



## Credit Union computes cost of love

If it's true that love lasts as long as the money, pity the gift giver in "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Inflation may break up the romance.

Here's the breakdown of what the gifts listed in the song would cost in today's market.

One pear tree — \$14; One partridge — \$15; Two turtle doves — \$10; Three French hens — \$36; Four calling birds — \$140; Five golden rings (14 karat) — \$1000; Six geese (a-laying) — \$60; Seven swans (a-swimming) — \$1,260; Eight milkmaids — At the farm wage rate of \$3.38 per hour eight maids working an eight-hour day cost \$216.; Nine ladies dancing — A moderately priced dance company composed of nine women will perform for \$6,000; Ten lords leaping are in short supply. However, you could send ten young men named

Lord to gymnastics school for 16 weeks for \$1,260; Eleven pipers — At the Musicians Union rate of \$11 per hour, plus 20 percent for the leader, 11 pipers cost \$145.20 per hour; Twelve drummers — Paid the same rate as the pipers, \$158.40.

So the cost of this production would be \$10,314.92 not including travel expenses, tax or tips.

But, of course, to keep in tune with the song, you'll have to give your true love not one partridge in a pear tree, but twelve; not one pair of turtle doves, but eleven, and so on. So this pastoral extravaganza will set you back not \$10,314.92 but \$44,848.

At that price, you might consider a jug of wine, a loaf of bread, and thou as cheap, if not more romantic, alternatives.