

The Cost Of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

DAY 1: A partridge in a pear tree
A partridge from Spirit of the Moon Animal Talent Agency in Tampa starts at \$75. A Bradford pear tree from Architectural Landscaping in Oviedo costs \$500 (including shipping).
TOTAL: \$575

DAY 2: Two turtle doves
\$10 each at Brenda's Birds in Delray Beach. **TOTAL: \$20**

DAY 3: Three French hens
Publix sells uncooked poultry of the cornish game variety for \$1.39 per pound. The average hen weighs four pounds. **TOTAL: \$16.68**

DAY 4: Four calling birds
The inanimate kind—duck callers used by hunters—are available at Boca Raton Sports for \$12 each. **TOTAL: \$48**

DAY 5: Five golden rings
At Raymond Lee Jewelers in Boca Raton, you can purchase one 14-karat gold ring for \$45. **TOTAL: \$225**

DAY 6: Six geese-a-laying
At Spirit of the Moon, geese start at \$75 each, not including transportation. **TOTAL: \$450**

DAY 7: Seven swans-a-swimming
Being monogamous, swans are sold only in pairs and start at \$400 per pair, depending on the color, black or white. **TOTAL: \$1,600 (including the "spare")**

DAY 8: Eight maids a-milking
Maids from Happy Handy Hands Co. cost \$12.50 per hour each. Eight maids for an eight-hour day would cost \$800. Cows cost \$500 each (not including transportation) at Spirit of the Moon. **TOTAL: \$4,800**

DAY 9: Nine ladies dancing
It's \$100 a belly dancer at A Fun Time Promotions. **TOTAL: \$1,000 (including tip)**

DAY 10: Ten lords-a-leaping
The only lords who will leap on command are those paid to do so. A male escort from Dillon's Entertainment Group costs \$140 per hour. Ten "lords" for an eight-hour day cost \$11,200, so when you say leap, they better ask, "How high?" **TOTAL: \$11,200**

DAY 11: Eleven pipers piping
Bagpipers from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office (and their all-star Irish Band) each charge \$75 for two songs. A full day's piping adds up to about 32 songs. **TOTAL: \$13,200**

DAY 12: Twelve drummers drumming
It's \$120 for a marching snare drum at Resurrection Drums in Coral Springs. Drummers extra. **TOTAL: \$1,440**

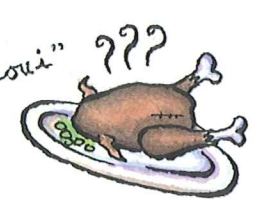
The 1995 price tag for all of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* (not counting those repeat gifts)...
GRAND TOTAL: \$34,574.68.

My suggestion? Do like my Aunt Hazel and stick to a nice cheese-and-beefstick medley from Hickory Farms.

— Heather Johnston



Stubs



ouch

