

12 Days Of Christmas On Exotic Bird Farm

MIRIAM WERT

Juniata Co. Correspondent

REEDS GAP, (Juniata Co.) —

Don and Roseann Woodward can show you a partridge (but not in a pear tree!), two turtle doves; three French hens; (but no calling birds whatever they are), and no swans-a-swimming, but their total of 70 species more than make up for those discrepancies in the 12 days of Christmas gifts.

The Woodward's play a cassette tape of many types of birds singing and calling as the tour is made of their bird area, making it the perfect accompaniment for the sight of beautiful and unusual birds.

Some people have a hobby of crafts or flea market sales, so that the sale of their items pays the expenses of their hobby. So it is with the Woodward's. Their hobby started with collecting rare and exotic pheasants and doves which they bred, and selling the offspring to help pay the expense of keeping the collection.

The Woodward's fell in love with other birds — they now own 70 species of rare or fancy breeds of small pigeons, doves, ducks, pheasants, quail, partridges, peacocks, chickens, and other birds. With all of these, they keep pairs which then mate and lay eggs so that their offspring are sold to help pay for the expense of feeding and housing the collection. Most are sold to other collectors/breeders, but some are sold to two commercial dealers in California and West Virginia who, in turn, sell birds to the public.

Don and Roseann's collection totals 70 species of exotic birds. Their collection is of a good size now, but larger in the summer, when they have 300-400 birds.

The Woodward's have a friend in Lewistown who also has a collection, and they go together to bird shows, meetings, and bird "flea markets" in other states. Both developed their own formula for feed pellets. A feed mill in Reedsville, makes the pellets according to their selected ratio. The Woodward's believe this is more economical than buying brand names because they use such a large volume.

Don and his Lewistown friend went to Canada last year and purchased some pheasants, of which there are only 10 in captivity.

To buy and sell endangered species of pheasants, a permit must be obtained from the state and sales must be reported. Permit cost is \$25 a year, but the time involved is the worst part. Photos must be sent in to show where the birds are to be housed and the size to be provided, etc. Then the state determines whether or not they will grant the license, which can be revoked if eligibility is not proven each year. A permit is also needed to raise quail and ringneck pheasants, and a migratory permit is needed to raise ducks.

Long, one-story buildings with separate small rooms for different species are provided. Many rooms have evergreen trees that will be replaced after Christmas. Dealers will provide leftover fresh trees that have not been in heated homes for the birds. One room contains a live rhododendron bush. The Woodward's must be selective in the types of plants or trees as certain types could be poisonous to a specific breed of bird. Some breeds need heat during winter, and some need cold.

The Woodward's have a book filled with information, containing



Don and Roseann Woodward stand in front of their sign which has stones from the farm in the base.

photos of beautiful pheasants, titled "Pheasants of the World - Their Breeding and Management" by Keith Howman. Colored photos in the book are breathtaking. One of the Temminch Tragopan

shows the brilliant blue and red bib that the male displays during the mating season, after which the bib rolls up out of sight. He is beautiful under normal circum-

stances but especially so with the bib displayed. The Woodward's have two pairs of this species.

Their Christmas present to each

(Turn to Page A22)



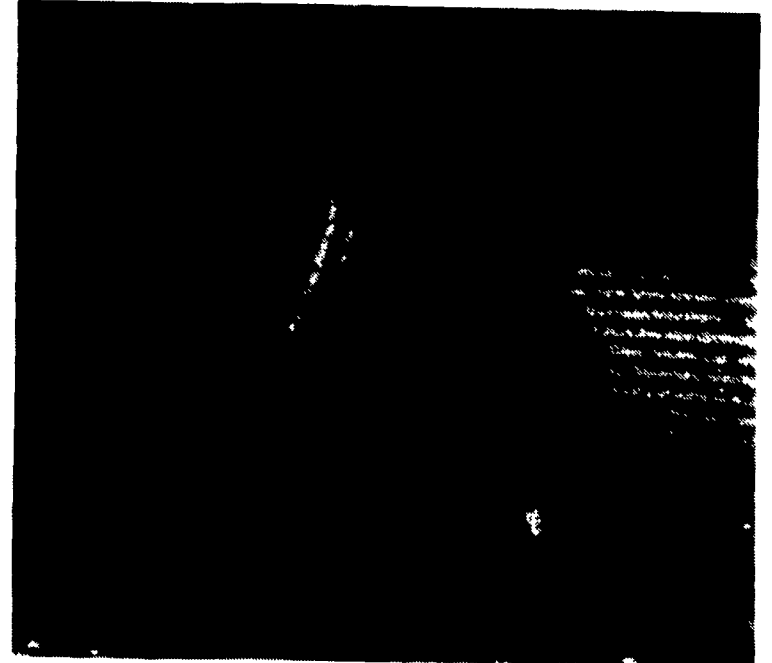
Green-winged Fruit Doves and Diamond Doves.



Rare or fancy breeds of small pigeons from Egypt and India.



Turtle doves. The male sets on nest of eggs daily from noon to 4.



Blue-eared Manchurian pheasant from China/Tibet.