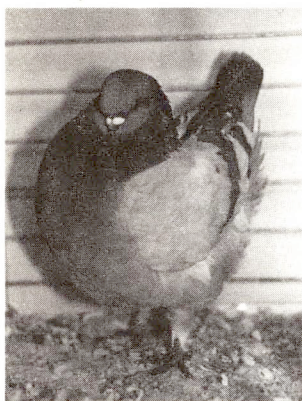


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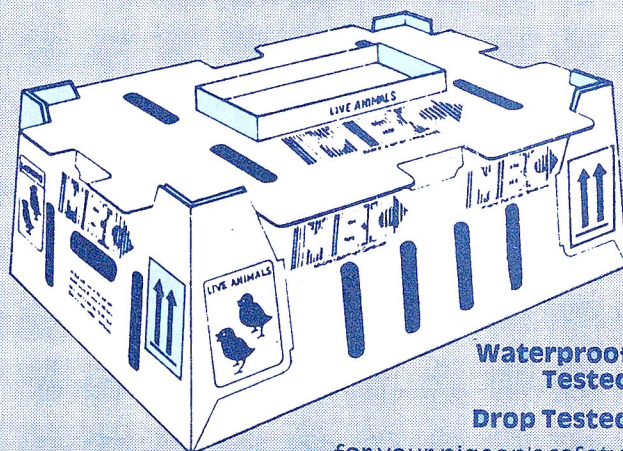
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We will judge young birds Saturday and old birds Sunday. The auction will be held about 11 a.m. Saturday morning.

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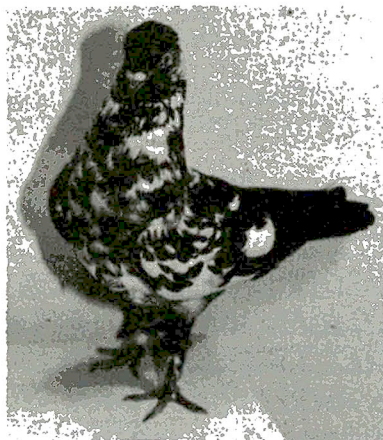
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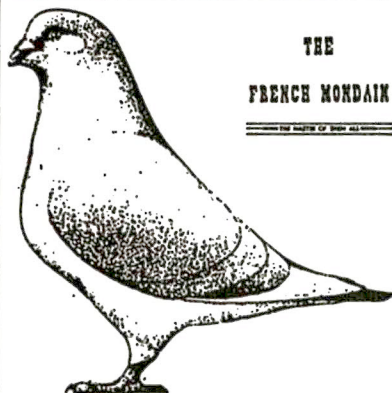
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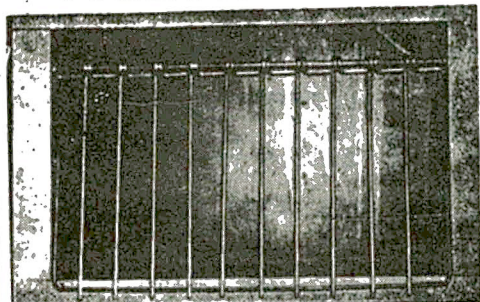
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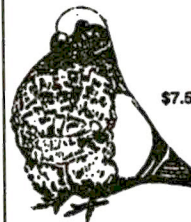
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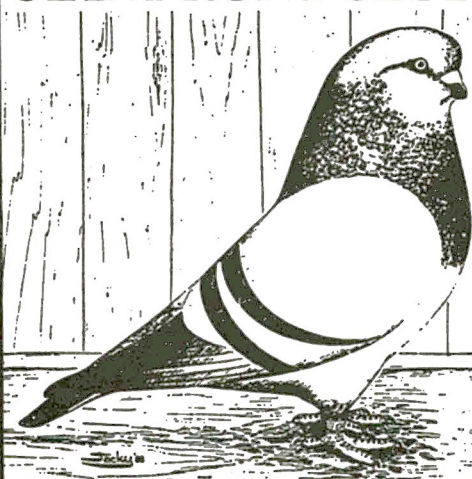
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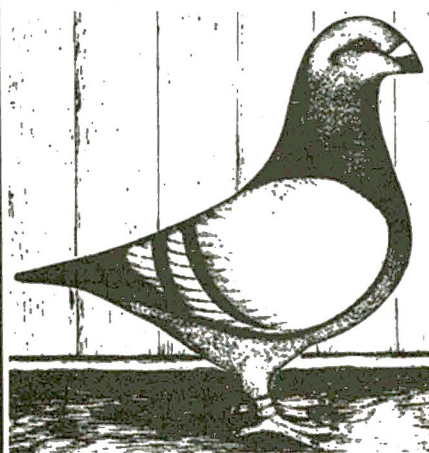
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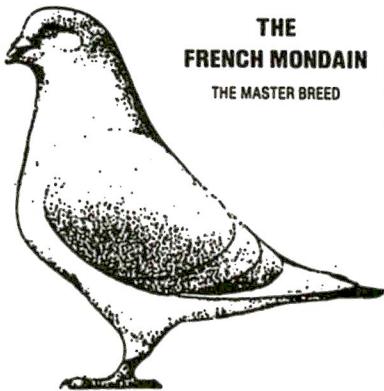
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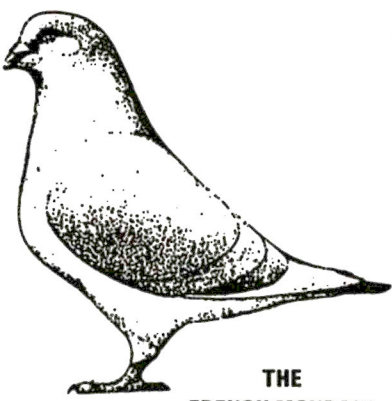
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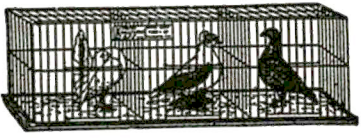
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APFC Announces 6th Booklet

the sixth booklet of the American Pigeon Fanciers' Council set has arrived. It is titled "Pigeon Breeder's Home Buying Guide". It contains information for the fancier about home buying so that he/she may include his hobby. The booklet was prepared by The Avian Assistance Council under the auspices of American Pigeon Fanciers' Council and with the financial assistance of the American Racing Pigeon Union. The other five booklets in the set are: #1 Trichomoniasis In Pigeons (Canker), #2 Paratyphoid In Pigeons; #3 Helminth Parasites Of Pigeons (Worms); #4 Health Care Regimen For Pigeons; and #5 Basic Care for Pigeons. These five were written by the Association of Pigeon Veterinarians under the auspices of The National Avian Disease Task Force for Pigeons and Doves. The cost for the set of six is \$6.00 plus \$1.00 for postage. Individual booklets can be order at \$1.50 each which includes postage.

Avian Assistance Council

The Avian Assistance Council is an organization comprised of attorneys and lay persons who desire to promote its purposes which include procuring promulgation of statutes and ordinances conducive to the enjoyment of breeding, showing and flying of pigeons and all other avian species; and aiding in the defense of non-justifiable infringement on the rights of affected avian participants. Sponsored by the American Racing Pigeon Union, the council has an ad in this issue. It gives the names of contact persons if you are in need of assistance or would like to help the council.

Spotlight On Youth

The "Spotlight On Youth" column is returning with this issue. Kelly D. Spurling will author the column. See page 31 for more information on Kelley and his ideas.

Seriously Injured

A few weeks ago, we were informed that Willie English was in a serious accident which has left him in very serious condition. According to his long-time friend Dean Thrasher, Willie was involved in a tree cutting accident which has left him in a coma through a severe blow to the head. At this time, Willie is at the East Texas Medical Center in Tyler, Texas. For any one desiring more information, please contact Dean Thrasher at 903-657-9747.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Willie.

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Moments With "Mike"

Wes Siebe, Dubuque, Iowa: "I very much enjoy my subscription to your magazine. I was away from pigeons for almost 20 years. Coming back into them now I find your publication the center pivot for the pigeon fanciers across America. Keep up the good work."

Earnest M. Lawrence, FPO New York, N.Y.: "Sometime's when my ship pulls out of our home port, a couple of pigeons will go along with us, I guess they are taking a vacation. For me that's nice of them because I love pigeons. I'm reading an old APJ about the tipplers. I'm going to write to C. Ronald Martin of Cartersville, Ga., so we can talk some pigeon talk. My ship is still in the Middle East. I would love to hear from people back home if they would like to write or send pictures. I will answer all letters. I'm a pigeon lover. My address is: Earnest M. Lawrence, Post Office, USS Guam - LPH - 9, FPO New York, N.Y. 09563-1640."

Joe Calloura, Lake Charles, La.: "Enclosed are my dues for another year of the APJ. I enjoy the King Trivia as I'm a King breeder, also Questions and Answers and Squab Producers Forum. It's very interesting reading and the specials have been outstanding especially the New York Combine special. Peter Fratangelo had his hands full and did a wonderful job. I was at one of their get togethers in New York about four or five years ago and met most of those fellows. They were a great bunch. My best to you all for keeping us informed through the APJ. Good luck and God bless. I will be 80 Oct. 29."

Heather Bartmann, Ft. Collins, Colo.: "I would like to thank you for printing the pictures of pigeons, APJ June 90, page 27. I had a great response from fanciers all across the United States and even one from Amsterdam! The birds are not Royal Snow Tumblers. They are Russian Tumblers with poor crests and eye ceres that are too red. At least now I know which direction to go. My thanks go out to every one who took the time to write or call to share their knowledge with me."



Here's hoping you and yours enjoy a year filled to the brim with health, and happiness too!

Thanks For Your Support!

Mike Joan Nancy
American Pigeon Journal

10th European Modena Show 2669 Modenas Entered

by RICK BARKER, Long Beach, Calif.

Last year at the German National Bird Show in Nuremberg, (36,000 Pigeons, 20,000 Poultry), I was duly impressed with the 1200 Modenas on exhibit. However, many fanciers there indicated that the show to attend was the 10th European Modena Show to be held near Strasbourg, France. The comment, "Modenas from all over Europe will be exhibited," was certainly enough encouragement for me to make the trip.

The show was held in Illkirch, France, on December 8 and 9, 1990. While attending this show, it soon became apparent that the European pigeon fancier is very serious about his hobby. An entire industry has been created just to support the pigeon fancy. This is due to the great number of fanciers all over Europe. Germany, which is roughly the size of Colorado, is stated to have over 200,000 pigeon fanciers. In small towns there are breeding farms built or financed by the township so that even apartment dwellers have the opportunity to raise small animals.

The European pigeon show is quite different than those we have in the states. At our NPA National, for example, people from all over America attend and we can notice slight differences in speech, mannerisms and dress. Differences in pigeons can be noted as well, however, normally they are minimal. Imagine then, with eight to ten countries participating, the extreme difference in language, customs, behavior and of course, pigeons. Therefore, a show of this nature really becomes an exhibition rather than competition. The fanciers are competitive, but it is much more relaxed and comradere becomes the order of the day.

The Modena show near Strasbourg was held in a 20,000 square foot building owned by the local all breed pigeon club. There

were 2669 Modenas entered with 2010 being Schietti. Close to 170 exhibitors participated from nine countries. Naturally, France and Germany had the most fanciers attending, but Italy, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, etc., were well represented. Since no one person can judge more than 80 to 100 birds in Europe, 28 judges presided over the entries. Each country provided one judge for every 100 birds entered. Therefore, France was represented with nine judges, Sweden and Belgium with one. Imagine the scenario of three judges working one color, (i.e. 220 Blue Schietti). Under the best of circumstances, one would find a lack of consistency in judging performance. Compound this difficulty with a judge from England, Belgium and Italy and the only result can be confusion. Fortunately, with enough wine or beer combined with laughter, all is forgiven and forgotten readily enough.

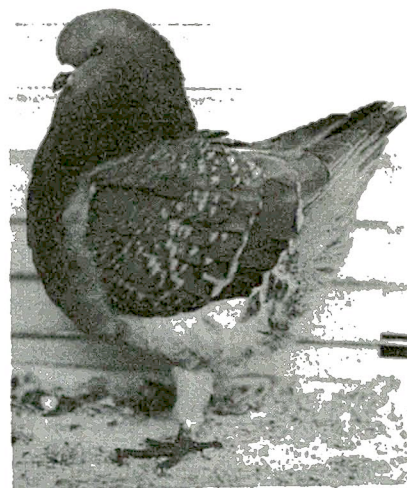
Modenas in Europe are generally much different than those found in the states. The French require a very large Modena and must have a smooth underline above all else. The Germans place much emphasis on a powerful head and neck. The Italians favor a smaller bird. Modenas exhibited from Denmark are similar to ours with balance being a priority. In fact, American birds were exhibited from the lofts of Brad Wilcox (Reds) and Bob Pettit (Argents).

Of special interest is the National team competition. As is the custom in Europe every bird is judged by the point system. Thus, for National competition, if 300 Modenas are entered by a given country, the average point total of the best 50 birds by 20 exhibitors is calculated. At this show, Germany took the National Cup, with France, Denmark and Italy placing in order.

Loft team competition is interesting as well. Gazzzi requires 10 entries, Schietti 15 entries and Magnani which is judged separate from Schietti must have 8 birds in competition. The top teams for 1990-91 are as follows: Gazzzi - Roger Guillemot, Saint Maur, France; Schietti - Jacky Grauss, Ernolsheim, France; and Magnani - Rudi Liehs, Brackenheim, Germany.

In addition to the above outstanding breeders, others of note are in Black Gazzzi, Bernd Spazier, Germany; Red Schietti - Erling Christensen, Denmark; Black and Indigo Schietti - Orla Jeppson, Denmark; Mottel - Philippe Jaggi, Switzerland and Grizzle - Pascal Nestelhut, France. Many other very fine birds and breeders were at Illkirch, they were just too numerous to mention.

Special congratulations are to be given to Eduard Spatzik of Rheinmunster, Germany, (Continued On Next Page)



Bronze Tri, Young Cock #1165, Peter Simon, Treburg, Germany. - Photo by Rick Barker, Long Beach, Calif.



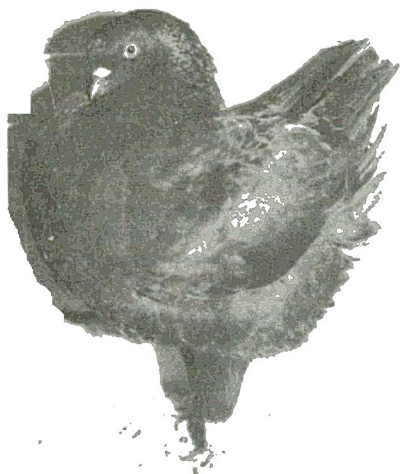
#797 Magnani, Old Hen, Rudi Liehs, Brackenheim, Germany. - Photo by Rick Barker, Long Beach, Calif.



Typical Style European Bronze Schietti, Hubert Willhoff, Meerbusch, Germany. - Photo by Rick Barker, Long Beach, Calif.



Red Check OH was the Best Modena at the 10th European Modena Show, Eduard Spatzik, Rheinmunster, Germany. - Photo by Rick Barker, Long Beach, Calif.



Black Schietti, Orla Jeppson, Broager, Denmark.



Best Old Schietti Cock, Cream #1658, Jacky Grauss, Ernolsheim, France.



Best Bronze Gazzi, Young Cock #225, Benoit Toussaint, Ciply, France.

Photos by Rick Barker, Long Beach Calif.

for winning Champion Modena with a Red Check Schietti Old Hen. Jacky Grauss, Ernolsheim, Germany, had Reserve Modena on a Cream Schietti Old Cock.

As I stated in another article last year, it's fun to travel, see shows in other parts of the world. But in traveling, it becomes quite apparent, at least to this writer, that American fanciers are the best Modena breeders in the world.

1st Blue Schietti Old Hen, #1025, Georges Prat, Labarthe-de-Riviera, France.



Darwin's Rebuttal

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

Over the last few years, various authors in the APJ have insisted Darwin was incorrect for saying different pigeon breeds are descendants of the rock-pigeon. Normally, their argument consists of the statement, "He was wrong!" then incorrect biological information, or outright fantasy, is put forward to defend the writer's point of view.

Darwin, himself, was a methodical worker who marshalled his facts and presented all the data on both sides of an argument before considering the weight of each side. In his work with pigeons, he raised them for years. He joined pigeon clubs and knew many of the greatest breeders of his time. He admits that at the beginning even he was loath to believe all domestic races had a similar origin but evidence compelled him to. He presented his data (about 100 pages full) in the book, "The Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication, Vol. I." After providing page after page of data on breed crosses and on the behavior of domestic and wild pigeons, Darwin goes on to discuss the idea of many species going into the formation of domestic races. He's dead now but his words aren't. So rather than trying to defend him, I figured I'd let him defend himself, in his own words.

"If we reject the belief that all the races of the pigeon are the modified descendants of *C. livia*, and suppose that they are descended from several aboriginal stocks, then we must choose between the three following assumptions: firstly, that at least eight or nine species formerly existed which were aboriginally colored in various ways, but have since varied in exactly the same manner as to assume the colouring of *C. livia*; but this assumption throws not the least light on the appearance of such colours and marks when the races are crossed. Or secondly, we may assume that the aboriginal species were all coloured blue, and had the wing-bars and other characteristic marks of *C. livia*, — a supposition which is highly improbably, as

beside this one species no existing member of the Columbidae presents these combined characters; and it would not be possible to find any other instance of several species identical in plumage, yet as different in important points of structure as are Pouters, Fantails, Carriers, Tumblers, &c. Or lastly, we may assume that all the races, whether descended from *C. livia* or from several aboriginal species, although they have been bred with so much care and are so highly valued by fanciers, have all been crossed within a dozen or score of generation with *C. livia*, and have thus acquired their tendency to produce blue birds with the several characteristic marks. I have said that it must be assumed that each race has been crossed with *C. livia* within a dozen, or at the utmost, within a score of generations; for there is no reason to believe that crossed offspring ever revert to one of their ancestors when removed by a greater number of generations. In a breed which has been crossed only once, the tendency to reversion will naturally become less and less in the succeeding generations, as in each there will be less and less of the blood of the foreign breed; but when there has been no cross with a distinct breed, and there is a tendency in both parents to revert to some long-lost character, this tendency, for all that we can see to the contrary, may be transmitted undiminished for an indefinite number of generations. These two distinct cases of reversion are often confounded together by those who have written on inheritance.

"Considering, on the other hand, the improbability of the three assumptions which have just been discussed, and, on the other hand, how simply the facts are explained on the principle of reversion, we may conclude that the occasional appearance in all races, both when purely bred and more especially when crossed, of blue birds, sometimes chequered, with double wing-bars, with white or blue croups, with a bar at the end of the tail,

and with the outer tail-feathers edged with white, affords an argument of the greatest weight in favour of the view that all are descended from *Columba livia*, including under this name the three or four wild varieties or sub-species before enumerated. (Earlier in this same section, Darwin discusses the wild rock-pigeon and included under its scientific name *Columba livia*, as is now accepted, all its sub-species including the Indian rock-dove with a blue rump, then called *C. intermedia* and the dove-cote pigeon, *C. affinis*, a chequered bird.)

"To sum up the six forgoing arguments, which are opposed to the belief that the chief domestic races are the descendants of at least eight or nine or perhaps a dozen species; for the crossing of any less number would not yield the characteristic differences between the several races. **FIRSTLY:** the improbability that so many species should still exist somewhere, but be unknown to ornithologists, or that they should have become within the historical period extinct, although man has had so little influence in exterminating the wild *C. livia*. **SECONDLY:** the improbability of man in former times having thoroughly domesticated and rendered fertile under confinement so many species. **THIRDLY:** these supposed species having nowhere become feral. **FOURTHLY:** the extraordinary fact that man should intentionally or by chance, have chosen for domestication several species, extremely abnormal in character; and furthermore, the points of structure which render these supposed species so abnormal being now highly variable. **FIFTHLY:** the fact that all the races, though differing in many important points of structure, producing perfectly fertile mongrels; whilst all the hybrids which have been produced between even closely allied species in the pigeon-family are sterile. **SIXTHLY:** the remarkable statements just given on the tendency in all the races, both when purely bred, and when crossed, to revert in numerous minute details of colouring to the character of the wild rock-pigeon, and to vary in a similar manner. To these arguments may be added the extreme improbability that a number of species formerly existed, which differed greatly from one another in some few points, but which resembled each other as closely as do the domestic races in other points of structure, in voice, and in all their habits of life. When these several facts and arguments are fairly taken into consideration, it would require an overwhelming amount of evidence to make us admit that the chief domestic races are descended from several aboriginal stocks; and **OF SUCH EVIDENCE THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NONE** (emphasis added).

"The belief that the chief domestic races are descended from several wild stocks no doubt has arisen from the apparent improbability of such great modifications of structure having been effected since man first domesticated the rock-pigeon. Nor am I surprised at any degree of hesitancy in admitting their common parentage; formerly, when I went into my aviaries and watched

such birds as Pouters, Carriers, Barbs, Fan-tails, and Short-faced Tumblers, &c., I could not persuade myself that they all descended from the same wild stock, and that man had consequently in one sense created these remarkable modifications. Therefore, I have argued the question of their origin at great, and as some will think, superfluous length.

"Finally, in favour of the belief that all the races are descended from a single stock, we have in *Columba livia* a still existing and widely distributed species, which can be and has been domesticated in various countries. This species agrees in most points of structure and in all its habits of life, as well as occasionally in every detail of plumage, with the several domestic races. It breeds freely with them, and produces fertile offspring. It varies in a state of nature, and still more so when semi-domesticated, as shown by comparing the Sierra Leone pigeons with those of India, or with those that have apparently run wild in Madeira. It has undergone a still greater amount of variation in the case of the numerous toy-pigeons, which no one sup-

poses to be descended from distinct species; yet some of these toy-pigeons have transmitted their character truly for centuries. Why then should we hesitate to believe in that greater amount of variation which is necessary for the production of the eleven chief races? It should be borne in mind that in two of the most strongly-marked races namely, Carriers and Short-faced Tumblers, the extreme forms can be connected with the parent-species by graduated difference not greater than those which may be observed between dove-cote-pigeons inhabiting different countries, or between the various kinds of toy pigeons - graduations which must certainly be attributed to variation."

If you're interested in seeing the rest of Darwin's data, and it's extremely fascinating if only for the history of pigeon breeding and the pictures of birds alive then, which he documents, ask your librarian to get a copy of his book. I took this information from the 2nd revised edition of 1883 printed by D. Appleton & Co., NY.

Dove Talk

by GEORGE SCHUTT, Nashville, Tenn.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your New Year be a happy one and raise many little doves.

Speaking of raising doves, we have some new colors of Ringnecks coming out. In this past month I have heard of three new colors. All of these are from crossing and working with orange and tangerine bloodlines. With the crossings between these, and our other many colors, anything can happen. We will be in close contact with the breeders and have more on these later.

Don't forget to winterize your doves. Nothing looks worse than a dove without toes. If you don't have the correct perch in the winter their toes will freeze. Always make sure the perch is wide enough to protect their toes. Also make sure your doves are not in a draft. They can take the cold, but not the wind, or a draft.

Many of our exotic doves cannot take the cold weather. If you are getting into exotic doves you need to check your breed before buying. Ask the breeder you buy from. He or she can tell you if this dove needs warmth all year. Some breeds have no problem with cold weather while others chill in 40-50° temperature.

Very little has been written on our exotic doves. You will find books on them but information is brief. The way to find out about the exotic you are interested in, is contact a breeder. We have many top breeders of exotic doves. They are from coast to coast. It's just a matter of locating one in your area. Most of our exotic breeders are members of one of our Dove Clubs in America and Canada.

One favorite dove among the exotics is

the Greenwing or Emerald Dove. This is a very beautiful bird. Greenwings must be kept fairly warm and protected from storms, snow and cold. They are seed eaters and boasts beautiful green wings, hence its name Greenwing Dove.

It's always best to provide a nest for them. If they build a nest it is flimsy and not very strong. Helping them by providing a nest may save yourself some babies falling out.

They are the same as most doves. They lay two eggs, taking 14 days to hatch. The eggs are pale cream and slightly lustrous. It takes about one week for the babies' feathers to be complete. The babies' bill is pink with a dark grey tip. At three months it starts turning red.

Male and female are easily sexed. The beauty of this dove lies mainly in the deep, rich vinaceous head, neck and underparts, the green mantle and black lower back.

The home of these doves is found throughout India, Ceylon, parts of Indo-China, the Philippines and South to Australia and New Guinea.

During incubation, the hen gets calmer and loses much fear of the keeper. The hen also does most of the brooding. Squabs are fed by both parents.

If you are interested in exotic doves this is a good dove to try. Many other exotic doves make good pets. Among them are the Cape, Sengal European Turtle, Tamoline and others.

If you want to spice up your aviary, you may want to try some exotic doves.

My address is: P.O. Box 24984, Nashville, Tenn. 37202-4948.

Scamporee '90

by RICHARD J. CHURRAY, Newport News, Va.

In the summer issue of the NPA Quarterly Review, I read the article, Public Commentary, by Mike Lerp. This article concerned the need to "focus on youth the future of our hobby." This article touched me because I work with the Boy Scouts of America. In September, I decided to be part of our Scout show with a display of pigeons. This display would suggest to Scouts a new way to earn the Pet Merit Badge by raising and showing pigeons. This year the Scout show was called, "Scamporee 90" and what a success it was. The event was attended by approximately 1,000 Scouts and adult leaders who spent the weekend and by approximately 850 visitors on Saturday, October 27.

I represented Cub Scout Pack 302 and the Virginia Pigeon and Dove Association. I cannot remember when I had a more enjoyable time with my birds. The people who stopped by to talk were very friendly. They loved the birds I brought to the show. The children enjoyed holding Parlor Rollers and watching them tumble across the lawn. Many of the adults admired the white Fantails and the way they strutted around the show pen. I made many new friends some of which I

think will soon have pigeons of their own.

The most important thing I felt about the day was the way pigeon breeding was promoted. I have been to many shows. I have sat and watched judging and talked to many fanciers. The people at shows are already in the pigeon fancy so there is no real promoting going on. Instead we each share the love we have for our birds, the improvements we are making and a concern for each other. Saturday, October 27, was different. I had the opportunity to talk with many people about pigeons. I answered many questions and put to rest a few myths about pigeon breeding. I was excited. Here I was sharing with many unknown people in my hobby. I shed a new light on pigeons. People saw the beauty of pigeons and were invited into the wonderful and exciting world of pigeons.

I would like to invite all fanciers to get involved in promoting our hobby. Through Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and other similar organizations we can increase awareness and appreciation of the pigeon. As Mr. Lerp said, "WE NEED TO FOCUS ON YOUTH, the future of our hobby."

Helpful Hint

by SID G. CAMOMILE, Mesa, Ariz.

I would like to pass on a helpful hint to all the APJ readers and to other bird breeders cleaning up their lofts. As we all know when the birds moult, there is an abundance of feathers flying all over the place. My loft looked like a down pillow had exploded. As the birds exercise and fly, the feathers get scattered even more.

After several attempts at raking (feathers don't rake), I decided to try my shop vac. Now this type of cleaning was a pleasure. I went from a two hour chore to 20 minutes and if your nesting boxes aren't too bad, the shop vac does a good job there. If there happens to be any lice or other bugs, they're gone because they don't stand a chance with the vac.

I would also like to thank the people who are involved with the APJ. It is surely a fine magazine for the best hobby I've ever had. Please keep up the fine work.



PROMOTING PIGEONS

On the left is a display with information about the Boy Scout Pet Merit Badge and the Virginia Pigeon and Dove Assn. On the right, the boys have their first look at a pigeon with a fantail. — Photo by Richard J. Churray, Newport News, Va.



PROMOTING PIGEONS

On the left, Seth Bridges, a junior member of the Virginia Pigeon and Dove Assn., and a first class Scout shows other Scouts a White Fantail. On the right, Scouts and adults are admiring the pigeons. — Photos from Richard J. Churray, Newport News, Va.

Pigeon Whistles Make Aerial Orchestra

by WANG SHIH-HSIANG

(Editor's Note: This article was sent to us by Rodney Lam of Lynwood, Wash. Rodney notes that he has been able to fly a kit of Chinese Nasal Tufts with pigeon whistles attached, "an amazing thing to hear." Unfortunately, some of the sketches included with the article did not reproduce very well. But hopefully, will give readers a general idea about pigeon whistles. It was also noted that the author of this article was an old resident of Peking who does much research on its customs and art crafts.)

In early morning and late afternoon, amateur pigeon fanciers in Peking take their pet birds from their cages, fasten whistles to their tails and release them for flight. The air is quickly filled with sound – some notes high, others low, some vibrant, others mellow – a blend like that of an orchestra accompanying the winged dance of the pigeons.

From mention of them in old essays, it is known that the making of pigeon whistles was a thriving craft as long ago as the southern Sung dynasty (1127-1279). Their sound was described by poets and literary men as "heavenly music." Today the whistles are made and used in such famous cultural centres as Hangchow, Soochow, Yangchow and Kaifeng as well as in Peking. Designs differ with each locality, but the pigeon whistles of Peking are renowned for their fine workmanship.

Still extant today are specimens made by four well-known Peking craftsmen in the nineteenth century. They are always carved

with one of four characters – Hui, Yung, Ming or Hsing – to designate the maker, and are distinguished by different timbres. The Hui whistles give forth a sound that is delicate and serene like a Chinese lute; those of Yung have a sonorous ring; the note of Hsing whistles is clear and sharp; that of Ming lies somewhere between Hsing and Yung. Generally made out of a gourd, bamboo or reed, the most prized whistles have an ivory or whalebone rim around the mouth.

Among contemporary makers, Tao Tso-wen and Wu Tze-tung are the most celebrated. Tao is in his eighties and Wu over seventy, but both wield their carving knives with a firm hand and produce whistles of fine workmanship, including copies of many ancient designs.

Wu and Tao whistles are of five types. One, called "Stars Surrounding the Moon" is made of the bulging part of a gourd. The inside of the dried fruit is hollowed out, leaving a thin wall to divide it into two uneven parts, one of which produced a higher; and the other a lower note. A dozen or so small whistles made from hollow bamboo are fitted in a circle through holes in the wall of the gourd.

The second type of whistle is made from the neck of the gourd, with numbers of small bamboo or reed pipes (sometimes as many as 35) attached to it. The third is made of three to five pieces of bamboo of different lengths, fastened together like the pipes of an organ.

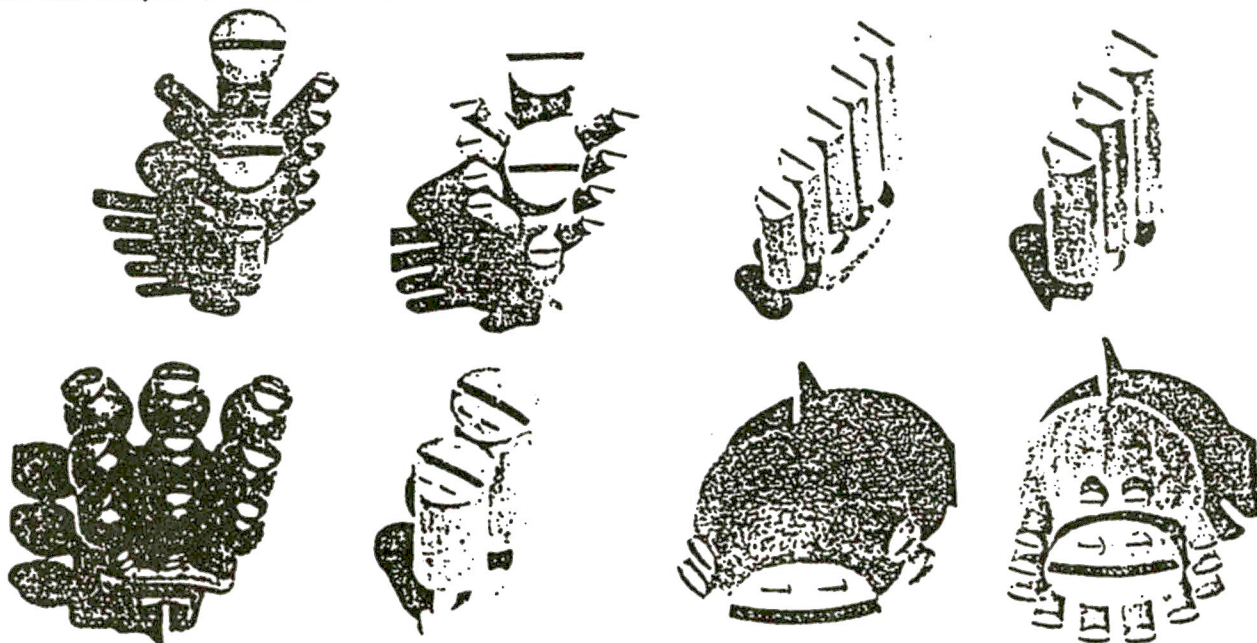
The fourth type is similar but the pieces of bamboo are much thicker. The fifth is made of several pieces of bamboo attached to a round or rectangular bamboo stand.

Each whistle is fitted with a small bone handle which is fastened to the bird's tail feathers by a length of fine wire. When the bird is in flight, the air passes through the different-sized pipes and produces harmonious sounds.

Neither Tao Tso-wen or Wu Tze-tung had any training in acoustics but they have learned how to set the pitch of the whistles to any note they wish. They generally set the two main pipes to produce a minor third, with the secondary pipes harmonizing with it.

Although Tao and Wu generally use a gourd for the body of their whistles, they also sometimes make them from the dried shells of ginkgo nuts, lotus seeds, lichees, longans and even the skins of oranges. The whistles are painted deep colours and their shapes are varied. Some are short and plump like a big-bellied frog, some resemble ancient pan-pipes, others have flexible ears attached to them which make them look like the head of a pig with a comical expression. The largest are as big as the palm of a hand, the smallest no larger than a man's finger. But whatever the size or shape, the walls are paper thin and the whistles as light as a leaf. They in no way impair the flight of the birds.

Because of their fine workmanship, the whistles are collected by pigeon fanciers. The writer himself has over 300 made by Tao and Wu, and Ching dynasty craftsmen.



Drawings of Pigeon Whistles.

Where Is The Old German Moorhead?

by TIMOTHY KOVATCH, Fall River Mills, Calif.

I wonder if your readers might help me? I have been trying to locate a rare breed, the "Old German Moorhead," without success. A wonderful photo of this exquisite pigeon appears on page 125, fig. 182, of the Fancy pigeon book of Müller and Schrag. This bird is not to be confused with the common short faced Moorhead, but displays the typical German Toy pigeon type.

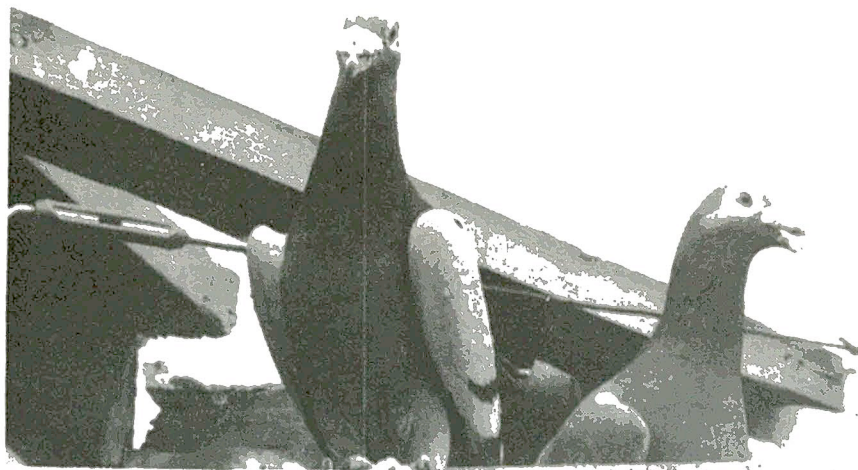
Quite some time ago, possibly eight years or so, there appeared an article in the APJ, regarding an importation of this breed from Europe, probably Germany. I would love to find a copy of this issue.

I know there are some fanciers back East

that have them but have had no luck in contacting them, even after running an ad in the classified section.

Could you please help me to find this breed, and appeal to the fanciers who breed them? It would be a terrible shame if this breed were to die out in this country, as it is a rare breed of uncommon beauty and charm.

Please let me know if you have the issue containing the article I mentioned, and publish this letter if at all possible. Thanks very much and keep up the great work. —Timothy J. Kovatch, P.O. Box 682, Fall River Mills, Calif. 96028, phone (916) 335-5295.



ENGLISH CARRIERS

A young blue bar cock (left) and young red hen bred by Rocky Williams, Littlefield, Texas.

The English Carrier

by ROCKY WILLIAMS, Littlefield, Texas

When the name English Carrier comes up most people think of them as birds that carried messages in the wars. Homing pigeons did that job. Carriers are tall and not a pretty bird at all. Most people think something is wrong with them at first. It is one of the tallest breeds of pigeons.

The Carrier is clean legged and should have a two inch beak from the center of the eye to the end of the beak. The wattle should be large and have the shape of a walnut. Head should be straight and narrow. The eye ceres should be well developed as the beak wattle is. The weight of English Carriers are very different in parts of the United States, but the most common weight is 20 to 23 ounces. It has long legs and a long slender neck. The feathers should be hard and tight. Carriers are not the most tame pigeon. They have powerful wings.

When breeding it is not always good to keep pairs in the same loft. Some cocks get real mean. They will fight and not set on the nest. Once I had two pair in one small loft and one cock killed the other cock overnight, but then again I have had Carriers in with several

pairs and no trouble at all.

Carriers do like to be bullies to the other pigeons. It is to be believed for hundreds of years the English Carrier was the most popular breed of pigeon in England. The English Carrier is believed to have come from the Middle East in the area of Bagdad. In the Early 1600's these pigeons were known as Turkish and Persian pigeons. The British were the people to have them imported from the Middle East. This was over 400 years ago. It is not known how the English Carrier got its name or why they became so popular in England.

The old color standard calls for all carriers to be self in color, like white, dun, black, red, yellow, pied and blue barred. The eye was to be red in color except the color white which has a bull eye. The colors of the eyes are the same today, but the body colors have been bred in Ash Red and more of a splash than pied. The breeds are not sure about the color almond.

The English Carrier is also called the Bagdad of England, Englische Bagdette and Le Carrier. This is a good breed to raise.

The Sport Of Pigeon Racing

by STANLEY T. BURKE II,
Stead, Nevada

(Editor's Note: Stanley wrote this essay for an English assignment.)

Racing pigeons is not as easy as some other sports. Amazingly enough it does require some skill. It can be both exciting and rewarding.

First you must acquire good stock from a reputable breeder. You must also provide these fine feathered thoroughbreds with a dry, draft free home that we pigeon fanciers call a loft.

Since the original stock of homing pigeons was acquired from another breeder, we must set these birds up in a breeding program of our own. Otherwise, if we had tried to fly them ourselves the birds would return to their original home (hence the name Homing Pigeon). So it is necessary to raise our own youngsters that will home to our own loft.

When these youngsters are seven to ten days old, we ring them with an aluminum ring that bears the initials of the club that the fancier belongs to, the year of birth (or hatch) of the bird, and the bird's permanent I.D. number. I say permanent because after ten days of age this ring cannot be removed.

At the age of 30 days our babies are leaving the nest and may be weaned from their parents. At this time the youngsters, as they are now called, are moved to a separate loft called the Young Bird loft. They are also introduced to the Bobs or Trap, a one way entry allowing the birds to enter the loft, but not leave unless the fancier lets them out. The birds become accustomed to their new home, and at this time begin a period of training that prepares them for the races.

The birds learn their surroundings in the next couple of months by flying around their loft for an hour each morning and evening. Once they start to fly further and further from home, and stay on the wing (as we fanciers call it) for hours at a time, it is time to Road Train.

Road Training is the process in which the fancier will take his birds away from home and release them. This procedure is started at one mile from home, and increased in increments of five miles each time until the birds are returning home from 50 miles.

The night before the big race the fancier carefully chooses the birds that he plans to race. He must draw on his experience and intuition to accomplish this task. He must examine the health of the bird along with the pedigree of the bird in order to make a good decision. Is the bird a long distance runner? Or is the bird a medium distance bird? Maybe the bird is a short distance sprinter. Perhaps the bird has broken flight feathers, or maybe the bird has a cold. At last the fancier has chosen the finest of his team and they are resting comfortably in their training basket.

Finally the big day arrives! The fancier

places his chosen charges into a basket and along with his Race Timer (a special timer made for the timing of racing pigeons) proceeds to the club where other fanciers have gathered for the Counter Marking and shipping of the birds.

One can feel the excitement in the air as the birds are prepared for the race. Even the birds themselves seem to sense that this is no ordinary training toss! Oh, the bragging and the goading that goes on!

"My old blue hen is sure to win this race," I hear old Joe tell a newcomer to the sport. And the newcomer replies, "Not if my slate cock gets out of the basket first!"

Ah, but first the birds must be counter marked and placed in the basket. Counter marking involves the placing of a colored rubber ring that bears a two or three digit number on the outside and a secret number (known only to the race committee) on the inside of the ring, on the bird's leg. The bird is then placed in the shipping crate or basket and its counter mark number is recorded along with its permanent I.D. number in the race book.

All the fancier's birds are handled in this manner and all the clocks are set and started at the same time. The clocks are then sealed to prevent cheating on the fancier's part.

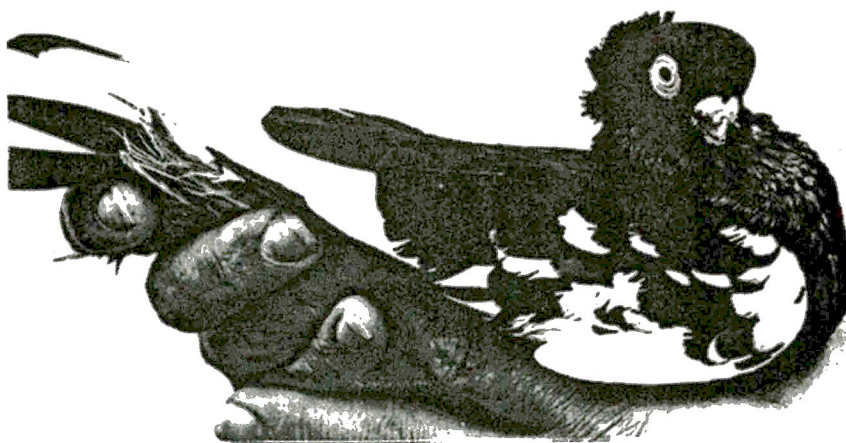
Morning has dawned clear and cold. The fancier is so excited that as he cares for the rest of his birds, he is searching the skies for any arrivals even though the birds may or may not have been released yet!

Meanwhile, at the release station the birds await their release with a certain air of impetuous excitement. The liberator has been given a green light for release, meaning that the weather is good and there is enough daylight for the birds to see to navigate. The doors to the crates are all dropped at once. Suddenly, with the sound of wings upon the air the birds are off and racing!

No one really knows what becomes of our thoroughbreds as they wing their way home, though it is certain that some will lose their way, or some will become prey to hawks and hunters. But nothing will deter the will to home that these small wonders on wings have.

Back at the loft, the fancier has started earnestly looking for his birds. The birds have been on the wing for three hours, and it is only a 150 mile race. The fancier's clock is at the ready, quietly ticking by his side. The pigeon fancier is now scanning the skies, searching for his birds' arrival. What is that!? Oh, it's just a sparrow, but wait, a shadow overhead! Is it? A flash of wings! Could it be? Yes! My blue hen! There she is, over the top of the trees! Quick as a flash she folds her wings and dives for the loft! Where's my clock! She's in the trap! Quick, every second counts! I remove the counter mark from her leg and place it in the clock, turning the key, and locking the counter mark inside the clock. Her time of arrival is then stamped on the paper tape inside the clock.

She has made good time indeed! And boy is she thirsty, just look at her drink! Let's get down to the club and see if we have a winner!



Rose Wing. A Faulaugen and Rose Wing crossed will result in a Color Head. - Photo from Rudy Ottenhoff, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

They Aren't Royal Snow Tumblers

by RUDY OTTENHOFF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

In the June 1990, I read Heather Bartman's article, "Can You Help Me Identify This Breed?" She wondered if her birds were Snow Tumblers. Well, I'm sorry to say that such a breed doesn't really exist. The pigeon called Snow Tumbler is the result of crossing the Koningsberger Coloured Head. By continuously crossing the Coloured Head with the Coloured Head you get, automatically, this so-called Tumbler.

Breeders in Germany use these Self Whites to cross with the Rose Wing (see photo of spotted pigeon), then you get the Coloured Heads again. For a real good breed, you need these three kinds of pigeons.

When you cross the whites with the whites, it is very easy to breed a whole loft full with these pigeons and you can call them Snow Tumblers, but it isn't correct.

This self white pigeon has dark brown eyes. (Faulaugen - dirty eyes). To cross with the Rose Wings you get light eyes. The Coloured Head must have a pearl coloured eye.

The Coloured Head is in red - black - yellow and blue. The dun is in Germany and Netherlands not acknowledged. It is a very difficult breed.

—the head must be broad, round and thick.

—beak short and set.

—the top point of the head must be in front of and above the eye (see photo).

—the crest is coloured inside and white outside with two rosettes left and right from the head.

—very good/full feather legs.

In this breed you get a lot of spotted birds.

In Germany, we have two very good breeders, Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Monska. Both are over 75 years old and dyed-in-the-wool.

If you have any questions, please write:
Rudy Ottenhoff
Schimmelstraat 69
1053 T D Amsterdam
Netherlands



Black colored head. - Photo from Rudy Ottenhoff, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.



Faulaugen. - Photo from Rudy Ottenhoff, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Fantails And The Altpeters In South Africa

by DAVID MALAN, Krugersdorf, South Africa

It was indeed both an honour and pleasure for South African Fantail breeders to host one of America's Fantail greats as guest judge this year. The Altpeter name will definitely live on forever in the Fantail world and we were fortunate to be able to share the knowledge of this man with a lifetime of Fantail experience behind him. Eugene and Betty - it really was great to have you wonderful people in our country.

For me personally it also meant a milestone in my life because Eugene and I brought together 144 years of Fantail breeding. His father, Eugene Sr., started the Altpeter stud 84 years ago in 1906, whilst my father, the Rev. André Malan, started the Malan stud in 1930. I would really like to know whether any other two families exists in the pigeon world who can boast with this vast amount of breeding experience in one breed!?

Eugene was the third North American judge invited by the South African Fantail Club to judge our two major shows. Previously Tom Pritchett visited in 1981 and he was followed by Brian Pogue in 1987. From all three of these fine gentlemen and outstanding judges, we were able to learn something new about our beloved breed.

During the three and a half weeks of his stay, Eugene visited quite a few Fantail lofts and judged 225 Fans at the AF Malan Memorial show and 157 Fantails at the club show in Paarl. His comments on the standards of Fans at the two shows were as follows:

AF Malan Show

In Whites, it was the young hen class that the first five to six birds were all very good and not a great difference between them. The hen that won and went on to become best white (4877, Peter Schmidt) was a well

balanced bird with the head right in the pocket and very good body and legs. Each white class had some very nice birds.

The classes of blacks were well represented with good birds. I was impressed with the young hen (11500, Magriet Jacobs) as well as the old hen (253, Magriet Jacobs) that won her class, best black, and was later picked for Grand Champion. She was a very refined pigeon with good colour. Her head was straight down at the base of the cushion, nice round body, good straight legs and an excellent tail that seemed to blend with the rest of her body.

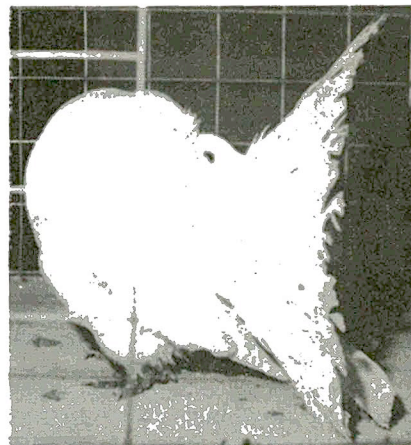
The other classes of blacks also had some real nice birds. Some of the faults found in those that were not placed high in their class were narrow bodies, wing butts showing or head being off to the side. Nevertheless the majority of them are useful birds and can throw some good birds if mated to the proper birds.

The blues also had some top quality Fantails having nice bodies, legs, tail and head setting. They would compete well in the U.S.

In the red and yellow classes again I was impressed with the quality with each class having some very nice Fantails.

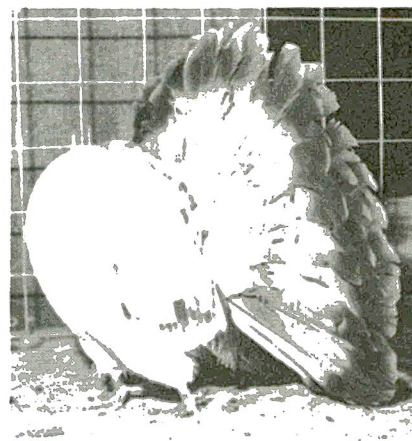
I thought the ash reds were of high quality also and would compete well in any show in the U.S. as would any of the birds in the other classes.

The grizzle classes had some fine Fantails. The best grizzle (2457, Kobus Blaauw) had a nice large tail, head was down at the base of the cushion, well covered up in body and good legs. This young cock went on to be Reserve Champion of the show. In the tail marks there were also some real fine birds with good type and balance.



CHAMPION FANTAIL

White YC 9293/89 bred and exhibited by Tom Ryke, Cape Town, South Africa. - Photo from David Malan, Krugersdorf, South Africa.



RESERVE CHAMPION FANTAIL

Grizzle YC 2457/89, bred and exhibited by Kobus Blaauw, Krugersdorf, South Africa. - Photo by David Malan, Krugersdorf, South Africa.



Eugene Altpeter and David Malan at the South African Fantail Club Show, Paarl 1990. - Photo from David Malan, Krugersdorf, South Africa.

SA Fantail Club Show

I enjoyed judging this show as there were many fine Fantails on exhibit. The champion of the show was a young white cock (9293, Tom Ryke) a very refined bird that covered up well in the body with tight fine wings, good legs, nice tail and head position. He was at his best when it came to pick the champion.

The winner in each class of whites were all very nice Fantails, well balanced birds needing to be a bit better in certain points to be champion. There were some very nice whites that I believe were overtrained for the walking pen and consequently were so relaxed and lazy they would not show their true qualities.

The black classes also had some very nice Fantails. There were some young birds that were completely developed with feathers missing in the tail and should be fine birds in the future. The champion black (YC 224, Daan van Vuuren) had a round ball body, good head position and colour. At times he

had trouble with one leg when judging for champion of the show, but when in position, a well balanced bird. I believe the cocks were better than the hens in the black classes.

In reds and yellows very good progress has been made with nice birds in most classes. The champion red hen (OH 1892, Otto Holm) was small, good legs, on her toes, nice tail and constantly performing. I believe in a few years the breeders will have this colours where they will compete well with most other colours.

The champion powdered blue (YH 2963, Hannes Coetzee) had a round ball like body with its head in the pocket and good legs. A soft feathered tail distracted a bit from its overall appearance, nevertheless a very nice powdered blue.

There were not many entries in the saddles. The best saddle (OC 5146, Sarel Koen) was a nice bird and as in the USA, more saddle breeders are needed to work on the various coloured saddles. This would increase the entries at the shows.

In the blue classes there were some truly

nice Fantails. A couple nice birds were lazy that day and were not showing up to their potential. The best blue (OH 2009, David Malan) had a large tail, good body and legs, a small well balanced bird. From what I saw in your country there will be some outstanding blues in the near future.

The grizzle classes had one outstanding bird (YC 2457, Kobus Blaauw) which went on to be reserve champion of show. This grizzle had a large tail, well covered in body, nice legs, good carriage and always in position. A nice well balanced all round good Fantail.

The best mismarked (2403, Kobus Blaauw) was a young blue splash hen with good body and legs, excellent tail, an all round good bird.

Overall the show was another successful event. The top birds in the various classes would compete well in the USA. There are more than double the amount of Fantail breeders in the USA, so entries in our main shows are larger and competition is intense.

Long Face High Flying Tipplers

by PETE MACK, Beachwood, N.J.

Flying Tipplers gives me many hours of pleasure. In fact, nothing relaxes me more than flying my kit of 75 birds. The bigger the flock of birds that I fly, the better I enjoy them. I don't have the time to go into "The Time Flying" of Tipplers like so many of the Tippler Flyers do in Great Britain and the United States. So you could say that my strain of birds are my own and I call them "Mack's," which of course is my last name. The Tipplers that I fly are crosses of birds that I acquired from Dick Seabridge, Stan

Ogozalek and numerous other proven flyers.

What I look for in my birds is a round skull, long beak, pearl eyes, light ceres, wide chest, stand erect and an alert carriage.

My birds fly at different altitudes, from slightly higher than roof top level to the pin point. They also ramble and rake and at times will take off and cannot be seen for a while.

I would like to get into the "Time Flying," hopefully someday when I retire.

Keep Them Flying - Pete Mack.

Was It Just Luck Or . . . ?

by JEFF BUTLER, Union, Iowa

About a week ago while flying my Rollers for their morning flight a hawk came cruising over the tree tops. He sent the Rollers scattering in every direction. I thought for sure I'd lose some. When it was all over only two were unaccounted for.

At this time I thought that maybe they would come back later or be roosting in a nearby tree.

After three days I pretty much gave up on them. I figured they got lost or eaten by a hawk.

Today at work, a friend came in to tell me a pigeon was outside walking down the sidewalk. He said it seemed pretty tame and wondered if it was one of mine. After a few minutes I was off work and I went out looking for the pigeon thinking it was a lost homer. I thought it would be fun to catch it and find out who it belonged to.

When I finally did find it she was sitting on my car. I was getting a little ribbing from the guys at work about the pigeon knowing I was a pigeon man. As I approached the pigeon it looked very familiar. It was one of my missing Rollers!

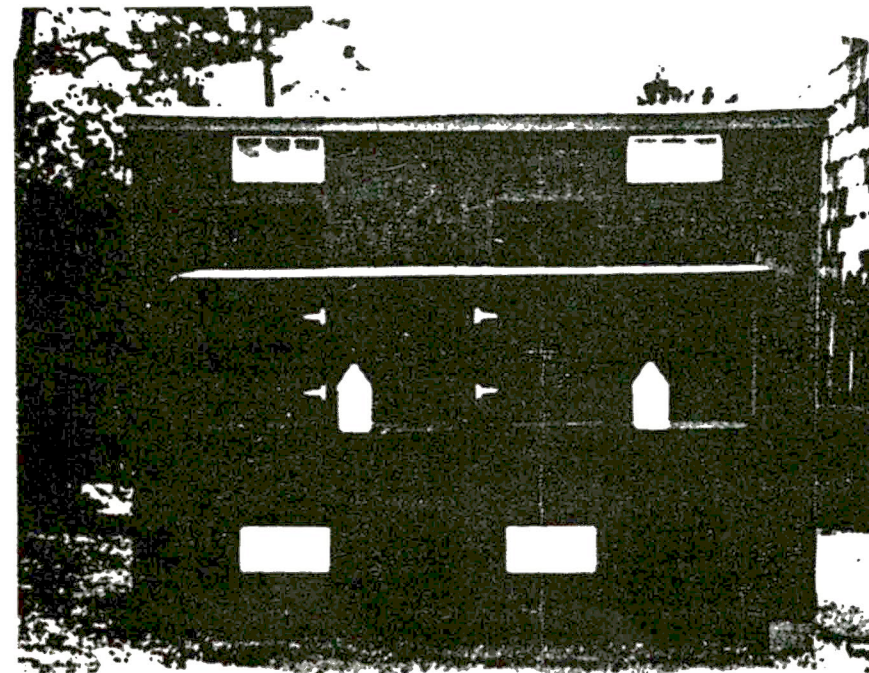
I walked slowly over to her and whistled as I do at feeding time. She walked right down the windshield and across the hood to my outstretched hand. (I usually feed them out of my hand to get them used to people). I then reached out, picked her up and looked at her band. Sure enough this bird was mine!

I've heard several theories on racing homers finding their way home but never one of a pigeon finding its owner to get home.

How did this bird pick my car to land on when so many others were present?

It was neat that she picked my work place to land but to land on my own car? Just dumb luck or did this bird actually recognize my car? Any suggestions?

Just thought you might find it as interesting as I did. - Jeff Butler, Rt. 1, Box 139, Union, Iowa 50258.



Loft of Peter Mack, Beachwood, N.J. This 10'x16' loft is used for the flyers.

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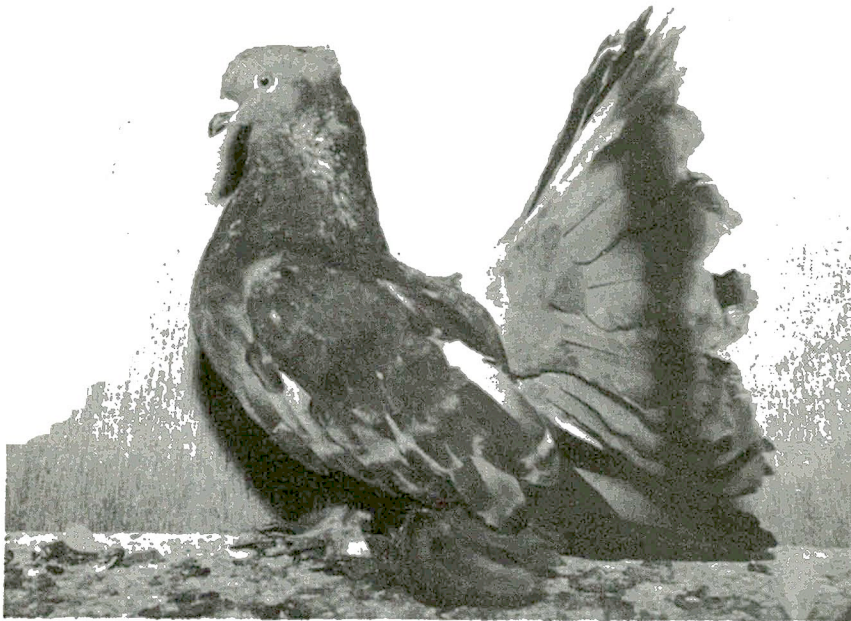
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Tim Kvidera's young Blue Check Cock, IFC 1328 NPA 90, champion of District 2's non-sanctioned (but fun) Progressive Lawn Show for Indian youngsters bred during 1990. — Photo by Tim Kvidera.

Putting Some Fun Into The Pre-Show Season

by GARRY GLISSMEYER, IFCA Pub. Dir., Colorado Springs, Colo.

Tim Kvidera, IFCA Genetics Committee Chairman, wrote a very enjoyable article about a "progressive" lawn show some of the District 2 members held to test out their young birds in the show coop. Although this article appeared in our recent IFCA Bulletin, there may be other fanciers or non-IFCA Indian breeders that may enjoy the event... might foster some ideas?

Following is Tim's account of what sounds to be a terrific socializer and pre-season warm up for budding young show stock:

"Ever been to a progressive dinner? It's a gathering of friends in which the group travels from home to home enjoying a course of the meal at each stop. Well on Saturday, August 18, 1990, we put together a progressive lawn show. We combined a series of loft tours with an evaluation of each fancier's young bird crop at each stop. From each loft we picked the top two or three young Indians and brought them along for the final show-down at the last stop. A great time was had by all.

"The idea was hatched when Don and Pam McCullough of Marshalltown, Iowa, called expressing a desire to come up and visit with some of the Northern Indian Fantail breeders. We had been kicking the idea around of a lawn show for a few years, but never put one together. The McCullough's visit sounded like the catalyst we needed so why not combine the two.

"We started at Howard White's in St. Peter, Minn. Howie keeps an immaculate loft with some nice birds in a variety of colors. He has had the misfortune of two visits this year from knowledgeable pigeon thieves who selectively picked superior

Indian Fantail specimens. We went through about 30 youngsters and picked a white cock and an under marked Tailmark as candidates for the fine show-down. Both birds were nice Indians in good feather.

"We played a little game of musical chairs switching passengers in cars so that there was a variety of conversation on the trip up to the twin Cities and the next stop at Tim Kvidera's loft. Cages were set up and about 40 youngsters were evaluated by color class. From the groups of silvers, blues, almonds and checkers we boxed the top of each except the blue as the moult was extensive in that class. While the cages were torn down, Don and Pam got a chance to quickly see some of the various genetic projects in progress before we departed to the Ardy Prekker loft.

"Ardy has a roomy setup with a very nice stud of whites, blacks, reds and Tailmarks.

The first part of the breeding season was spent experimenting to improve the reds and blacks with varying degrees of success. Remating of the whites midyear resulted in some very nice youngsters. Again the moult took its toll on many of the 50 or so youngsters there, but we found an exceptional white squeaker and boxed it along with another nice white and a milky blue check.

"After more musical chairs we were off to Rice Lake, Wisc., where the tour terminated at Mike McLin's. Mike has a collection of birds and fowl. Along with chickens, rhea, etc., are a variety of pigeons. Besides Indian Fantails, in which Mike concentrates mostly on Andalusian, black and milky blue, he is working with Indian Fantasies, German Beauty Homers, Schmalkalden Moorheads, rare colored Racing Homers and performing Rollers. We picked a striking colored almond, a blue and a kite to bring down to the garage for the show-down.

"Time did not permit us to swing by Stan Stanke's loft, but Stan and family brought a few bronze pided to add to the show.

"We proceeded to individually critique the 15 birds in a panel judging format. After reviewing each bird we picked, by consensus, the top five birds for further consideration. This brought us down to Howard's white, Ardy's white, Tim's blue check, Mike's blue and Stan's bronze splash. These were next pared down to the two whites and the blue check. With final placing's resulting in Tim Kvidera's blue check cock, IFC 1328 NPA 90, being named Champion. He is a steady showing, larger, well balanced bird who was young enough to still be in good condition. First Reserve went to Howard White's white cock, IFC 2542 NPA 90, a very nice feathered older youngster who occasionally reared and needs a little more tail length. Ardy Prekker's seven week old white squeaker, IFC 2886 NPA 90, was second Reserve. This bird will be one to be reckoned with. It has a huge tail and can station well, but his youth affected the consistency of stance and body power. Watch out for this one come the winter shows.

"On behalf of all who participated I'd like to thank Mike for hosting the show-down phase of our progressive lawn show. We had



Howard White's loft, St. Peter, Minn. It is painted beige with brown trim. — Photo by Tim Kvidera.

Out Skunking A Skunk

by HARVEY RICKER, St. Francisville, Ill.

The other night I noticed some cookies that had been around too long, so I decided to throw them out to the cat. I opened the back door and lo and behold there was a skunk eating the cats dog food (we use to have a dog and had food left over, luckily the cat can't read and is eating the dog food) from the foot high pile of food in the cat's bowl. The reason for the excess cat/dog food is my five year old daughter had fed the cat that evening. Anyway the skunk must have heard me and took off one way and I ran back into the house to get my shotgun as I had read skunks and birds didn't mix. By the time I located both the shells and gun the skunk was back eating cat/dog food.

I didn't want to shoot the skunk at the bowl as it was only about ten feet from the back door, so I walked towards the skunk slowly making noise so I wouldn't surprise the skunk nor him me. I wanted to scare him away from the house so I could shoot it. The skunk retreated about ten feet and went between a large four foot high pile of bricks which were stacked beside my shop. Connected also at the back of the stop is my feed room and a small breeding loft. The blocks had fallen over against the building at the back end preventing the skunk from going out the back end of the block pile. The skunk was now about 25 foot from the back door, one foot from my shop, and about three foot from my feed room. I ran and got my twenty-two rifle this time as I could see the skunk. I thought I could shoot it in the head, but was afraid my pigeons would starve to death and carrying cases never get made if the skunk discharged where it was at. I reconsidered

shooting the skunk where it was at and tried to think of a way to get it out.

While thinking, I remembered a story my friend Shane had told me. It seems Shane's dad had a flock of young chickens (50 I believe) he was raising and they kept disappearing. Shane's dad asked him to watch the chickens and protect them. It was a night or two later, Shane heard a loud racket coming from the chicken house and he went to see what was wrong. Shane went in and shined a flashlight around and the spotted a skunk, so Shane made a fast retreat. By the time Shane was armed and back, the skunk was gone but Shane found where the skunk had crawled under to get into the building. The next time he heard a noise he went prepared with a gun and peeked in, sure enough the skunk was back. As soon as the light hit the skunk, off it ran towards the hole it used to enter. Shane ran around the corner and flopped down in the prone position and aimed at the hole and as soon as the skunk poked its head out, Shane shot it. It seems Shane had heard that if you shoot a skunk in the head it would die without discharging. Anyway Shane said the chickens liked to have starved to death as nobody would enter the chicken house to care for them as the skunk had discharged.

Back to my skunk, he was between the bricks and my shop/feed room. I remembered that I had a Log Cabin syrup bottle full of Clorox bleach. The bottle has a push pull top which I often use to add a tablespoon per gallon of drinking water to help keep down bacteria. I squeezed out two or three big squirts between the bricks and building hoping to hit the skunk. I went quickly to the

other end with the opening with my shotgun having traded the rifle because I did not think I would be able to hit a moving skunk. My plan worked as the skunk came right out not wanting any part of the chlorine gas from the bleach. The skunk started east away from the shop but must of heard or seen me as it turned 180 degrees and went west also away from both the house and shop. The skunk was nearing the edge of my property and started towards a small building I store my lawn mower. I thought if it got under the building I would not be able to get at it so I shot the skunk. I was lucky, one shot killed it without a major spray. I smelled a little skunk odor but think one of the shotgun pellets must of made a hole where the spray comes from. I picked up the skunk with a long handled shovel and carried it a long way from the house and disposed of it. So that is how I out skunked a skunk.

That's Where It's At!

by DANNY HENRY, Jacksonville, Ark.

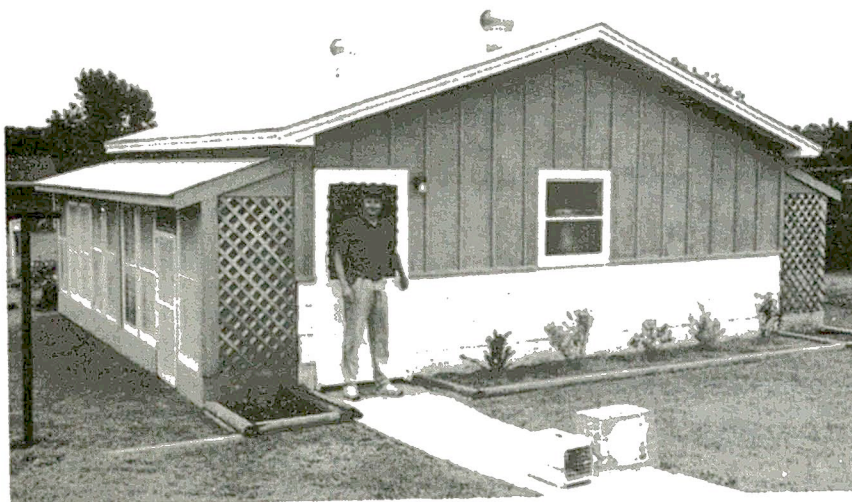
Are you missing out on the most fun part of keeping Rollers? I'm not talking about the pairing of your breeders and watching the young hatch out. I'm not talking about color breeding or even breeding for velocity, depth and kitting. I'm not talking about seeing the young birds start making their first flips and twizzles. All these things are fun, you bet. But for me, I get the most enjoyment from flying a hold-over kit. For me, that's where it's at!

Most people know what a hold-over kit is, but for those who don't, a hold-over it is a group of birds with each member being a year old or older. At this age the birds are more mature and most of the bad habits young birds display are overcome.

As easy as a hold-over kit is to manage, there are still some precautions to take. For example, even though I keep my cocks and hens separate, the hens will sometimes mate up among themselves and become egg. If you fly a hen in this condition, you stand a good chance of losing her because of slinging the egg and intestines out during a roll. I have found that a quick look at the hens before releasing them will identify any birds carrying eggs and she can be safely pulled out for a few days.

The best hold-over kits are those that have only the best spinners from the young bird kits added each year. In this way you can replace old birds of less quality, hopefully improving your kit each year.

As you can see, over a period of a few years, you should have an entire kit of high quality, individual performers that are a joy to watch. If you are not flying a hold-over kit, you are definitely missing out on some fun. So what are you waiting for? Try it, you'll like it!



Ardy Prekker's loft, Ramsey, Minn. Bottom is off-white or light beige, top is country slate-blue with natural wood lattice at each end. - Photo by Tim Kvidera.

a good time and saw many nice Indians among the 150+ youngsters at the various lofts. Thanks also to Don and Pam for serving as the catalyst for getting this show together." (Tim Kvidera)

Thanks for sharing this with us Tim. And

thanks for the photos!

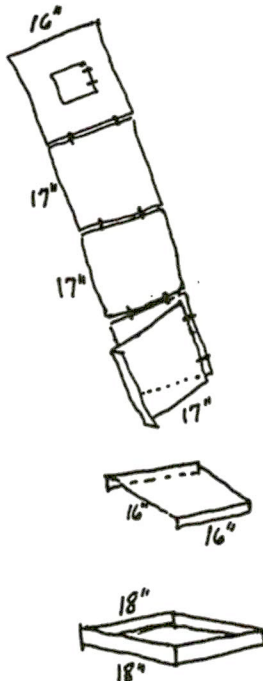
As of this writing I'm still hacking away at earth, stone and roots leveling an area to set up my new, small loft system. We love Colorado and I'm looking forward to seeing how this dry climate treats the birds. Here comes winter!

Folding Cage For A Pair Of Doves

Designed by W.F. HOLLANDER & WILMER J. MILLER (not patented)

Construction:

Obtain 1" x 2" mesh welded wire from a 3-foot-wide roll. Use strong wire-cutters to cut 4 side-panels 17" x 16" (the 17" for one edge being the smooth edge of the roll). Next cut a 17" x 18" piece for the cage top and a 16" x 18" piece for the bottom. Finally cut an 8" x 8" piece for a door. From one of the side panels cut out a door-opening 7" x 8". Note: the wire-cutters leave sharp points; if these are to be bent out of the way they should not be less than 1/2" long, but if they are to be filed smooth they should be as short as possible.



sible. Filing should be done with a metal-file or grinding-wheel.

Flatten the panels, and then lay them edge-to-edge for hinging, with the door-panel at one end; hinging is to be of the 16" - edges together. For hinging we prefer "pigeon-rings," which can be attached with common pliers. Next stand the cage-sides up; note that one corner should not be permanently hinged if the cage is to be folded again. Temporary wire-ties may be used for this corner.

Next for the top-panel: bend 1" of the 18" length 90 degrees. Hinge the opposite edge from this bend to the top edge of the side-panel adjacent to the door panel. And finally hinge the door to the top edge of the door-opening.

The floor-panel is not to be attached to the sides - it is independent. Bend 1" of each end of the 18" length down 90 degrees, so that the effective floor area is 16" x 16".

We recommend a metal pan for the cage to sit in. Thin aluminum sheets 22 1/2" x 32" used in printing newspapers are available at very low cost from newspaper publishers; the sheets are clean on one side but may need some ink wiped off the other. The sheet can be cut and bent (easily) to make a cage-pan without any rivets.

Cage furniture: 1 piece of wood-lath 20" long, notched each end, for perch, to be placed 8" from cage top; cups for feed and water; nest bowl or box about 2" deep, with sand bottom and pine needles or chopped grass.

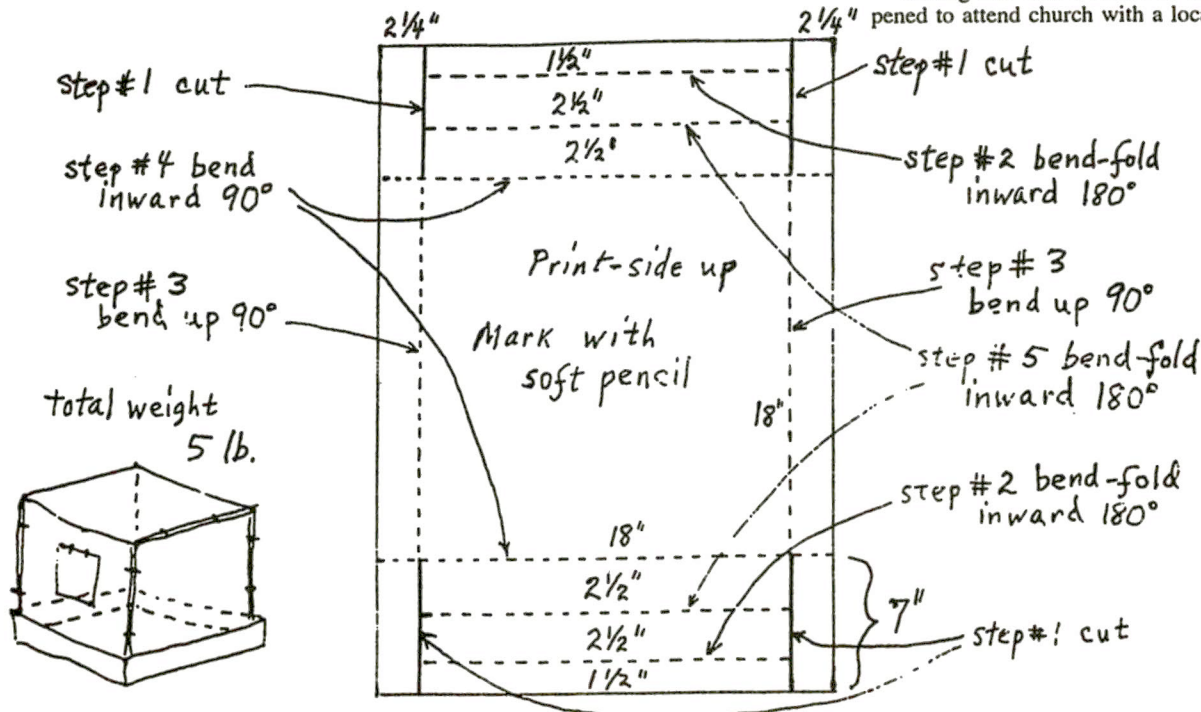
A Little Help From Our Friends

by LENNY LONGO,
Lutz, Florida

This article tells how I got started with pigeons and my current status as a fancier. But most importantly it emphasizes how important a role an experienced fancier has on the beginner and this article was written as sort of a tribute to the fellow fanciers who helped me to get started. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the American Pigeon Journal; for helping me to make contact with local clubs and members. The APJ seems to really be dedicated to the promotion of our hobby, as we all should be. Thanks again APJ.

It seems like only yesterday when I was about 11 years old that my 7th grade science teacher gave me a black commie squeaker. I brought it home and much to my surprise, my parents let me keep it (as if the assortment of other critters that I already had wasn't enough). My father even built me a nice cage about four feet square. After "blackie" appeared to have grown into good flying shape I let him out for a spin. Needless to say he flew away and I was crushed. I waited in the backyard for hours but he didn't return. Bright and early the next morning I went outside to look for blackie and to my amazement he was back along with 7 or 8 others. To me this was the coolest thing since sliced bread. I quickly built a makeshift box trap and had an unlimited supply of pets that I could not only enjoy in the pen but in the air as well. I think that this was when this ruthless species of bird began to overtake my senses. All of my time was spent either with my birds or reading every pigeon book that I could get my hands on.

During this time a friend of mine happened to attend church with a local racing



homer man. This racing buff helped ignite some sparks by allowing the both of us to visit on race days and to help counter mark birds before the races. He would also let us take a few birds home overnight and we would release them the next day. It was also at about this time (approx. 1975) that my father told me that he was working with a carpenter who was into racing in a big way. And that his friend Ed Santos wanted to see my pigeons. To my delight he came over and I watched in awe as he handled my clinkers in the way that only a pigeon man could. Well, Ed said that he would bring me some fine young homers, but I had to get rid of my commies first. I did and he did. I then spent more than a few days convincing my parents that a much larger loft was needed to adequately house my birds. In no time I had a decent 4'x8'x6' high loft that I enjoyed for several years. During these years I made many new fancier friends and lots of neighborhood pals also got into the fancy. Through a good friend, Mark Chesser, I was able to meet and become friends with the late Jake Hogerman who raced homers and bred Runts in the Tampa Bay area for many years. I was delighted to hear that the local racing clubs now have a Jake Hogerman Memorial award that is given out every year in his honor.

Men like Jake and Ed are what this sport/hobby is all about and their help and encouragement went a long way when I needed it.

Although I have a deep respect for homers I must admit that even back then I was intrigued by what I had read about Birmingham Rollers, and secretly desired to have some. But as fate would have it by the time I was about 16 years old, I no longer had any pigeons and for about the next nine years, I was "pigeonless," but only in the physical sense. If you've ever been without pigeons for a while then you know the feeling. Every time I passed under a bridge or saw a pigeon the sidewalk I would look at it with love in my eyes. In the back of my mind lived a yearning that continued to grow until I could no longer fight it. Heck! Why try to. I was now 26 years old, married with two kids and my own backyard and if I wanted to put a pigeon coop in it I could, right. Well not so right. It seems that my wife still needed to be tricked (I mean convinced) into it. What I did was to bring home a cute little turkey bitty from the feed store, and naturally as he grew so did his pen. At about the point when the pen was 8 foot square, I decided to slip a few pigeons into it, so out the turkey went. I wanted what I never had, Rollers. I dug out my old bobs and installed a nice trap on the pen which started to look more and more like a loft every day. With the help of a friend, I met with a local racing buff who gave me a Frill and a Modena but I wouldn't rest until I got some Rollers. But I couldn't find any Roller fanciers anywhere. So I dusted off a copy of an APJ from 1976 and went down the list of personals until I got someone to answer the phone. I know that this isn't the best way to acquire Rollers but I was desperate. I made contact with a fancier in Oklahoma who was more than patient, generous and not

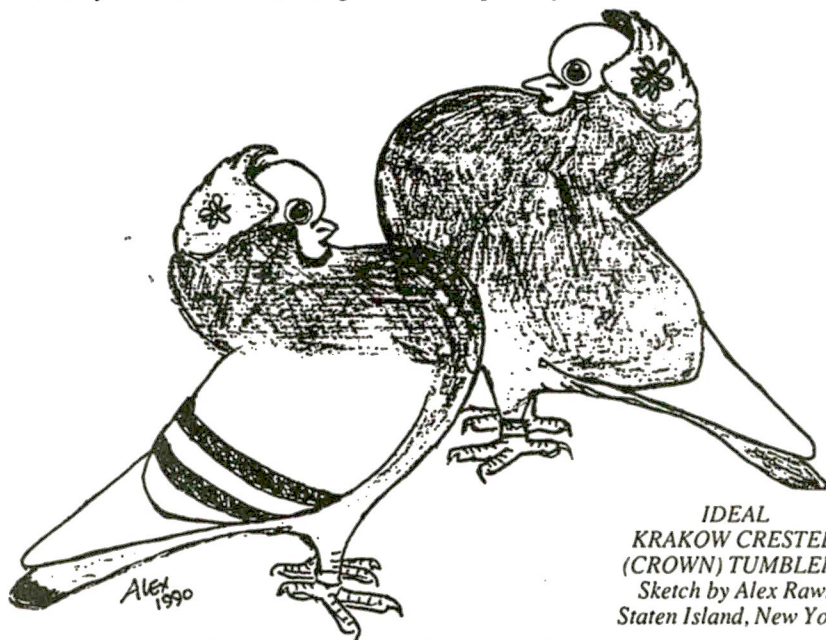
to mention HONEST. He shipped me eight healthy birds, but they were young birds and all but one turned out to be hens. I also renewed my subscription to the APJ (10 years late). The APJ put me in touch with several local clubs and after contacting several of them I learned that I was living the heart of the only flying Roller Club in central Florida. Well, without hesitation, I joined the Sun Coast Roller Club and met a group of some very helpful and learned Roller men. I also obtained several cocks from club members and was able to see what a Birmingham Roller does best and that's spin!

I've since added on 12 sheets of plywood, some galvanized roofing and a roll of hardware cloth to my loft, which is now 8'x12'x7' high and contains a 4'x12' breeding pen with two 4'x4'x7' kit boxes. Although I have no great expectations of skunking fellow club members, I am working on my kit and will hopefully have one worthy of the competition this year. I've started breeding Indian

Fantails too and am becoming interested in the show standard.

Since regaining my status as a pigeon fancier, I've met many new breeders and am a member of the Sun Coast Roller Club and the Gulf Coast Pigeon Club, both of which are located in the Tampa Bay area of Florida. I've also attended my first pigeon show in over 10 years. Aside from visiting fellow fanciers and attending flies, enough can't be said for the value of the stress therapy that I get from spending time with my birds. It's especially rewarding when the rest of the family shows an interest. Breeding pigeons is something that I really enjoy and I'm glad this pastime is shared by so many people.

I guess what it boils down to is that all pigeon people have something in common and that's a love for the pigeon, whatever breed or breeds he/she chooses. Enjoy your pigeons and I hope you never find yourself "pigeonless", but if you do, then get a little help from your friends.



IDEAL
KRAKOW CRESTED
(CROWN) TUMBLERS
Sketch by Alex Rawson,
Staten Island, New York.

The Krakow Crown Tumbler

by ALEX RAWSON, Staten Island, N.Y.

From the city of Krakow, Poland, there, at one time, was to be found a most interesting variety of local pigeon. Known as the Crown Tumbler of Krakow, it looked, when perfected, like the longer faced bird in my sketch of the two shown with this article. The shorter faced, rounder headed specimen, of course, is what could be seen if this bird were further improved.

What seems to be an outstanding feature is the extreme swan neck and very high breast this bird is known for. Always curious as to how breeds are/were formed, I once made a very interesting experiment. Using a very nice quality Blue Mookee hen mated to a Black Komorner magpie cock, I raised four beautiful birds that very greatly resembled the Krakow Crown Tumbler depicted in my sketch. All four had shell crests, all four were white primary flight marked, and all four had

the shape in various degrees of intensity. To me it seemed that I had struck pay dirt in my experiment. My F2 birds were not so uniformly marked but their type in general was the same as described in my sketch. A few came with faulty crests but by judiciously mating the poor crested birds out of the family, I arrived at a continuous run of nice shell crested birds. I did not try for different colors although I am quite confident I'd have done as well using Red Komorners to Red or Brown Mookees too.

Breeding for a shorter, boxier beak is another task that could be done, I'm sure. All in all, this pretty breed was nice to look at, bred quite easily and make good parents. I never got to show them but I'm sure the Krakow Tumbler would have done well there too. Here is a totally rare breed that is most beautiful and easy to produce.

Feebs – A Bird To Remember

by DENISE BRILEY

Feebs is a rather unusual name, but it fit the bird that I was taking care of. My sister Tiffany rescued her from a thunderstorm, but before I get into this part of the story, I'd better tell you a little about me and how my interest began.

I live on the central coast of Oregon by a tiny little town named Siletz. The weather here is "moderate" for pigeons, it being wet and windy 3/4ths of the year. I remember being in a park near Disneyland five years ago and feeding all our popcorn to a flock of city pigeons who followed me around. In the two days we stayed there, I had every one of them named.

Well, from then on, (I was eleven, then) I continued to wish that I could own some of those amazing birds. Then, a couple of days before Christmas two years ago, we were at a feed store to get grain for the cows back at the farm. I spied a cage with a tarp over it in the rain outside, and being of a curious nature, I went over and lifted a corner of it.

"Mom!" I cried. "Some pigeons!"

The cage was full of some city scabs that some kid probably caught, and they were all long-faced and miserable. "Mister," I said to the fat guy behind the counter, "... how much are you asking for these pigeons out here?"

"Oh, ... I'll take a dollar a piece for them."

"Mom?"

Since Christmas was looming around the corner, Mom was in a Santa Clausy mood and bought me two. I had no idea on how to tell the sexes apart, and my sister knew about as much about them as I did. Nothing.

"Here! I know how to tell them apart!" she said. Tiffany reached into the cage and twice she fished out a struggling pigeon. I got a bag to put them in and walked to the car. The fat man shouted behind me, "Hey! They should be good eatin'!"

I wasn't sure how icy a stare I shot at him, but I hope he shivered. Me, eat these wonderful, beautiful, absolutely great highly prized pair of newly-acquired male pigeons?

For the winter I kept the males in a cage out in the barn with the barn cats. One cat, a great big black Angora, loved to lay on top of the cage and watch them fight. I took care of them every day and promised to get them a pair of hens. I also told them to stop fighting, but they were ignorant.

Now, it's impossible for me to keep a animal without giving it a name. All our cats had names, all our cows and chickens and horses and ducks and my pet grey digger squirrel and chipmunk were named, so I dubbed the two cock pigeons Bunson and Beaker, after my two favorite Muppet characters. Bunson was kind of stupid, and always took his time. Beaker, on the other hand, took on the personality of the Dashing Aviator. He was taller, fuller breasted, and darker than Bunson, who acted more like the trusty sidekick.

Well, a year later, my Dad and I finished building a 6 ft. by 8 ft. wire cage to put my birds in. After we had added the ingredients to the cage, our neighbor Charolette commented that there were only two raisins in the bread. I told her that I was looking for a couple of hens for the Beaker brothers, and she told me that her mother was giving her pigeons away. She went and got me about six more than I asked for, and suddenly the cage was crowded. Beaker and Bunson were happy to have new buddies in the cage. So was I, because it gave reason to want to build on to the cage.

"Not now," Mom said. "They can wait until next summer. It's too cold for them to be raising young."

The new birds were wonderful, but my favorite was the scab I named Ginger. She was brown and had white wingtips and was the nicest one in there. She was the one I wanted to cross with Beaker. I could imagine the babies being fantastic at everything. When the babies weren't out there winning races, they would be admired by thousands of pigeon fanciers and judges at pigeon shows. Boy, I daydreamed too much then.

Mom had said that they wouldn't mate when there was no place to nest, but to my ultimate joy Beaker and Ginger did mate and nest, in the corner on the floor of the cage in the most sheltered and dry area in the cage. I was so proud over those two little white eggs in the straw nest. Beaker sat on them at night, and Ginger sat on them during the day.

For about 16 days, I impatiently waited for the squabs to hatch. Then, one sunny deceptive morning, I went into the cage to visit with Beaker and I sat down. The morning was perfect: dew shining like gems, trees losing the last of their golden-red leaves, nary a cloud in the red morning sky.

Ginger landed on my knee and cooed me a warning not to go near the nest, and Beaker stood up to reveal the two simply beautiful

yellow puffedballs I have yet to see. Tiffany said they looked like ugly little dodo birds. I called up my friends in town and told them that my eggs had hatched. They all shook their heads and laughed. Heh, if they were normal they'd think I was crazy. My Mom told Tiffany that I wouldn't have been prouder even if I did hatch them myself.

That night, the worst thunderstorm of the season shook the house. I had just gotten out of the shower and was settling into bed to read a good book when Tiffany pounded on my window. I opened it and a gust of wind blew the inside of my room around.

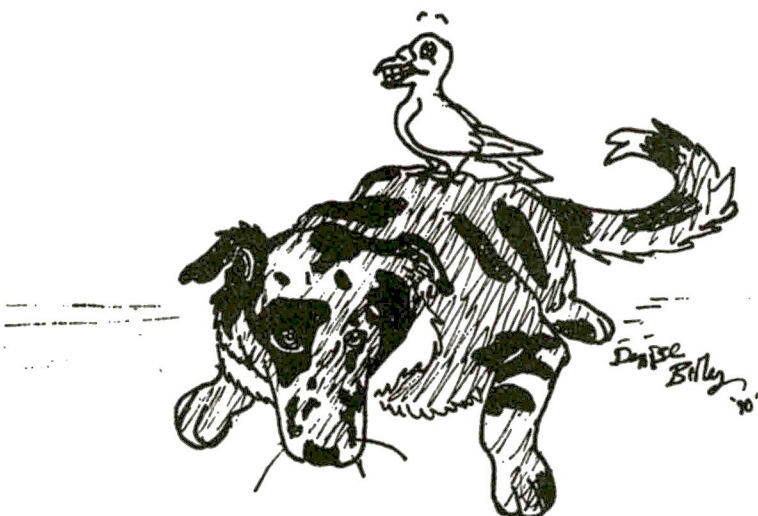
"Here!" Tiff shouted, and thrust two cold little bodies into my hands. "My babies!" I shouted back at her, and she shut the window in my face. I took them immediately to my lamp and examined them. One wasn't moving and was very cold. The other was breathing slightly. I took them to the other corner in my room by the quail cage where the incubator set. Luckily for me I had it running, my quail had laid eggs but didn't set them, so I was incubating them. I set the squabs on a wash rag, and put them in the incubator.

Tiff came in and told me what had happened.

It seems that a heavy gust of wind blew the cage sideways and the corner of it was drug over the nest, pushing Beaker off and crushing one of the babies. The other was exposed to the rain and wind. Tiffany wanted to check them, and it was lucky that she did.

The next morning I had a funeral for one. The other was wide awake and squeaking away for something to eat. I went outside and brought back Beaker and put him in a cage in my room after I put the baby in the corner of it. For four hours I sat on my bed motionless and watched Beaker pace the cage. Finally, the little squab made a small noise, a "feebee" sorta sound, and Beaker promptly walked over and fed it pigeon-milk. I was relieved.

One week later, the baby had grown tremendously, so tremendously it was 3/4ths the size Beaker was. And then another problem occurred – Beaker didn't want to feed it anymore.



Feebs and Pirahna.

So, that night I took a shot glass and put cooked oatmeal, ground pigeon seed, some cow milk and a drop of honey in it, and after testing it with a forefinger, pushed the baby's head in for a second, and watched it eat. So, my motherhood began at 16. The squab, which feebeed a lot, became Feebee, my only child.

My days were like this: wake up, go get shot glass and feed Feeb before Dad has tasty young squab for breakfast, get out of room and tiptoe by it so Feeb doesn't feebe for a while, remind Mom to feed Feeb while I was away at school, come home, feed Feeb, and feed again before bedtime.

That was one thing about Feebs, he liked (at this point I wasn't sure if it was male or female, so we called it a he) to tell everybody about the door being open or shut, or if you turned the light on or off, or, of course, when it was time to eat. And it was also fun after eating to clean the oatmeal off of his head. When you didn't clean him up, the makeshift pigeon-milk would harden into a crash helmet and Feeb couldn't open his eyes.

Evidently I was doing something right, because Feeb kept growing. Soon he feathered out into his mother's plumage and I let him have free run of the room. Of course, grass was always greener on the other side of the door, and in the morning when Mom woke up and my dog, Pirahna, followed her in the kitchen, Feeb would squeeze under the door and follow the dog. Mom gave Pirahna a morning bowl of milk and Feeb would saunter up to the pup and drink right with her.

At school I told my friends Aaron and Paul about Feebee.

"You called him Pheobe? That's a girl's name!" Aaron said.

"It's Feebee with an 'F', not 'P'. And besides, I don't know what he ... uh, it, is." I said.

"With a little lemon juice and some salt Feebee might taste good." Paul said. Some friends.

One day as I was playing with Feeb, my Mom asked me something that didn't occur to me until then: "Can't Feebs fly?"

"Uh ... I don't know, Mom." I picked Feeb up and dropped him on the bed. Plop. Nothing. Feeb didn't even open his wings. He figured I was playing with him and walked back to me, feebeing.

Mom was being funny after that. "Why don't you just jump off the porch and flap your arms? Haw, Haw, Haw!" Well, I tried that, but I almost broke my neck. So I took her (Feebs turned out to be a girl after all) out to the coop and showed her what pigeons were. Feeb freaked. She thought she was a little person in a feathered jumpsuit. I left her in there for an hour, and then brought her back inside.

I did that for a month, putting my baby in with other birds and every time I went to go get her, she would run up to the door of the coop and jump at me, ready to go inside the house. She still couldn't fly. I was beginning to think she never would.

After that I left her in there for good, and visited her twice a day. Evidently she was

getting along with the others. But soon I gave my scab pigeons away and got some Lahores and some Rollers from my Uncle Ken in town. I still had Feebs, and I did consider giving her away to my best friend Tonia's brother, until I found out that Jeremy was going to train Feebs to ride on his motorcycle's handlebars while he did stunts.

So, I kept her, but I didn't know what I was going to do with a flightless pigeon.

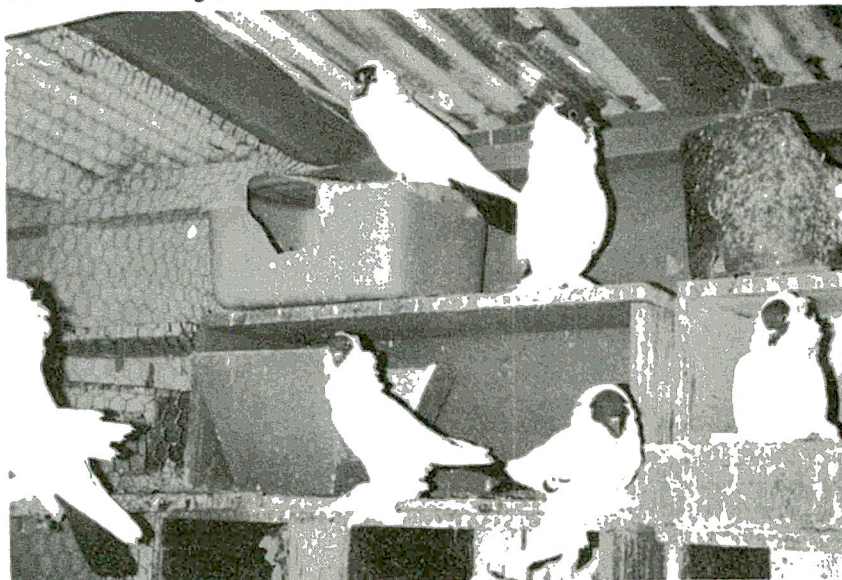
One night, as I was feeding my new pigeons after they were done flying around the outside of the cage, I realized that I had

left Feebs up on top. I went outside with a handful of grain and called my baby.

"Feebee. Fee-bee. Come on. Try to fly." A Lahore flew up behind me, into the sky. Feebee watched him soar with one eye cocked skyward. I shook the corn in my hand. "Feebee, fly."

Feebs looked at me, spread her wings, jumped into the air, and flew.

No matter how long she lives, she's staying at my loft for the rest of her life, as my prize scab pigeon.



SCHMALKALDENERS

In the loft of Tony Brancato, Santa Maria, Calif.

Schmalkaldeners – An Irresistible Breed!

by TONY BRANCATO, Santa Maria, Calif.

First impressions are usually positive when one sees the Schmalkalder for the first time. The crisp definition of the colored head and tail contrasted to a white body certainly inspires awe! Schmalkaldeners are becoming a wee bit more popular in the fancy. Good specimens are readily available, outstanding birds are not as rare as they once were.

Several members of the Southern California German Color Pigeon Club journeyed to the mecca of German toy land – Germany and not only saw several hundred Schmal-

kaldeners exhibited but also lo and behold saw Schmalkaldeners in red and yellow as well as black. The quality was outstanding and several pairs of blacks were imported to Southern California. The most remarkable thing is that other than black, other colors are available and exhibited by the master breeders of Germany!

So for the few die hards that continually berate those of us that promote other colors in Schmalkaldeners – egg is on your faces!

At one time importation was extremely important, but with Schmalkaldeners at least, the quality is as good that it is not necessary to spend hundreds of dollars when similar birds are available at a fraction of the cost. I have not seen the imports and I would imagine that they are top quality, however I am also looking forward to competing against these birds at the National!

Schmalkaldeners are truly "what you see you get" breed, yet have that certain charm that makes them irresistible. I developed some blues that are excellent, my red project is still in its infancy, lavenders are on the back burner, and of course the blacks still command a lot of attention.

In conclusion, Schnalkaldeners are the breed of the 90's, and they just might be your breed.



SCHMALKALDENERS

In the loft of Tony Brancato, Santa Maria, Calif.

Pigeonholes Loft Ideas For You

Perry's Pigeon Palace

by AL BAKER, Collinsville, Okla.

I would like to introduce Perry Hawkins, my friend and pigeon buddy to the hobby as a whole and to the Birmingham Performing Roller Fancy in particular as he is a dedicated pigeon fancier and has been for over 25 years.

Perry was born, raised and has lived in Collinsville all his life and had a wide circle of friends with whom he shares his talents and good will. He is a retired oil field "Jack-of-all-trades" and semi-retired from his metal fabrication shop (his customers won't let him quit).

The purpose of this article is to tell you about what I call his Pigeon Palace. The enclosed pictures and diagram will help explain what I will describe. First off this is his third major Roller loft and should meet all his needs.

Picture #1 shows that 2" galvanized pipe welded frame on concrete block foundation. All structural pipe members were pre-cut and then welded into place. The top members had brackets welded on for the 2"x4" rafter attach points. Picture #2 shows the interior walls and roof framing. Practically all structural members are cut on the bias and Perry's meticulous attention makes sure that all details are pre-cut and fits at the proper angle. This being a complete hexagon makes for many special cuts.

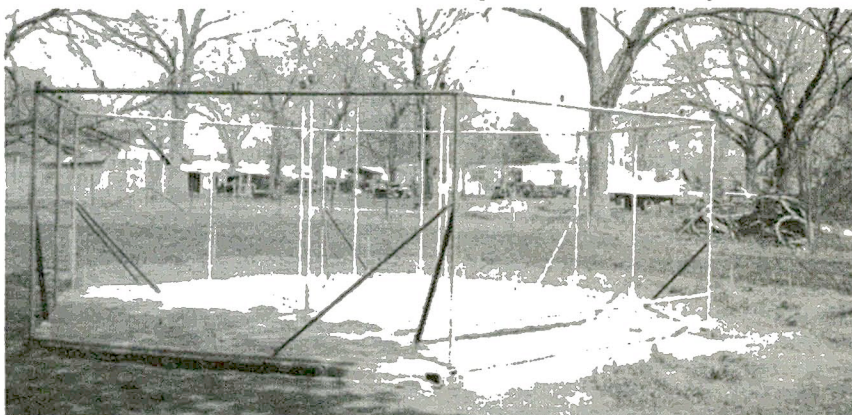
Picture #3 shows the completed exterior with one inch poultry netting enclosing the fly pens. It also shows the cupola on top with the clear story windows and turbine vent which provide interior lighting and natural ventilation. Siding is 1/4" exterior textured plywood painted inside and out. Pictures #4 and #5 show the loft interior with 2"x4" welded wire for pen separation. Interior doors are welded angle iron with 2"x4" welded wire attached. As you can see this makes for easy viewing into all pens.

The inside accommodates 3-eight pair brood pens, one holding pen and four kit boxes. All organized for easy maintenance and bird comfort. The loft will be equipped with running water for "Little Giant" automatic waterer and electricity for lighting and freeze proofing water system. Over all the building contains 432 square feet. The enclosed floor plan gives the layout with dimensions.

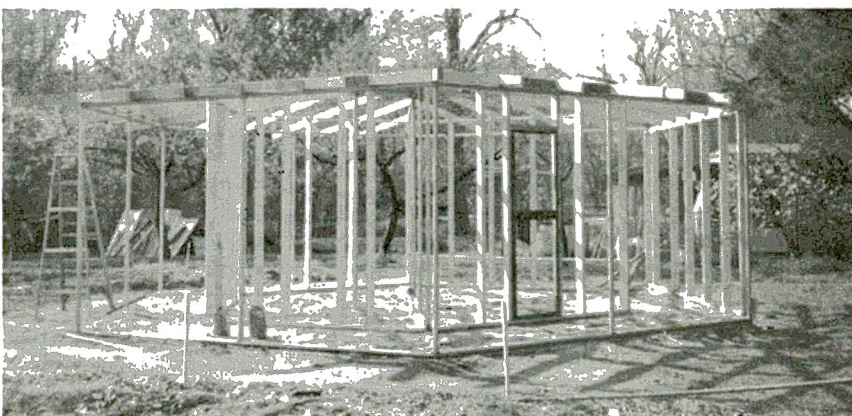
Picture #6 is a color photo of the loft. Perry is currently flying two kits with a third one a building. He hand feeds pre-mixed whole grain and hi-calcium grit. He has had good luck using pine straw in side-by-side twin nest boxes for each pair. Weather and schedules permitting he flies his birds daily.

His pigeon palace is his real pride and joy but he also has other interesting hobbies such as restoring vintage mustangs and they turn out to be real classics in every sense of the

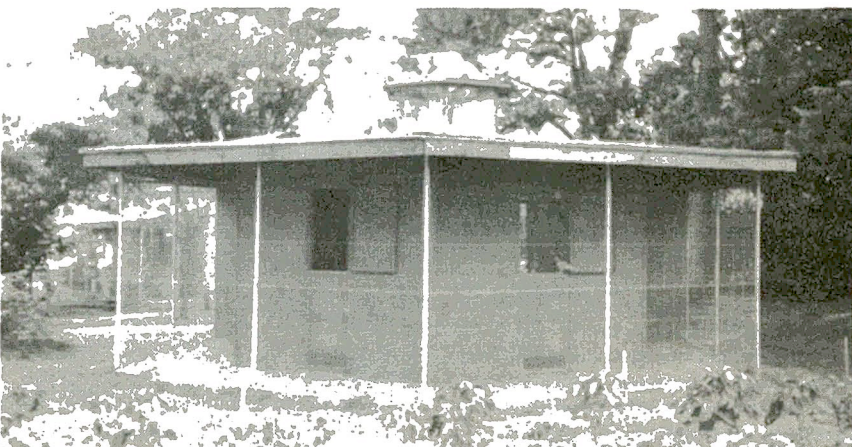
word. Gardening is another item in which he maintains an avid interest. Along with all of this he is very much in demand in the weld shop as "Mr. Fix-it" to many of his custom-



Picture No. 1.



Picture No. 2

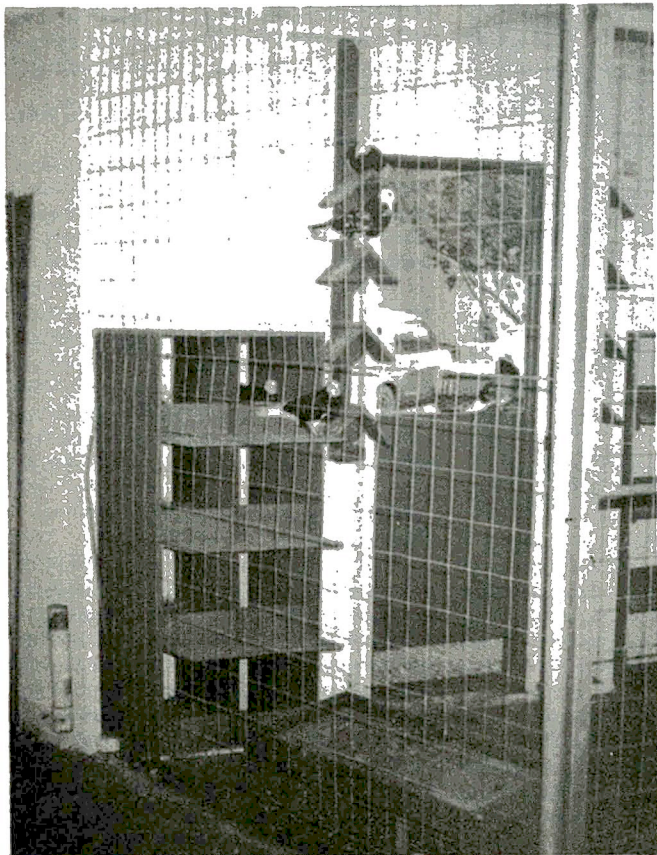


Picture No. 3

ers and friends.

Perry is an active member in the Green Country Performing Roller Club of Collinsville, along with Richard Beall, Gary Taylor, Bobby Harrington and myself. We fly monthly except for summer months. Anybody wishing to fly with us can call our secretary, Gary Taylor, 918-371-5849 for more information.

**A photo and floor plan
on page 32**



Picture No. 4



Picture No. 5



Spotlight On Youth

by KELLEY D. SPURLING,

Grants Pass, Oregon

This column hasn't appeared in the APJ for nearly a year, I asked the editor if I could take it over.

Since this is the first time I am writing this column, you guys should know who I am.

My name is Kelley Spurling, I am 17 years old, and have raised pigeons for nearly 14 years. I raise mainly Performing Rollers, but also have a few Fantails.

I have had nearly every breed of domesticated pigeon in existence, among my favorites were Modenas, Fans, Capuchines, Lahores, Kings, and of course, the Rollers.

I have been involved in 4-H since 1982; this is my last year.

In 1986, I was appointed Junior Director of the Performing Roller Assn., later in 1989, my mentor (Dan Oullette) and I founded a local club - Rouge Valley Rollers.

The main reason I wanted to do this column was the fact that our hobby is living on borrowed time. Many Junior fanciers leave the hobby for various reasons, but few are replacing them.

How do we get people interested in our hobby? The only way is promotion.

One way is to do presentations regarding our hobby, I have a friend whom I met through this column when it first appeared, who turned her attention from pigeons to saving rain forests, using presentations and is having huge success. We could do the same. I have many other ideas also.

The NPA is really trying to support us also. They are making a special Junior Class for the Grand National in January. I encourage all of you to exhibit birds if possible. Perhaps the same could be done at NYBS.

I am asking all of you to promote our hobby in any way possible. Also support your specialty clubs, as well as the NPA and APJ, maybe eventually we could have a Junior Special if enough of us got involved.

All correspondence, articles, pictures, etc., are welcomed, and all will be answered.

If you want to be known, GET INVOLVED! We represent our hobby's future, and without US there will be no future.

Send all correspondence and etc., to: Kelley Spurling, 1475 Sunglo Drive, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527.

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dragoo club

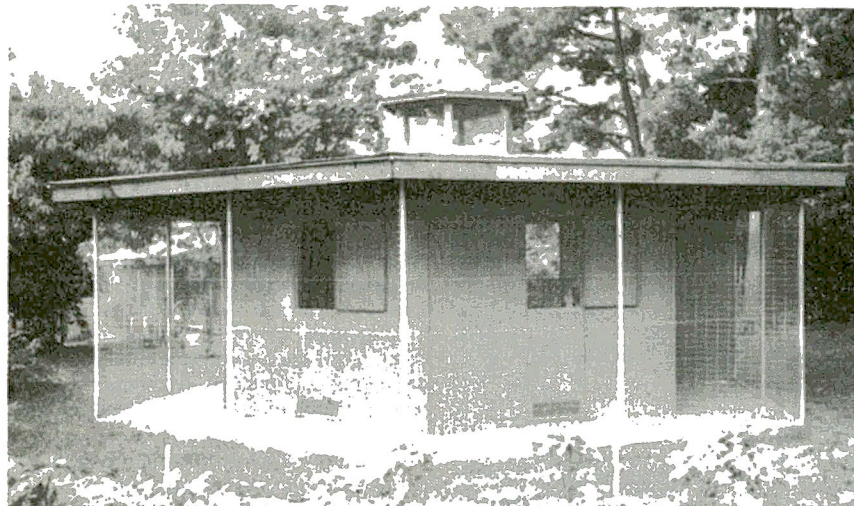
Questions & Answers

by CLAIR HETLAND, Golden Valley, Minn.

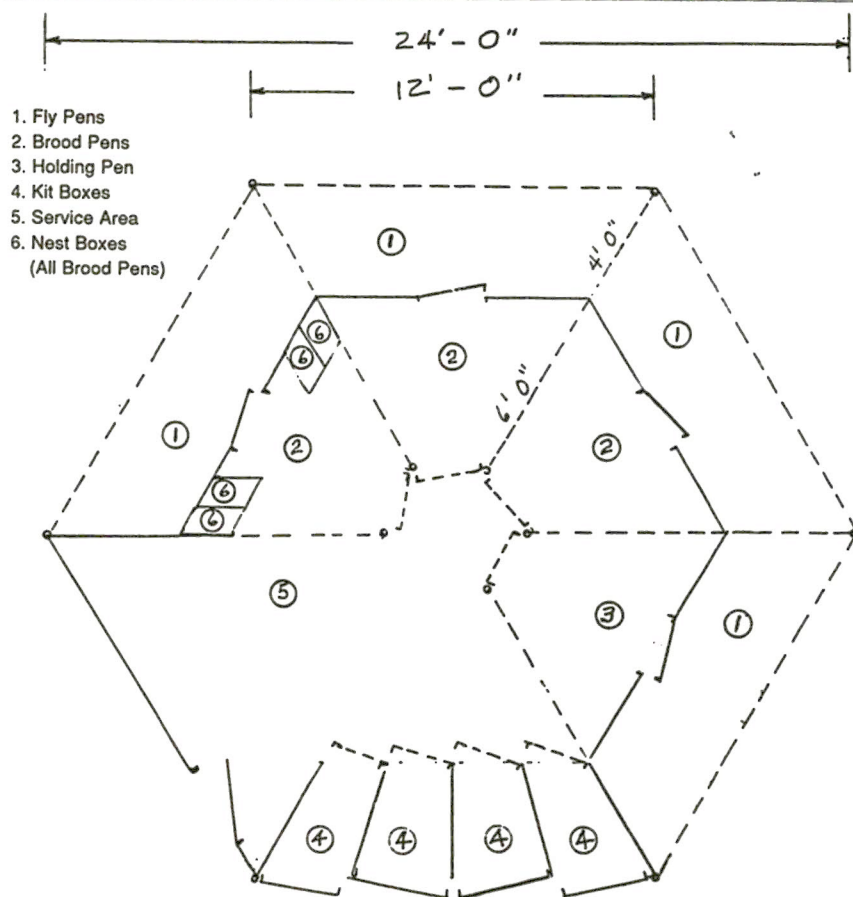
Dear Mr. Hetland:

A week ago, I wrote to you implying I thought some of my birds (4 out of 50) were showing signs of paramyxovirus (loss of

balance, motion movements of head as if bird cannot focus on object). Some birds were vomiting grain (good quality grain). I was giving Nitrofurazone in normal dosage



Picture No. 6



Perry's Pigeon Palace
Floor Plan

at the time but as I said only four birds out of 50 were acting "strange."

You sent me the vaccine but stated you were not 100% sure that was my problem. The Nitrofurazone may cause these symptoms under consumption of more water due to hot weather, feeding young, etc.

At any rate I discontinued medication and bought new bags of feed from another source and birds with the paramyxovirus symptoms seemed to be normal - without vaccination. My question to you is:

1. If a bird or birds with the paramyxovirus infection, going through the typical symptoms, capable of normal recovery without vaccination? - OR does the bird die?

I did have two youngsters die in the nest at pin feather stage.

These two were the small nest mate and their necks were twisted as if they were standing on their head. Slight diarrhea also. The nest mate to each above lives and is perfectly healthy.

Today, birds going to roost on perches or nest box appear tired or sleepy (eye lids closed in some birds) and slightly ruffled feathers as if something is not exactly right. - Otherwise, O.K.

The ones with the symptoms appear OK except one bird seems to sway a little when trying to roost - but individual attention is given.

Please respond and thanks.

Dear Fancier:

In my experience, birds that have PMV 1 will recover in most cases. I had an outbreak in my loft of late hatches a couple years ago. All the birds recovered and do not show the symptoms. Some have been shipped on seven old bird races the following year and while they did not win they did not get lost as many birds that were never sick did get lost.

I have noticed that the birds that were sick did not have a good moult the following year and that they continue to be nervous compared with normal birds.

But these pigeons that were sick have bred young of good quality so that is why I would keep them. The other reason would be is that they are naturally immune to PMV 1 now.

You did describe losing young in the nest at about the pin feather stage. The symptoms you describe here are more those of Paratyphoid. I would strongly advise you to vaccinate for this disease with Sal-Bac.

Finally I would treat the flock with Albon (formerly Agribon) for six to nine days.

Also do all the important things like worm the birds with Ivermect and treat for Canker with Spartrix.

Dear Clair:

I have several old birds that I need to cull. I can't bring myself to pull their heads off. How else can I do it?

Dear Fancier:

I find that a standard five grain aspirin tablet will kill pigeons. I use them to dispose of birds. The birds may appear to suffer because after death they have convulsions. The same thing is true if you use a potent sleeping pill. The bird will go to sleep and

then with rapid loss of body temperature they go into convulsions. I like to recommend the use of Aspirin to kill a bird so that people

may learn to respect the real danger of aspirin tablets. Don't eat these birds after using this method.

Information Please!

by **ROBERT J. MANGILE**,
816 E. Atkinson,
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762



by **JAMES CLARK**, Publicity
Box 244
APO New York, N.Y. 09193

"A Theory About Three-egg Clutches From Domestic Pigeons"

Every now and then, one reads about a pigeon fancier who discovers that he or she has a female pigeon that occasionally lays a three-egg clutch. This puzzles many fanciers because the normal clutch size for domestic pigeons is two eggs.

In a 1977 Pigeon Science and Genetics Newsletter, (issue #4, page 45) Tom McCaig of Hacienda Hts., California, wrote that a particular black crested Frillback hen laid 3-egg clutches "every time" that year and all three eggs were fertile. Her sister also laid 3-egg clutches twice that year. A hereditary basis was implicated.

In keeping with traditional 'newsletter spirit,' I responded to McCaig's comments (PS&GN, issue #5, page 29), with the following: "...3-egg laying hens. No secret, I don't think! I had one. This bird was a double-yolk layer. I supposed this was the case on a couple of 3-egg clutches and reported it somewhere in PGNL some time ago. Apparently, two ova that ordinarily comprise a double-yolked egg are encased separately. Anyway I did get a few double-yolked eggs out of her late. If more details are desired I'll run down my records - OK? The bird was a blue Runt hen."

Dave Rinehart (PS&GN editor) responded with: "...OK - run them down Bob! I have a red Lebanon hen that repeatedly lays double yolked eggs: but she has never laid 3-eggs. No accurate records kept on how many clutches or how many double yolked eggs she produced though. Seemed like about every other nesting though. - Dave)"

On page 12 of PS&GN, issue #6, selected data on my Runt was published. To summarize: On October 26, 1972, she laid two soft, rough-shelled eggs, followed by another normal egg on October 30th. In other words, ... a '3-egg clutch.' (Note the time between eggs?) Following that three-egg clutch, she laid a minimum of six (6) clutches of one normal egg and one double-yolked egg through December 1974. In short, each clutch contained three 'yolks!' Primarily, they were recorded in the Fall and Winter months. No records of double-yolked or three-egg clutches were recorded during the Spring and mid-summer months.

Many fanciers have long held the idea that the double-yolk egg-laying trait is he-

reditary. Hens that lay double-yolked eggs can sometimes be traced to other double-yolk egg-layers in their pedigree. This is tricky at best because long held stock is often inter-related anyway!

In "The Pigeon" (Chapter IV - Physiology, paragraph 443), W.M. Levi mentions abnormalities of clutches. He states "...The pigeon hen usually lays two eggs to the clutch; in rare cases, three; and occasionally, only one. The latter is caused by the improper functioning of the hen's reproductive organs. Very rarely are four eggs laid to the clutch."

In paragraphs 444 and 445, he discusses hatching difficulties for identical twins (normal size eggs with one yolk shared by both embryos) and double-yolked twins (large eggs containing two separate yolk and embryos). One case mentioned was of a 'normal-downed' squab within a single shell. The differences in down length suggest that each squab was derived from a separate fertilized egg (yolk). Twin squabs rarely hatch without human assistance.

R.G. Silson (1988, Jour. of Heredity) reports on hens that lay three-egg clutches and suggested that the 3-egg clutch trait was a simple recessive mutant. He states "...A pedigree study indicates that the factor is a simple recessive that is not fully expressed in the homozygote. All later three-egg hens always had a three-egg hen on both sides of their pedigree, sometimes several generations back."

Nothing solid can be concluded without more detailed study. Hens that lay three-egg clutches are possibly double-yolk layers that occasionally or frequently lay three eggs due to the intended 'double yolks' being encased in separate shells. The same would hold true of the 4-egg clutch; i.e., both eggs were intended as double-yolked.

Whether or not the double-yolked characteristic naturally has modified expressions and/or can be modified into three-egg or four-egg laying hens through selection, is questionable at this time. If any consistency can be recorded from selected pairings in related birds that lay multi-egg clutches; perhaps we can establish a generic unit to 'multi-egg clutches' and through selective breeding, change the reproductive mode of domesticated pigeons. This might be achieved more easily than one might expect.

During the 21st Annual APFC Convention, we had the pleasure of listening to a new PhD of Zoology and Wildlife Science from Auburn University, Alabama. His name was Dr. James Armstrong and his topic was avian predation upon domestic pigeons. He has raised pigeons for 23 years, most of which was spent with Fantails and Frillbacks. His professional background is in wildlife management, specifically wildlife damage control and survey research.

Dr. Armstrong discussed the results of a survey that begins to establish the extent and types of avian predation, its impact upon domestic pigeons, the extent of dialogue between fanciers and wildlife agencies, and management schemes to minimize avian predation.

We've all had hawk problems in one way or another and it's nice to know that there is a chance of solving the problem without eliminating it. Not only would it be illegal, but also ecologically expensive in the long run.

AVIAN PREDATION ON DOMESTIC PIGEONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT

by **Dr. James B. Armstrong, PhD**

The relationship between rock doves, or pigeons (*Columbia Livia*), and raptors is well documented. Williams (1945) reported finding pigeons and falcons nesting in close proximity in the Western United States. The association of pigeons and raptors has been further established through the use of the term "pigeon hawk" for *Falcon columbarius*, the Merlin. Kenward (1978) studied the factors influencing Goshawk (*Accipiter Gentilis*) predation on wood pigeons (*Columbia Palumbus*).

Popular literature is replete with references to avian predation on domestic pigeons. Practically every issue of the Racing Pigeon Bulletin, American Racing Pigeon News, The Thoroughbred, and American Pigeon Journal contain references to hawk and falcon attacks. However, there is little mention of this problem in scientific literature. Levi (1963) observed that the appearance of a hawk causes pigeons to become motionless. He further observes that good flying pigeons can generally outmaneuver hawks, unless the hawk dives from some height or is working in partnership with another hawk. When chased by a bird-of-prey, feral and domestic pigeons fly at great speeds, dodging and swerving to avoid capture. Pigeons may fly headlong and with

(Continued On Next Page)

reckless abandon into captivity to avoid capture (Levi 1963; Goodwin 1983). It is also believed that pigeons can release their tail feathers, as an evolutionary factor in escaping raptors.

Prior to this study, Suhling (1990) surveyed members of the National Birmingham Roller Club (NBRC) concerning raptor problems. Out of 800 surveys, 58 club members responded, yielding the following results. Ninety-five percent of the respondents favored some form of agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning mitigation of the raptor/pigeon problem. While the mean amount that respondents were willing to pay for a raptor trapping permit was almost \$35.00, it is more significant to note that the modal response (the one most frequently given) was zero. The notion seemed to be that pigeon breeders were taxpayers who should not have to pay an additional charge for a federal service to protect their property. During the last two years, survey respondents averaged 56 raptor attacks; individual responses ranged from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 500. Most respondents were victims of about 20 attacks in the two year period.

By far, Coopers Hawks (A. Cooperii) were the species most often implicated in the attacks (average=38), followed by sharp-shinned hawks (A. Struatus) (5 attacks), and goshawks (1 attack). Merlins, Peregrine falcons (F. Peregrinus), and prairie falcons (F. Mexicanus) averaged less than one attack each over the two-year period. Other raptors resulted in an average of four attacks during the period, qualitative comments indicated these to be primarily red-tailed hawks (Buteo Jamaicensis), normally not known to be aerial predators, but rather attack birds on the ground or on top of the lofts.

Attacks were evenly distributed throughout the day, but most heavily concentrated from September to April. This would seem to correspond to the raptor migration periods. Fifty-five fanciers reported that they had killed raptors to defend their birds; averaging about five kills a year. However, it should be noted that the modal answer was zero.

The Suhling (1990) study provides excellent baseline information and indicates that there is a need for more extensive research into this problem; research that should involve sampling of fanciers of all flying breeds.

Even though individual fanciers may report the economic impacts of depredation, there has been no concerted effort to quantify this factor across breeds. The proposed survey would provide such information.

Comments from fanciers who have experienced raptor depredation problems indicate that they have received little assistance from USFWS. Documentation of the nature and extent of the problem needs to exist before fanciers can expect any actions towards mitigation by USFWS. This study can help provide that documentation.

Memberships from the American Racing Pigeon Union (AU), International Federa-

tion of Racing Pigeon Fanciers (IF), NBRC, Flying Tippler Association (FTA), and others will comprise the survey sampling frame. From this list a stratified systematic sampling procedure will be used to randomly select survey participants from each organization and geographic region.

Surveys will be designed to measure: frequency of flying, frequency of raptor sighting, frequency of take, color and patterns of attacked birds, attacks on flocks or isolated birds, economic estimate of losses, how problem was handled, have they contacted wildlife agency, habitat description around loft, demographics, time of day when predation occurred, time of day birds normally flown, and season when attacks occurred.

Surveys of state and federal wildlife office will also be used. These surveys will be designed to determine agency awareness of the problem, communications with pigeon fanciers, and recommendations for addressing the problem.

Surveys will be designed in accordance with Dillman (1978), Fowler (1984), and Converse and Presser (1986). Each survey will be pilot tested and appropriately modified prior to beginning the actual survey.

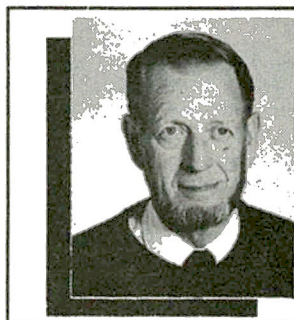
Follow-up mailings will be used to enhance response rates. A telephone survey of a sample of respondents will be used to measure non-response bias and enhance the validity of the study.

After the discussion, input was provided by fanciers in the audience for suggestive alternatives for solving avian predation.

It was suggested that fanciers get involved with falconers who have a state license to trap birds of prey. By giving the falconers culled pigeons to feed their birds, they in turn will trap a raptor and release it in another area.

Also, varying and spacing the flying times of performance breeds will decrease the probability of attack. Raptors can acclimate to the times the birds are liberated if it is done at the same time every day.

I hope everyone had a good fall show or flying season and plans for this year's breeding season are working out. Don't panic if I miss an issue of the APJ, I'm right in the middle of my PCS (permanent change of station) move so it may be hard to keep the articles flowing. Till next time . . .



Bits & Pieces

from the research notes of
Joe Quinn

Aging: "My mind is very exact in most details even though I get lost two or three times a week coming home from work." - Quinn, 1989

"Whitman (1919) has shown that in the Diamond Dove feathers showing progressive degrees of intermediacy (which in this species differ greatly) can be produced by successive plucking of feathers." - Derek Goodwin, 1967

"When the pigeon beak is closed the edges of the lower beak fit precisely into the edges of the upper beak in a sealing motion." - Quinn, 1962

"Most birds seldom stand flat on their feet. Actually they stand on their toes." - PGNL, 56:20 (And Johnnie Blaine's CLLF Tumblers stand on their "Tippy Toes")

"Never give up on an egg, or the young one in it, till it is dead. I have seen eggs completely chilled, cracked eggs, eggs with pieces broken out, that hatched, and youngsters that were picked up stiff on the loft floor, that soon came to life and flourished." - Maj. F.M. Gilbert, 1920?

"The beak of a bird cannot be elevated, without effort, higher than the position held at death, but may be readily lowered." - Edinger, 1941

"Most genes are exceedingly stable, this applies both to 'wild-type' genes and to genes which have arisen by mutation. The natural mutation rate is very low. Many species have remained the same for long geological ages." - L. Snyder, 1939

"Robert Bakewell, 1725-1795, is considered to be the founder of the modern science of Animal Breeding. He bred longhorn cattle, sheep and horses at Dishley, in Leicestershire, England. He developed a method of stock breeding that was destined to play a major role in the development of all of our improved domestic animal breeds." - Gerald Dooley, The Art of Breeding, 1987

Quote of the last century: "I picked a Lemon in the Garden of Love." - Folklore, 1895

"The name Parlor Tumbler is entirely American and its use is confined to this country." - Levi, 1963

George Kleinpell (Turbit authority) advocates not using extremely cold water for feeders. "It chills the baby Turbits and thereby stunts their growth."

"... when cats were brought to Samoa by whaling ships, the Tooth-Billed Pigeon was adaptable enough to abandon its ground nesting habit and take to nesting in trees out of the reach of the new predator." - Austin

"Hatching squabs go through a regular cycle of work and rest; tend to hatch in AM." - PGNL 56:14

"... flecks are rarely repeated in succeeding molts in Ash-Red males." - W.F. Hollander, 1944

Heavy betting of the racing pigeon pools brings many families closer together - they live in smaller houses. - JWQ

Atwater Curse: "May all your Birthday Cards be from your insurance agents."

"Another point that sets every Dragon

off, but the checkers in particular is the color of the iris - a blazing red." - Fulton, 1908

"All pigeon nests should be smaller than you think." - JWQ

"Pigeons have been domesticated for thousands of years in several quarters of the world; the earliest known record of pigeons is in the fifth Aegyptian Dynasty, about 3000 BC." - Charles Darwin, 1859

"Pigeons do not ever seem to adjust to wires - in the compartment or on the wing." - Lewis Wright, 1901

"Like the florist... the fanciers seeks to develop what he calls the 'beauties' of his pets. No one feels surprised that one should love flowers. Some of us cannot have flowers; some of us what more in return than flowers can give. We would have their beauty; but we crave for a eye that can meet us, a pet that will welcome our approach and show that our regular visits is a joy to both." "Fanciers find birds truly 'living flowers.'" - H. Fulton, 1876.

Have Pigeon, Will Travel

by DENNIS SIEG,
Depauw, Ind.

Pseudo Opal In Giant Homers?

The 1990 NYBS is now history. It seems to me to have been a very successful show and also a very successful year for most pigeon fanciers. One part of the show I always enjoy is the comments I get from fanciers about the previous years' articles I have written for the APJ.

This year was especially pleasing as several Giant Homer fanciers have asked why don't I write more often? Considering the non-standard material I usually write about and the fact that I'm prone to prose as well as poems, it does make it seem very worthwhile when people ask for more. Now don't get me wrong there were several people who expressed the question "why do I write at all?" To the latter I should state "the only way to create a pearl is to irritate the oyster!"

As it was several GH breeders which expressed interest in my articles, it is my intent to spotlight Giant Homers in this article. Show type Giant Homers are practically a breed apart in the show room. What separates Giant Homers from other breeds is the fact that almost all of the GH classes contain multiple colors.

The Giant Homer Blue Bar class allows Columbia Livi tail marking as well as 12 tail feathers of identical color. The GH Blue Check class contains light, medium, and T-pattern checkers. Our recessive class allows Recessive Red and Recessive Yellow. Our Almond class contains genetic Almond as well as Almond modified by Bronze and it would even allow any modification which would improve GH Almond such as Agate.

The only class we Giant Homer breeders

have which even approaches single uniform coloration is our white class. But to complicate this class we have various shades of white. In our GH white we have flat white, gloss white, snow white and off white. In 1967 I even saw an egg shell white which had a distinctive beige cast. When I asked Jake Keiffer, who was judging the class which contained this specimen of rather attractive rare white, if indeed the bird was truly white, Jake responded it was a type of modified white. It had been seen quite frequently in Giant Homers but was almost always culled as it had always been accompanied by red eye ceres, a definite disqualification at that time in Giant Homers.

In any case general members of the pigeon fancy who have examined our Giant Homer color classes at shows are usually overwhelmed and mystified by the way Giant Homers are combined into color classes. All I can say is "It works for us!" Giant Homers probably exhibit more colors and color combinations than any other single breed of pigeon. So many colors that the only logical way to exhibit them competitively is by combining them into loose confederations.

The American Giant Homer Assn., was probably the first specialty club to create a class for Rare colors. Dominant Opal, Almond and Faded or Auto-sex have benefited by their promotion as rare colors to the point of developing a large enough following to now have their own color classes at most major Giant Homer shows. To me the true beauty of the Rare color class is while several colors are considered to be rare the class itself is not limited. Any rare color which can

be resynthesized from existing Giant Homer genes or can be introduced from gene pools other than Giant Homers and is Rare in Giant Homers is eligible for consideration. While many breeds of pigeons would actually shun the introduction of foreign genes to their gene pool, the American Giant Homer is a breed created in total by hybrid synthesis to a center core of flying homer. While many Giant Homer fanciers prefer to work in total from genes which can be resynthesized from the existing Giant Homer gene pool, our rare class keeps the door open to a lively and vigorous history.

Over the years in rare colors I have had Barless, Brown, Rec. Opal on Blue, and Rec. Opal on Brown. But to me probably the most beautiful color I have ever seen was one I believe to be improperly named Rec. Opal Lace. For Giant Homer breeders who are not familiar with this color you will find reference to this color in our standard under Color Classification, Class 6, Recessive Red or Yellow - no white lacing to be apparent.

I made my first encounter with this color back in the mid-70's at a 6th district show in Burlington, Iowa. Gerald Hobbs was then dominating the GH show scene and was in attendance at this show. To my surprise one of his Rec. Red hens exhibited a magnificent pearlescent lacing on her wing shields. As I had an interest in Rec. Red (12 pair at that time) and the lacing was so intriguing I solicited Gerald to sell me this Rare colored hen. I could tell at the time Gerald had only showed that hen for display purposes. He didn't want to sell her. He did identify the alleged color as Rec. Opal Lace. Gerald also explained that he had inbred much too close to enhance the color, the hen no matter how beautiful was sterile. I wasn't deterred for there are many aspects which can be learned from a color in a homozygous (?) state. It is the only time I ever knowingly paid \$30.00 for a sterile hen.

She was sterile too. I tried every trick in the book to initiate this hen to lay eggs, all to no avail. While the hen was an excellent foster parent she never once laid a single egg in the three years I had her. Even though she couldn't continue her line I never gave up as Gerald had resynthesized this color it is entirely from within the Giant Homer gene pool, no outcross had been used. I took a good color snapshot of the laced hen and whenever the conversation with other pigeon fanciers mentioned Opal I'd pull the picture out and troll for information. (See photo. Color reproductions of this photo are available from me at my address at the end of this article for \$5.00 each. Allow 4-5 weeks for delivery).

I was out of show pigeons for a couple of years and when I got back into pigeons in 1982 my choice was flying homers from the same bloodlines I had had as a boy and that my father and his father had when they were boys too. As most of you know I have an interest in Passenger Pigeons and am always on the lookout for pigeons which share simi-

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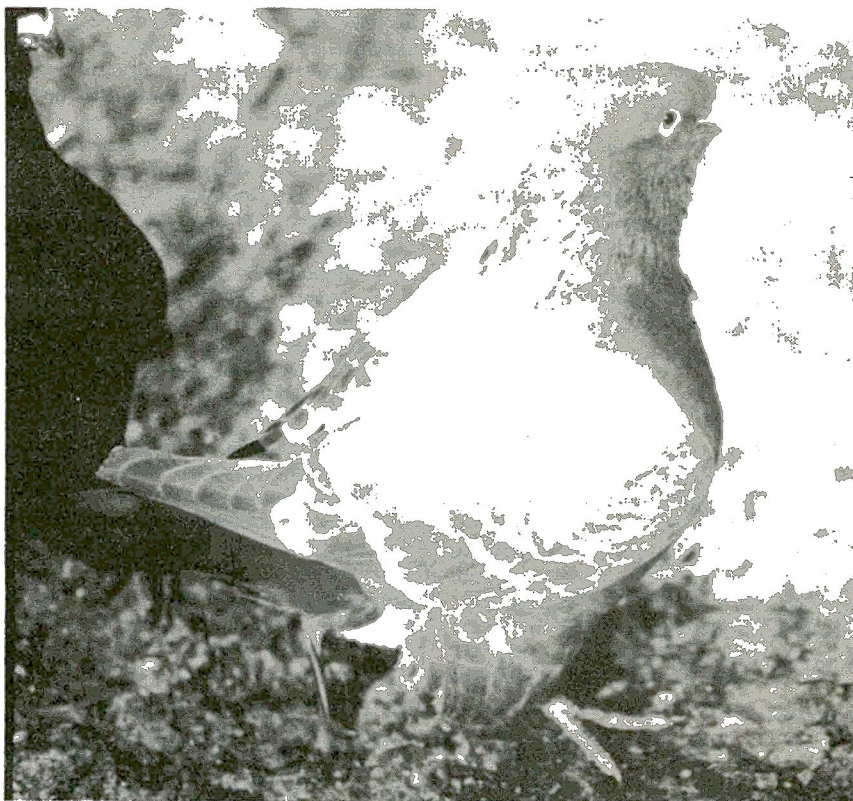
lar color characteristics to the extinct Passenger Pigeon. While many think this is a waste of time and money, a squab is a squab, and I sell 400 to 600 squabs a year live on foot. So far the unwanted squabs from my Passenger Pigeon resynthesis project have paid all my pigeon expenses including the new Giant Homers, Archangels and other assorted show birds.

One of the most interesting developments to arise from my research is the fact that my homers had a certain amount of squabs which exhibited white lacing on their wing shields during juvenile plumage. As this color resembled the Rec. Red Giant of years before, I dug out the color photos and started the hunt for info again. After publishing an article about my Passenger Pigeon resynthesis project, a close friend, Link Martin, showed me an old flyer published by the Plymouth Rock Squab Co., of Boxton, Mass. The Plymouth Rock Squab Co., was founded by Elmer C. Rice and to my amazement Mr. Rice had developed a Utility Homer which he named the Plymouth Rock Homer. The flyer Link had was as large as an APJ and was complete with color pictures. Link had bought some of these birds when he was a boy and many of the squabs exhibited both a white and bronze lace on the wing shields which disappeared on obtaining adult plumage. Elsewhere the Plymouth Rock Homer looked very similar to the extinct Passenger Pigeon, as well as the Lark family and Archangels.

It was if after many years pieces of this puzzle started to come together because my dad had always claimed he had purchased Plymouth Rock pigeons and introduced to his flock of utility homers. I had always thought he had got pigeons confused with chickens because I couldn't find reference to Plymouth Rock Pigeons or Homers in any of Levi's books. But now I had seen the literature and it explained at least some of the odd results I was achieving in my father's line of homers.

In any case I started mating some pigeons more in accordance to some of the literature about Plymouth Rocks. Before long I had several pair of Resynthesized Plymouth Rocks and several had very distinctive white lacing during juvenile plumage. But each time it disappeared at adult plumage.

Now it was about this time that it dawned on me that this white lacing certainly didn't act within the motis-operandi of either Rec. Opal or Dom. Opal. I had learned by this time that in its disappearing form this elusive color had been frequently sighted in Racing Homers, Utility Homers, Giant Homers and juvenile male Passenger Pigeons. But the only pigeon I could locate with this white lacing showing on adult plumage was that recessive red Giant Homer hen raised by Gerald Hobbs and the only written info was in the Giant Homer Standard under recessive red stating "no white lacing to be apparent." Even after consulting with Gerald Hobbs at a NYBS he explained it had been that difficult for him also and that he had only produced that ONE. He did suggest that I was proceeding in the most logical manner.



Mother Of Pearl Lacing on Recessive Red Giant Homer hen produced by Gerald Hobbs of Madison, Iowa. Bird now deceased.

So when Frank Mosca of Montclair, Ca., wrote an article about Rec. Opal in the Feb. 1990 APJ and discussed some points about Opal which I hadn't heard before mentioned by Giant Homer geneticist I wrote him a letter. Frank was not familiar with white lace except in its disappearing juvenile stage as exhibited by some Racing Homers. Frank did supply a list of opinions which right or not have led me one step closer to my goal. The gist of his info as it concerns Giant Homers is "all White Bars are not necessarily Dom. Opal!" Some white bars, which are regularly shown as Dom. Opal in Giant Homers are in fact Ice Blue.

While this statement could create more questions than answers, some aspects of Ice Blue and its introduction into Giant Homers are known to me. Back in the 60's when I first started in Giant Homers it was my privilege to meet Gerhard Hasz of Indianapolis, Indiana. At that time gasoline was only 20 cents a gallon and Indianapolis was only 100 miles away. Gerald was a Giant Homer devotee and willing to share his expertise with my father and me. We made a lot of trips to visit with him.

Gerhard had a knack with Giant Homers and succeeded with several rare colors. Two of his favorite projects were the introduction of Ice Blue and Red Ribbontail into Giant Homers. While Gerhard was successful in creating Giant Homer "type" crosses after introducing the Ice Pigeon he was not successful in resynthesizing the White Barred Ice Blue Color. As Giant Homers now contain the Ice Blue White Bars it would seem

the long range goals of Gerhard's work have been achieved. The second aspect of Gerhard's crosses was he mated a Rec. Red Ribbontail Indian Fantail cock to a Rec. Red Giant Homer hen and the first bird produced by the pair was a normal (12 tail feathers) tailed bird with a white barred Ribbontail. Such a test mating result would indicate Ribbontail was present though not apparent in the Giant Homer gene pool!

Being armed with Frank Mosca's accurate opinions and being quite familiar with Midwest Giant Homer history I tried a new angle to achieve white lacing. I mated a white barred Ice Blue Homer cock, which had been sold to me as a Dom. Opal, to a resynthesized Plymouth Rock hen which had exhibited white lacing in juvenile plumage and with production of their fourth squab scored a direct hit.

The fourth squab was Homer type (plum) rec. red with a splotted type of white lacing. Although this bird appears to be losing the white lacing as it achieves adult plumage it has fulfilled several areas of information. This white lacing is NOT Rec. Opal. Rec. Opal and Dom. Opal both modify the base color. I have had this white lacing on juvenile plumage in Blue Bars, Blue Checks, Ash Bars and Checks (very difficult to see on an ash base), Rec. Opal, bronze kite and Rec. red and in every instance there was no modification of base color. In every instance on obtaining adult plumage it left no visible trace that it had ever existed. Also on the Rec. Red hen raised by Gerald Hobbs there was no modifying of the base color.

This white lacing may or may not be related to ice blue or frill type stencil and could well be an independent factor as all ice blue and stencils which I have seen modified the base color. The white lacing is still contained in the gene pool of Giant Homers as the Giant Homer I used to create a different avenue towards success has indicated and as the previous work by Gerald Hobbs has shown.

Other than the Rec. Red hen produced by Gerald, I have yet to see another bird in adult plumage which duplicates this color. There are no pigeons in Levi's books "The Pigeon" or "Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds" which duplicates this color. While some people will feel that a lot of information goes against the grain of established color genetics, with a breed such as Giant Homers which exhibits a very high degree of color "combinations," this info is not all that surprising. One thing I can tell you is that while Dom. Opal is a rather new color to me I have had Rec. Opal since the 60's. Rec. Opal for years in Giant Homers was called Indigo Bars and Indigo

Checks. As a first, at least to me, at the 1990 NYBS a Rec. Opal with white bars was shown as a Dominant Opal. It is very possible that some Giant Homer fanciers are having more success than me with a rare color and are not even aware of it.

As I mentioned, Passenger Pigeons, perhaps I should clarify that stuffed specimens of adult Passenger Pigeons, are not as rare as most people would believe. Stuffed specimens of Juvenile Passenger Pigeons are on the other hand quite rare indeed. It just so happens that the Louisville Museum of Natural History and Science does have a juvenile male. This juvenile is a medium checker and yes, he does exhibit a white lacing very similar to what I'm working with. Unfortunately this specimen is in need of repair and is not on display to the general public. What color was the Passenger Pigeon? A type of wild Auto-sex, you could determine the sex of the adult Passenger Pigeon by the size and the number of their checkers! - Passenger Pigeon Resynthesis, RFD 1, Box 114, Depauw, Indiana 47115.

Jacksonville Area Pigeon Club 18th Annual Pigeon Show by JERALD J. KITCHENS, Decatur, Ill.

The Jacksonville, Illinois, Pigeon Club held its Annual Show, Saturday, Nov. 3, 1990. With temperatures in the upper 60's, it was a super day for such a fine show.

Jerry Thies, Steve Smock and Jim Murphy did an excellent job of judging the birds. We are really lucky to have some of the best judges in the United States right here in the Midwest.

The Club had many door prizes and not just one drawing per ticket, but ten to twelve drawings per ticket. It was a real nice show, well organized and everyone was enjoying themselves. Added to all of this, you will see several thousands of wild geese, right next to the show hall on the lake. They're there every year and it's a sight to behold.

With around 30 real nice trophies, the following were the winners:

Best Russian Tumbler, Kandy Baumgardner; Best Fantail Jerald Kitchens; Best Homer, Bob Larcher; Best Chinese Owl, Don Farwell; Best Domestic Show Flight, Jerald Kitchens; Best Indian Fantail, Mike Niehiser; Best Roller, Bob Crawford; Best AOV Fantail, Jerald Kitchens; Best Komorner Tumbler, John Ackerman; Best Giant Homer, Charles McCormick; Best King, Jerald Kitchens; Best Young King, Jerald Kitchens; Best White King, Jerald Kitchens; Best Black King, Jerald Kitchens; Best Modena, Wendell Conger; Best Helmet, John Ackerman; Best Jacobin, Jerald Kitchens; Best Jr. Komorner Tumbler, Lonnie Farwell; Best Jr. Oriental Frill, Kris Kessinger; Best Jr. Chinese Owl, Lonnie Farwell; Best Jr. English Trumpeter, Kris Kessinger; Best Jr. Roller, Lonnie Farwell; Champion Junior was Lonnie Farwell's Komorner Tumbler.

When you recognize the names behind the best of each breed, you know the competition is here. So come show with us next year and help make this show one of the top all breed shows around.

Write or call Eddie Kirkpatrick, 174 So. Mechanic St., Winchester, Ill. 62694 or call 1-217-742-5741 and get on the mailing list for next year.

The cost of putting on a pigeon show has increased almost every year and we all need to help out by paying for a trophy to promote our own breed and to help the clubs. It really helps and you will be glad you did. - Jerald J. Kitchens, 1290 Moffet Lane, Decatur, Ill. 62522.



National Oriental Frill, Turbit & Owl Family News by CHUCK HARTER, Pub. Dir., Tahlequah, Okla.

This year's annual Young/Yearling Show was held in Claremore, OK. The host Jay McGehee did a good job putting this together. I understand they had to set up the show three different times. I know that when I arrived, an empty show met me. Our entries were down a bit this year as compared to previous years. Everyone who attended had a good time, despite the record heat. I wish all specialty clubs had the kind of support that NOFTOF Young/Yearling Show has. Orrie Moore was there, driving all the way from Seattle, Wash. David Forsberg drove down from Michigan, Gerry Leberman drove down from Iowa, Tom Johnson from Nebraska. David Workman flew up from Texas, Dale Jett from Illinois and Roy Skog flew in from Utah. Also in attendance were Richard Brooks, Chuck Harter, Cecil Rose, Ed Pointer, Bari Goodson, Tony and Aryon Baker, Jay McGehee, Scott McGehee, Jeff Skog, Frank Serra and Pat Sabin. This, my friends, is dedication and love of the hobby. I just wish there was more of it - in all breeds.

Champion Oriental Frill went to a beautiful brown lace Satinette hen by Cecil Rose of Oklahoma City, OK. Best Yearling Frill also to Cecil on the same bird. Best Young Frill was won by Gerry Leberman with a Blue White Bar Blond, young cock. Champion and Best Yearling African Owl was

won by Tony Baker with a lavender cock. Best Young Owl was won by Jay McGehee with a Black Pied young cock. Champion Turbit and Best Yearling Turbit was won by Jay McGehee with a beautiful Black cock. Jay also won Best Young with a silver bar hen. Last, but not least the Jrs. Best Turbit went to Jeff Skog, Best Owl to Aryon Baker, Best Frill to Aryon Baker and Best Overall Jr., again to Aryon Baker with the African Owl.

After the show we had a short meeting to take care of several items. Constitution revision was first on the list with Larry Springston, David Forsberg and Bari Goodson being appointed to committee. Our Master Breeders Award program needed to be updated, so appointed to this were, David Forsberg, Chuck Harter and David Workman. It was also voted on by the members in attendance to change the date of the Annual Young/Yearling Show and combine it with the Oklahoma Frill, Turbit and Owl Club's Annual Fair Meet. This will be in everyone's best interest but that is my own biased opinion.

Anyone interested in joining the National Oriental Frill, Turbit and Owl family may do so by contacting Roy Skog, 6869 Running Springs Dr., West Jordan, Utah 84084.

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Quakertown, Pa. 18951



National Modena Club News

by K.W. "CHUCK" LAMBOOY, Lakewood, Colo.
Publicity Director



I was just reading a couple of short notes from various breeders, and the general opinion is, people around the country are having a good end to the breeding season; it is showing up in the first place and winning pens. For most breeders, this is the answer for breeding Modenas, or any pigeons for that matter. I believe this is a great part, and can only be topped by the friendships and extra knowledge gained by knowing other people around the states and abroad who raise pigeons.

My first show this year was the Kansas Modena Club Show in Hutchinson, KS. Though this was a small show, the turn-out was really nice. Willi did himself proud again winning both Best Gazzi with a Bronze O.C. and Best Schietti and Best Modena with a White O.C. I have heard from several of the District shows and have a few winners. 1st District winners were: Dave Jackson, Best Modena and Best Schietti Yellow O.H., Best Gazzi a Black O.H. owned by Stu Webster. The Western Regional winners: Best Schietti and Best Modena went to Cascade Lofts with a Yellow O.H., and Best Gazzi also to Cascade Lofts with an Ochre Tri O.H. The Eastern Regional was held in Chatam, Ontario, and the winners were: Best Schietti and Best Modena was a Black O.H. owned by Dann Maschke, and the Best Gazzi went to Stu Webster with a Black O.H. The Midwest Regional was held this past weekend and the winners were as follows: Best Schietti and Best Modena was awarded to Willi Richert with his great #99 O.C. Best Gazzi was given to Modena Mama who bred a tremendous Blue Young Hen. Best Young Modena went to Willi Richert with a nice Red Check Y.C. I was also told that the show was extremely well prepared, and there were almost 1100 entries.

Good luck to everyone in the shows to come. Our interview article for this month comes from Bob Burns, and Bob has really come a long way over the past few years. Before we begin, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bob on his win having Best Modena at the National Young Bird Show this year, with a really nice White Schietti Y.H. I hope that you enjoy this interview with Bob!

Before I begin I would like to say it is probably the "Personal Recognition" that I shy away from. I've only bred pigeons now for about 17 years and don't feel I have many answers. I do appreciate your efforts, and feel that you are doing a fine job. I would have written sooner, but I didn't want to "toot" my own horn.

Q.: Please tell our readers about your family, occupation, and "life after the Modenas."

A.: I am married and have three sons 23, 21, and 18. My wife's name is Glenda. David (23) is a Sergeant in the U.S.A.F. in Minot, North Dakota. Donald is a Junior in college and Darrin graduated from High School last June and works in a shoe store across from the mall where I work. I am a registered watchmaker and have practiced my trade for some 25 years.

Q.: Looking back, how old were you when you first discovered pigeons?

A.: I was about 28 when I received my first pair of Modenas.

Q.: What types or breeds were the first that you had?

A.: As just stated, my first pair was a pair of White Schietti.

Q.: How long have you been raising Modenas, and when did you first acquire an interest in them?

A.: My first birds were given to me in the spring of 1973.

Q.: When you first started in the Modena breed, from whom did you receive the most help?

A.: My start in Modenas came from Lyle Kinder. He was and has always been a good friend and a great mentor.

Q.: As an established Modena breeder, do you make your own birds by YOUR breeding program alone, and/or does it become necessary to outcross to other strains?

A.: As many preceding me have stated, I'm reluctant to answer as an "established breeder." When I answer the rest of these questions you will see the reason for that first answer. I am not certain what is meant by "your breeding program alone" but my breeding program is definitely my own. As for the stock that I use, the answer is "yes" I do outcross a great deal. I think it is a necessity to outcross to bring in the new genes. When one uses the same stock over and over, you will intensify the gene pool you are using. This will not only intensify the faults, it will also aid at times in your own program. By using the outcross to "A" better bird, you are now adding the better genes or qualities into your birds. I believe that without the outcrossing on a regular basis, one's birds will all come to look alike for better or worse, and they also become weaker.

Q.: If your answer is YES to the previous question, who would you be most likely to contact for birds necessary for this outcross and why?

A.: There are many, many good breeders in this country and also around the world. As my outcrosses will show, I am quite partial to my little Kansas buddy, Willi Richert. The "whys" are very obvious to anyone breeding today - THE MAN KNOWS MODENAS!!!

Q.: What is your favorite color for breed-

ing?

A.: White and Red Schietti.

Q.: Are you currently working on any color variations or developments other than your specific color choice?

A.: No.

Q.: If you have held an office or currently hold an office in the National Modena Club, is there any other position that you would like to hold?

A.: I have been 3rd District Director, Eastern Vice-President and am now of the judging committee. I do not aspire to any other office.

Q.: We now have our new, long awaited model which has been adopted at the National meeting, awaiting acceptance by the club membership. What importance will its presence hold as a force for future judging and the development of our breed?

A.: It is quite obvious that this answer will only be a guess. I can only hope that a model will give everyone a new perspective on our birds. I question the fact that one can't look at a picture and see what he wants to breed toward, versus a Model, which will only be a three dimensional picture. I do hope this model can all be worked out and we can go on with the breeding - short, wide, cobby, powerful, while being well balanced and with the good straight legs, and good color.

Q.: What EFFECTIVE changes would you personally make in the current standard of the Modena that would TRULY strengthen the system?

A.: I don't see the need for a change here, we should be able to do the best with what we now have.

Q.: During the annual meeting, a proposal was made where-by the current certificate system would change to read: "When a bird is awarded a certificate, it should go to whom ever the BREEDER was." Since this proposal was defeated, will you please comment on where the integrity of our system might be headed?

A.: That is a difficult question to answer due to the fact that I believe strongly in our system, and also want to see those breeders get their just rewards. I would like to see our show secretaries fill out the certificate information properly. Too many times I have seen the certificate filled out where the breeder and the exhibitor are one in the same, and no questions were asked whether it was correct or not. I would also like to see the breeder awarded some kind of certificate when the exhibitor wins with a bird they did not breed.

Q.: During your career with the Modena, if you have experienced any set-backs, would you please describe them?

A.: In 1983, my birds contracted Paratyphoid. I was all but wiped out except for two pair of Whites. At the NYBS in Louisville, KY, I bought two pair of Whites from Ed and Rhonda Kasselmann. I took these home and crossed them to mine. By the way, these birds were from Richert breeding stock, and from that day forward I have had great luck with the White Schietti. Thank you Willi, Ed and Rhonda!

Q.: In following with the previous question on the positive side, in what areas do you feel that you have excelled, and please elaborate on them?

A.: What is there to elaborate on? If you breed your birds to Willi Richert's birds, you will improve your stock.

Q.: Please describe for our readers the breeding program you are using with the following: 1. Loft set-up; 2. Loft management; 3. Medications - how used and how often; 4. Breeding: start, maintenance, break-up; 5. Training and show preparation.

A.: I have three lofts. Two are 8x10 and are divided in half. The third is 6x8, and is also divided in half. There really isn't much that I have to say about loft management, except to keep a relatively clean and most certainly dry area for your birds. I will use Pest strips to control any parasites that might come in, and keep clean feed, water, and grit out at all times. I feed only once per day and only enough to be cleaned up during each day. If for some reason there is feed left in the feeders the next day, I will cut the ration a little. I will usually use the crushed corn cobs on the floor. As for medication, I use the Tramisol powder for worms, Apralan for the E-Coli infection, Chloremphenicol or Tripple Sulfa once per year for the treatment and prevention of the Paratyphoid. I have also used the vaccine for the PMV for three years now. I will put my birds together for breeding between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and break them up around the end of June. I start the young birds in the show pens about the time they are 2 or 2 1/2 months old. I will carry this through the summer and fall.

Q.: What advice would you be willing to share with the beginner who might be reading this article?

A.: The same advice given by many of the people who have participated in your interview. Start with a pair or two of the color that you have decided you will breed, and try to reach the breeder who has been consistently winning over the past 5-7 years. I can't emphasize the word breeder enough. There are those who can spot the good bird but don't seem to be raising many of the top birds they are showing.

Q.: What is your personal attitude toward a new individual who comes to you by reputation and wants to know "ALL ABOUT THE MODENA" and "CAN YOU HELP ME START OUT?"

A.: Sure, I would like to sit down for hours and talk to a new breeder, and there are probably near 400 more in this club who could probably do the same thing. That is the fun of raising and breeding the Modena. There is a healthy and vibrant enthusiasm in most all Modena people and this is a club with good leadership and 12 good bulletins each year. The APJ is very good help for breeders, but it is most important for the new breeder to be "taken under the wing" of an old-timer. By being taken under wing, I don't mean for this person to be giving away stock birds or show birds to this new person. The new breeder should realize that anything that is worthwhile should be paid for, and

hopefully they will get a better sense for the birds, and take better care. Everyone needs help now and again, and to remember that what goes around comes around. Remember, treat someone the way that you will want to be treated.

Q.: When someone approaches you about the purchase of birds in your color they might purchase, what do you feel is a fair price for a pair you CAN sell?

A.: I feel that about \$100 is a good price for a good pair of birds. As we all know only too well, there have been many birds sold for \$5 or \$10. There have been those times that these birds will turn out to be a gem in the rough, but the chances are against you if you think this will happen often. On the other hand, not all of the birds that are purchased for that fair price of \$50 or \$100, will be raising the champions, either! Be very knowledgeable about who you are going to buy from. I have some birds that have NO price as many do, and I may never raise a cham-

pion out of any of them. Consider one's feelings when trying to purchase birds and don't belittle, batter, or bicker with the prices. If someone wants you to have a bird, more than likely they will price that bird in a range that you can afford. Remember, you don't have to agree on the price, or buy that bird either!

Q.: Do you have any comments you would like to make in behalf of yourself or the Modena, or share any other informational tips?

A.: My fingers are cramping so I will quit. I love the Modena, and have never raised any other breed. I also love the National Modena Club and 99.9% of the people who represent it, and I am obviously hooked for life on the "Bird of Curves!"

Thank you again for this opportunity to bring you something of interest. Until next month, God Bless and Best of luck to all!

American Owl Club News

by WAYNE DIVINEY, Crestview, Fla.

I want to thank the APJ for printing our last club news column. When this comes to print we will be approaching our annual show in conjunction with the Reading Winter Expo in Reading, Pennsylvania, January 11-13. This show is always worthwhile because most of the top African Owl Breeders in North America will attend.

Our recent club bulletin listed our membership as 51. I think with a little promotion we will continue to grow. A few years ago most of the good African Owls were in the hands of three or four breeders. Today we have birds of quality in most every loft from coast to coast. In the last couple of years I have seen some outstanding birds in red and blue which are colors hardly seen in the shows of previous years.

I know Tom Zangle, Paul Chemans, Tony Lomuto, Jerry Asper, Vern Sorenson, Skinny Stratton, Carl Miller and myself all have barred birds at this time. The more we show, the better quality we raise and the greater the interest in other fanciers to compete in bars. In the next four or five years we will double the number of lofts with barred birds.

Tom Zangle and I visit frequently by phone. We agree that it is no fun to win a class of birds at a show if there's no competition. Tom Zangle and Charlie Eslinger have the deepest stud of whites anywhere. In the last couple of years they have let go of some real good birds. This year they are spreading around even more good ones! In the future our white classes are going to be deeper and larger than before. Tom and Charlie are super promoters. They have given so many fanciers the chance to breed champions by supplying good stock.

Tony Lomuto is going to help me with publicity for AOC. We will trade off writing a column for the APJ. We are looking forward to interesting and informative reading. Your contributions certainly enhance the articles, you are encouraged to share your

knowledge, experience and tips with the club. Please let us hear from you. See you at Reading!

Central Shortface Tumbler Club At The NYBS

by L.T. BROWN, Pub. Dir.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

It was excitement city last October at the National Young Bird Show as 77 shortface tumblers vied for top honors. Will Valentyn judged the flatheads and a very busy Tony Patti judged the roundheads. The winners were: Best Budapest - William Hetzel; Best Stork Budapest - Hetzel; Best White Budapest - Robert Harper; Best Red/Yellow Budapest - Lowell Paddick; Best Blue Budapest - Al Knauer; Best Colored Budapest - Harper; Best Ancient - Will Valentyn; Best Vienna - Chester Goralewski; Best Yellow English Shortface - Robert and Lucille Scavone; Best Baldhead ESF - Andy Terracciano; 2nd Reserve ESF - Terracciano; 1st Reserve ESF - the Scavones; Best English Shortface - the Scavones.

Following the competition, a short, well-attended business meeting was held around the club's buffet table with new officers elected: President - William Hetzel; Vice President - Will Valentyn; Secretary-Treasurer - Robert Harper; Publicity Director - L.T. Brown. Bob Harper will continue to publish the club bulletin. The club voted for membership in the NPA and for a retroactive Master Breeder program. The club voted to try to get Rudy Ottenhoff, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, to judge next year's NYBS shortface tumblers. Don't forget, an APJ special on shortface tumblers is scheduled for February 1993. For a challenge, try shortface tumblers: Short on beaks - long on beauty and excitement.



Performing Roller Assn. News

by DAN OUELLETTE,
Publicity Director,

1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Ore. 97504

TEN YEARS AFTER

Through the past ten years I've seen many changes in the Flying Roller Hobby and most of them have been very positive. The hobby has been blessed with many hard working dedicated Roller men who have spent their time and money to promote our special breed.

In 1981, I joined the N.B.R.C. when there were less than 50 members. Now (1990) there are over 700 members. The NBRC officers should be commended on their hard work. Anyone who has ever held a position of responsibility in a club knows how much time and effort it takes to effectively operate an organization. George Valiska has been a solid, durable and effective force behind the NBRC, which I personally am respectful. There have been many others who have contributed to the success of the NBRC, through these past ten years and they also should be proud of what has been accomplished. When I joined in 1981, the NBRC Publicity Director was a man named Don Hearn. He was responsible for many new memberships especially in the West. Unfortunately he passed away a couple of years ago and never got a chance to see the success the NBRC enjoys today. I'm sure he would feel very proud. The NBRC is dedicated to the preservation and further development of the Birmingham Roller in the air. That's what it's all about.

I joined the I.R.A. in 1981 when the organization was in its 6th year. At that time it was the only real Flying Roller Club in the hobby. The IRA bulletin was second to none and still is today. It's had its ups and downs but through it all has survived and is as strong as ever. Roller men like Joe Houghton, Monte Nieble, Ed Garrett, Roger Baker, Ron Kumro

should be proud of what they have accomplished. Their hard work and the IRA kept the Flying Roller pigeons in the air where they belonged. The Roller hobby owes a great deal to the IRA for their contributions in making the Flying Performing Roller pigeon what it is today, the most exciting pigeon God ever created. The IRA owes thanks to Max Runyon, Bruce Perrault, Al Rother for their undying dedication in keeping the IRA the strong organization we enjoy

today.

In 1985 my brothers and I felt the Flying Roller hobby could use some new energy towards the positive promotion of Flying Rollers. We formed the Performing Roller Association (PRA) with the intentions of promoting the Flying Roller through certain activities and programs. One of our biggest accomplishments was the Annual PRA Fly and Display convention, where not only does the local area fly their kits for us, we also would share our top verified performers in a display exhibit of some sort. We would honor our more experienced Roller men by asking them to judge and select the Roller they liked the most for whatever reason they wanted to. The PRA has a Verified Proven Performer program, Proven Producer program, Honorary Life Member program and a Master Breeder program. These programs are open to all Flying Roller men whether they belong to a club or not. The PRA is for the positive promotion of Flying Rollers.



WINNERS AT THE 3RD ANNUAL PRA FLY & DISPLAY CONVENTION 1988

Pictured above are: Top row, l.-r. - Doug Ouellette, 1st Reserve; Norm Scott, Best Old Cock and Second Reserve; Hugo Blaas, 1988 Display Judge and Honorary Life Member; Dan Ouellette, Outstanding Producer; Bottom row, l.-r. - Donald C. Ouellette, Champion, Best Old Hen, Best Yearling Cock; Doug Studeman, Best Yearling Hen. - Photo from Dan Ouellette, Medford, Ore.



PRA members at the 1988 3rd Annual Fly & Display Convention. - Photo from Dan Ouellette, Medford, Ore.

The IRA/NBRC/PRA are organizations we all should be proud of. We should support their efforts in the promotion of the Flying Performing Roller Pigeon. In Dec. 1993 the APJ is featuring its first Flying Performing Roller Special. It's time for all National Clubs to work together & make this first Flying Performing Roller Special the best it can be. It will most likely be a collector's item. Everyone who flies Rollers is invited to participate whether they belong to a club or not.

The Flying Performing Roller hobby has some other activities that should be mentioned. The International Fly which has had great success in gathering many Roller men together to fly in kit competition. The Paul Vaughn Invitational has just had its debut. The PRA will have its debut West Coast I-5 Competition Fly Nov. 1991. The BRA is having its second Classic Fly which should be exciting. So let's all work together and



Hugo Blaas was the display judge at the 3rd Annual PRA Fly and Display Convention held in Modesto, Calif. 1988. The host club was the CCRC and coordinators were Dan and Don Ouellette. Doug Ouellette handled the video.

keep the Flying Performing Roller Pigeon alive.

In Jan. 1991 the NPA Grand National Show Convention will be held in Pomona, California. The PRA will have a verified class of Performing Rollers on display. The PRA welcomes anyone whether they belong to a club or not to participate in the PRA Verified Performer Program. Contact Dan Ouellette, 1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Ore.

African Owl News

by TIM STAJKOWSKI, Bay City, Mich.

The Central African Owl Club held their annual young bird meet in Louisville this year. The American Owl Club held their sectional meet there also. We had 75 Africans entered with real good quality throughout the classes. I had the privilege to pass judgement on them. Paul Cheman went away with Champion and E-Z Loft went away with Best Opposite Sex.

The color class winners were: Best White Hen, Paul Cheman; Best White Cock, E-Z Loft; Best Black Hen, Henry Jaeger; Best Black Cock, Paul Cheman; Best Dun Hen, Dale Jett; Best Dun Cock, Vinney Rooney; Best Red Hen, Dan Brown; Best Red Cock, Dan Brown; Best Barred Hen, Wayne Diviney; Best Barred Cock, Wayne Diviney; Best Pied or A.O.C. Hen, Gerald Asper; Best Pied or A.O.C. Cock, Vinney Rooney.

Best White, Paul Cheman; Best Black, Henry Jaeger; Best Dun, Dale Jett; Best Red, Dan Brown; Best Barred, Wayne Diviney; Best Pied or A.O.C., Gerald Asper.

Exhibitors were: Paul Cheman, Bolton, Ont., Canada; Henry Jaeger, Towson, MD; William Schmidt, Baltimore, MD; Dale Jett, Litchfield, Ill.; Dan Brown, Stephenson, MI; Wayne Diviney, Crestview, Fla.; Gerald Asper, Omaha, Nebr.; Bill LaLonde, Calif.;

97504. (503) 770-5528 for information concerning PRA Verification. The NPA Grand National is very important in officially separating the Flying Performing Roller Pigeon from the Show Roller. The Flying Performing Roller Pigeon is a breed of its own and should be acknowledged as such alongside all of the other breeds of pigeons. We will be giving more details in the near future. Subscribe to the APJ and support the NPA.

Vinney Rooney, N.Y.; Cecil Rose; Steve Sanders.

The Central African Owl Club is having their annual meet in Des Moines, Iowa, this year. The American Owl Club is having their annual meet in Reading, Pa., and their Sectional in Pomona, Calif., with the NPA. This show is also the annual meet of the Western Owl Club. The way the shows look, there has to be one in your area, so let's support the African Owl Fancy and support these shows.

I would like to congratulate all the winners at the Louisville show. There were some very nice birds at the show. If anyone is interested in joining the Central African Owl Club, send your dues to me: Tim Stajkowski, 1413 S. Raymond St., Bay City, MI 48706. The dues are \$5.00. If you are interested in joining the American Owl Club, send your dues to the same place, the dues are \$7.50.

Inland Empire Pigeon Fanciers Assn.

by JENNIFER DeVOE, Mead, Wash.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jennifer DeVoe. I am a junior member of the Inland Empire Pigeon Fanciers Association and have just been elected as their Publicity Director. I raise West of England Tumblers primarily in reds and yellows. I would be very interested in hearing from other juniors that raise Wests.

This year has been a very exciting one for us. We just held our 20th Annual Fall show the weekend of October 27-28. This year's winners are:

Best in Show and Best Fancy - O.H. Yellow Modena - Cascade Lofts.

Best Sporting - O.H. Black Mottle W.O.E. - Myron Berger.

Best Utility - Y.C. Black Giant Homer - Larry Baginski.

Jr. Champion - Norwich Cropper - Jesse Petersen. 1st Reserve - Red Mottle W.O.E. - Jennifer DeVoe. 2nd Reserve - Baldheaded A.F.T. - Brenden O'Reilly.

We just held our elections for 1991. Our new officers are: President - Kris Wacenske; Vice-President - Ron Frazier; Secretary/Treasurer - Karen Fortune and Newsletter Editor - Van Perry.

The members of the I.E.P.F.A. wish you all a successful 1991.

For information, contact me: Jennifer DeVoe E. 12527 Midway Road, Mead, Washington 99021.



Jack Meyers (left) was the PRA Best Kit Winner and Ken Billings (right) was the PRA Best Individual Bird winner at the 3rd Annual PRA Fly and Display Convention, Modesto, Calif., 1988. - Photo from Dan Ouellette, Medford, Ore.

Giant Runt Club Of America News

by JOE STEWART, Melissa, Texas

The GRCA has started the show season off with a bang with the Fourth District show being the first of many shows for 1990.

Texas has had varied weather this year, but it has finally settled into fall. I have been quite busy starting with October. Our members report a good breeding season and many great Giant Runts were bred.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS For 1991-1992

This was election year for the GRCA and a new slate of Officers will begin on January 1, 1991.

President - John Homod, Mississippi; 1st VP - Wallace Scalf, Texas; 2nd VP - Bob Pennington, Iowa; 1st District Director - Jose Ferreira, Rhode Island; 2nd District Director - Jerry Kern, Iowa; 3rd District Director - Howard Tess, Virginia; 4th District Director - James Avery, Oklahoma; 5th District Director - Ernie Fernandes, California; 6th District Director - Scott Hamilton, Canada.

As you can see, the GRCA has a great slate of Officers from all over the USA and Canada to guide us during the next two years.

NEW MEMBERS
I am very pleased to announce more new members, the list just keeps growing for the GRCA. They are:

Jack Fraley, California; John Gasper, Canada; John Mederos, Canada; Kinley Schlumbalm, Oregon; Richard C. Williams, California; Joao Castlehano, Canada; Ozzie Geljins, Canada and William Zboril, Texas.

4TH DISTRICT SHOW RESULTS
Congratulations go to James Avery who won Champion, Reserve Champion and several Best of Colors at the 4th District Show held in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 20, 1990. The Judge was Ike Orsak, Texas. A total of 180 Giant Runts were shown with 20 exhibitors and GRCA members present.

Also, Roger Harlin is to be congratulated on his Best Opposite Sex win at Dallas.

The results are: Grand Champion, #503 Old AOC Cock, shown by James Avery.

Reserve Champion #203 Old Black Cock, shown by James Avery.

Best Opposite Sex #1138 Yearling Blue Hen, shown by Roger Harlin.

Best White - #189 Old White Cock, Wallace Scalf; Best Check - #16 Young Check Cock, Ed Tugwell; Best Red - #303 Young Red Cock, David Buck; Best Silver - #2541 Silver Old Cock, Roger Harlin; Best Yellow - #336 Young Yellow Hen, Don Scalf; Best Grizzle - #230 Old Grizzle Cock, James Avery; Best Dun - #717 Young Dun Hen, Sunflower Loft; Best Ash - #449 Old Ash Cock, Roger Harlin.

Heaviest Giant Runt - #1171 Yearling Check Cock, 45 oz., Roger Harlin.

MEMBERS WRITE

Jesus Guerrero: Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 to pay for the two sharp T-Shirts and

the postage. Thank you for responding so quickly to our requests for them. I enjoy the Bulletin very much and hearing about my fellow Giant Runt Club members - you do a wonderful job putting it together.

John Davis: Please find enclosed a \$10.00 check to join the G.R.C.A. I would also like to know some breeders where I might be able to purchase some quality breeding stock.

Ken Kinsey: I recently got my first two pair of Runts, I saw them at the Salt Lake National. I fell in love with John Delahoussaye's birds and got them from him. In talking with him, he told me about the Club. I then decided to join. I am sending you \$10.00 for my dues, and \$10.00 for bands, they are impossible to get in this area. I am looking forward to the Bulletins and hope to make it to some of the shows.

Jim & Ken Collins: This is a request for information. My brother and I would like to buy 3 or 4 pairs of Giant Runts. Would you be kind enough to check your records and see if anyone in our part of the country raises Giant Runts. We live 180 miles S.E. at Springfield, Mo., 180 miles N.E. of Little Rock, Ark., - 40 miles W. of Poplar Bluff, Mo. Thank you for your trouble. Enclosed is a postage stamp for return mail.

Marsh Z. Chilman: Sorry if I spelled your name wrong. My name is Marsh Z. Chilman, I am eleven years old and I am interested in your Giant Runt Club, we have around 40 or 50 Giant Runts at our house, but they are only regulars. I am interested in the largest of the Giant Runts and wondered if I could get involved in the Giant Runt Club, what does it cost and how much are your biggest Runts? Got to go now, my teacher is getting mad.

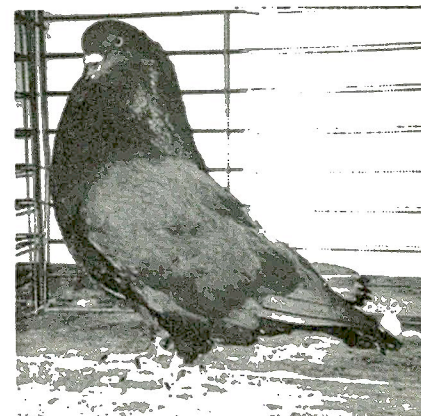
Brian T. Morrissey: I have been considering breeding Giant Runts and I am very interested in your club. Could you please send me any information on the breed or perhaps a sample Bulletin? Thank you for your time.

William Tannahill: I raise over 37 breeds of pigeons. I just purchased five pairs of Giant Runts, and am very pleased with this breed. I am interested in joining your Club. Could you send me more information about your Club and a sample of your Bulletin? Also, where can I purchase more Runts?

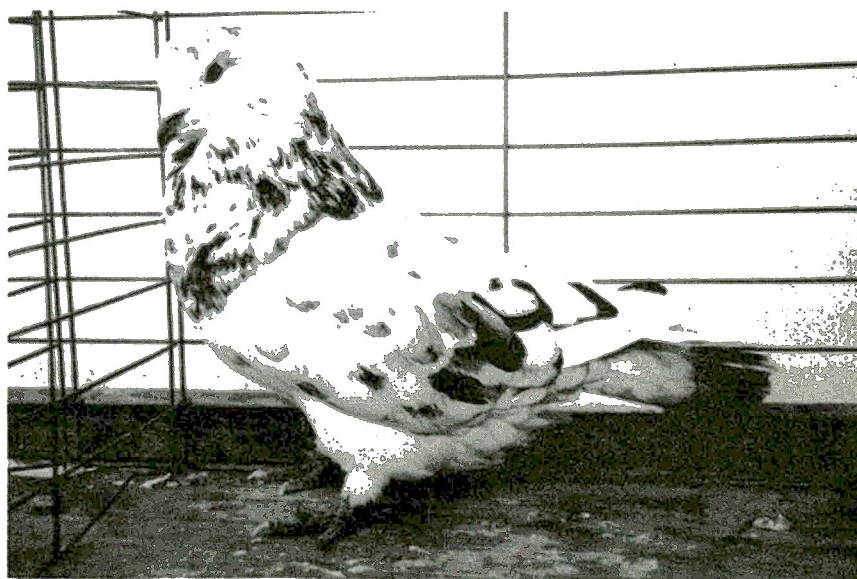
Gilbert J. and Marion M. White: Hi Joe! Just a few lines to let you know we have a change in address. New Address: 2014 Stocke Street, Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744. Also, please find my check for \$10.00 to pay for my 1991 Club Dues. Hope all of you gents have a good year of Giant Runt Breeding with plenty of Champs.

GUEST ARTICLE

Since I have two good short articles, they



RESERVE CHAMPION GIANT RUNT
Black Old Cock #203 shown by James Avery at the Dallas, Texas, GRCA 4th District Show October 20, 1990. - Photo from Joe Stewart, Melissa, Texas.



GRAND CHAMPION GIANT RUNT
AOC Old Cock #189, shown by James Avery, at the Dallas, Texas, GRCA 4th District Show Oct. 20, 1990. - Photo from Joe Stewart, Melissa, Texas.

will both be included in this month's Guest Article. The writers are James Avery and John Delahoussaye. These articles were sent in and used in our Bulletins, but I feel others would enjoy reading these thought provoking articles.

James Avery

Enclosed is an article I wish to have published in one of our Bulletins. It has been written with much thought and reasoning. Pat did the typing for me.

As I have stated in the article, I do not wish to cause any bad feelings from within the Club. But I do feel that a change in the manner of selection of our Breeder Of The Year Award is warranted.

Also, I feel it would make more members aware of the point system we have to gain Master Breeder Status. Maybe it will get some more breeders to the shows. It seems as though there are an awful small number of breeders at the shows. I know our Club has well over a 100 members around the country.

Maybe a suggestion that the birds could be mailed to some of these shows. The micro-barrier mailers would work very well if the breeder himself can't afford to attend the shows.

Most of our shows will have a member in charge. This member could be the receiver of these mailed birds, so that the other breeders would have someone to rely on to get his or her birds to the show room. Then, on the other hand, they would be responsible to get the birds mailed back after the shows are over. All of this may sound a bit too much but it is only an idea to increase the entries to our shows.

Keep thinking the rainy season will be over for the year, maybe it is finally, as it hasn't rained for five days now. All the rain has been awfully hard on my breeding program this year. I have lost a lot of eggs before they can hatch. The squabs that have hatched seem to be very susceptible to colds and canker outbreaks. I know enough about them to get the birds well, but it makes it hard on these youngsters.

Once I have them up several months old, I haven't lost any of them. Except a few I have culled myself for one reason or another. To tell you how my luck is running this year, I place squabs in a weaning pen for a couple of weeks to make sure they are eating good on their own. A couple of weeks ago I had a pair of squabs out of my best AOC's, placed the first one on the ground, only to watch him run right into a rake, and stick his head through it, then try to turn to the side and broke his neck. Within seconds, I had one less squab.

Still, I am looking forward to the upcoming shows this fall. It is also exciting going to them and talking to other breeders from around the country.

John Delahoussaye

I thought Howard did a good job on his article and I am sending this in the hopes that when others read my comments in the Bulletin, they might respond as well. In any case, these are my thoughts and will give something for use in the Bulletin.

In the March issue of the G.R.C.A. Bulletin a very intelligent and thought provoking article by H.W. Tess was presented to our membership for their consideration. In closing this article Howard asks for comments to the Officers, if we agree and to call or write him, if we disagree.

In my case, I find that I definitely don't disagree with what he has to say in regards to the importance of size and its recognition in the judging process. On the other hand I am not quite sure that a change in our written standard is needed at this time. I need to give this more consideration and wonder if the problem is not so much our written standard, but its interpretation in some cases. I am personally aware of the importance of size and consider it a MUST in my judging of any show. I demand both type and size and do not compromise on this. In some cases I retain a smaller type bird of good overall conformation and good head and neck points to breed to another with adequate size to compensate for this lack of size, but I don't SHOW these birds. I try to select only birds of adequate size to represent a Giant Runt in the show arena.

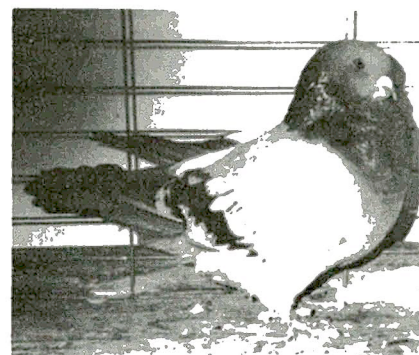
I agree on the importance that must be attached to the factor of size in our breed as this is the identifying characteristic of our breed and feel that Howard Tess is on the right track in working to keep this feature foremost in our standard. I am not sure at this time and would be happy to hear the opinion of each of you on this most important issue. If the membership feels that a change in the standard is warranted then the will of the membership will prevail.

If you are not breeding and showing Giant Runts, you are missing a lot of fun and good

fellowship. Breed and show Giant Runts, the breed with a history and a great future.

For more information on the Giant Runts, Giant Runt Club of America, or want to join, send \$10.00 for Senior, \$15.00 for family, or \$5.00 for Junior (under 18) to: Joe Stewart, Route 1, Box 156, Melissa, Texas 75071, (214) 837-2597.

A bargain considering our informative Bulletins, drawings of the ideal Giant Runt and awards offered by the GRCA at all GRCA sponsored shows.



BEST OPPOSITE SEX GIANT RUNT
Blue Yearling Hen #1138 shown by Roger Harlin at the GRCA 4th District Show, Dallas, Texas, October 20, 1990. - Photo from Joe Stewart, Melissa, Texas.



GRCA MEMBERS AT DALLAS

GRCA members at the Dallas, Texas, 4th District Show, October 20, 1990, were: (l.-r.) Judge Ike Orsak, Roger Harlin, David Buck, Wallace Scalf, Joe Stewart, Don Scalf, Jack Ostermann, Ruben Moreno, Ed Tugwell, James Avery. - Photo from Joe Stewart, Melissa, Texas.

Western American Trumpeter Club Forum

by GENE COOPER, Laguna Beach, Calif.

NPA NATIONAL, SLC, UTAH

At the recent National in Utah I was most favorably impressed with the professional manner in which the sponsoring Utah Pigeon Club handled the exhibitors and their birds. The waiting truck for their transportation to and from the airport and the personal assistance from Delta in the loading area was especially appreciated. (I can only hope that the Los Angeles Pigeon Club will do as good).

The English Trumpeter breeders owe a special thanks to John Fife for driving us around town and putting up with our disruption of his normal time schedule. His ever friendly spirit helped set the tone for a party loving crew. A pleasant surprise – I think – came in meeting Robin Neil, a stand-up comic destined to breed the funniest looking of pigeons . . . the English Carrier. When I first saw this tall, lean dentist looming out of the gaudiest pair of cowboy boots I have ever seen, trying to hitch a ride from the airport I knew that here was somebody to reckon with. This was reaffirmed when I discovered that he had a hobby of carving arrow heads to pile on his coffee table back in Montana. A Zen type experience. And till we left, I was still wondering if he was for real or some refugee from Friday Night Live lost without his remote control in the Twilight Zone. Yet, in the end, we had to make him a WATC member since he passed the supreme test of sharing a room with John Heppner and his nocturnal seismic eruptions, the kind that sends mere mortals looking for a secure doorway. Robin, undaunted by the test, is threatening to come to Los Angeles next year but I don't know if I can deal with him twice in a lifetime. God must be testing me.

SLATTED FLOORS

Turning to more practical affairs I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you the recent reconstruction of my loft floors. When I built my lofts I was extremely conscious of making sure that they would be dry, airy, and full of sun. To this end I was reasonably successful with a very open-type construction. However, the shortcoming was that the dried droppings quickly broke down in the sun's heat to add to the dust created by "pigeon dandruff." Moving air suspended a haze of fine, lung damaging dust. It didn't pass out of the loft quick enough, even with turbines. Not only did I begin to have a lung problem, I also had a terrible epidemic of Paratyphoid. In this case I thought that the birds pecking for food in the litter was an important cause since I had taken care of having clean food and water. What to do?

For some time I had been aware of the slatted floors used by Europeans, especially homer breeders. It seemed to me that this was an ideal solution. Since I couldn't find a grating already made, I had to make a substitute. Having a terraced floor (because of the natural terrain) I made palettes of 2x2s laid, 1 1/2" apart, on 2x4s then hinged on upright 2x6s (hinging can vary according to differ-

ent floors). There is 6" from the top of the slatted floor to the ground, deeper the better (can be covered with plastic sheeting for easy bundle removal of droppings or a thin concrete slab to keep out varmints). The attendant photographs better explain what is a very simple, but effective technique. It must be stated that I had to add 1x12s here and there (including the lid of my feeder) to act as mating platforms in case the slats couldn't provide a stable ground for mating. Let me here list the pros and cons:

PRO

1. Near elimination of dust. The dust is kept away from the wind generated by flapping wings. It lies relatively stable under the slats. This impresses most of my visitors.

2. Easy Cleaning. I have six 8x11' lofts and it takes me about 20 minutes to scrape the slats with a hoe-like weed cutter (without a mask!). Having covered the ground with sheets of plastic allows for easy bundling of the droppings.

3. Reduced Cleaning. I have a day-labour come in once a year to remove the droppings. It takes about a year for the 6" to fill up. It would be better if I had about 10." Even my shoes stay cleaner as the slats constantly scrape them.

4. Elimination of Litter. No dampness from concrete. No additional dust from sand. No flying around sawdust nor its sponge-effect when it absorbs moisture for bacteria and viruses to grow in. Plus there is no cost nor labor involved in the removing and replacing of sand or sawdust.

5. Easier to Disinfect. The birds use the slats like perches. Thus it is easy to spray the wood with some kind of residual roost-paint insecticide to prevent flies, mites, lice, etc. It stays on the wood where it will dissipate on litter. Can put disinfectant on droppings without fear of birds ingesting it.

6. No Need For Perches. The floor acts as one big perch. With the nest landings this is adequate.

7. Healthier Birds. For the last couple of years the birds have had less intestinal-type diseases. There is no dropping/litter mixture on the floor to peck through . . . salmonella is kept at bay save for inescapable airborne spores. I still can't seem to eliminate respiratory diseases.

8. No birds lay eggs on a slatted floor, no unwanted floor nesting. For obvious reasons.

CONS

1. Ugly. A slatted floor is honest. Without litter to hide droppings they are seen on and between the slats. Many fanciers do not want to face the fact of droppings by concealing them in litter. Others, like Levi, manage to find beauty in droppings, "droppings are beautiful," or pretend not to see them. Being an art historian this is very unnerving, however the trade-off more than pays for the aesthetic pain.

2. Getting stuck. An occasional bird will get either a leg stuck in slat spaces or manage to get under the floor. At first this was much more common until they got accustomed to the irregular floor surface. In the spare hen loft I will get birds now and then who want to lay under the floor. But I have never had a broken leg or a bird that didn't survive.

3. Grit. Birds do not have dirt to find minerals thus they have to have a supply of grit if needed.

4. Squeakers. For those of you who let your young birds leave their nests when they want to, and then get fed on the floor, slats won't work. I wear my squeakers a long time before they would leave their nests on their own. Mine never hit the ground. In those cases when they might fall out accidentally they fall between the slats and are thus protected from being scalped or smashed until I retrieve them.

When the pros and cons are considered the benefits far outweigh the downside. I will



Hinged floors for easy cleaning.

bite the bullet and live with ugly and an occasional stuck bird for the sake of my health, the bird's health, and the management conveniences. It's great! I recommend a slatted floor for every loft.

UNITED ENGLISH TRUMPETER CLUB

One last item. At the last WATC Director's meeting, the gathered discussed a need to do more things with the UETC. It was felt that we should find ways in which we could help the fledgling club in the north-west. It was brought up that we might be able

to provide judges for its shows, encourage our members to show in UETC shows and likewise encourage its members to show in those sponsored by the WATC, and perhaps to provide any help that it might want in terms of club affairs. The WATC wants to assist the UETC in any way that it can. But it needs to know from the UETC if indeed there is anything that it can do. I think the first thing that needs to be done is that the UETC president contact John Heppner to start a closer working relationship.

Next month . . . another WATC director.

Metro Pigeon Club

by ELMER F.T. UHRICH, National City, Calif.

The Metro Pigeon Club held its Annual Show Sunday, November 4, 1990. First of all I must say I am very glad to be back and try to operate the Metro Pigeon Club again. I was off for the September and October shows. Our August show was cancelled as I was making all plans preparing for a major-major operation. A total left hip replacement which is a very long, delicate operation and all the things that you go through to be prepared for it. You have to make two special trips to donate blood to be put aside for your own blood transfusion at 0500 a.m. in the morning, two weeks apart. You have to have your teeth examined, any in doubt, you have them pulled as this settles in your hip and you're in a wheelchair for good. I had to have seven pretty good teeth pulled all in one afternoon or set my schedule back, I was lucky I did it. My Doctor come to see me early the morning of my operation August 17. They took 400 Corpsmen, 20 nurses and 7 Doctors and sent them to Saudi Arabia. He told them that he had plans for this special big operation that I needed very badly which they had warned me that I had two choices, wheelchair or the operation, that I had let it go too long already. Before you have a hip operation you have to be checked over by every department. My

age of 79 years old was also against me for such a long time of 5 1/2 hours or more. Thank God it's over for that part. Now it's the problem of living a new and different life. There are a number of things you can't do and all the physical therapy to get half way back to normal again. I must report that I am doing very good and have gone all the way from bed ridden to the wheelchair to the walker, and then the cane, which I am doing very good with. I have to be very careful forever, anything can pop that hip and then you're back to the wheelchair.

They gave me a cheer of applause to be back at the club meeting. Don Klatt assisted me and took care of the shows while I was laid up. The club has had one problem after another. Last year we lost our home, a year in October. We practically had to start all over again at the Calvin Perez's. Then Calvin Perez, after doing pretty good, got in trouble and that just about did us in again. Joanie Perez was able to come to our rescue and help us in this predicament.

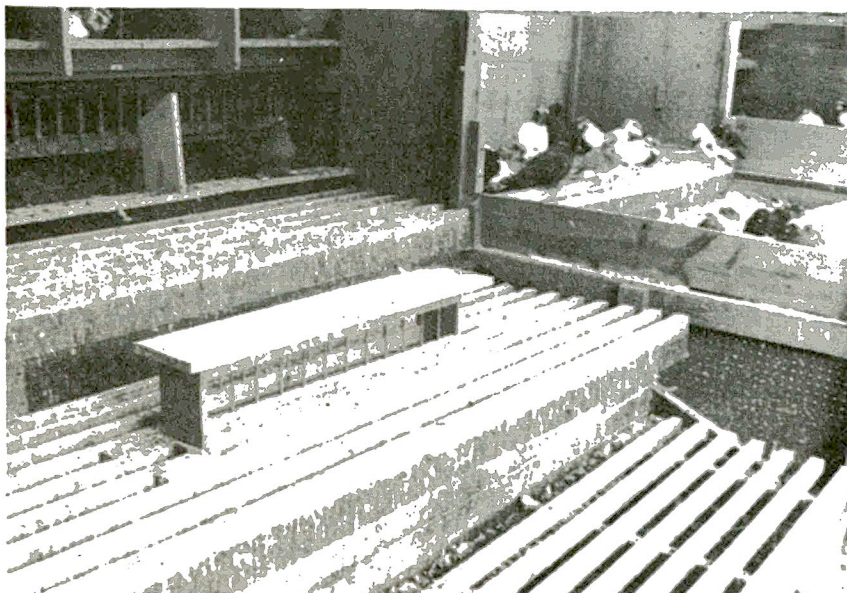
Bamene Lattimore won a rosette in Flying Rollers and Tony Arcano won a rosette with a Komorner Tumbler in the miscellaneous class. The judges were Fred Lipoufski, Joe Colesanti, John Philipps and John Roszell.

Don Klatt took care of the raffle of pigeon mix feed which was won by the following: Charles Dubert, Don Klatt, Tony Arcano and Frank White. A stack of three cages high won by John Roszell, was donated by Don Klatt.

We had two ladies from Project Wildlife, known as C.J., speak to club members present about pigeons turned in to them sick, hurt, or otherwise. Then when they recover they want to get them a home. I made arrangements with John Metz to contact the Secretary of the Racing Homer Club. She has the list of the birds' band numbers and the owners' name. Then when they get the Show birds on hand, they can deliver them to the Metro Pigeon Club second Sunday of the month, put them in the raffle and give them a home. This will be a great help to them at Project Wildlife. They were very pleased with this idea instead of having to turn them loose.

We are having trouble getting back to normal again. We only had 161 pigeons from 1980 through 1989. We had 253 to 415 pigeons at our annual shows. We had two bad years 1978 with 130 and 1979 with 149. Several years prior to that time we had 266 to 307. This gives you an idea of how good we did up to this year. I do hope that things will start to pick up for the club now. Many people have gone out of pigeons for many different reasons. Several have moved away. Ever so many have gone into Racing Homers to make money. Many of them are going to the Pageant of Pigeons at Pomona, Calif., and then again in January they are getting all set for the Grand National Pigeon Show. This, no doubt, should be the largest pigeon show ever. This weather here in California should do the trick.

I gave out six trophies starting with Modenas, won by John Roszell, tri-gazzi old cock. Fernando Lopez won two trophies in Racing Homers. John Philipps won the trophy with Best Show Roller. Frank White won the trophy Best Flying Roller. Gene East won the trophy with the Best in Miscellaneous.



Slatted floors and mating boards in the lofts of Gene Cooper, Laguna Beach, Calif.

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CREATION OF THE AMERICAN GIANT HOMER AND THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN GIANT HOMER ASSOCIATION 1918-1928

by Marion Graham, AGHA Historian

The year 1918 marks the actual documented beginning of the Bird – eventually named the American Giant Homer.

The “American” Giant Homer Association was organized in the year 1928; however, the historical “roots” go back a lot of years before that. In the beginning of the Giant Homer Association, the word “American” was not a part of the organizational name. Some years later, when the Association members realized that they had created something truly American in every respect, did the word “American” appear as part of the Association’s name.

Some years after 1928, Stanley Stout, one of the earliest Giant Homer Association Pioneers, wrote to Paul Steiden thanking him for sending in his Giant Homer Association dues (\$1.00). Paul Steiden had asked Stanley Stout some questions about the crossing of breeds to produce “Giant” Homers. Stout wrote back to Paul & informed him that the “colored Giant Homers (that existed at that time) were bred from flying Homers only, & the large breast area of the bird was built by ‘selectively’ mating bigger and bigger birds together.” Stout stated that as far as he knew, “there was no other blood in the ‘first’ Giant Homers but big, flying Racing Homers.”

Utilizing the above mentioned breeding concept (generally), the first strains of Giant Homers were begun by two earlier Giant Homer Association pioneers, R.W. Keene and Wm. P. Gray in the year 1918. This “documented date” was only the continuation of their breeding work which had really started some years before 1918 – and continued for many years following. The two of them worked together as “co-pioneers” in the creation of the “American” Giant Homer – but each on a somewhat different project. Gray worked to produce a strain of “pure white Giant Homers. They were bred ‘straight’ from big, white, flying, Racing Homers.” Stout further stated that “the ‘colored’ Giants that Keene produced were from Racers and English Show Homers – crossed.” Keene continued to breed his birds carefully for the first 12 years to get them pure white and eliminate the “recognizable” evidence of the Show Homer out of them. Only then did Keene consider his birds a new “strain”

of Giant Homers without too much conscience about their being cross-breeds. They became known widely (at that time) as “the best strain of Giant Homers in the world.”

The average weight of Gray and Keene’s Giant Homers was about 20 ounces (and increasing) – somewhat lighter than some of the other companion breeds of squabbers at that time, but heavier than others that were generally considered big breeds.

So – if Keene and Gray started (openly) on their Giant Homer projects in (about) 1918 – and they continued working on their individual breeding projects for “at least” 12 years – this would bring the “new” Giant Homer to recognizable status somewhere around the year 1928, the year that the “American” Giant Homer Association was organized.

The pioneers in the creation of the Giant Homer also became pioneers in the establishment of the Giant Homer Association. R.W. Keene was the first Charter President, C.F. Hober became Vice President, and Wm. P. Gray became Secretary-Treasurer.

Between 1918 and 1928, many breeders were trying to develop bigger and better Homers – as during those early years the squab was a most popular table delicacy and profitable economic product. The early Squabbing Homer was not always known as the “Giant Homer.” In 1919 and 1920, the Wilson Pigeon Farm, in Wilson, Kansas, called their best squabbers, the Homer, just a “Squab-breeding pigeon.” In 1921, The Marksacre Pigeon Lofts were selling Homers as “Squab Breeders” and “Exhibition Birds.” W.C. Osterwisch, in New Memphis, Illinois, was selling “Squab Breeding Homers.” At the same time, in Butler, Pennsylvania, the Ideal Squab Company Inc., was starting to produce a larger squabbing Homer cross. So here in 1921 we can mark the beginning of a completely new movement in developing larger utility squab breeders – Crossbreeding.

Beginning slowly after 1918 – and picking up momentum in 1921 – many squab producers were raising flying, working Racing Homers along with one or more breeds of the “Big Six” utility group – trying to combine the prolific production ability of the Working Homer with the larger size of the “Big Six” utility breeds. The “Big Six” utility group consisted of Hungarians, Runts, Maltese, Carneaux, White Kings and Registered White Swiss Mondaines. The Homer breeders were seriously beginning to use these “Big Six” breeds solely as tools to make their Giant Homers bigger and more prolific producers of heavier squabs.

It is general scientific knowledge that “Hybridization” of compatible breeds of plants and animals increases the capacity for improved production. In 1920, the Cedar Lawn Poultry Farm, in Morristown, New Jersey, were raising White Swiss Mondaines, Carneaux, and Working Homers together – cross-breeding. H.N. Webb, of Springfield, Missouri, was also crossing Homers with Carneaux and Mondaines. L.N. Simons, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was crossing

Carneaux and Working Homers. It was here during these years of the flourishing squab industry that the flying Homers became known as the “Working Homer,” – and it was out of the “Working Homer” concept that the new idea of the “Giant Homer” came forth.

In 1922, a new “twist” entered into the objectives of the “Cross Breeders.” The Dalton Pigeon Lofts, of Joplin, Missouri, was still crossing Working Homers with Carneaux and White Kings with a new objective. Floyd Baker, of Hereford, South Dakota, also had this “New Vision” in his crossing of Runts, Carneaux, and Working Homers. These breeders, and many others like them, were, of course, interested in developing the Homer as a “Super Squab Producer,” but, with others, were also beginning to develop their “Prize Birds” as Show Birds and Squab Producers. Here – the Giant Homer began to emerge as a Dual Purpose Bird.

As the satisfaction of competition began to outweigh the dwindling profits of selling squabs, the Homer slowly became more and more a popular Show Bird. The squabbing industry lost popularity because of rising production costs and shipping fees which produced lower and lower profit margins. Keep in mind now that this article is dealing with the history of the American Giant Homer as it originated in 1918 – and how it developed up to 1928 when the “American” Giant Homer Association was organized.

Following 1928 – new efforts to build the Giant Homer into the more beautiful Show Bird by crossing it with other breeds were begun on a massive scale, as the concept of the Ideal Giant Homer changed. These efforts following 1928 will be dealt with in further chapters of A.G.H.A. history.

In 1922 was one of the greatest years in the history of the “American” Giant Homer Association. For the first time, the N.P.A. divided the entire Grand National Pigeon Show into two big divisions – Utility and Fancy. Sixteen breeds were listed as Utility – those breeds that could be used for squab raising; however, should any specialty club or group representing a particular breed desire to have their breed transferred to the fancy classes, the N.P.A. would be glad to accede to their wishes. It is right there that breeders of Homers began to believe that their favorite breed could be fit for the show room and also out-produce any other pigeon on earth.

In the first year that the Homer was classified as one of the top utility breeds, its specific National Show Class was called the Jumbo Squab Homer – and was divided into seven color classes: White Jumbo Homers, Black Jumbo Homers, Blue or Silver Jumbo Homers, Red or Yellow Jumbo Homers, Black or Blue Cheques, Red or Yellow Cheques, and AOC Jumbo Homers. This action by the N.P.A. represents the first time that the Homer possessed a color classification status. Now – we have 13 color classes with multiple variations within each class – except White.

Following the naming of the Homer in

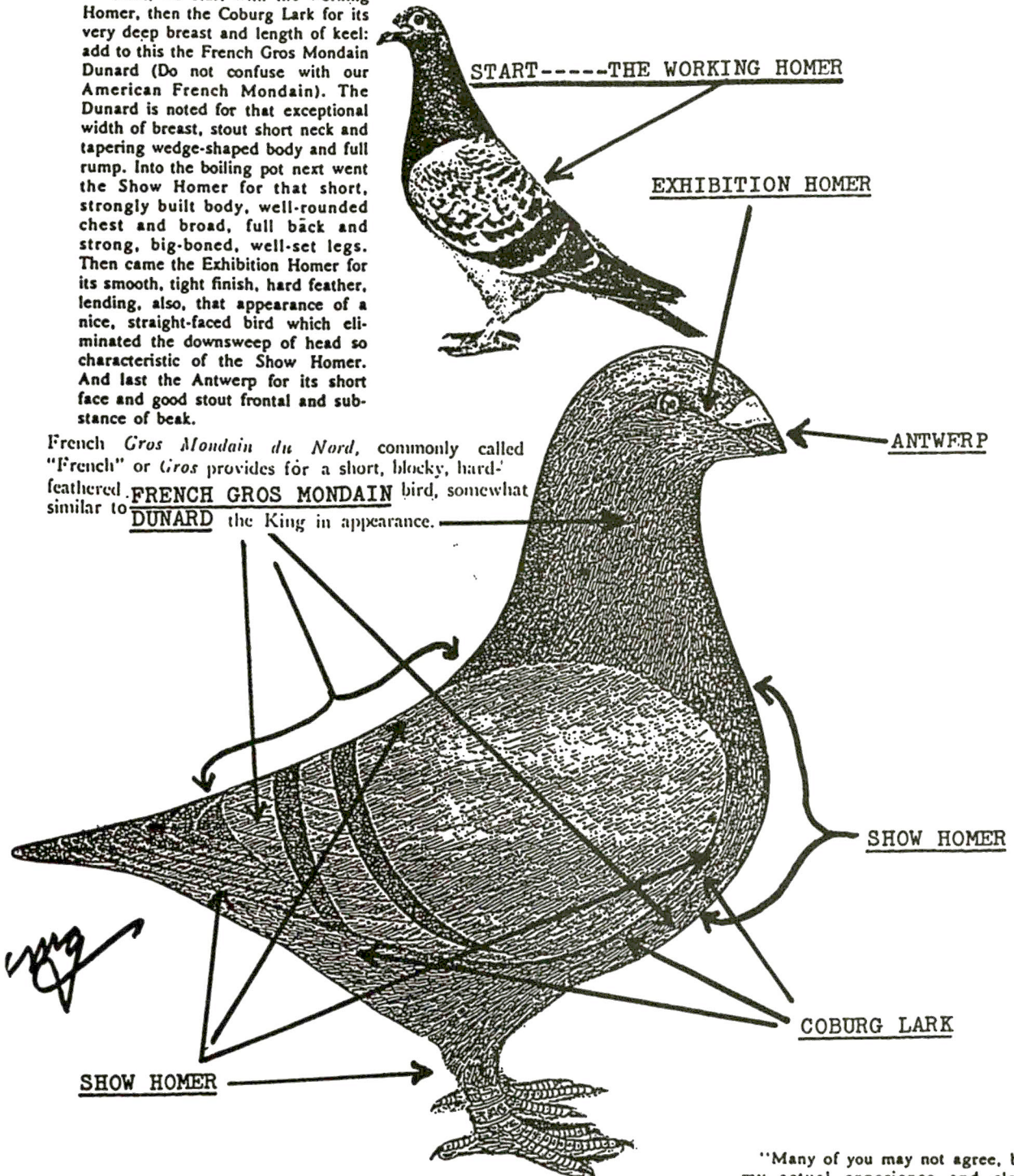
(Continued On Page 49)

Early Components of our Present Day Giant Homer

By J. J. KEIFER, Louisville, Ky.

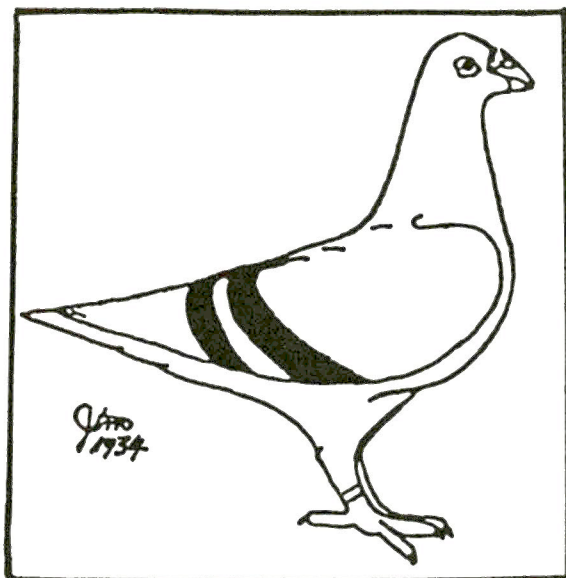
"First, we start with the working Homer, then the Coburg Lark for its very deep breast and length of keel: add to this the French Gros Mondain Dunard (Do not confuse with our American French Mondain). The Dunard is noted for that exceptional width of breast, stout short neck and tapering wedge-shaped body and full rump. Into the boiling pot next went the Show Homer for that short, strongly built body, well-rounded chest and broad, full back and strong, big-boned, well-set legs. Then came the Exhibition Homer for its smooth, tight finish, hard feather, lending, also, that appearance of a nice, straight-faced bird which eliminated the downsweep of head so characteristic of the Show Homer. And last the Antwerp for its short face and good stout frontal and substance of beak.

French *Gros Mondain du Nord*, commonly called "French" or *Gros* provides for a short, blocky, hard-feathered **FRENCH GROS MONDAIN** bird, somewhat similar to **DUNARD** the King in appearance.

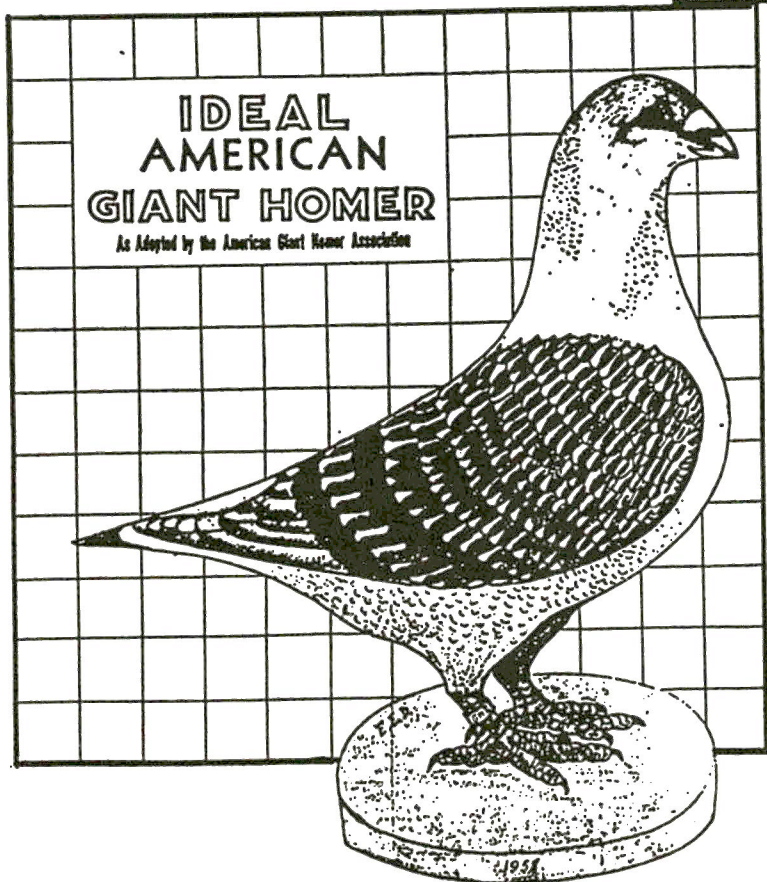
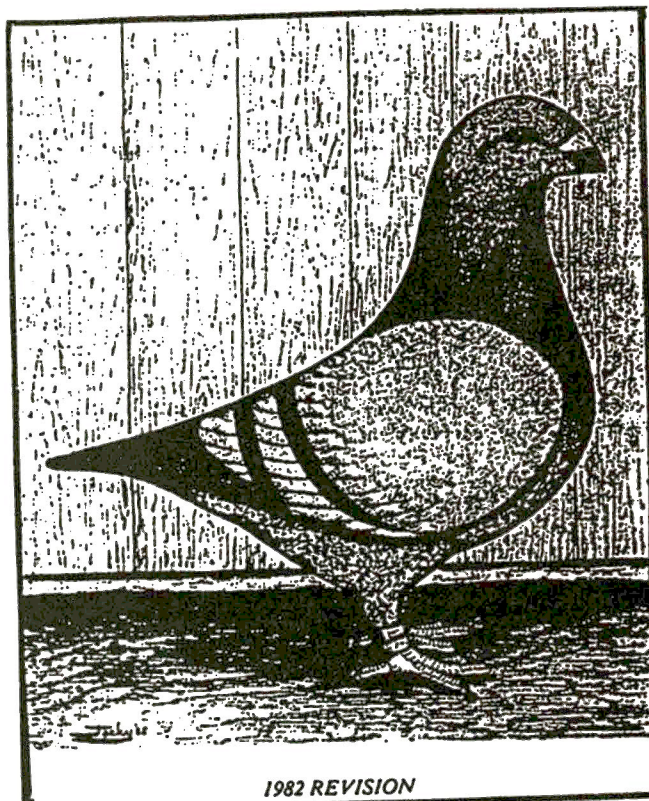


Jake Keifer's Account Of Giant Homer Origin

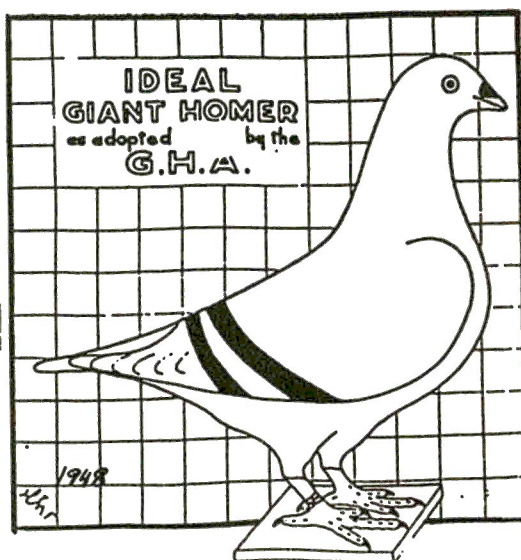
"Many of you may not agree, but my actual experience and close association with Dr. Keene concerning the breeding and development of the American Giant Homer proved that some part of each of the breeds mentioned above played an important part in the creation of this attractive breed." □



STANDARD SKETCHES



OF THE
AMERICAN
GIANT
HOMER



1922 as the Jumbo Squab Homer by the N.P.A., a number of other names for the same bird began to appear – all stressing “Size” and high-production capabilities. In 1923 and 1924, the Springfield Squab Farm, in Springfield, New Jersey, called the Bird the “Large Homer.” Paul Hemple, of Bellevue, Illinois, was starting to sell Mammoth White Homers as “Super Squabbing Birds.” Then, finally, in 1925, a former name arose again – the Jumbo Homer. P.H. Kipp, of Chicago, Illinois, was selling Jumbo Homers and saying, “If you want good, fast breeders – the kind that raises large squabs, I can supply you in mated pairs.”

The names for the Bird of this article, during the first eight years of its life, were actually all relatively short-lived: Squab-breeding Pigeon, Classy Flying Utility Bird, Squab Breeder, Squab-breeding Homer, Large Homer, Working Homer, Super Squab Producer, Jumbo Homer, Jumbo Squab Homer, Mammoth Homer, and some others thrown in from time-to-time as individual breeders praised the qualities of their birds – trying to advertise the super characteristics of this purely American creation.

Eventually, the pigeon world settled on a descriptive term for the Bird which carried more of an “air of respectability” without the exaggeration expressed by many of the other names it had been called. In 1926 and 1927, one more term came into common use which has remained to this day – the Giant Homer.

C.F. Hober, a charter officer of the “American” Giant Homer Association was selling his Giants – not specifically as squabbers, but simply as Giant Homers. From this point on the Bird began to assume a new nature – that of being a bird for Exhibition purposes, instead of being solely a big bird which produced big squabs.

Wm. P. Gray, first “American” Giant Homer Association Secretary-Treasurer, a White King breeder for many years, continued to breed his White Kings for five years after beginning to develop his world famous strain of White Giant Homers. Then, in 1923, he sold his whole loft of 60 White King breeders for \$250.00 and went wholeheartedly into Giant Homers.

About the same time as Gray, W.E. Kain, of Middletown, Pennsylvania, sold all of his Carneaux, Maltese, and Mondaines but continued to raise Giant Homers exclusively. W.E. Kain was to become one of the outstanding pioneers of the more “Modern” Giant Homer.

Many breeders of squabbing Homers who did not “go along with” the Giant Homer movement retained some of the old names to identify their birds. Breeders such as the Springfield Squab Farm in Springfield, New Jersey – and individuals such as Everett C. Miles, of Greenwich, Connecticut, kept the same large Homer for their birds and eventually faded from public view. Many breeders of the ‘old school’ met this same fate.

There were some breeders of squabbing Giant Homers who were becoming so confident in the ability of the Giant Homer to produce good squabs that squab-breeding

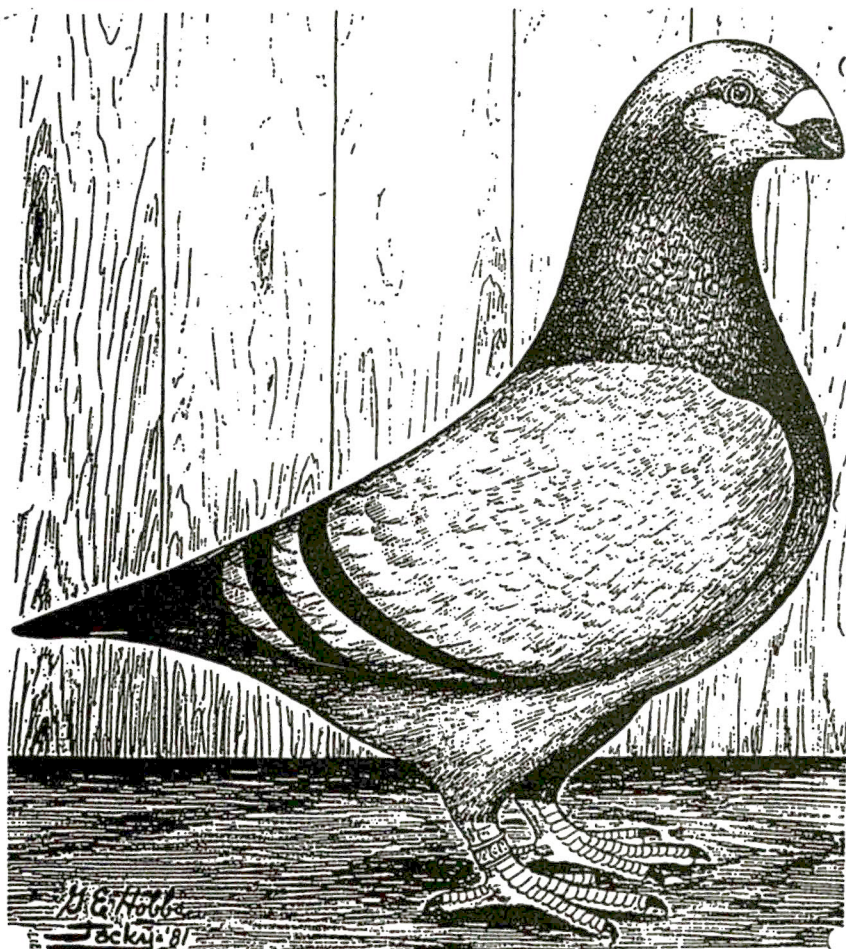
contests were proposed. Wm. P. Gray had for several years proposed holding a squab-producing contest in Connecticut. Egg-laying contests in the poultry industry had been conducted for many years – why not do the same for the product produced by the pigeon?

During these ten years (1918-1928) the Country was still quite unsettled following World War I – and, progress was slow. However – as National Recovery was achieved, efforts to conduct Pigeon production contests were regenerated. Gray felt that such contests would be a “good ad for the squab business.” However, he unsuccessfully tried to interest the poultry department of the Connecticut State University in squab-raising – there was “never available funds.” Gray even offered eight pens of Giant Homers out of 12 he was operating for the use of the National Competition. Eventually – squab raising contests were held, and the Giant Homers slowly worked its way to the “top” in several respects of breeding and production. It is out of these production contests that the saying, “The Giant Homer can out-produce any other breed on earth” was born. For many years this ‘winning production aspect’ of the Giant Homer remained an important part of the A.G.H.A. Logo – finally being

combined with the ability of the Giant Homer to perform in the show room. Gray stated, “I hope I have made an offer that will start something. If anyone else has a better scheme, let’s have it.” Well, no one came up with a better scheme and such contests were eventually held – continuing for several years. And Gray was still advertising for better and larger, pure white Homer youngsters – still working on the improvement of the new Giant Homer something he himself had helped to create over the past eight years.

These are the years preceding 1928, the year the “American” Giant Homer Association was organized. During these ten years the Homer progressed from being just another fast flying-fast producer of good squabs – to a magnificent bird called the “American” Giant Homer, a bird worthy of being the rallying point of a great fraternity of people – young and old – who believe in the new strain of Homer as “A breed fit for the show room that can out-produce any other pigeon on earth.” This new pigeon was – and still is – a pigeon created in America – by Americans – the American Giant Homer.

Since the year 1928, the Standard Concept adopted by the American Giant Homer Association of the Ideal Giant Homer has
(Continued On Next Page)



The 1965 Hobbs Sketch retouched for depth and detail by Diane Jacky. The work of Diane Jacky reveals not only her refinement of artistic skill but more importantly her understanding of and feeling for the unique character of each breed of pigeon.

changed four times: The McNinch Standard – 1934 to 1948, the Fowler Standard – 1948 to 1958, The Deal Standard – 1958 to 1982, and the Hobbs-Jacky Standard – 1982 to the present time. Each of these periods of Concept Stability is quite worthy of being treated as a distinctly separate Chapter in the History of the evolvement of the Modern American Giant Homer. Even now there are strong "vibrations" of desire to re-evaluate the present Standard Concept of what the Ideal Giant Homer should be like – and produce a new image of a new concept which will guide our breeding and showing and judging. This is good! It is progress! The American Giant Homer Association is on the move!

Come Along With Us

by
**ROBERT L.
FRAGOMAN,**
Memphis, N.Y.



Here it is November 26 and those of us who live in Central New York are experiencing an unseasonable mild day. We have been very lucky so far this year and have missed most of the bad weather this time of year can bring.

With Thanksgiving now behind us, most are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday, then comes New Year's and Bay City. I am sure that some of you have your birds mated and are looking forward to the first youngsters to hatch. The rest of us will have to wait until later in the year when the cold weather is behind us. I wish everyone a happy Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing many of you in Bay City and I hope everyone has a prosperous 1991.

Before I go any farther, I want to apologize to Ron DesLauriers. In a previous article I had mentioned that I had written to Bob Smith and Jim Stehr, Sr., and I had not been mentioned in the United English Tumbler Club's Bulletin. Ron felt that I did not make it clear that I had not written to him. At no time have I written to Ron about Club business and I apologize to Ron for not making it clear.

I attended the Rochester Pigeon Fanciers annual Fall Show and enjoyed talking to the pigeon fanciers who attended. Muffed Tumbler people who attended were: Dennis and Teresa Havrilla, Bob Burke, Dennis Quackenbush, Pat Wilcox and Joe Albrecht. It was a pleasure to meet Chris Warren and his son. Chris had Muffs in the past and now has returned to the hobby with the help of his son.

Tony Patti judged the Muffs and I enjoyed our talk about Muffed Helmets. While in Louisville, I spoke to others who were working on putting Muffs on the Helmet. How about putting the Tumbler head on them and showing them as Marked Muffs?

LOFT NEWS

Bob Witte, from Nebraska, said he had a

pretty good year. Due to lack of room, he will only keep six Muffs. Mostly Blacks, but he did mention a Red Rosewing. (Are you working on Rosewings?) Bob is not sure if he can make Bay City because of work.

Bob said that he has most of the Muffed Tumbler club's records. During the years that Ray Kirchen was Secretary, there were no newsletters, but Bob went back through the A.P.J. and made copies of all Ray's articles and has kept copies of the bulletins that he and Bob Baruth put out while they were secretaries.

In regards to the United English Tumbler Club and the Muffed Tumbler Club of America, Bob says, "I really don't know what to say about it. I hope this new club promotes Muffs which I think it should. I guess we are just going to wait and see." (Thank you for the input Bob.)

Bob Burk, from Caledonia, N.Y., is the show secretary for the Rochester Pigeon Show and he wrote that he received a nice letter from Jack Houseman saying he thought Tony Patti did an excellent job of judging.

Bob told me to have a good time in Bay City and tell all his friends there that he thinks about them a lot.

He also passed on the news that a young Muff Breeder from his area, David Bonters is attending the University of Miami. Dave's mother will be looking after the Muffs while he is in school. (David, drop me a line the next time you take a break from studies.)

Bob says he likes what he has in Muffs and is looking forward to next year. (Thank you for the news, Bob.)

I had a nice letter from 13 year old Matt Buzzell, who lives in Massachusetts. Matt was under the impression that our Tumblers still performed. Even though I would like to add Matt to the Muffed Tumbler Fancy, I suggested that he started with something like Rollers, or Homers. If the time ever comes when Matt thinks he is ready for the challenge of Muffed Tumblers, I will try to give him a good start. (I wish I had the room to breed the Old Type Saddle Muff, these would

be good birds to start a youngsters out on.)

Barry Wilson, from Wisconsin, dropped me a note telling us he and his traveling companions, Bob Kirchner and Gary Pack, made it home from Louisville in good time. The motel gave them a wake up call two hours early. He said they were dressed before they realized what had happened, so they headed home. This gave him almost a whole day at home to work in his barn. (Thanks Barry, I envy that barn. With all my interests, I would have a barn filled in no time and need another.)

John Tidwell, from California, wrote to let me know he might be able to help me with my Nun Marked Muffed Tumbler project. (Thank you, John, I can use all the help I can get on this one. I have been working on this one for years and every time I think I am close, I get a set back.)

Bob Smith, also from California, wrote to say he would be happy to sit down with me in Bay City to discuss the Muffed Tumbler breeders' concerns and the United English Tumbler Club. Bob has been active in developing and supporting the National Championship Show for 25 years and one of his goals has been to bring all the English Tumblers under one National Club. This is something that I too have been interested in since I first met Bob in the early 70's. Just as we all believe in the democratic form of government, I believe that I should be able to voice my opinions in the United English Tumbler Club. To date, I do not believe this has been true, except through this column. I am looking forward to seeing my opinions mentioned in the U.E.T.C. Bulletin from now on. (As I have said many times before, I do not want to see a new Muffed Tumbler Club formed, but if one is formed, I will most likely go along with it. I was opposed to the Muffed Tumbler Breeders joining with the new club until I felt all things were worked out to make this merger fair and equal to all. The Muff Breeders voted to join the U.E.T.C. and I would like to try to work with it, but there is an increasing number of Muff breed-



Wonder what was said here? Merve Anderson, left and Russ Schoen, right. - Photo by Harlan Petter, Eureka Springs, Ark.

ers who are interested in starting the old club once again. Just as I thought we acted in haste to join the new club, I don't want us to give up on it until we have tried to get all our concerns addressed.)

John Mayfield, from Texas, wrote to thank me for putting him in touch with Willie English. John mentioned in his letter, that he received some Doves from Dr. Miller through the mail. These Doves were shipped in a used Tomato carton. (Can anyone shed some light on this one? I was under the premise that all mail shipments had to be made in special containers.) (Editor's Note: Pigeons and Doves must be shipped in approved containers like the Micro-Barrier Container advertised on page 1. Fanciers are urged to use the proper containers when shipping through the Post Office. Using unauthorized containers could result in losing the privilege to mail Pigeons and Doves through the Post Office.)

John also sent me a pigeon sexing gadget to try. This is the type that is supposed to go in circles if the bird is a hen and in a straight line if it is a male. (Thanks, John, I always wondered if those things work. I have not had time to try it yet, but will and I will give a report on it in a future article.)

Friend Willie dropped me a line also. Knowing how much I hate the cold of New York, he gave me a greeting from WARM, SUNNY, EAST TEXAS. (I'm surprised as you will be Willie, but it's close to 70° here in Central New York today. Of course, it is supposed to get colder tonight and a possibility of snow for tomorrow. How's that for a mixed bag?) He thanked me for sending John Mayfield to him.

It just happens that Willie was to judge a show near John, so they could meet in person. Willie was to be at the Conroe Classic near his home Thanksgiving weekend, the Shawnee, Oklahoma Show in December and in late January they have a show in Ft. Worth, Texas.

He just started a new 16' x 16' loft for his Middle East breeds. Willie said that he has not separated his breeders in over 40 years. He does not believe in it. "They usually slow down during the moult." He closed by saying that he hoped the snow doesn't cover me up this Winter. (You are a busy man Willie, thanks for taking time out to write. Even if you do rub in the fact of my living here. One of these days I am going to show up at your place and make you prove to me how nice it is down there.)

CLUB NEWS

I received the Bulletin from the American Pigeon Club. Secretary William E. Smith writes that his move is finally complete and he has constructed two new lofts to house his birds.

A reminder that the cost of A.P.C. bands will be 15¢ for 1991. See their ad in the A.P.J. for band distributors and their addresses. If you would like to join this all breed club, send \$6.00 for the first years dues to: William E. Smith, Route 1, Box 824, Thurmond, N. Car. 28683.

Barry Wilson sent along the last Bulletin that he plans to put out for the Western

Tumbler Club. Barry is retiring from the secretary's job after many years of dedicated service. (Thank you Barry, now you should have some time to enjoy the shows and maybe we can get you to stay up later at night, you won't be so tired.)

If you would like to join the W.T.C., send your dues to our new secretary to be, Brian Curtis. Brian's address is: 1649 Hampton, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043. Dues are \$10.00. (Good luck Brian, I hope to hear from you a lot over the next couple of years.)

NOV. NEWS

Here it is October 29 and we just returned from this year's version of the Louisville Young Bird Show. As usual, we had a good time and got to spend time with some friends we only see once, or twice a year.

This year's Grand Champion Muffed Tumbler Award went to Gary Pack, with a Red Self YC, #316. In order for this bird to get this far, it was the Best Red and the Champion Self. Congratulations Gary, you should be proud of this win. You had some very good competition to beat and your bird earned its award.

Best Black was awarded to Rich Rutledge's #368 YH. Best White to Janice Ditto's #4498 YH. Mrs. Margaret Heppner took the Best Yellow with #341 YH. I was pleased to be awarded Best A.O.C. for my Almond YH #108. The Judge for the Self Muffs was John Rice.

Champion Marked Muff went to Brian Curtis and his Black Baldhead was awarded to Ron and Sue Teixeira and their #930 YH. Best Non-Baldhead Marked was awarded my Yellow Whiteside YH #171. Rich Rutledge was the judge.

Champion Barred Muff, which of course was the Best Blue also, was awarded to Bob Kirchner's Blue YC #377. I had the pleasure of judging this class of beautiful Barred Muffs and I should warn you Self and Marked Breeders, if this bird is ready for the Bay City Show, it will have to be taken seriously when it comes time to pick the Champion Muff. In my opinion, this is one of the finest Barred Muffs I have ever seen.

Each year the President of the Western Tumbler Club gives an award to someone who has excelled at something, such as breeding or service to the club. This year, President Ron Des Lauriers awarded a very nice Gold Cup to our outgoing Secretary, Barry Wilson. Barry has served the club in this position for many years and recently gave notice that this will be his last year as secretary. This was an award well deserved to a person who has served us well. I want to thank Barry for the time he has devoted to the Western Tumbler Club and congratulate him on his award.

I want to thank all those who showed their Muffs as Louisville and congratulate all who went home with the awards.

By the time you read this, it will probably be too late to send an entry in for the National Championship Tumbler Show. By chance you do read this in early January, and have decided you would like to attend the World Series of Muffed Tumbler Breeders, call

John Rice right now. His number is: (313) 654-6072.

This year's N.C.T.S. will be held in Bay City, Michigan and hosted by the Michigan Tumbler Club. This will also be the first year that the newly formed United English Tumbler Club will be in charge of over seeing the show and providing the awards for both Muff and Clean Leg Tumblers. If you attended the last Championship Show held in Bay City, you already know that the Michigan Tumbler Club knows how to play host. The powers to be, tell me that this one should be even better, with nicer accommodations and the show hall all under one roof.

That's all folks, I've made it short and sweet this month, so I can get it in the mail and beat the November first deadline. Before I close, I want to say how much I enjoyed talking to Mike and Joan Worley, our many old friends and all the new ones I made this year, while we were in Louisville.

You just finished reading this month's edition of "Come Along With Us" and you are saying to yourself, I wish there was more. Well, there can be. Before you start reading the rest of the APJ, pick up a pen and paper, then write. You can write about your breeding season, your loft, your friend's loft and birds, or tell me what you think of the column. Just keep it clean and write. My address is: Box 157 (This is not a P.O. Box), Memphis, NY 13112. When you are finished writing to me, you can sit back, put your feet up and read the rest of the APJ.



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Fall Show

It is important to realize that the shows are the lifeblood of any pigeon organization. These shows are what determines whether a club is successful or a flop. Needless to say, without shows there would be no clubs. Unfortunately not every organization can run highly successful extravaganzas as does the New York Combine but we are extremely proud of these beautiful exhibitions of top quality show birds, beautifully decorated halls, expert and efficient books, free admission, free food and beverages, the "ultimate auction", the most beautiful and unique trophies (75 in fall show) and the most important ingredient, great friends having a great time together in a SHOW OF UNITY.

If I seem a bit preoccupied or braggadocios about our shows and their importance, it is neither. It is just a great feeling of satisfaction, pride and accomplishment that I would like to convey and share with other pigeon fanciers. There is a saying, "If you can do it, it's not bragging".

Well, the New York Combine does it and will keep on doing it in a big, big way. (Nobody does it better.)

On Nov. 23 and 24, The New York Combine ran its annual Fall Show (the second leg of the triple crown for Domestic Flights). There were over 250 (all age) Domestic Flights exhibited by the top breeders in our fancy. The judging was done by four very competent and talented men: John Spahr, Mike Celebre, Lou Bremmer and Mike Caltie. Our Show Super, Ange Mang-

ino, did his usual superior job (a better man than him couldn't handle it).

The show hall was regally decorated in a festive Thanksgiving theme by our talented and hard working member in charge, John Pluchino. Vinnie Montanino was hard at work decorating the trophy table and then expertly in charge of all the stewards. Pete Fratangelo was running around (as usual) helping decorate, set up and do whatever he can to insure a beautiful show. Tony Modafferri, our Sgt.-At-Arms, was also working non-stop setting up and providing security. The stewards - Mikes, Difiglia, Spadavecchia, Zeale, Lombardi, Fratangelo Jr., Alvarado - did a first rate, professional job. After the judging on Friday evening, the birds were watered, fed and put to bed. Saturday was a day of real excitement and enjoyment. We started off the afternoon with a banquet fit for a king, compliments of the Combine. There were two huge turkeys with all the trimmings, also roast beef and roast ham, all the beer and soda you could want and for dessert, coffee, assorted fruits and pies. After everyone digested, we started our "ultimate auction" which brought in almost \$2,000 and a great deal of excitement. We also raffled off a beautiful oil painting and a couple of hand-painted sweatshirts. On to trophy time. As usual, no one gives out as many high quality trophies as the Combine (75 in all). 1st place was our usual lifesize ceramic statue; 2nd and 3rd place were handpainted liquor decanters by Leroy Numan; Best In Shows were 22 karat statues. After all the trophies were awarded, the Combine gave out to each member as a Thanksgiving gift a ceramic statue of a wild turkey filled with liquor.

Well, it was another one of our "Greatest Shows On Earth".

Next month I will have all the pictures of the winners and a summary of all the result so stay tuned.

In Memory

On a sad note, our brother member John

Marshal lost his wife Mary Ann just before our Fall Show and still managed to show up to be with his brother members. We, at the Combine, extend the hand of condolence to our brother John.

New Members

At our fall show, we had several new applications for members and why not? Every other club falls pale by comparison.

Domestic Flight Club Formed In England

That's right, we now have a Domestic Flight Club in England. Through our program, Flights Across America, we received some correspondence from a Jim Mullan of England expressing interest in affiliating The British Domestic Show Flight Assn. with the New York Combine. We worked out all the details and are happy to welcome Jim and the rest of the members of the Assn. aboard.

It will be my pleasure to meet with Mr. Mullan in January at the Grand National in Pomona, Calif., to answer any and all questions he might have and to bring him a quality group of Domestic Show Flights that his organization purchased through our program. We are dedicated to our program and will continue to do everything in our power to insure its success.

Domestic Flights In France

As of this date we have two letters in our possession from prominent French pigeon fanciers wishing to purchase Domestic Flights and also applying for membership to the New York Combine. Watch Out! This will be our next goal to help create a French Domestic Flight Club.

Now we hear that the Eastern European countries such as Poland, USSR, etc., are also interested in the Domestic Flight.

We always knew we had a "World Class" pigeon and now with European breeders and clubs, our beliefs have become reality. With a world class pigeon, our program must be expanded and so must the name of our program. So from now on "Flights Across America" must make way for progress and a new name "Flights Around The World". Stay tuned for updates on more exciting news.



1st place winners with young birds at the New York Combine's Fall Show were: (-r-) Christiano Jr., Christiano Sr., Massucci, Mikes, Thornton, Montanino and Gigante. - Photo from Sal Gigante.



Yvonne Christiano, Miss New Jersey Teen USA 1989.

Flights Around The World



By **PETER P. FRATANGELO**
300 E. 3rd, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

We made our trip to the Pageant of Pigeons on November 15-17 at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. The New York Domestic Flight Combine along with its newly formed affiliated club, the Western Domestic Flight Assn., agreed upon sending two members of the New York Domestic Flight Combine to the Pageant. One was to judge the beautiful domestic flights and to review the domestic flight standard, while the other member would review the seminars that the New York Combine members had to attend to become a novice judge, in addition to help them better understand our show set up, putting birds in class order, number the cages, preparing stewards, card entry forms, by-laws, etc.

The judging and the review of the standard was done by Pete Fratangelo while Mike Celebre had the task of reviewing the seminars that one would have to go through to become a judge at the New York Combine and help them better understand our show set-up and by-laws, etc.

The judging was done Saturday, Nov. 19, 1990. The judging was to start at 10 a.m. but President Bill Mackey had the time changed to 11:15 a.m. to make sure that all other judging of other breeds was completed. This made it possible for his members who had shown other breeds to be on hand for the judging of the Domestic Show Flights. Before the judging started, we reviewed the standard, seminar, set-up, etc. At this time President Bill Mackey had all his members present.

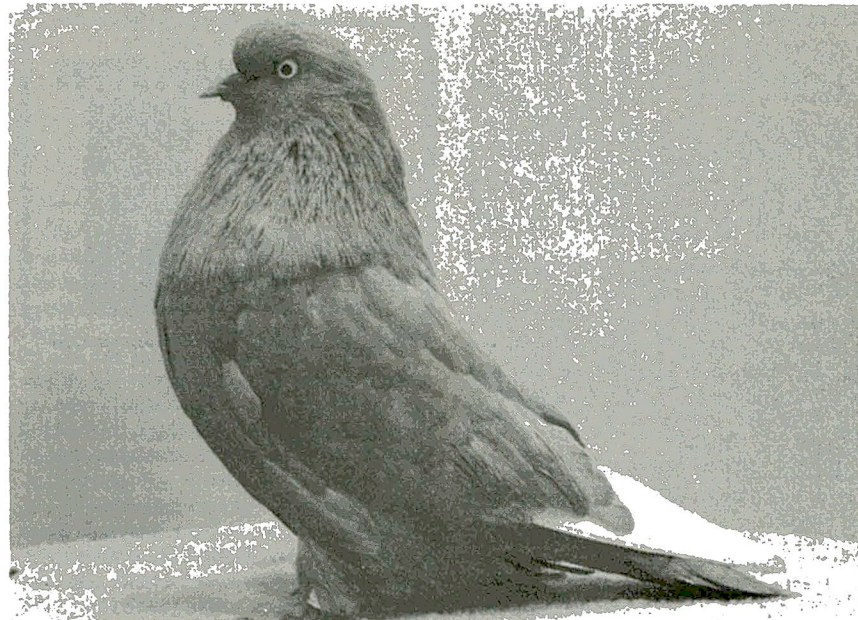
Reviewing of the standard was of great interest to their members. They had many questions, especially in the area of desired features and disqualifications. Another area they wanted clarified was, what constitutes a mismatch (stock).

The Beauty Of It All

by **PETE FRATANGELO, Brooklyn, N.Y.**

Mike Sr., and Mike Jr., (Christiano) have been members of the New York Combine since it started back in 1976. Both have been breeding the beautiful Domestic Flights for years and now have the honor of being called Master Breeders. Mike Jr., has taken lots of beautiful photos for the various Combine shows. So not only is Mike Jr., a breeder of beautiful birds, but he also has an eye for beautiful pictures.

I know my readers are saying, "Why is this guy using the word beautiful in every other sentence?" "Why," you ask? It's because I have the honor of using this forum to write about something quite beautiful which Mike Jr., is very proud. Her name is Yvonne Christiano, granddaughter of Mike Sr., and



GRAND CHAMPION DOMESTIC FLIGHT

This Domestic Flight was the Grand Champion Domestic Flight at the 1990 Pageant of Pigeons, bred by Joe Colesanti. - Photo by R.O. Mathewson.

They had 63 beautiful domestic flights, both young and old, that were shown. For just their second show, this was a good number of birds for a newly formed domestic flight club. Their first show was a yard show held at the home of their member John Heppner.

The members present for the Pageant were President Bill Mackey, Jim Bush, Gig Interrante, Jim Krebaum, John Heppner, Gene East, Joe Colesanti, Tom Malone and Jim Bishop. All exhibited birds with the exception of one or two members who didn't have their birds ready for this show, but will show at the NPA Grand National in January 1991. While I am on the subject of the NPA Grand National, President Sal Gigante of the New York Combine will be on hand to judge the domestic show flights and will talk about the finer points of our breed and to go over the Domestic Flight Standard and maybe a test or two on it.

Again, for their second show, they had some really nice domestic flights, both young and old.

The Grand Champion was a Yellow Plainhead that had good station, good roll in the head, thin beak, blood red in color, good color for a yellow and short legs. This bird, bred by Joe Colesanti, was bred down from a Sal Gigante Yellow and a Yellow Teager from Tony Trincillito. Congratulations to Joe for breeding this beautiful yellow plainhead and keep breeding this beauties.

There was a blue plainhead that Jim Krebaum shown that took a first in class (bred down from Dave Mikes blues) that has a real good chance to place at the Combine. In addition, Jim Bush had a black cap short edge that was a nice bird. If she had tips, maybe she would have a chance to place under the black cap class. John Heppner had two nice class winners, both in the stock classes, a nice strawberry cap young bird and a strawberry plainhead that showed a lot of power. All in all they had about six good quality birds and many good stock birds to breed from.

For a first year club that is affiliated with the New York Combine, you all are to be congratulated for a fine domestic flight club that will grow in the near future for breeding some fine show birds and showing the better old birds, a job well done by the Western Domestic Flight Assn. and remember, just being a part of this fine organization makes you all a winner for we have no losers with our affiliated clubs, just winners.

News Item

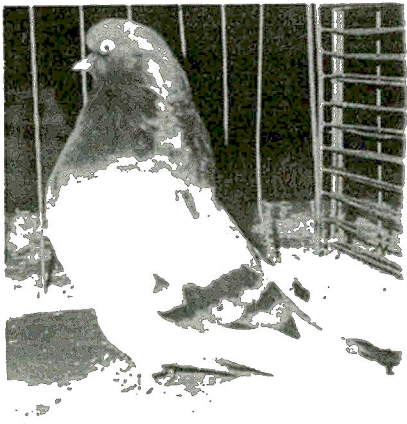
The New York Domestic Flight Combine, under its President Sal Gigante, his fine Board of Directors, his members and our affiliated clubs, the Southern Domestic Flight

(Continued On Next Page)

Assn. and the Western Domestic Flight Assn., are ecstatic that we have our third affiliated club. Under the guidance of Jim Mullan of Martlesham, Heath, England, the newly formed British Domestic Show Flight Assn. has become affiliated with one of the finest organizations in the land, the New York Domestic Flight Assn. and your membership into the Combine will be a fruitful one for all concerned.

The growing popularity of the Domestic Show Flights in the States has taken off this past year and because of this interest within the states, the Domestic Flight are now the new phenomenon in England and are also wanted in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Poland, U.S.S.R., France, Germany and Iceland.

Because of this new phenomenon, my column will now be called "Flights Around The World".



WINNING DOMESTIC FLIGHT
Outstanding class winner Blue PIH bred by Jim Krebaum. — Photo from Pete Fratangelo, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Helmet Happenings

by **BRUCE SCOTT**,
Richardson, Texas

Publicity Director
American Helmet
Association



Last month of the year already. It has been quite a year that started back in January with the record entry of Helmets (620) at the Salt Lake City National. Our membership in the AHA has continued to grow, which is always a positive sign of a progressive club. Shows at the district level have increased too. All in all, I would say 1990 will go down as one of our most successful years, if not the most successful year. Our officers are to be congratulated on their efforts, as no club can be this successful without dedicated officers



Judge Pete Fratangelo presenting Joe Colesanti with the plaque for winning Grand Champion with his Yellow Plainhead. — Photo from Pete Fratangelo, Brooklyn, N.Y.



Pictured left to right are Diane Jacky, Tom Malone, Harry Rogers, Joe Colesanti, Mike Celebre, Pete Fratangelo, Jim Bush, Jim Krebaum, John Heppner. Standing in back - President Bill Mackey. — Photo by Pete Fratangelo, Brooklyn, N.Y.

to see that things get done.

Speaking of dedicated officers, our outgoing President Bob Davis deserves a lot of the credit for the dynamic growth of the AHA (see photo). Bob served our club well for the past several years as President. He will now serve as Immediate Past President and his expertise will be appreciated by the new officers.

NEW MEMBERS

Yes, we signed up another new member this month. We are delighted to see these new faces at our shows. Just when we think we've enlisted all the potential Helmet Fanciers there are in a certain section of the country, we get some more. A very big welcome to:

Michael Seiler, Jackson, New Jersey.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This fall the AHA had an election of officers for the next two years. They will assume office January 1 for what should be an exciting beginning for the 90's. Some officers are serving for the first time; others have been re-elected to serve again. These officers are:

President - Bob Dunlap, Sherwood, Ohio; Western Vice President - Leonard Patito, Mira Loma, Calif.; Central Vice President - Don Phy, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Eastern Vice President - Charles Dwight, Clyde, Ohio; Secretary-Treasurer - Lloyd Larghe, Elizabeth, Colo.; Publicity Director - Bruce Scott, Richardson, Texas; Bulletin Editor - Albert B. Flinn, Bluffton, Ohio; Points Director - Harold Strawniak, Port Vue, Pa.

It is an honor to serve the AHA and we will do our best to lead and promote the club. I welcome the opportunity to serve again as Publicity Director. Writing Helmet Happenings has been a labor of love for our Helmets over the past few years. I want to urge any of you to send me letters and photos of subjects you feel would be of mutual interest to our readers in the months ahead.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

It was with a great deal of pride and humility that I recently learned that I had been elected Member of the Year for 1990 by the American Helmet Association. I have been an active member for nearly 30 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a real sense of pride to see the AHA grow in to one of the major specialty pigeon clubs over those years.

In particular, I take this award as a vote of confidence in Helmet Happenings. I have enjoyed writing this column and intend to serve the AHA in this manner as long as I can. Nobody lasts forever on any job or position, so I'll continue to write as long as I can. Finding material to write about our Helmets is always a challenge.

By the way, I also received this award back in 1968. History has repeated itself and the second time is even sweeter for me. I'll do my best to uphold the ideals of this AHA award.

BREEDING

It is important to do some advance planning in figuring your breeding pairs for 1991. I have already considered several different

line-ups. At the moment, I am trying to make plans for 16 pairs (4 blue, 3 red, 3 yellow and 6 black). That's a tall order, but I've decided to go all out in 1991. As I reported previously, I had a neighbor's cat get into my hen loft and that "killer" cat did away with five of my best hens. Four of them were black, so that is where I'll give priority in my colors.

PLANNING

Have you done your planning for 1991 yet? It's never too early to lay out your plans on paper. You'd be surprised how many changes you may make before you arrive at the final plan. Believe you me, it's a lot easier to do it on paper than to break up a pair and try to remate them to different partners.

A word of caution about planning on paper. Just because it looks good on paper doesn't always mean success. Normally, I catch my Helmets over the weekends in December and January and match them up in my show pens in the garage. I compare their physical strong points, so that they will compliment each other. You never want to mate two birds with a similar weak trait as you will only compound it in their young.

Many years ago my old pigeon buddy, C.E. Mann of Royal Oak, Michigan, taught me this technique of planning for the next season. C.E. would catch his Helmets on weekends and sit out in his garage for hours with several cups of coffee reviewing his troops. Oh yes, having a radio on while you are doing this is a good way to show cage train the birds as well as entertaining yourself too. Good luck with your 1991 breeding plans!

SEASON GREETINGS

How time goes by. The holidays will be here again and the kids, especially, can hardly wait. My wife and I hope to visit our daughter, Debbie and her family between Christmas and New Years in El Paso, Texas. This is a great time for families to get together. I hope you and your family can do the same.

UNITED ENGLISH TUMBLER CLUB Tumbler Talk

By ROBERT H. SMITH

P.O. Box 275

Manchester, Calif. 95459

The final young bird shows occur in October with Louisville being one of the last later this month. I have some partial results to report on the E.T.C. show at Reading, Pa., October 7. These came courtesy of Gene Pardini and Henry Jaeger.

The E.T.C. had a nice turn out of about 125 birds, plus lots of members present. Best Muff went to a Black Y.C. by Dutch Lofts; they also took the Red and Yellow award. Best Mealy Bar to a YH by Murphy and Piergiori, this bird was best Bar/Best Cream to the same pair with a nice YC class. In the Sells, Best went to a Black YH by Pardini and Tony Olzewski won the YC class. Best White and Best Self to a YH of Pardini's. This I'm told is an outstanding pigeon. The Red and Yellow classes were dominated by Jim Bush, who traveled all the way from California to attend. I'm sorry to say, I did not get any of the marked birds either Muff or C.L.

The final Y.B. Show of the Pacific Tumbler Club was held October 14 at Fred Drumm's mountain retreat in San Diego County, truly a beautiful spot. There were over 100 youngsters entered and plenty of competition. Best Marked C.L. on a Red Y.C. by Ron Bordi. Fred, who judged the Marked C.L.'s said it was an outstanding bird. Best Muff to a Black Y.C. by Bob Witte, who shipped all the way, for this show, from Omaha, Nebraska. Nice going Bob! Once again, Jim Bush prevailed in the Red and Yellow C.L. classes. Don Copeland had everything his own way winning Best Bar on a Blue Bar Y.C., best Mealy on a Y.C. and Best Cream on a YH. In Blacks, Fred Drumm won 1st YC and also Best Tumbler with a Black Y.C. Roland Reed took the hen class. I received no information on White

C.L.'s or any of the rest of the Muff or C.L. classes unfortunately.

Have received a few letters and lots of phone calls, everyone looking forward to the upcoming shows.

Paul Budnik called reporting on the progress of the National Championship Tumbler Show being staged in Bay City, MI, Jan. 25 - 26, 1991. They are going all out with a new location in a motel complex, similar to the Reading, PA, local. Their plan is to start judging early, 9:30 a.m., on Friday and hope to be finished by noon Saturday.

The annual meeting of the U.E.T.C. will be 3:00 p.m. Saturday and we will have a full agenda to discuss. Paul tells me that they have received several hundred dollars worth of cash Specials donated by various individuals and clubs and the United English T/C will have about \$175.00 worth of CASH SPECIALS in addition. Had a tough time prying this out of Sec.-Treas. Ron DesLauriers, he is really watching our money!

Talked to Don Zimmerman and his season ended up better than it started out, ditto for Ron DesLauriers who ended up with 6 or 8 nice Reds.

Bill Blair called, and even he has done better than he expected, although he has been plagued with some sort of respiratory problem all year long.

Talked to Carl Wissler at some length and both he and Jerry have done pretty well this year.

Roland Teed called and he is happy with his results this year is Don Copeland who banded over 80 youngsters.

I've been back and forth with Fred Drumm all summer it seems like. He and I are importing some Blue Bar and Grizzle Bar C.L.'s from Australia and it's a slow, tedious and expensive process. I'm fortunate that Fred is handling all the many details. We expect to receive the birds in mid-November and they will be quarantined for three weeks in So. California.

I was sorry to learn that Charlie Sheetz has finally called it quits, after over 60 years breeding mostly Blue and Silver Bar C.L.'s. Charlie has bred some of the very best of these two colors over the years and was named a Master Breeder by the old United Self & Bar T/C. He was a stalwart member of the Tumbler fancy and will be missed by all his many friends.

I understand that Stewart Patterson will be taking most of Charlie's stud home to South Africa, although some went to Johnnie Blaine.

Had a nice letter from Bill Murphy and a call from his partner, Emil Piergiori. They have had another banner year with barred C.L.'s, so will be tough competition this winter at the ETC Show and hopefully at the Bay City Show.

Well, that's about all the news I have, so long till next time.



Bob Davis of Mansfield, Texas, judging at 1988 Western Sectional in Salt Lake City. - Photo from Al Flinn.

Chinese Owl Chatter

By **TERRY T. FICK**
Pine Grove, Pa.

First of all, I'd like to say it's nice to have the Chinese Owl Fancy again represented in the APJ. We've been gone way too long from the pages of this fine magazine. I am a member of the National and Eastern Chinese Owl Clubs and have been so for quite some time. The views and opinions presented in this column are not necessarily those of these or any other organizations, but mine alone. Naturally we will tend to show similarities in ideas regarding our beloved Owls, and I am here as a representative of these clubs, but opinions and views do differ from individual to individual. Because of this, I welcome guest writers with opposing, as well as agreeable, points of view. All reasonable articles and letters will be printed whenever possible, so I invite everyone to contribute as often as possible.

I've been raising and showing Chinese now for 12 years, but we still have a long way to go. Many areas of our birds have been over emphasized, while we've forgotten about other things that are just as important to the balance and over all type of our birds.

Probably the areas where we see the most inconsistencies is in the frill, pants, and collar. Each one of these features is as important as the other, each receiving 17 points in the standard. Yet until recently, the collar has been far behind in development, in comparison to the breast frill and pantaloons. The unfortunate part of this whole scenario is that the judges have let things become increasingly worse over the years by placing birds with poor collars in the top five simply because a particular bird had outstanding breast frill.

Say we were comparing two birds for top honors that were very equal in all aspects except collar and frill. The first bird had an excellent collar but lacked a little in upper frill width, so we awarded the bird 17 points for collar, but only 14 points for frill. The second bird had an outstanding breast frill but the collar lacked in height and was a little pinched, so we would award 17 points for frill and only 12 points for collar. Naturally you would think the first bird would be champion. Unfortunately not too long ago this may not have been the case. Many judges have been frill blind in the past, letting a bird with an outstanding chest cloud their judgement when considering the other points of the bird. Things have been changing in recent years and judges are not beginning to look at our owls more as a whole, rather than just a breast frill.

A good collar, even today, is a hard thing to find on many birds. The ideal collar is saucer shaped coming out from the neck about 1/4" and then rising to just under the eye. Any bird showing signs of pinching or tightness to the head is undesirable and should

be culled out. Height is also very important and low cut birds should be culled. Shape is more important in my opinion than height, so a bird lacking in collar height but otherwise possessing a good shaped collar, could be bred with. Definitely avoid birds that are so pinched that it appears their eyes will pop. Under no circumstance would I breed with a bird like this unless it was absolutely necessary.

Another area that needs immediate attention is our bird's head shape. Many of today's birds are sporting horrible heads and in my opinion we may even be going backwards in this department. In the many years that I've judged owls, I've found that every year more and more small headed birds seem to be appearing, especially in the cock classes. One should easily be able to distinguish between cocks and hens at a glance, but unfortunately it's not this way. Many cocks lack the masculine traits that make them cocks, often looking down right feminine.

A good owl head should be quail shaped in appearance with the slightest trace of fore skull and some back skull. A round head is definitely out, but yet many birds come close to having one. At one time this was desired and crosses to African Owls were made to try and obtain this feature, almost destroying our breed as we know it. Fortunately we came to our senses before it was too late and our birds were saved.

Many of the same factors that have contributed to poor collars on a lot of birds has lead to weak headed birds also. Many owls, especially cocks with outstanding frill, have gone very far with little regard for head qualities. This has lead to more and more feminine cocks and today it's almost at epidemic stages in some lofts. Recently though, as with collars, more judges are starting to put more emphasis on the importance of a proper head, so better birds will ultimately start to show up.

The last area I'd like to touch on is our birds stance and proper positioning. Many times I've seen an otherwise outstanding bird knocked out of contention simply because it would not station properly in the exhibition coop. Many times this problem has to do with proper coop training prior to the show, but more often than one realizes, it's a genetic characteristic that should be bred away from. If a fancier has an outstanding owl that he would like to use in his breeding program, but it simply will not position, is it wise to use this bird? I say no! By using a bird with such a fault, we will soon find more and more of our birds stationing poorly. If one chooses to breed with such an owl, I'd recommend detailed breeding records, so one can avoid the mating of related birds. Many traits, both good and bad, are magnified when a breeder uses a program based on inbreeding and to a lesser degree line breeding. For this reason, never mate any birds that are related, that could be carrying the same faults.

As a guideline I would not recommend using more than one poor stationed bird in a breeding program, and then only if neces-

sary. By poor stationed, I mean a bird that leans forward too far causing a horizontal or uptailed appearance, or a bird that simply won't push or show, causing the frill to look weak exposing wing butts, etc. The bottom line is if a bird will not station, it will not win, no matter how good it is.

To determine if your stationing problem is genetic or the result of neglect on your part is easy, simply watch your birds in your loft. If he stations well at home, he'll do so in a judging coop if proper coop training time is provided. On the other hand, if your bird or birds will not station even in your loft, you have problems and a review of your breeding program and stock birds may be necessary.

Poor stationing is not as great a problem in our birds as weak heads and collars, but it still needs our attention. Many breeders are reluctant to cull good frilled birds simply because they will not station, hoping this fault will not show in the offspring. In first generations it may not, but down the road it will come back to haunt you. Most judges are tough on poor stationed birds, so here I put the blame for this continued problem strictly on the fancier.

I'm sure everyone can recall times when birds like I've just discussed have place at shows. I'm also sure we all know of birds, or perhaps own a few birds, with the faults I've described. Hopefully through the cooperation and efforts of breeders and judges alike, these things will begin to reverse themselves. We've already begun to go in the right direction, now we must keep things moving ahead. By doing so, we will one day see the bird pictured in our standard of perfection on a more regular basis. I'm not implying there are not good owls out there, because there are, but I would like to think that everyone would one day like to own that perfect bird.

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Obituaries

DAVID HEALEY

David Healey, Parma, Ohio, beloved husband of Mary, passed away July 21, 1990. David's life of 77 years included more than 70 years in the hobby of raising pigeons. The members of the NEOB&FA Pigeon Club dedicated a recent show in his memory. David had quietly handled all the surgeries so necessary to keep his heart and eyes functioning; to complete another season with the birds he loved so well. Pouters were his favorite. Prior to his death, he called his friends to take him to visit a loft of the birds he prized; one last time.

At each of our local shows, Dave worked to set up and do the menial work necessary to run a successful pigeon show. I will always remember him using his walker to get from coop to coop, emptying the waterers. It was his contribution to a labor of love, he loved pigeons and pigeon shows.

Throughout our hobby are men like Dave Healey; always there when work is to be done; always positive when affairs are difficult. These tireless workers, driven by a boyhood love of pigeons, are the strength of the fancy.

David Healey will be missed by his family and friends. We extend to Mary our deepest condolences. Whenever I see the Pouter section of a major show, I will remember Dave, as I saw him in Louisville. He was standing alone, admiring each bird one at a time. Though I knew he was in pain, he seemed the happiest man at the show. Beautiful Pouters uplifted him, and his friendship in turn uplifted each of us. - Submitted by Joe Quinn, Atwaer, Ohio.

JOHN S. TIDWELL

It is with regret I have to announce that we lost one of the great Tumbler men of our time. John S. Tidwell Sr. passed away while visiting some old friends in England.

As long as I have known John, he always strode for betterment of the Tumbler breed and Tumbler originations. Thought he had many projects, one of his favorites was to produce a good show quality Black White-side.

John will be missed. I have lost a good friend. My sympathy to his wife, Jasmine and family. Rest in peace John, you are in our prayers. - Submitted by Gig Interrante, Sepulveda, Calif.

JOHN HASSELL

Our pigeon fancy has lost a very good fancier and friend with the recent loss of John Hassell of Wyandanch, L.I.

In 1947, John was one of the charter members and organizers of our great Empire S.F. Tumbler Club. He served there in its early days as its Vice President. A more

sincere and industrious member has not been seen yet. He bred and exhibited many show winning Ancient Tumblers, S.F. Helmets and S.F. Budapests.

It was John's outcross of a Domestic Show Flight to an English Tumbler that caused such a furor in our fancy that the standard was changed and all Domestic were bred to the style that John started and showed at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum around 1940.

The vigor with which Hassell pursued his hobby and his club didn't end when he got home from a job he held for 35 years. He raised a fine family and left many friends. We shall miss this fine gentleman. - Submitted by Alex Rawson, Staten Island, N.Y.

JAMES W. REEVES

James W. Reeves, 75, died Sept. 5, 1990, of a heart attack at his hometown of Greenfield, Ind. He worked at L.S. Ayres Department Store in Indianapolis 11 years before retiring in 1976. He owned Jim's Hilltop Grocery in Greenfield from 1959 to 1965. He was a member of the Central Indiana Pigeon Club, the Indiana Pigeon Club, Indiana Poultry Breeders and the American Iris Society. He had attended every Indiana State Fair since 1932. Jim had raised pigeons since he was a kid; in his later years he specialized in Lahores, English Trumpeters and Helmets. He also raised show chickens, including Japanese Bantams. His backyard was crowded with one bed of exotic iris after another, each more beautiful than the next. He lived in the house in which he had been born 75 years earlier. He supported various pigeon club activities and was a true gentleman.

O.D. HARRIS

Ollie was a third generation competition Roller man, and was renowned throughout the Roller pigeon fraternity, not only in this country, but all over the world, for his dedication, commitment and unequal knowledge of the Flying Birmingham Roller.

He was the founder member of the All England Roller Club, which began in 1964, and also the O.D. Harris Supreme Roller Society founded in 1978, an achievement bested by none.

I think it would be true to say that his birds can be found in at least 80% of Roller lofts throughout England, which can only substantiate his wealth to the sport.

His reputation will continue undimmed throughout the coming generation of Roller fanciers.

I personally felt it an honor and a privilege to have known Ollie, he was a true gentleman of the sport of competition Birmingham Rollers.

THE LEGEND WILL LIVE ON - Submitted by John Russell (Secretary AERC), Nottingham, England.

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PIGEON SHOW CALENDAR 1991

Jan. 5 - Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club presents the Midwest International Pigeon Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Hosting American Pigmy Pouter Club Annual Meet, American Komorner Tumbler Club 3rd Dist. Meet, American German Beauty Homer Club Annual Meet, Michigan-Ohio Modena Club Annual Meet, Central Cropper and Pouter Club Annual Meet, Midwest Parlor Roller Club Annual Meet, Central Oriental Frill Club Annual Meet, American Helmet Assn. 6th Dist. Meet. Contact: Jim Feasel, Show Sec., 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410, 419-639-2935 or John Hoffman, 2342 W. McPherson Hwy., Fremont, Ohio 43420. 419-332-9446.

Jan. 5 - Midwest International Pigeon Show, Fremont Pigeon Club 47th Annual Winter Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Jim Feasel, Show Sec., 2373 Co. Rd. 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410. 419-639-2935.

Jan. 5 - Valley Pigeon Club Annual Winter Show, Christ Lutheran Hall, 223 W. Parkway Ave., Oshkosh, Wisc. Contact: Mike Dorman, 667 Frederick St., Oshkosh, Wisc. 54901.

Jan. 6 - Northern Illinois Pigeon Club All Breed Show, Northwest Community Center, 1325 North Johnston Ave., Rockford, Ill. Contact: Cathy Cooper, 3806 Prairie Rd., Rockford, Ill. 61102.

Jan. 6 - Empire Short Face Pigeon Club Futurity Show, Polish National Hall, 61-60 56th Road, Maspeth, N.Y. 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 11-13 - Reading All Age Show held at The Inn at Reading in Reading, Pa. More information, contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 4126, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 11-13 - Eastern Jacobin Club Winter All Age Show held at The Inn at Reading, Reading, Pa. Info, contact: Vernard Duntz Sr., 85 N. Mountain Rd., Canton, Conn. 06019.

Jan. 11-13 - Eastern Fantail Club Annual Show, "The Bob Kingkinger Classic" to be held with the Reading Expo, Reading, Pa. Judge Michael Soda. For info, contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 4126, Pine Grove, PA 17963.

Jan. 11-13 - Central Fantail Club Annual Meet, Earl Clark Fantail Classic, Omaha, Nebr. Contact: Ed Karnish, 3532 Vinton St., Omaha, Nebr. 68105.

Jan. 12-13 - 1st District Meet, National Chinese Owl Club with the Reading Winter Expo, Reading, PA. Judge: Jim Moyer.

Jan. 13 - (Rain Date Jan. 20) Central Missouri Racing Pigeon Club Basket Homer Show, Diploma and Flying Classes in Columbia, Mo. Laura Lehmann, RR 4, Box 4247, Fulton, Mo. 65251. 314-642-6919.

Jan. 13 - Long Island Domestic Flight Club "Futurity Show," Richard Street, Islip, New York. Show Sec.: Angelo Cavallo, 68 Martin Road North, Bethpage, N.Y. 11714.

Jan. 17-19 - National Chinese Owl Club Annual Meet at the NPA Grand National Show, Pomona, California.

Jan. 17-19 - "California Shortface Classic" held in conjunction with the NPA Grand National, Pomona, Calif. Contact: Vicke Casey, P.O. Box 1142, San Martin, Calif. 95046. 408-683-4384.

Jan. 17-19 - National English Carrier Club Western District Meet held at the NPA Grand National, Pomona, Calif. Contact: Robin Neil, 106 Elk Dr., Great Falls, Mont. 59404, 406-761-3679.

Jan. 17-19 - NPA Grand National, Los Angeles Co. Fairgrounds, Pomona, Calif. For additional information, contact show secretary Frank Barrachina, P.O. Box 1268, Yucaipa, Calif. 92399.

Jan. 25-26 - Central Jacobin Club Annual Winter Show pending at Bay Valley Inn. Show Sec., Tim Stajowski, 1413 S. Raymond St., Bay City, Mich. 48706.

Jan. 25-26 - Bay City Pigeon Fanciers 54th Annual Winter Show, Bay Valley Hotel, Show Sec.: Tim Stajowski, 1413 S. Raymond St., Bay City, Mich. 48706. 517-893-9642.

Jan. 27 - New York Combine Golden Futurity Show, Polish National Hall, 64th St., and 56th Rd., Maspeth, N.Y.

Feb. 3 - Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Futurity Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. For entry blanks and info: Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom. West, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757. (516-226-3534) or Pete Valentine, 8 Andrew Ave., Islip Terrace, N.Y. 11752. (516-277-1087).

Feb. 9 - Lake City Racing Pigeon Assn. All Breed Show. Contact: Jerry Hackbart, 508 - 13th St. N.W., Watertown, S.D. 57201.

Feb. 18 - Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Futurity Show, American Legion Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. Specialty clubs welcome. Contact: Pete Valentine, President, 516-277-1087 or Barbara Beer, 2nd Vice Pres., 194 Lido Prom., Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757, 516-226-3534.

March 23 - Mid-America Exotic Auction, Horton, Kansas. Consignments and information, Dennis Allen, 913-873-3161.

April 6-7 - Virginia Pigeon & Dove Assn. Show held in conjunction with the Virginia Poultry Breeders "Dixie Classic", Va. State Fairgrounds, Richmond, Va. Show Sec. Jo Ryan, 3028 Bowling Green Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23452, 804-340-0162.

May 5 - Tri-K Pigeon and Bantam Club Bird Fair, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, contact: Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

May 19 - High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Breed, All Age Spring Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N.C. 27260. Write: Thurmond Michael, 813 Mark St., High Point, N.C. 27260.

June 30 - Tri-K Pigeon and Bantam Club Bird Fair, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, contact: Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Sept. 1 - Tri-K Pigeon and Bantam Club Bird Fair, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, contact: Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Sept. 19-29 - Virginia Pigeon & Dove Assn. Show held with the Virginia State Fair, Va. State Fairgrounds, Richmond, Va. Show Sec. Ed Brooks, 1609 Adams Dr. West, Suffolk, Va. 23436. 804-238-2931.

Oct. 6 - Tri-K Pigeon and Bantam Club Bird Fair, Kankakee Co. Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, contact: Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Nov. 10 - High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Age, All Breed Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N. Car., 27260. Write: Michael Thurmond, 813 Market, High Point, N.C. 27260. 919-882-3273.

Nov. 23-24 - Virginia Pigeon & Dove Assn. Show, Va. State Fairgrounds, Richmond, Va. in conjunction with the Va. Poultry Breeders. Show Sec. Jo Ryan, 3028 Bowling Green Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23452. 804-340-0162.

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The wormer of the 80's. Gets all worms except tapeworms. Goes in drinking water.

24 tablets \$ 7.95

13 gm. powder \$10.95

20.17 g \$15.00

Invermectin Wormer - 50cc \$30.00

The latest worm product on the market. Manufactured for cattle.

Louse Preparations

Vapona Strips

Recommended by many to be kept hanging in the loft at all times. Will control lice on pigeons. This is a convenient way to control lice in pigeons.

1 Strip \$5.00

(Plus shipping)

Sodium Fluoride - Sorry, but this is off

the market. Try Scalex Spray or H & R

Feather Groom.

H & R Feather Groom \$ 4.95

Quart (4 lbs. shipping) \$15.00

Roost Paint

Not postpaid. Old time favorite louse treatment.

Pt. (2 lbs.) - \$6.50 Qt. (3 lbs.) - \$9.95

Permethrin Dust

2 lb. can \$ 5.00

(Plus shipping)

Scalex Mite & Lice Spray

At last a spray approved for birds. No dust in your nose. Really a great natural organic product to control lice and mites safely.

8 oz. Sprayer Bottle \$ 2.98

1 Quart (3 lbs.) \$ 7.95

We also carry a

1 Gal. Refill Bottle (10 lbs.) \$20.00

Germex Disinfectant

1 Gal. (10 lbs.) \$16.95

(Plus shipping)

Tamed Iodine Disinfectant

1 Gal. (10 lbs.) \$19.95

(Plus shipping)

Sani-Coop

Virucide Bactericide Germicide

1 bottle \$17.50

Sprayer Bottle \$ 2.00

4 lbs. shipping

Eye Preparations

Terramycin Eye Ointment \$ 3.25

Tylan-Neomycin Eye Powder

Good for eye colds and any cuts or scrapes a bird gets. Speeds healing.

New Large Size \$ 5.95

Tonics & Vitamins

Hetland Loft Pigeon Builder

Helps during stress of molt and races. Contains antibiotic plus vitamins. Similar to old Myzon formula. Plus shipping.

1 lb. \$6.00 2 lbs. \$10.00 5 lbs. \$18.50

Wins-More - 1 pkg. \$ 4.25

Old Dutch No Light Pills

A mild laxative and conditioner for pigeons going light, off feed, etc.

1 - \$2.25 2 - \$4.25

Vitapol (Vitamins Plus Electrolytes)

Improved product. Probably the best vitamin bargain on the market. Newly formulated.

1 pkg. - \$4.95 2 pkgs. - \$7.75

5 pkgs. - \$17.00

Vita-Preen

The best water soluble vitamin product on the market (also has iodine).

1 pound \$ 9.95

Mega-Min

The best complete mineral product on the market. Goes in grit.

1 lb. \$ 9.95

Brewer's Yeast Powder - 14 oz. .. \$ 3.50

Brewer's Yeast & Garlic Tablets

100 - \$3.95 500 - \$9.95

Brewer's Yeast Garlic Powder

14 oz. \$ 5.95

Vionate

Vitamins and minerals to add to feed.

2 lbs. \$10.95

10 lbs. \$39.95

Salisbury Vitamins & Electrolytes

1 lb. \$ 4.50

Biotin Stresspack each ... \$ 4.00

For Fanciers' Health

6413-2100 DUST/MIST RESPIRATOR

One Mask \$30.00

Refills \$11.50

METHOD OF PAYMENT - Send Check or Money Order with Order - MasterCard or Visa - Handling Fee - COD (UPS only) \$4.00 fee. MINIMUM PHONE ORDER - \$10.00 Worth of Merchandise.

Buyer pays shipping on those items showing weight in lbs. Use UPS shipping rates. If you want small drug items sent by First Class Mail include \$1.00 per item. Orders to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Foreign Countries are NOT postpaid. Foreign Countries must have their payment in U.S. Funds.

COMPLETE NEW SUPPLY CATALOG - \$1.00

FOY'S PIGEON SUPPLIES

Clair Hetland, Pharmacist

Master Breeder: Bokhara Trumpeters

Recognized by: N.P.A. & A.P.C.

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