..........................14.75
10,000..........................27.00
20,000..........................49.00
40,000..........................90.00

California Residents add 6% Sales Tax.

P.O. BOX 4525
126 E. SPRUCE ST.
COMPTON, CA. 90220

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BIRD,

ROUDYBUSH

* HANDFEEDING FORMULAS FOR BABY BIRDS
—Psittacines —Nectivores
—Squab —Wildlife Rehab

* MAINTENANCE PELLETS AND CRUMBLES

* BREEDER PELLETS AND CRUMBLES

* NECTARS

* MEDICATED PELLETS AND CRUMBLES

All of our products exclude fish and animal byproducts to eliminate the potential sources for gram negative bacterial contamination. It is a common misconception that birds need animal protein. Decades of research with many species of birds, including psittacines & carnivores, has shown that they do not need animal protein. Animal byproducts are inexpensive sources of protein, but at Roudybush we prefer to pay more for our ingredients to provide your bird with high quality food.

Let Tom Roudybush, one of the world’s leading pet bird nutritionists, be your bird’s nutritionist.

For information, please contact us:
P.O. Box 331, Davis, California 95617-0331 or phone: (916) 661-1726
The pink necked green pigeons are the odd ones in feeding, nesting and a very strange, un-pigeon like call. They are the only fruit pigeons or doves I keep that eat grain as well as fruit. I find them feeding on small seeds right next to a fruit bowl, yet I don’t find any undigested seed in their droppings as would be found in other fruit pigeons and doves that pick up seed. They use a large amount of nest material, nest back in a darker part of the enclosure, up high, lay two eggs and the young stay in the nest until they are quite large. They seem to be slow nesters and only nested once for me in 1988. But, in January 1989, one pair was already on eggs.

All of my fruit doves and pigeons are kept in landscaped aviaries that vary from 6’ x 12’ x 8’ high to 12’ x 12’ x 8’ high. One pair of fruit doves and one pair of seed eating doves are housed in each pen with the exception of a large, walk-through aviary that is 75’ x 25’ in which there are two pairs of nesting black napes along with other seed eaters, two black back males who bug everyone, and two nutmeg males who seem to be the favorite target of the black backs.

The climate is mild with the highs above 45°, though this year was the exception. We had lows in the 30s with no really harmful effects. Our birds are fed in the late afternoon, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The reason for this is that I find the birds will feed late in the day and the fruit will not spoil by morning as our climate is dry. The aviaries are well protected from the wind and all are covered in the back with a four foot covered area. All varieties I keep seem to be hardy, but I would like it warmer in the winter.

As to feeding, I feel before you start with any birds, mammals or fish, a little common sense should be used. Ask yourself where did the bird come from? Where is it likely to feed, ground or aerial? Does it pick up or peck? Are its feet strong or weak? Is its bill straight or curved? Look, read and know something about its home. Perilinopus have very weak feet and legs so they must spend most if not all of their time in the upper canopy. Therefore, they must feed mainly on fruit. Also, they have small, weak bills so they do not tear up large fruit. As they spend most of their time in trees and not on the ground, insects cannot be a substantial part of their diet. Treronis have stronger bills, some even being hooked. They have strong legs and feet and seem to go to the ground more frequently. Therefore, it seems to me they are more capable of opening larger fruit, finding more insects and, in some cases, feeding on more small seeds.

With these factors in mind, my diet does not consist of too much extra protein. I know many keepers who feed soaked dog food and monkey chow. I do not. Adult birds seem to enjoy and do well on them but I see little breeding success. They nest, lay eggs, but lose the young. Please remember this is my personal observation and is not backed up by any research. I do use a small amount of dog food as I will explain in my diet.

I dice the following fruit in about 1/4” cubes:

- 3 lbs. apples (preferably red)
- 2 lbs. bananas
- 2 lbs. yams, sweet potatoes or any fruit in season (no citrus)

To this I add 2 lbs. cooked brown rice and 1 lb. raisins, soaked, then drained. I mix this with a fine powder (enough to dry the mixture) made up of:

- 1 cup pigeon pellets
- 1/2 cup Hi-protein dog food
- 2 tablespoons Zoovite vitamins
- 1/4 teaspoon calcium

Enough powder is made to last one week and is stored in a dry container. The amount used each day depends on the moisture content of the fruit.

Ten pounds of mixed fruit feeds about forty fruit pigeons and doves and is greatly appreciated by the cuckoo doves, luzons and other seed eating pigeons and doves. The bowls are changed daily as one of the problems encountered with fruit eating birds is salmonella. This may not be the best feeding program but I did raise sixteen birds this year and hope to raise more next year.

In general, the fruit pigeons and doves should be as easy as any fruit eating bird to keep and far easier to breed. There are many advantages to keeping them. In large, walk-through, planted aviaries, a large number of highly colorful birds can be kept together without damage to the foliage. The only problem might possibly be that too many would try to nest at the same time and I feel they would be territorial, though there would be no problem with any other species. In smaller pens, one pair would get along with about anything that would not eat them.