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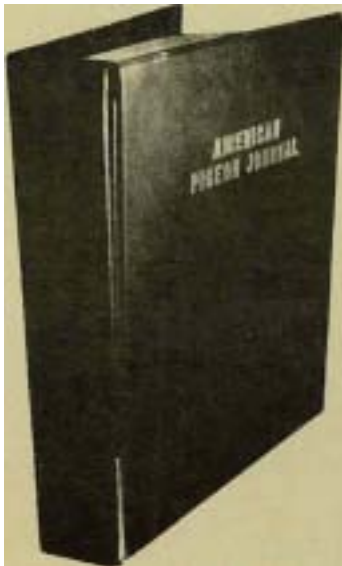
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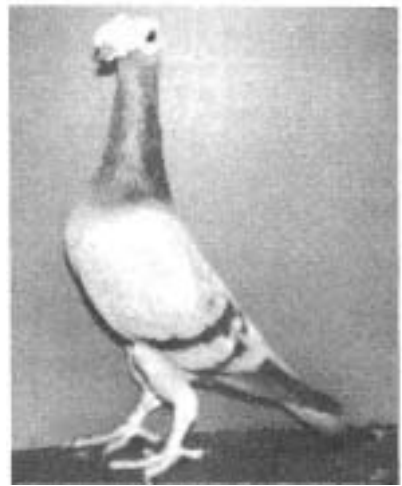
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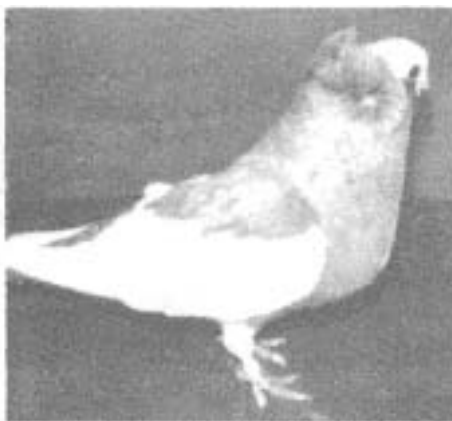


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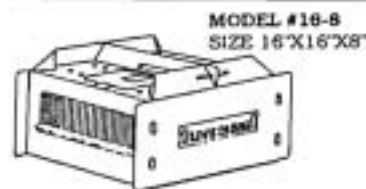
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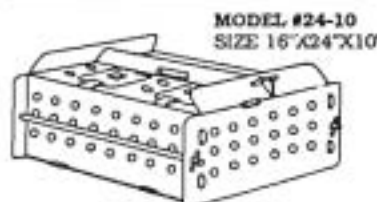
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NPA Has New Secretary

Jerry L. McCalmon has been appointed by the National Pigeon Assn. Board of Directors as the new secretary of the organization. The appointment was made at the 1987 Grand National Show in Portland, Ore., after long-time secretary James R. Lairmore announced his retirement. Mr. Lairmore served the NPA for 12 years in the capacity of secretary and has been a member of NPA for 24 years.

All business and correspondence should be directed to Jerry at the following address: Jerry L. McCalmon, 1782 West 13640 South, Riverton, Utah 84065.

Portland Grand National

The National Pigeon Assn.'s Grand National Show was another successful event with 3,916 birds shown by 361 exhibitors. The top breed this year was Helmets with 472, Modenas followed with 451, Tumblers 363 and Show Racers 281. The Grand National, sponsored by the Northwest Pigeon Fanciers, was held Jan. 21-23, 1988, at the Memorial Coliseum Convention Hall, Portland, Ore.

The NPA banquet was held Saturday evening with John Heppner of Vista, Calif., serving as Master of Ceremonies. The following awards were presented:

Outstanding Service Award, Tanner S. Chrisler, St. Louis; NPA Appreciation Award, Keith and Carrie Casteel and Sue and Darwin Grange; Membership Award, Selden Perry, District 8; Frank H. Hollmann Award, James R. Lairmore; Hall of Fame Awards: Charlie Brown, Newton, Kans., Marvin Angle, New Freedom, Pa. and Jerry McCalmon, Riverton, Utah.

The Northwest Pigeon Fanciers are to be commended on the fine job they did coordinating the show with special acknowledgement to Keith Casteel, Show Secretary, and Darwin Grange.

1988 Grand National Show

The 1988 National Pigeon Assn. Grand National Show will be held in Peoria, Ill., on December 8-10, 1988. The Heart of Illinois Pigeon Club are the sponsors of the show. Watch future APJs for more information.

Specials Scheduled For 1988

There are three more special issues scheduled for 1988. They are:

Domestic Flight Special, July 1988. Pete Fratangelo, Coordinator, 300 East 3rd St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Deadline: May 1, 1988.

Chinese Owl Special, Sept. 1988. Jerry Fussell, Coordinator, 201 Shanks, Midland, Texas 79705. Deadline: July 1, 1988.

Oriental Frill Special, Dec. 1988. Dale A. Jett, Coordinator, Rt. 3, Box 167-A, Litchfield, Ill. 62056.

Please help your coordinators out by sending your material in to them as soon as possible.

Pigeons Can Now Be Shipped At The Post Office

In case you missed this last month, the United States Postal Service now allows the shipment of live pigeons in the mail. This change of regulations (Which happened on or about Dec. 20, 1987) is one of the most remarkable and significant things to hit the pigeon fancy in many years.

This "new era in shipping pigeons" will mean convenience to fanciers across the United States. No more far away trips to airports, no more long automobile drives. This service is almost as close as your backdoor.

The requirements for mailing live pigeons are as follows: 1. You send them by Express Mail Service (EMS) and 2. You use a biologically secure container that has been approved by the U.S. Postal Service. (Please note that this container is NOT available from the Post Office.) The container that pigeons are to be shipped in is called the Micro-Barrier Container (MBC) which was developed by Tanner S. Chrisler, Tanner Products Co. The MBC is the ONLY container approved by the Postal Service for the mailing of live pigeons. These containers are only available from pigeon supply dealers. For the name of the nearest dealer, write or call Tanner Products, 5044 Westminster, St. Louis, Mo. 63108-1119, 314-367-9500.

For more details on the development of this box and the changing of Postal Regulations, see last month's APJ (Jan. 88). There is a story by the developer of the box, Tanner Chrisler and an advertisement featuring the Micro-Barrier Container.

Group Rates Available

We have a group subscription rate available. The rate is ~~25%~~ off the regular yearly rate of \$14.00, a savings of \$3.50. There are only two requirements that need to be met in order to receive the discount:

1. There must be 10 or more subscriptions sent in at one time.

2. The rate applies only to one year subscriptions. It does not apply to the two and three year rates.

So, take advantage of this offer and send in your group of subscriptions.

Selecting Show Roller Breeding Stock

by GERALD RUSSELL, Candor, N.Y.

There are many variables that determine the success of fanciers in the show room. However, one of the most important things that the fancier must do is select the birds that he will breed from.

One of the most common mistakes that many fanciers make is making the assumption that every bird that wins or does well at the shows must be a bird that is used in the breeding program. In selecting breeding stock the fancier must have a firm grasp of the standard and how it is being interpreted at the shows he attends.

Once the fancier has an idea of what he is trying to breed for, then the process of picking the breeding stock to match these goals comes into play. In order to do this successfully the fancier must have some idea of what traits his birds pass on to their offspring. He must be aware of those traits that tend to be dominant when breeding his birds. A breeder can only develop a feel for this by breeding the birds for several years and keeping close records of what the birds produce.

For the rest of this article I will describe the procedure that I go through in looking for breeding stock in my birds. Some of the hard rules that I use with my birds I may overlook to a slight degree if I'm introducing into my breeding program a bird from outside my loft.

1. All cock birds must have a front chest width of at least four inches. Birds that are smaller than this will produce birds that tend to be too small for the show room. Birds that are less than four inches across the chest tend in many cases to be narrow and long cast. My yearling cocks this year measure 4½ inches to 5 inches across the chest.

2. I try and have all my hens have a chest width of at least four inches. If a hen has some other good qualities that I feel I need I may use her if her width is just a little under four inches. Using a hen that is not at least 3¾ inches across the chest will probably produce birds that are too small to do well at the larger shows.

3. All the birds that I use in my breeding program must have good, firm bodies. Any bird that will not carry weight or will not tighten up in the vent area is a bird that probably will produce birds with these traits. Youngsters with these traits will not do well for you in the show room.

4. The birds that are bred from should have good station and dispo-

sition in the show cage. A bird that runs in the show cage and refuses to settle down and station is a bird that should be avoided. Birds of this type tend to pass on this trait to their youngsters. Remember, a judge cannot evaluate a bird to its fullest if the bird is not calm enough in the show cage to station.

5. One of the features that distracts from many birds at the shows is the long legs that they have. The bird in the show cage should not appear to have stilts for legs. Therefore, when matching up breeders it is important to not mate together two birds that appear to be long legged in the show cage. I have found that the long legs tends to be a dominant trait. When evaluating my youngsters for stock birds I try and find one or two birds that have real short legs that are possibly too short for the show room. These birds are valuable to use on the those birds that are very good birds except for the long legs.

6. One of the hardest things to do is find birds that have the full head and neck shell. Getting birds that have the shell to pass it on to their offspring is something that takes patience. One way to insure that you do not lose the shell once you get a few birds that have it is to make sure that you keep several bald head marked birds with bull eyes. For some reason that good full back skull and bald head markings with bull eyes seem to go together.

7. In my program I prefer to use very few birds that have pearl eyes. I

find that the pearl eye does not have as pleasing a look as the other eye colors. Two pearl eyed birds should not be mated together as they tend to lighten up the pearl color on the youngsters and that tends to give the birds a wild looking expression which is not desirable. I will use birds that are odd-eyed, cracked eyed or have other eye defects if the birds are decent in their other properties. Mating a bad eyed bird to a bird that has good eyes and a self head will generally take care of the eye problem in the offspring.

8. When looking at the head of the bird it is important to breed from as many birds as possible that have good frontal. Birds that are pinched faced and have little frontal break should be avoided. Remember, one of the first things that the judge will look at when he picks up a bird is its head. If the bird does not have a pleasant looking head chances are the bird will not do well for you at the show. The poor frontal tends to be a trait that will be passed on to the offspring.

9. The back cover is an important trait that should be considered. Do not mate together two birds that are both very poor in back cover. This will be passed on to the youngsters. Do not breed from any birds that shows side bores.

When mating the birds do not mate together two birds that have any fault that you have found to be dominant in your birds. The only thing that will happen is that these traits will be passed on to the offspring and you will have a bunch of birds to cull out.

(Continued On Next Page)



POMERANIANPOUTER

Bred and owned by Karl Teser, Papillion, Nebr. - Photo by Roger Heywood, Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Two views of the breeder pens used at the Walt Disney World Pigeon Loft. - Photos by Michael Cockrell.

Walt Disney World Pigeon Loft, Orlando, Florida

by DON BRUMFIELD, Sorrento, Fla.

Update: The loft of white Racing Homers at Walt Disney World is growing. In the past we have attempted to maintain 200 birds or less. At the present time with the various entertainment shows, plus a flag retreat where as many as 200 birds could be used, we found the need to increase our flock. Hopefully between 400 to 500 birds, if everything goes as planned.

With the assistance of Ken Pakulski, AU Director, a new pigeon loft was designed and built in February to house this amount of birds. The new loft measured 40' x 20' and was divided into four sections. One section containing 20 pairs of breeders, another for young birds, and two sections for flying birds.

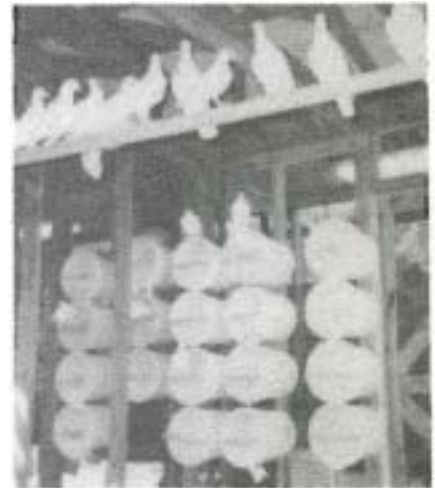
While visiting Henry Albers, President of Dixie Southern Racing Club in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, he showed me his front-mounted catch cages with built-in exterior water misters, so birds can shower outside instead of using bathing pans. After viewing this and realizing the importance of maintaining a dry loft, this was implemented at Walt Disney World also.

All birds are trained to return to Walt Disney World from 100 miles so they can be utilized for anything in Central Florida such as parades, or local Church and business festivities.

I would like to take time in this article to say thank you for two separate articles recently published in the American Pigeon Journal. One was the use of throw-away two gallon buckets for pigeon nest boxes. We experimented with this and had great success. (See attached photo). Secondly, was a article explaining

the use of baking soda on birds which even after medication had a problem swallowing because of canker. This was tried on birds recovering from intestinal canker and all birds were observed eating normally within three days and completely recovered within two weeks.

In closing, American Pigeon Journal Staff, keep the good articles coming, so we pigeon breeders can continue to improve our lofts and the quality of our birds. 0



Two gallon buckets used as nesting boxes at the Walt Disney World Pigeon Loft. — Photo by Michael Cockrell.



Front view of the new pigeon loft at Walt Disney World. — Photo by Michael Cockrell.

Lei's Talk Pigeons

by H. STAN CAMPBELL, W. Valley City, Utah

As a young man in 1946, I decided to raise pigeons as a hobby. I started by breeding Frillback Pigeons. I was approached by Joe Fratelo of this city in 1952 to import the first colored birds into the U.S.A., and over the years to help develop this breed. In 1968 due to circumstances beyond my control I had to give up all of my birds.

In January of 1986 I decided to get back into the hobby I loved and missed so much. In the few months I have spent around pigeons and their keepers I have noticed certain things. No two people seem to raise their birds the same, but all have one goal in mind, the love and fun of spending time with the birds and trying to upgrade their stock to the best it can be.

I have also noticed a few disturbing things too. I don't understand how someone can raise sixty or more breeds and still keep track of what they are selling or what the offspring will be. I suppose we could just call them feather merchants and wonder how they can make money this way.

Man only has a few years on this earth and a pigeon fancier far to few to breed the birds he desires. Wouldn't it be nice if all of us could develop a breed of birds that would forever carry on our names into the future as the Pensom strain has. Only a very select few will ever have this honor.

What we can do to help promote our strain or breed is to teach the

young boy or girl that come to look at our birds and show some interest in them. Don't just shove them aside or sell them your culls at an exorbitant price. How many of you are merit badge counselors for the boy scouts? How many of you take the time to tell a young person your breeding tips, show tips or health tips? As a young boy I received some wonderful help from an older man who had been in the hobby for many years. I still use many of the tips he shared with me.

Not having much of an income at the time, he showed me some very inexpensive things I could do for my birds. I used to gather cigarette butts and crumble them up in my nest boxes in order to keep the parasites down. He also informed me that when a bird had canker and you caught it in time, you could soak a match and rub it on its beak and throat to clear it up. Also you should put one teaspoon of bleach to one

gallon of water for the birds drinking water.

This kind pigeon person told me that there were three basics to pigeon raising: 1. Clean water; 2. Clean grit; 3. A clean balanced diet.

He also warned, ".....if you stop caring for your birds and just have them, then it's time to sell." I will always be grateful to this man for all of his advice and tips, but mostly I'll be grateful for the time he spent with me.

Let's remember that we don't own the earth, the sky or the birds but are simply the caretakers of the animals we love so much and that we must count on the young people to carry on the sport.

So talk to the young and share your advice with them. Give them your time. The birds we love so much and who give us such enjoyment are the ones who will benefit the most.

I'm not saying that you shouldn't sell your birds or even make a profit, but I think it should be secondary. Talk - Look - Enjoy. - 1-801-968-3038.0

Schmalkaldener Or Mane?

by TONY BRANCATO, Santa Maria, Calif.

This beautiful breed with the dual name presents problems to the average fancier. Is it Schmalkaldener or Mane many ask? It is our opinion that this German Toy should retain its German name Schmalkaldener. When a National Club is formed then members can decide once and for all

what the name should be.

Regardless of what one prefers, Schmalkaldener or Mane, this unique breed continues to gain in popularity. In my opinion this breed is the most beautiful of all the German Toys.

We have bred Schmalkaldeners in black, lavender, red and just recently in blue. The black white contrast still is the most popular and justly so.

Schmalkaldeners are shy pigeons, they are good parents capable of feeding and caring for their own young.

Sexes can be determined most of the time but not always on young Schmalkaldeners in the nest. Cocks sometimes show a white stripe on the upper beak, which later disappears.

Another sexing feature is unique only to the Schmalkaldeners. All hens have a white feather on the corner of each eye most cocks do not, some cocks do too! Quality favors the cocks most of the time. This white feather on all hens is only evident in blacks not in the other colors we have introduced in the breed. Finally there is some evidence the Schmalkaldener originated in India not Germany. Whether that can be ever substantiated is debatable.

Schmalkaldeners are beautiful and truly the Rolls Royce of the German Toy line, if not of all pigeon breeds.0

APFC Coloring Contest Results

by JAN PARROTT-HOLDEN, Vancouver, Wash.

On behalf of the American Pigeon Fanciers' Council, I am proud to announce that our coloring contest was a terrific success. Children ages 6-12 participated by coloring a picture of Burt and his pet pigeon Penelope. There were over 50 participants and the overall quality was impressive. Listed below are the winners in each age group and the name of our grand prize winner:

Age 6-7

Blue, Red and White Ribbons
Were Awarded

First Prize - Kyle Narcisse, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Second Prize - Cynthia Springer, Breton, Alta., Canada. Third Prize - Herbert GiUner, Detroit, Michigan.

Age 8-9

Blue, Red and White Ribbons
Were Awarded

First Prize - Matthew Willkom, Cadott, Wisconsin. Second Prize - Janice Cap, Milford, Connecticut. Third Prize - Sal Sinatra, Brooklyn, New York.

Age 10-12

Blue, Red and White Ribbons
Were Awarded

First Prize - Mary Ann Berdis, Erie, Pennsylvania. Second Prize - Travis Fullerton, Babb, Montana. Third Prize - Brian Vague, Renton, Washington.

The Grand Prize Winner was Michael Vague, Brian's brother. Michael, age 7, was determined by the judges to have submitted the best picture. Michael will receive a watch for his prize.

Thanks to all who participated in this contest. And special congratulations to the ten winners.0

My Learning Experience In The Tumbler Fancy

by EDWARD R. BLUM, Lincoln, Nebr.

In 1937 John Hergert, Homer Hanneman and myself decided to attend a pigeon show in Chicago. John had been to several Tumbler meets before this, but Homer and I had never been to a show in the Big Windy City.

About 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening we were in the Express office at the Burlington depot, checking our boxes of birds, to go on the train for Chicago. We each had an orange crate with four birds. In those days orange crates were the best shipping coops for birds.

As old number 9 always left Lincoln at 7:00 p.m. for Chicago and arrived about 7:30 a.m. Saturday. It had been snowing on and off since about 10 a.m. Friday. As usual John and I had to purchase tickets. Homer worked for the Union Pacific Railroad and could purchase a ticket at half price on the Burlington.

The train did not pull out at 7 p.m. as expected. As it had been snowing most of the day and we had about six inches of snow on the ground and more snow was forecast for the night. The railroad officials decided to put a snow plow on Old Number 9. We pulled out of Lincoln about 7:45 p.m. and we found seats in a coach car for the night trip. Pullman were out of the question.

We arrived in Chicago about 9:00 a.m., an hour and a half late. John began looking for a taxi and Homer and I went to the Express office to get the birds. At 9:20 Joe Kohler showed up and we managed to get everything into the car. We arrived at the show hall at about 10 a.m. The show was in the Old Armory building on Michigan Ave., and the Y.M.C.A. was just four blocks north, where we had rooms for the night.

The Chicago fellows always put on a good show. The Kohler brothers, Nick Stylen, Chops Kutenick, and John Kerscher had been in town since Thursday helping put up the show. Some of the other fellows at the show were Harry Anderson, Bill Meyers, Ed Ball, Joe Curran, a number from Baltimore, New York and of course Slim Schaffer from Pennsylvania. Also Ray Kurchen and Bill Lightfoot.

It was at this show that John Kerscher and Bill Lightfoot began teaching me what a good tumbler should be. Of course each had his own opinion and there were a few good arguments. After this schooling in Tumblers, needless to say, my birds did not begin to match up in the

show ring. Between John, Homer and myself we entered 12 birds. Out of the 12 we placed just 3 birds, 2 fourth and I fifth place. But I had learned a very valuable lesson about the tumbler pigeons. I destroyed 2 of my birds at the show and purchased my first pair of Black Baldheads from John Kerscher. I also purchased a red bald cock from a Baltimore exhibitor. Harry Anderson sold me a red bald hen to go with the cock. Over the years I have kept bloodlines from the original birds I purchased at this show.

One of the things that I will always remember from the show was Bill Lightfoot saying, "if a bird does not show in the show coop, the bird is not worth his feed". Over the years I have been to many shows and saw birds picked as champions, because they had a large head and a fair beak, but they did not show. That is when I remember Bill's words, "If they don't show, they're not worth the feed". How can anyone pick a bird that stands in the corner or that keeps slouching down, when a tumbler is a show bird and should stand up and show.

On Saturday evening Ed Ball took all the tumbler men to a steak dinner in the loop. What a great banquet that was. We had to walk back to the Y.M.C.A. and there was 8 inches of snow on the ground.

On Sunday morning the birds were

put in the shipping coops and all exhibitors took down the show by 11 o'clock. John, Homer and myself were invited to Nick Stylen's home for Sunday dinner and inspection of his loft. His loft was on the roof of the apartment where he lived.

At 4 p.m. Nick took us to the Chicago station, we checked the birds and the train pulled out at 5:30 p.m. and we arrived in Lincoln at 2:20 a.m. Monday morning. The new birds were in the loft and after comparing my birds with them, I knew I had some culling to do. That was the beginning of tumbler breeding in my loft which has now covered some 52 years. O

Just A Note

by NICK BAKER, President,
Queensland Pigeon Fanciers,
Queensland, Australia

World Expo 88 is in Brisbane, Australia next year and if you would like to let your international members know, my wife Jan and I will be able to let fanciers stay at our place free of charge.

We are about 12 miles from the Expo site and have bus and railway service handy. - Nick Baker, 17 Paul Street, Kallangur 4503, Queensland, Australia. O

Genetics Aren't Hard

by BEV & BOB WINDER, Fontana, Calif.

Classical almond mated to T-pattern indigo hen produces the following: $\frac{1}{2}$ almonds, $\frac{1}{2}$ T-pattern. One-fourth of all the birds will be indigo so it is possible to get $\frac{1}{8}$ of almonds in indigo and $\frac{1}{8}$ of the T-pattern in almond. The other T-pattern birds will be kites. The kites will be either recessive or non-recessive. All birds will be suitable for future almond matings. The almonds will also be recessive or non-recessive red in a single factor and will also be suitable for future matings of almonds.

If the indigo check carries a single factor of recessive red, many other patterns, colors and pattern varieties can be achieved such as recessive red covering blue T-pattern which is a rusty red color of an even distribution plus a deroy which is a almond with two factors of recessive

red. This deroy is between a recessive yellow and a recessive red and as it ages picks up brown flecks in the neck and chest areas. It is also possible to achieve a deroy indigo almond which would be recessive red covering indigo almond. We don't know at this point what this bird would look like or what color the flecks would be but probably it would be similar to the regular deroy. The indigo almonds coming from this mating will have indigo blue flecks. This is called indigo almond and is beautiful in its classical form. We have only mentioned a few variations of patterns and colors that can come from this mating. In our next article we will write on Dominant Opal Almond. For comments or questions write Bob or Bev Winder, 8970 Newport #B, Fontana, Calif. 92335.0



Pictured left to right are Creator of the new S.F. Hollander Joe Pellegrino, Kuti Aharon, Alex Rawson, Michael Seiler and Gabe Ronga, all enjoying the beautiful short faces on exhibit at the Empire Short Face Tumbler Club Show. - Photo from Alex Rawson, Staten Island, N. Y.

Kuti Aharon Visits Empire

by ALEX RAWSON, Staten Island, N.Y.

The New York fancy was visited recently by a fancier from a long way off. Formerly of South Africa and now of Truman, Israel, it was Mr. Kuti Aharon who came to see us and was dazzled by the many great pigeons and fanciers he saw here in America.

Kuti is greatly interested in the S.F. Tumbler varieties. He has at home fancies imported from Europe as well as America. On a Kibbutz, Kuti's associates Don Shavit and Alex Lione, have some great Viennas S.F. in all colors as well as gansel.

Where Are The Pet Shops?

by BOB RYAN, Staten Island, N.Y.

I have been getting the Journal for about eight years now. I live in Staten Island, New York. I love going to shows and pet shops that sell birds and just to look at them. I go to pet shops in Brooklyn, Queens, New Jersey. I find out about these places by word of mouth. Isn't there anything we could do about making lists of stores that sell birds and supplies? Like APJ's show calendar, what about stores? Maybe a special journal dedicated to stores that sell birds and supplies like your show dates. I hear of all different places but I can never find them and I wish I could.

I would appreciate it if someone could help me find more pet shops. Write to: Bob Ryan, 44 Egbert Place, Staten Island, N.Y. 10305.0

They also breed S.F. Storked Budapest in fine quality. For feeders they use Dutch Hitlers in Black Whiteside. Now they add some self colored Budapest S.F. and Elbing Baldheads to their collection.

Kuti himself fancies S.F. Helmets as well as Stittiners and has added our Show Domestic Flight to his collection. There is great interest in our Domestic there; I understood Matti Bernbaum of Eilot is also going to adopt a few pair of them. To top these off Kuti has introduced to Israel the great beauties bred by Joe Pellegrino of his S.F. Hollanders or Hamburg White Tails in short beaks. All in all he took back 39 fancies which included four Frillbacks from Tom McCaig that creator of the Frillback Whiteside which so entranced me when I saw them at the Pageant that I steamed up Kuti to tly to L.A. where he went and got one pair. Tom McCaig was most gracious to his visitor. Before leaving our Israeli friend expressed much happiness at the friendly way he was treated every where he went. Also how liberal the fanciers were in helping him get good specimens of each variety he took with him. His import included Reinaugen, Baldheads, Stettiners, SF Helmets, Frillbacks, Swallows, Domestic Flights, Vienna S.F. Budapest S.F., A special thanks to Phil Salmeri, Joe Pellegrino, Mike Seiler, Tom McCaig, Gig Interrante and others I can't remember at this writing for their hospitality. I should not forget our good friend Warren Maurer who supplied Kuti with great English S.F. Tumblers. 0

The Thuringer Cropper

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

I've been raising Thuringian Croppers (Thuringers) for a mere year but in that time I've begun to really appreciate the breed.

I can't claim to have fallen for them and spent years hunting them down only to find one pair, neglected and lonely, in a ramshackle coop. I was in fact considering raising Voorburgs but Frank Soto offered me his whole stud, six birds, at the '86 Pageant. I put him off but when he called me again saying he needed space at his loft for the next year's breeding and that he wanted to keep the stud intact. I said okay.

The Thuringer is a big bird, weighing as much as a good sized racer in the hand. To an ex-homer man that means a lot. I really enjoy all pouters but when I handle a slender bird like a Brunner or Pigmy. I'm always afraid I might injure it.

Obviously, after only a year with the breed I can't be considered an expert, or even an advanced novice, at least as regards the fine points of the breed, but I have found a few things I'd like to share. First, and most important to me, the Thuringers are outstanding parents. They feed their own young and in only one case out of ten nestings have I had any trouble with sour crop. In that case a cock bird developed it. I believe I traced the problem to some sour grain which had fallen out and was near a damp spot (since corrected) beside a water bowl. There is a minor possibility that the problem stemmed from the fact that the bird was feeding only one youngster in that round - the first egg had been crushed in a fight. I'm not sure I buy the idea that unused milk is subject to fermentation in the crop, but considering the size of a pouter's crop and the amount of milk available, I don't reject the idea out of hand either.

I have found that the normal paper mache nest bowls don't seem to work very well. When I provided them the birds stopped sitting after less than a week. I believe the bowls are a bit small so I went to a thrift store and bought a half dozen low, woven straw baskets. They are about 1'x6"xl". The birds took to them immediately, though I had to brace each basket with a brick to keep the birds from toppling them. In addition, I provided long needle pine and the birds wove very compact and tight nests which provided perfect security for the eggs. Since using the

(Continued On Next Page)

baskets, I've raised 18 young.

The youngsters are slower to fledge than the homers. They leave the nest at the same time - 30-35 days but due to the length of the wing and tail feathers are not able to fly as well, if at all at this age. This means it is important to see they get fed well the extra time necessary to get them on the wing. I've been using a racing homer mixture of 18% protein with added safflower and have also allowed the birds access to crushed mineral salt blocks.

Because my loft was originally designed as a racing one, I settled the Thuringers and allowed them to putter about the yard. I lost one to a Cooper's hawk late last winter but it was a small price to pay for the increase in health, feather quality and overall contentedness of the birds.

As with my racers, I allow the pouters a bath whenever they wish. I simply leave the bath pans out all the time, refilling them each morning. If you can do so, you'll find feather quality improves immensely and you need not worry about that old wive's tale of lack of bloom at show time. Pigeons are quite capable of taking care of their own plumage and know what is needed, and when, much better than we do. All they need is the wherewithal to do so. At the '86 Pageant I was complimented by breeders from Australia and other U.S. states on the feather quality of my race birds. Even more telling, those same birds won more than once at five hundred and more miles.

While I still had my racers, the Thuringer youngsters would fly with them for 15 minutes to half an hour. Unfortunately, due to a neighbor boy and his pellet rifle the birds' outdoor exercise has been drastically curtailed and may soon cease permanently.

As far as their personality goes, Thuringers have the usual pouter habit of loving to be talked to. About half - at least in the family I have - put up a spirited defense of their nest. Later, as my numbers increase I may select for nest docility but I'm not sure I want to. I will select for nesting ability as well as blowing and the finer breed points, but am leery of breeding out the bird's feeding ability because Thuringers were at one time used to provide the evening meal as well as a delight to the eye and the psyche, and I don't want to lose that capability. A wrist slap is a minor price to pay for it.

I understand that even in Europe Thuringers are rare with most of them being bred in the German Democratic Peoples' Republic (East

Germany). The Thuringer is a breed whose ancestry stretches back to the Middle Ages, and it seems to share an ancestry - at least first cousin - with the Aachen Band Cropper. As far as I've been able to ascertain, they are bred here in North America only in monk marked ash-red and ash-yellow, as well as recessive white. I'm trying to recreate the blue-black series using a Norwich cross and also a Silesian Whitehead x Thuringer cross. As I gain more experience with the breed, I'll try to pass along any information that seems as if it might be helpful.

I think the breed has the potential for being quite well liked and for spreading around the continent. As I

Silver: The Life Of A Pigeon

by ANDREW REED, Sanbornville, N.H.

After being without pigeons for a year or more, I talked my new wife into getting a bird. That was a year and a half ago in 1986.

I climbed under a bridge in my home town and found a four week old blue bar.

We brought him home and rigged up a cupboard in the kitchen for a cage. Soon the bird was flying and beginning to coo. He started being very friendly with me, but would peck and try to coo at my wife.

I watched how Silver acted around me and deduced that he was a male. So I bought a female Roller from a man and introduced her to Silver. They hit it off real well and soon the female laid two sterile eggs.

Not long after that, we bought a cockatiel cage and moved the birds. I put in a new nest box and before long the female laid eggs. Soon afterward, silver also laid two eggs. The truth was out! My next step was to get two fertile eggs from beneath a bridge. When those eggs began to hatch, the two females commenced to eat the shells. Both babies died.

Then I bought a bronze winged male Modena cross, hoping he would go for Silver. He chose the other female. Soon they were cooing a lot. That male would start early in the morning and very loudly. He kept my wife awake, so we had to get rid of both of them and kept Silver.

A few months went by with Silver choosing me as her mate. She became very affectionate and laid a few clutches of eggs. It wasn't long before I was itching to have another male. I talked my wife into it and bought a recessive red Fantail. They took a couple of weeks to get together. But soon he started cooing and acting like a male.

I understand it, there are approximately ten to fifteen breeders rearing Thuringers at present. I believe that it's the lack of familiarity with it that's slowing its spread. I can tell you for a fact, that the picture of the Thuringer in Levi's Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds doesn't do the bird justice. It gives no hint of the bird's walk or its jaunty attitude in the loft as a cock defends its perch or struts for his hen. Neither does it portray the gentleness of a big old cock slowly lowering his head to feed a day old youngsters, or the dancing amorousness of a young hen bobbing her head in time to your badly imitated coo. o

Silver laid eggs. They were sterile, but I had never actually seen them mate. She laid a few more clutches, all sterile. So, I found a guy who raises Racing Homers. He gave me a pair of eggs. They both started to hatch, but died in the shell. So then, I climbed under a bridge and grabbed a week old squab. They raised that bird and then Silver left the Fantail and became mates with her adopted daughter.

So I let the new bird go where I took her from, she's still there. The fantail I traded for a male bronze winged Modena. They became friendly and Silver laid eggs. The Modena never mated with her and he wouldn't sit on the eggs. This went on for a while, so I traded him back for an ash-red grizzle Pouter cross. Soon after that, I found a Turbit (blue bar) at a fair. Well, the two new birds became mates with each other. Then they both turned out to be females! They're still together.

Next I built a small coop on my porch and was given a male red-check Racing Homer. After a month, the Homer and Silver got together. They built a nest under their food platform and Silver laid two eggs. By now it was December and I knew even if they were fertile, they probably wouldn't hatch. Three days later, I candled the eggs and they were both fertile. After all this, she finally had a mate that did good by her.

Sure enough, two days after Christmas, both eggs hatched! That was three days ago and both babies are doing fine.

Last night a cold spell came in and right now it's -40°F! I've had many birds, but never have I had them raise young through the winter. Most

even stop laying, especially outside. This is the best parent r've ever had.

Perhaps after so much failure and disappointment, she put her mind to it that this time she was going to raise some young. Finally Silver's bad luck spell has turned to good. I've never had so much trouble trying to breed from a bird, but I'm glad I kept at it. 0



These are American Flying Tumblers bred by Gus Lichtenwald sometime in the 60's. - Photo from Rod Williamson, Libby, Mont.



Black Check Baldhead American Flying Tumbler raised by Rod Williamson, Libby, Mont.



Blue Bar American Flying Tumbler (right) and a young Red (left) that Rod Williamson developed. Both birds bred and owned by Rod Williamson, Libby, Mont.

Gus Lichtenwold's "Lillie Rollers"

by ROD WILLIAMSON, Libby, Mont.

Most of you know them by the standard name of American Flying Tumblers, or A.F.T. for short. First of all, I want to thank Don Mars who grew up next door to Gus and his brother. Walt, for supplying me with much of the history of the A.F.T.s, and also of Gus, the man who developed the breed. Gus wanted a roller small to medium in size that would perform in the air, would fly only as high as he could see them, and would spin, tumble and flop, and slide. They would do it on every turn. He didn't care how long they would fly as long as they would do something in the way of performance all the time. Gus ended up with a bird that would fly in a kit well and would rarely finish a complete circle without bursting into spasms of performance like I mentioned above.

Gus' parents were full-blooded German, they all moved to Canada from Russia in 1913, where they stayed until 1920. Then they moved to Portland, Oregon. Gus lived in Portland all his life, his father and uncle also were pigeon fanciers. They also kept flying varieties, tumblers, but most were just kept for their high flying.

I first came across these little birds about 1980, and have been trying to breed them as close as the standard shows, ever since last year about this time. that's when a man called me

one morning after reading an article I wrote to the Journal about A.F.T.s. He said he could help me with other colors. I could hardly believe what I was hearing. Up until this time, all I had was black and dun selfs, and blues, ash and black check bald-heads. Now I have as many colors as the rainbow. But am trying to get them to what the selfs, duns and blacks are in quality, and according to the standard. I was able to get two crosses of these birds into mine this past year, so the project is going well. I raised about 6 or 8 birds that I am really excited about. I am hoping to show some at the **Portland Nationals** in January.

Back to the birds I received from this man, who happens to live back east. I sent him IS birds and he sent me IS birds, so we just had to pay each others shipping. Five of the birds has 77-80 A.F.T. club bands on their legs. These are the typical and the ones I worked into my birds, mainly I was trying to get this color on my ttypy birds. I was even lucky enough to raise an Andalusian. As I was saying before about the bands, being A.F.T. club bands, at one time there was a club, I believe called "The Northwest American Flying Tumbler Club." Darwin Grange was telling me that the club had 6 or 7 members, who are all out of birds or have died.

Anybody wishing to know more about A.F.T.s, or anything about the breed, please drop me a line, my address is: Rod Williamson, Box 1003, Libby, Montana 59923 or call me at 406-293-8487. I hope this article will create more interest in A.F.T.s. They are considered a rare breed. They are easy to raise, good parents and feeders, and are not aggressive toward other young, like a lot of larger rollers can sometimes be. I also raise Norwich Croppers, Helmets, Nuns and a few pair of racing homers. Well, I don't think I got everything I wanted to say wrote down, but will have to go, for it's 12 o'clock and time for the late news! 0



Gus Lichtenwold in his pigeon loft days. This bird is one of his real early attempts some time in the 50's



Some Corn Cob Litter Contains Mycotoxins Which Are Fatal To Pigeons

by DON O'CONNOR, Copake Falls, N.Y.

I am writing this article in hopes it might save some other people the problems I've had. A while back I thought I had found the perfect litter for the floors and nest boxes - easy to clean, doesn't damage feathers, is not dusty. Since I raise Jacobins for show, the birds seemed to be cleaner. Everything was great. After a while I started losing young birds that had already been weaned and should have been out of trouble. Also some of my older breeding stock. Others seemed to look to be in very rough shape. I knew something was very wrong, but even trying the usual medications did not work.

About this time I sent a sample of the litter out of a new bag and sent it to Cornell University for analysis. I received a phone call from Mrs. Irene Brown, the coordinator of the Avian Unit at Cornell. She told me the litter was Toxic with mold and yes indeed it is fatal to pigeons.

I raised 60 young Jacobins this year. I have 15 left and have lost 8 of my breeding stock. As far as monetary loss, the litter cost me \$190.00, the young birds would have been either kept for show or sold,

and the older stock birds are lost for breeding next year. Not to mention a ten hour day to clean all the litter out of the coops. It had to be vacuumed out of all the nest boxes and floors. And God only knows what it's done to the rest of my breeding stock. It seems to me I'm always trying to do the best I can for the birds and this is what happens.

It's a real shame people advertise a product as safe for our birds and small animals and do not take the time to see that it is. The litter was made from corn cobs. I sent a copy of the report from Cornell as well as phoned the company from which I purchased this product. The company assured me that a copy would be sent to the company that made the corn cob litter. I also asked to be told of the outcome. Well, as of this date, I have not heard anything. I guess they just do not care. (Note: The report from Cornell University showed that the corn cob litter contained two Mycotoxins, Zearalenone and Vomitoxin, both of which are produced from Fusarium molds.) - Don O'Connor, P.O. Box 62, Copake Falls, N.Y. 12517.0

that it headed for the nearest hill even if it was in a direction away from home. After reaching the hill, WY would turn and fly home. B77 was a veteran of many tests. Whatever we did to the bird, it would simply fly straight home. B38 on the other hand was excellent at navigating to the general area of the 10ft but totally hopeless at finding the loft itself. On four of its last five flights it landed next to people working in their yards, they read its tag, called us on the telephone and we had to go retrieve it! I report these anecdotes because of the strong impression that they and many others like them have created that each pigeon develops an individual homing strategy that is superimposed on a more general pattern.

One such pattern was what Bill Keeston called a release point bias. He found that pigeons released at some sites oriented in a direction other than towards home. Probably the clearest example is what Cornell pigeons do at Castor Hill, a release site about 90 miles N. of Ithaca. Birds released at Castor Hill fly west, between 60 and 90 degrees to the right of the proper direction to home (see Figure 1). This occurs with young first flight birds, with experienced veterans, under sun and under overcast. It even occurs with bank swallows! Airplane following of pigeons released at Castor Hill shows they fly west for some miles then turn and head directly South for Ithaca. Even with extensive training, this pattern seems to hold. Given this consistency the question arises whether birds from other lofts would show the same bias. The answer appears to be both yes and no; pigeons from some lofts do show a bias, others do not. Could this difference be a function of the genetic stock of the birds? To find out we settled Cornell birds in several lofts and then tested them at Castor Hill. The results were as varied as before; some lofts had a clockwise bias, others a counterclockwise or no bias.

The consistency of the release point bias at Castor Hill was shattered the year I arrived at Cornell. In 1981 pigeons released at the old fire tower showed no bias whatever. This was the case for several more years, but two years ago the bias returned, and this year, 1987, it is back bigger and stronger than ever. We have no idea what could be causing it to come and go.

In the course of releases at Castor Hill, a few Cornell birds oriented more directly towards home. These no-bias birds also showed less bias on subsequent releases, despite being split into two groups and given



The following speech was presented to the 18th annual APFC convention, July 87, at St. Louis by Dr. Charles Walcott.

VARIABILITY IN PIGEON HOMING

Every pigeon racer has experienced variability in the homing of pigeons. Some days a flock of pigeons will home promptly, other days they will take forever and arrive as groups of two or three instead of in a large flock. Pigeons that have been champions in one part of the world may produce offspring that are poor performers in other locations. Young birds settled in foreign lofts often have far greater losses than birds raised in that 10ft itself.

At the Cornell pigeon project we've experienced all these problems

and more. But as our research has progressed we begin to see a pattern that may help explain some of these results.

In the first place, there seems to be a variation in the navigational strategies employed by individual birds. This was made dramatically obvious many years ago when Marty Michener and I spent several years following individual pigeons on their homing flights. Each bird was equipped with a radio transmitter and then followed by airplane. As a result, we became familiar with the tactics employed by individual birds. For example, pigeon WY was trained from a point where a prominent hill indicated the direction to home. Wherever WY was released after

extensive training from east and west of the Castor Hill line respectively. Irene Brown and Bill Keeton wondered how the offspring of these no bias birds would orient at Castor Hill. They collected a group from many different pens where they had been participating in different tests, and released them at Castor Hill. Despite their widely differing experience the progeny of the "no-bias" birds were as well oriented toward Ithaca as their parents had been. Furthermore, like their parents, they homed more rapidly than control birds. Figure 1 summarizes these releases.

These results indicate that the release point bias such as we see at Castor Hill depends on not just one, but at least four factors. First, it depends on the genetics of the bird. No-bias in Cornell birds can be inherited. Second, it depends on some factor associated with the loft in which the pigeon is raised. Third, it depends on some characteristic of the release site and fourth, it has some sort of variation over time.

Another, even more dramatic story that illustrates the same point is what happens to Cornell pigeons released at the Jersey Hill Fire Tower near Hornell, N.Y. Young birds released there for the first time often fly to the South West; almost exactly opposite the correct Eastedy direction to home. Very few of these birds ever home. But when those who do return are released for a second time at Jersey Hill, they are totally disoriented and only a few of them ever home. Yet pigeons housed in other lofts, even birds of Cornell stock, are well oriented and home normally (see Figure 2). Once again, the orientation and homing of the pigeons depends on the loft they are homing to as well as some unknown characteristic of the release site. (See American Racing Pigeon News' "Tales of Bad Maps and Bermuda Triangles" for more details).

In recent years a group of investigators in Pisa, Italy, led by Prof. Floriano Papi have proposed that homing pigeons use odors to find their way home. The Italian group has conducted an enormous variety of experiments all of which are consistent with the idea of olfactory navigation. At Cornell, Bill Keeton tried to repeat some of these experiments, but his results differed from those of the Italians. Even importing Prof. Papi and Dr. Benvenuti to supervise the experiments led to somewhat ambiguous results. Since then we have tried hard to test the

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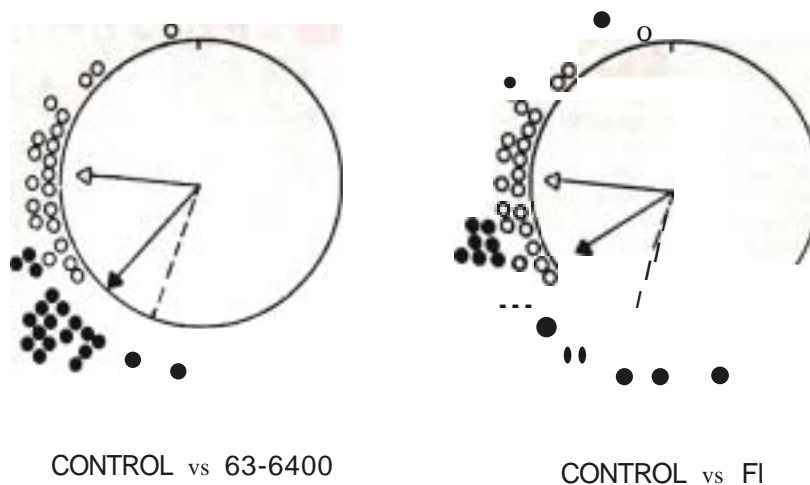


FIGURE J
This shows the release point bias at Castor Hill, N. Y. the open dots around the circle are the vanishing bearings of the normal Cornell "Control" birds. In the left circle labeled "control vs 63-6400", the filled dots are the vanishing bearings of the "no-bias" Cornell birds. In the right hand circle, the filled dots represent the vanishing bearings of the "no-bias" birds progeny.

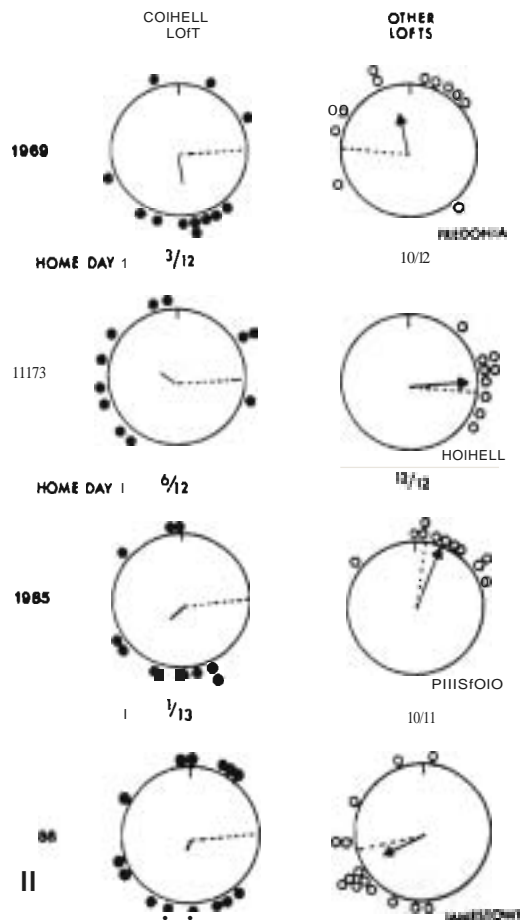


FIGURE 2
The vanishing bearings of birds released at Hornell, N. Y., depend upon the loft in which the birds are raised. Here are the results of four releases of birds from the Cornell loft and birds from four other lofts. Clearly the orientation of the Cornell birds is poorer than that of birds from other lofts and fewer Cornell birds returned home on the day of release.

idea that Cornell pigeons require olfactory information to find their way home. To summarize several years of experiments, whenever and however Cornell pigeons are deprived of their sense of smell before or at the release point, their orientation is more scattered, their homing is slower and more birds are lost than the controls. Similar experiments in Italy result in no orientation and little or no homing.

Several years ago, Wolfgang and Rosie Wiltshko performed exactly the same experiment on pigeons from Pisa, Italy; Frankfurt, W. Germany; and Ithaca, N.Y. Pigeons were taken from the loft, their nostrils were plugged with vaseline-coated cotton plugs dipped in citrus odor, and the pigeons were then transported to the release site. At the release site the plugs were removed and the nostrils of the experimental birds sprayed with a local anesthetic. This made the birds unable to smell anything when they were released. The results were extremely interesting: Italian birds treated this way were totally disoriented and failed to home. German birds were unaffected by the treatment; they oriented and homed normally. Cornell birds fell between these two extremes; their orientation was more scattered than that of the controls and their homing was slower with more experimental birds lost. All in all it is hard to escape the conclusion that different birds in different locations are relying on different cues.

To see whether this difference might be related to the strain of pigeon used, Irene Brown left Ithaca for Pisa early this Spring carrying a small satchel containing pigeon eggs from our birds. These were carefully hatched by Italian mothers and a flock of nearly 100 Cornell birds is now residing in Italy. The offspring of these birds will be tested next year to see whether or not they rely on olfactory cues for orientation.

Another series of experiments that suggests the same conclusion is the magnetic anomaly tests. We found a number of years ago that pigeons raised in our loft in Lincoln, Mass., were disoriented even under sunny skies when they were released at places where the earth's magnetic field was distorted by large underground deposits of iron. Furthermore, the more the magnetic field was distorted the greater the pigeon's disorientation (See Figure 3). Moving to Ithaca in 1981, we were unable to replicate these results. As Figure 4 shows, Cornell pigeons released at the same anomalies were well oriented. With this surprising result in hand we

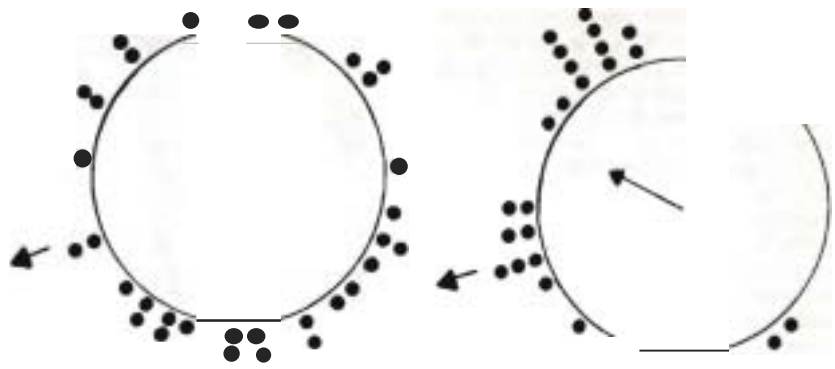


FIGURE 3
Pigeons raised at our old loft at Fox Ridge Farm in Lincoln, Mass., were well oriented at the magnetically calm release site at Worcester Airport, left circle, but were totally disoriented at the magnetic anomaly at Worcester, Rt. 20, right circle.

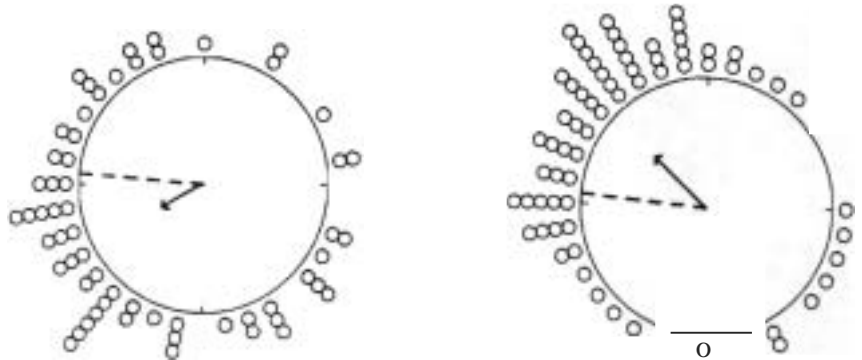


FIGURE 4
The left circle shows the vanishing bearings of Cornell raised pigeons which were released at Worcester Airport, a control site. The right hand circle shows the vanishing bearings of Cornell pigeons released at the Worcester, Rt. 20 magnetic anomaly. In contrast to the orientation of the birds shown in Fig. 3, both groups of pigeons are significantly oriented.

re-established a loft of pigeons in Lincoln about 1 mile North of our previous loft. Young birds from Ithaca were settled there last year and tested at the anomalies; they were well oriented to the Northeast. We over-wintered the birds, trained them as we had at the old Lincoln loft, and tested them again this summer. Once again they were beautifully oriented to the Northeast. Early this Spring we obtained some birds from fliers in the Boston area, and we have some offspring of the Cornell birds hatched and raised in the new Lincoln loft. As soon as the weather improves we will complete their training and test them at the anomalies. It will be very interesting to see whether they behave like the old or the new Lincoln Loft birds.

As we tried to understand the differences between the behavior of anosmic Cornell pigeons and the results in Italy, Silvano Benvenuti came to Ithaca for two summers to work with us. He suggested that the

Italians raise and train their birds quite differently than we do. In Italy the birds are free to come and go from the loft at all times, food is provided without limit to the birds, and there is little, if any, training of young birds before their tests. In contrast the Cornell birds are raised on a strict regime. Food is limited to keep the working birds slightly hungry, especially before a test, exercise and training is coordinated with feeding, and extensive training is usually given before testing is done. As a result of Silvano's comments, we set up a loft to raise birds "Italian Style". These birds have now been tested both by Silvano and by us. While there are some differences in orientation between the two groups with the birds raised "Italian style" sometimes being less well oriented than Cornell birds and sometimes better, the major difference was in homing performance. The Italian style birds homed significantly slower than the Cornell

birds. Interestingly this difference has persisted for at least a year even with the former Italian birds now integrated into the Cornell flocks and given Cornell-style training. It seems to me that the important message here is that the early training of the birds has not only immediate but also long lasting effects upon their behavior.

So what conclusions can we draw from all this? First, the behavior of pigeons differs depending upon both the characteristics of the release site and the loft site. This was made clear in a somewhat neglected paper by Klaus Schmidt-Koenig published in 1953. That his conclusions are correct has been once again emphasized

by our results. Second, there are important genetic differences in groups of pigeons. The Castor Hill no-bias birds are but one example. Third, different pigeons raised in different places may learn to rely on different cues. Perhaps that is the explanation for the difference in Pisa birds and Frankfurt birds; or the difference between birds from the old Lincoln loft and Cornell. Finally, it seems to make a real difference how the birds are handled and trained.

In summary, the old idea that there was a "secret" to the homing of pigeons has once again been proved false. There are in fact many secrets, and the pigeons seem to

have a lliversity of homing strategies that are shaped by both their genetic heritage, the characteristics of the area in which they find themselves, and the way in which they have been raised. No wonder we find variability in their behavior!

Charles Walcott, Section of Neurobiology and Behavior and Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, USA.

Research is an ongoing process at Cornell however, like everything else they have had budget cuts. You may wish to show them that we Fanciers' still care about the research they are performing. You may send your donations directly to them or through the APFC.D

CALLING ALL KIDS!

a page for the youth of the fancy



Announcing A Junior Auxiliary To The American Pigeon Fanciers' Council

Over the past year or more I've introduced a lot of terrific junior pigeon fanciers to you, the readership of the American Pigeon Journal. Every single one of these boys and girls had a spark of enthusiasm that caught my attention and the attention of club leaders across the country. I'm sure their vitality and competence surprised a lot of us. And I'll bet their willingness to share enticed other young people to consider pigeon breeding as a hobby.

Today I have a really golden opportunity to introduce you to a young man who first wrote me last summer. His name is Daryl Felsberg and he lives in Corpus Christi, Texas. Daryl, age 14, has been raising pigeons several years. He claims he loves every aspect of the hobby though a few of his classmates have thought he was "crazy to raise dumb birds." Of course most of those kids hadn't seen anything like the kinds of pigeons Daryl owns.

Daryl wasn't buying their narrow-minded view of his favorite birds. He made arrangements with his Biology instructor to give a presentation on pigeons and genetics, even made a home movie entitled, "The World's Greatest Hobby - Pigeons". Daryl include bird supply catalogs, books, pamphlets, breeding records and three pigeon varieties to round out his presentation. At the end of his

program Daryl estimated that he had received a favorable response from about 70 percent of the audience. Some of these asked him to help them start a loft. Some subscribed for the very first time to the American Pigeon Journal. Others got involved in local clubs. "Now," says Daryl, "I have kids my own age to trade, buy and sell birds with."

It would be enough that Daryl Felsberg started something valuable in the way of hobby interest right in his backyard. But ideas just seem to keep evolving from this young man.

The best one is the formation of a junior American Pigeon Fanciers' Council, a group consisting of young fanciers eighteen years of age and under. Daryl has been at work these



Daryl Felsberg, Corpus Christi, Texas.

past few weeks drawing up his own goals for the group. Establishing a minimal due of just \$5 a year and promising that, with the support of others like himself across the country, junior pigeon fancy can be more exciting, interesting and productive than ever before.

But I'll let him speak for himself. Says Daryl:

"Hello to all young fanciers. Allow me to introduce myself and give you a little information about me and my character. My name is Daryl Felsberg. I'm 14 years old and I live in Corpus Christi. I attend Ray High School (home of the fighting Texans). Well, I'm starting a council for the youth of our hobby. It will be sponsored by the APFC with the assistance of Jan Holden, Youth Chairperson.

"Jan and I have been working on it for quite some time now and hope to make this program an effort devoted to youth only. I have several goals. But the most important of these is to make pigeon fancying and raising more fun, exciting and interesting for youth.

..As soon as I receive your dues (\$5 per person per year) I can start working up a newsletter and issuing membership cards.

..I would like to get this show on the road as soon as possible. If you would like to join write to me, Daryl Felsberg, 4302 Mistletoe, Corpus

(Continued On Next Page)



Daryl Felsberg's flight pen. Daryl keeps Mondains, Modenas, Racers, Indian Fantails and Norwich Cropper.

Christi, Texas 78411. I need your help and support."

Well, Daryl has got a fantastic idea going but it will take the efforts and support of lots of us interested in the future of pigeon breeding and showing. Steve and I would like to say that we will award a free copy of the video "A Pigeon That Worked a Miracle" to every club which sends Daryl five juniors paid up in full for their first year on the junior council. I will also be offering my assistance in production of a bulletin should

Daryl desire it and I would hope that some others in the hobby might seek out this young man to inquire in what way they might be of assistance to his goals.

There are many of us who will wish to leave a legacy behind us in this great hobby and sport. Some of us will have a shelf full of trophies and a wall adorned with ribbons. That will be fine. But it won't perpetuate pigeon breeding or help clean up a "dirty bird" image. Daryl's council may.U



Junior fanciers in Louisville, Ky., at the NYBS (l.-r.): Bobby Oldja, Michael Legrand Jr. and Jon Gall. - Photo from Joe Oldja, Strongsville, Ohio.



American Pigeon Fanciers' Council



ENROLLMENT FORM

David Rinehart, Treas.
559 Alandale Drive
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Our club wants to support the goals of the Council to sponsor improved education, research and public information on pigeons and the hobby,

Club Name _____

Sec.'s Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

We have _____
 members and enclosed for
 enrollment _____

Racing Homers



American Racing Pigeon Union News

by EDNA SCIFRES, Greenville, S. Car.

AU HQS - Convention and Race. Phoenix, Arizona, Dec. 6-11, 1988.

The Phoenix Sheraton (formerly the Hilton) at Central Avenue and Adams - phone 602-257-1525, is only ten minutes from Sky Harbour Airport, and just as convenient by road. Just steps from the Convention Center and the Civic Plaza, shopping and fine dining are only minutes away.

Phoenix is the capital of Arizona, ever grand in color and magic. The nation's 9th largest city, some 300 days of sunshine per year provide the perfect setting for conventions. In AU President Jerry McIntosh's home town of Mesa, it is also the home of the legendary Lost Dutchman Goldmine, window to the Superstition Mountains, and abounds in rich pioneer tradition and ancient Indian folklore. Plan to be at the AU Convention 1988 and enjoy the Great West!

Notes From Around

Congrats to the California SRPO on their grand 1987 Convention Book - as always a credit to the Yearbook Chairman Nick Corine. The Convention Committee also included the good AU Director Phil Adsit, with smiling wife Verna Adsit as Chair-lady. Many thanks!

Art Anderson, AU Rules Chm., advised he was among some of us unfortunates who hurt plenty with a virus following the wonderful San Antonio convention. Art still managed to get the Minutes squared away, and we hope all who shared the misery are in fine holiday spirits.

AU Sec. Russ Burns forwarded a letter from Timothy Stoering of Waterville, MN. with a good article on his birds and loft. Also a letter from Mark Cilia of Melbourne, Australia, with a check enclosed for AU membership! Mark had seen the Ad in "Bird Talk" magazine, and sent the coupon, but being outside U.S. boundaries, thanks to the Breeders International Directory was able to direct him to an Australian club in his area.

Evan Murray, 14 Circle Dr. • Lovell, WY 82431, works with the

4-H group, and would like to locate some of the 4-H booklets which he said the AU handled at one time. Anyone know of his? Please write him if you can help.

Roy Hatchard, our AU 1986 Man of the Year, writes - "... Thanks a million for the publicity you have

Southern Racing Pigeon Assn. Convention 1987 Charlotte, North Carolina

by EDNA SCIFRES, Greenville, S. Car.

The 1987 SRPA Convention, hosted by the Mint Hill RPC of Charlotte N.C., was held at the Holiday Inn at Sugar Creek and Int. 85, and was without doubt, one of the best conventions yet. We extend unlimited thanks to Pres. Henry Plummer, David and Cathrine Yarn, Bob and Chris Jones and the fine group of members and friends who worked so hard toward the success.

On Dec. 3, a hopeful group gathered at the pooling and banding of the race birds, which due to excellent training and care by the handlers, were in perfect condition for the 200m race on Friday, Dec. 4. Sadly, a cold front with a 20 knot head wind and miserable conditions doomed the success of the race, which was not unexpected with young birds so late in the year.

On Friday evening the SRPA Officers and Directors met for the annual meeting, and after much discussion, the matters of interest are as follows:

The Mint Hill RPC will host the SRPA Convention Show a month earlier since several SRPA members plan to attend the AU Convention in Phoenix, AZ., on Dec. 6-11, 1988.

Officers were re-elected as follows: President Henry Plummer; Sec.-Treas., David Yarn; Show Sec. Bob Jones; Race Sec. Joel Yarn; Pub. Dir. Edna Scifres.

The SRPA Old Bird race series will be flown by SRPA members with 1988 dues paid. There was much discussion on lack of participation in the YB series, and it was agreed to

given our Belleville RPC, and our American Pigeon Fanciers' Council. For the past five years the BRPC has not had a publicity person, so again, many thanks". The BRPC and the APFC offer the finest hospitality in St. Louis, Mo., at the AU mid-year meeting, and we are most appreciative. Thank you!

Ed Schmidt - Past AU President, writes, "It was an honor to be selected as AU Man of the Year for 1987. Norma is coming along after some health problems - I am fine and busy as ever, have a great 1988!" We trust that all will have a happy and healthy New Year, and to make it better, join the ARP Union if you have not done so! Five members (lofts) can apply for an AU Charter - write AU National Sec., Russ Burns, P.O. Box 2713, S. Hamilton, MA 01982. Stay warm and happy!D

cancel the series for 1988. Clubs will be advised through their Directors.

SRPA bands for 1988 are available at \$1.00 each for Unflown birds in show classes. The SRPA will offer individual membership to interested fanciers for \$3.00 annually, which will enable him/her to purchase SRPA 1988 bands. Contact David Yarn, SRPA Sec., 6801 Barrington Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28215.

There will be much more on the plans for 1988, and we look forward to a good year.

Meanwhile, everyone had a great time at the show! There were 300 beautiful birds from five southern states, capably judged by SRPA Judges Louis Hoppmann, Gary Meisner, (Your writer who was scheduled to serve but was under the weather with some Texas virus - sorry about that).

A special thanks went to Cathrine and David Yarn who set up and provided a delicious lunch of goodies and home cooking for everyone attending the convention! This is typical of the hospitality extended by all the Mint Hill race handlers too, during the loft visits.

Some beautiful birds were auctioned, including those donated by Jim McMahon of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and eager fanciers quickly snapped them up. Lots of handsome raffle and door prizes went home with happy winners, especially coveted were 10 new stainless steel pigeon carriers donated by David Yarn.

(Continued On Next Page)

Among the winners were Buddy Wells, Judi Justice, Dr. Jim White, Edna Scifres, John Rengel's and Frank Zeidler.

Far travelers enjoying the show were Chris and Linda Riley, currently with Arabian Helicopters Ltd., in Saudi Arabia where Chris reigns as Manager of Marketing. The Rileys will be Charleston, S.c. residents upon retirement in 1988, more nice pigeon friends to enjoy.

SRPA race winners were announced as follows:

1987 SRPA Young Bird Series - Joe Engel SRPA banded - Don Chambers, Atomic City, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Open 200m. - Don Chambers; Open 300m - Clyde Dorn, GA - Carolina, Augusta. GA.

Special Awards were presented as follows: SRPA Judges Certificate to Gary Meisner of Marietta, S.c., who earlier in the year qualified for this honor. Gary is a member of the Piedmont HPC of Greenville, S.c. and Secretary of the Carolina Pigeon Club.

SRPA Celiificates of Appreciation to Joe Yarn and Larry Morton of Charlotte. N.C.. who with Chris Jones, set up the show, kept the records, and served as handlers. Our younger SRPA members are a credit to the organization and the sport.

While complete results will follow, we congratulate Jerry Queen for his 9 trophies for Best of Color Birds Young and Old. Best Opposite Sex and other awards to Tommie Justice, also of Waynesville, N.C. and Champion Color Bird and awards to Ken Martin, Jackson, Tenn. An interesting note. Ken's lovely BC Old Hen was much admired when her photo was used in the AU Ad in the "Bird Talk" magazine Ad. A reader from Australia was among them! Congrats to all!

In the Flown classes. Bobby

Harmon was the big winner, with awards also to Dr. Jim White, David Scott and Wetzel Davis, SRPA banded Unflown to Jerry Queen, Flown to Bobby Harmon.

To all who supported the SRPA show. including the fine group from Chattanooga. Buck Farley, Bob Pal-

mer and Bobby and Robeli Harmon - those whose entries were in the Convention race, and particularly, the dedicated officers and members of the Mint Hill RPC who made it all possible. Many thanks to all, and we'll see you in 1988! 0

Sports Talk

From Around The Racing Pigeon World

by TOM SMITH, Yaphank, N.Y.

GERARD - MICHEL VANHEE
Wervik, Belgium
1st National Long Distance
Champions of Belgium 1986 KDBD
And Winner of 17 First
National Races

Once again the name of Vanhee comes to the forefront in the "mecca" of our beloved pigeon sport. In 1985 G&M Vanhee won the coveted 1st National General Championship of Belgium YBs and OB's KDBO. now one year later they win the most coveted jewel of the national race season: 1st National Long Distance Championship of Belgium KDBD 1986! In two successive years they have dominated the official National Championships competing against all the Belgian greats such as Vereeke. Norman. Roosens, Imbrechts, Vanbruaene, Decroix. Denys. Desmet-Matthys, etc.

G&M Vanhee have won 17 First National races, second only in the history of the sport to the fabled Cattrysse Bros., who flew after WWII. And the Vanhees have also won two 1st Internationals. As for official National Championships of the KDBO, Belgian Federation. they have won more than anyone else in the history of the sport: twice 1st National General Champions, OBs and YBs; and four times 1st National

Long Distance Champions! And it should have been five times 1st but their entry form was lost in the mail one year! No one else has won more than twice. And the Vanhees have won every other major title including 1st National Marathon, 1st Decathlon National Championship. 1st National Super Prestige, 1st Best Loft in Belgium, 1st Criterium of the ACES, 1st International Champion, 1st Champion Entente BeIge, 1st Champion Long Distance Prominenten. 1st Champion West Flanders and Interprovincial. etc.. etc. No loft in the history of the Belgian sport has such a record.

Let's take a look at their list of National and International winners since the end of WWII:

1949 - 1st National Chateauroux, 731 birds, with a Blue Hen, B.48.3150447, The Goede Yearling, she was a bad trapper but won 7 firsts in 11 races as a yearling.

1958 - 1st National Vannes, 1516 birds, with a Red Cock, B.56.3032050. The Rode Vannes, he also won 1st Provincial Cognac.

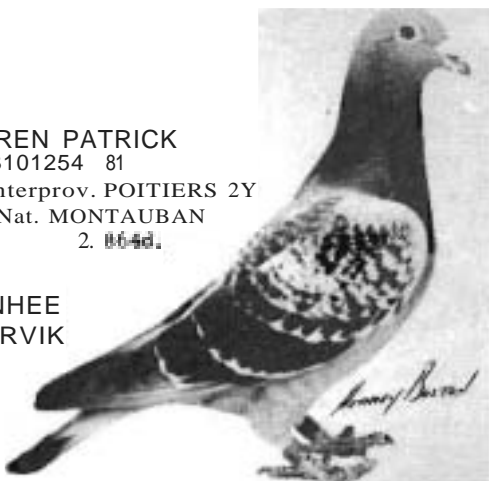
1959 - 1st National Argenton, 890 birds with a Blue Cock, B.55.3048071, The Kleinen. also 2nd price Ace Pigeon of Sport, Olympiad Essen 1961.

1962 - 1st National Limoges, 2813

YZEREN PATRICK
3101254 81

1983. 64th Interprov. POITIERS 2Y
1984. 114th Nat. MONTAUBAN
2. 004d.

G. & M. VANHEE
8670 WERVIK



JONGE WORKMAN
3103243 85

1984. 56th Nat. LIMOGES 10, 797d.
1985. 4th WK POITIERS
1st rag. POITIERS

G. & M. VANHEE
8670 WERVIK



Two of Vanhees ace pigeons. - Photos from Tom Smith, Yaphank, N. Y.

birds, with a Blue Cock. B.59.3002042. The Atoom. 1st National Libourne. 728 birds. with a Blue Cock. B.58.3300065. The Monsieur.

1969 - 1st National Montauban Entente Biege. 1148 birds. with a B. Cheq Cock. B.65.3100252. Argenton.

1971 - 1st National Barcelone, 2143 birds, with a Blue Cock, B.67.3100081, The Jonge Monsieur.

1972 - 1st National Limoges, yearlings. 5697 birds, with a B. Cheq Cock, B.71.3101142. The Dromer. 2nd National Limoges. yearlings, 5697 birds with a D. Cheq Cock. B.71.3101485, The Jonge Zwarte Jizeren.

1974 - 1st National Barcelona. 5901 birds with a B. Cheq Cock, S.70.3110138. Teentje. 1st National Bordeaux hens, with a B. Cheq Hen, B.72.3102179. The Bourdeautje.

1975 - 1st National Bordeaux. 522 birds, with a Black Cheq Cock, B.71.3101772, The Zwarten Jizeren. 2nd National Bordeaux, 522 birds, with a Red Cock. B.73.3103094. The Rode Motta. 1st National Montauban hens, with a Blue Hen. B.73.3103019. Ginetje.

1976 - 1st National Bordeaux Yearlings. with a B. Cheq Cock, B.75.3105249, Apache. 2nd National Bordeaux Yearlings, with a B. Cheq Cock. B.75.3105173. Aero!.

National Bordeaux Yearlings, with a B. Cheq Cock, B.75.3105017, Atlas.

1977 - 1st National Cahors hens, with a B. Cheq Hen. B.74.3104313. Lucretsetje.

1978 - 1st International Narbonne, 1894 birds. 1st National Narbonne, 1284 birds with a B. Cheq Cock, B.74.3104180, Napoleon.

1982 - 1st National St. Vincent, 5306 birds. with a Blue Cock, B.79.3109281, Workman-Liborune.

1983 - 1st International Lourdes 3423 birds. 1st National Lourdes 2979 birds with Blue WF Cock, 80B3110165 "De Lourdes".

I have known the Vanhee family since 1982 and have visited them often. in fact living with Gerard Vanhee for two weeks in 1974. During those times I have studied the Vanhee methods, asking questions at every opportunity. A few basic points are clearly evident: Everything is done precisely and punctually. Nothing is left to chance. Nothing is too much trouble for the birds. Only the best feed and health products (Vanhee products) are used. The lofts are thoroughly cleaned every day. The lofts are old brick buildings but the environment is perfect; plenty of sunlight and air. There is no over-crowding. In the breeding loft there are metal gradings over the floor so all

droppings and excess feed fall through. Water is always clean and fresh. There are no drafts nor is there any dampness in any of the lofts. Only the healthy survive; no weaklings are allowed to live. Breeding is done in "lines" and "out crossing". The lines are the well known prepotent Vanhee blood-lines usually based on a particular Vanhee champion racer such as ..Motta", "Patrick", "Atoom", "Napoleon", "Monsieur", etc. If we go far. far back to the 1940's and 1950's, their background is Vanderespt and Sion, Janssen and Stichelbaut. The crossings of these lines and others. produced super offspring. Onto the progeny of their great racers Gerard and Michel cross sons and daughters, sisters and brothers of great Champion racers outside their loft such as Laflere's 2x1st National winning cock "DeBrive", Egon Sutor's 1st German National. 1st International Barcelona, Decroix Bros. 1st National Ist International. etc.

Sometimes ace pigeons are bought while at other times an exchange is made with a Champion flier. In recent years an exchange or loan of breeders has taken place between the late. great Julian Matthys and

(Continued On Next Page)



Gerard and Michael Vanhee (right and left) of Weruik, Belgium, National Champions of Belgium two years in a row, 1985 and 1986, holding two of their ace pigeons in front of the hens' aviary. - Photo/rom Tom Smith, Yaphank, N. Y.

Vanhee. Desmet-Matthys, and Decroix Brothers. Usually outstanding hens are exchanged for one breeding season.

I could go on and on but let's see what Gerard and Michel Vanhee have to say about what they like in the visible qualities of racing pigeons they select and own. I have stood in the Vanhee lofts with Michel Vanhee as he showed me the qualities of such champions' as Workman! Libourne, 1st National St. Vincent 550 miles. "Lourdes" 1st International Lourdes 520m, and "Napoleon" 1st International Narbonne 530 miles. I have selected birds for my own breeding loft with his help. The bloodline must be impeccable, full of National and International winners, but what of the "visible good qualities of a racing pigeon"? Here are Gerard and Michel Vanhee's own words:

"To ascertain the visible good qualities of a racing pigeon it is necessary to handle the bird and examine its physique, we have examined the hundreds of birds each year, many top fanciers bring their birds to him for this appraisal, the physical health of the bird is most important and if this is missing then there is no future for the bird and it should be eliminated.

The Physique

"The head of the bird should be of average size, there are none with small or large heads at Wervik, having large heads or small heads is very often a characteristic of the strain, the old Catrysse strain tended to have small heads, we favour birds with average size heads.

"The eyes should be very near to the top of the head and as near as possible to the point where the beak is joined. The shape of the head is not that important, a flat head or a round head are of equal importance, again this may be a trait of the strain. The whole of the head should give the impression that it is large enough to house the brain and the eyes and if this is so we believe that it helps in good and fast orientation. The beak of the bird must close completely, when the top and bottom portions do not close, there is something wrong, usually a chest complaint. The feathers on the ears of the pigeon lie very flat when the bird is in good condition, if the small feathers covering the ears tend to stand up, the bird is out of condition and should not be engaged in any training or racing."

When a fancier has been racing extremely well for a number of years, it is usually said that he knows more about pigeons than the average fancier. Gerard Vanhee is

one of the very knowledgeable ones, he has had invitations to visit many countries from friends, who usually require his services for selecting pairs for breeding and the like. He spent three weeks in South Africa and handled hundreds of birds and it came as a great surprise to many that he paid little attention to the eyes of the birds. Many asked him if he was not interested in the colours of the eyes, the reply they got was: "There are many fanciers that think that the eyes must be of a certain colour to be great value as breeder or racer. this is not so as great racers and breeders can have eyes of various colours. My only concern about the eye is that it should be bright and well set in the head and if one draws a line along the joining of the top and lower beaks, the line should also pass through the centre of the eye." Another point about the eye which is thought to be important is the circle under the eye lid - this should be dark grey or pale black. The reconnaissance circle which adjoins the pupil is more visible in some birds than in others, there is very little talk about eye sign or anything connected with the eye at Wervik. the only points observed is that "The eye should be brilliant and two birds with white or grey eyes are never mated together, the eye should be as near to the beak as possible and also as near to the head as possible." These points are taken into consideration regarding the eye but nothing else and birds with eyes as described usually make good breeders.

The Chest

The average type of birds at the Vanhee lofts are those with a body like a pear. a good broad chest, strong back and body which tapers back to the tail, ending with strong vent bones, this type can fly hard against the wind for hours. "A poor pigeon will raise its tail if slight pressure is put on the back, the back is then weak, any such birds are immediately eliminated. When held

lightly but "firmly and if no pressure is applied to the back, the good pigeon will have a slightly lowered tail. This is a sure way to select young birds to go into the breeding loft. weaklings are likely to breed youngsters of the same class."

The throat is very important and is thoroughly examined when Gerard Vanhee takes a bird into the hand, "a healthy pigeon has a nice clean light red throat, the cleft in the roof of the mouth should be clear and open and again healthy, any spots in the mouth or throat should be treated with suspicion, the bird should at all times be able to breathe properly."

"The slit in the top of the mouth is a most important part of the pigeon. It should always be clean and open - only in this way can the bird breathe properly. the colour should be a bright pale red, breathing through the nostrils is quite easy if the cleft is open and if a bird cannot breathe correctly then it can never race to the best of its ability and will never win prizes."

G&M Vanhee are interested in only one thing - winning races or money - and that they do extraordinarily well! 0

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American Racing Pigeon News

*Devoted exclusively to the Sport of Pigeon
Racing. Published by Wayne & Nancy Reinke.*

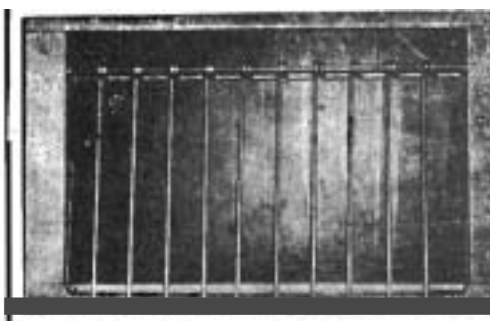
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Correct use of a trap allows you to exercise them daily before feeding. Eliminates roosting on nearby houses or Duldings.

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by DENNIS SIEG,

RFD 1, Box 114, Depauw, Indiana 47115

"ODE TO HOOSIER TOYS
MADE IN THE U.S.A."
(Continued From Dec. 87 APJ)

Act V
To DDT Or Not To DDT
That Is The Question

It was at the Pigeon Express Office
That the message first touched ground
Brought in by, Tooaway Expresser
On his route he was flying round

It seems the Mutant Gene Gang
Held up the Greenwich stagecoach
And from the iron bound strongbox
The Daylight Savings Time was poached.

It said to warn the sheriff
The Mutant Gang was heading his way
Said they're armed and dangerous
Weren't known to fool around or play

Says the holdup was real high tech
As iron box was blowed asunder
By brand new Micro-Gatling scope
Then Daylight Savings Time was plundered

The guard who was riding shotgun
Attempted to save the stage
But by the Micro-Gatling scope
His genes were all rearranged

His DNA arose before his eyes
Mutative genes did sally forth
Bedazzled man joined the Mutant Band
Last seen they were heading north

It was a big payroll shipment
Heading for the Big Ben Mine
To pay the Union Jack membership
For six months hard overtime

The Snickerton Insurance Agency
Had the shipment fully insured
One thousand dollars bounty was offered
For the Daylight Savings Time return

The head of the Mutant Gene Gang
Was none other than Green Horn Gene
His brother rode by his side
The notorious mean Mutant Green

If the gang is seen anywhere
Near Coopstone Territory or Town
Notify the Greenwich Stageline
To send the Snickerton Bloodhounds

Beller go and get the Sheriff
His name is Quiet Burp
On his right side is holstered
A Bunt Line Special Microscope

Sheriff Burp is playing poker
Over at the Long Neck Saloon
Probably with Doc Holle Cropperday
Who coughs like laughing loon

Sheriff the message just came in

The Mutant Gene Gang is on the prowl
They robbed the Greenwich Stage Line
Out at the Changing Horse Corral

Northward bound they rode away
Took with them all the loot
All of the Daylight Savings Time
Payroll for Big Ben's Union troops

The Snickerton Agency Detectives
Want you to look up and down
To see if Coopstone Territory
Is where the mutants hideout is found

Sheriff Burp looked up then down
To full Greenhouse in his hand
It was his turn to fold or bet
Ten Dollars said face poker bland

Yosemite Yellow folded his card's
Said that's too rich for my blood
Greenhorn Gene's a bad hombre
His hand is best to be shunned

Doc Cropperday said I'll see that bet
And raise you another five
Says it's his brother Mean Green
That's worse than a hot hornet hive

Sheriff Burp said I'll call that raise
Tis Full Greenhouse you'll have to beat
Read them and weep said Doc
Them spread out four-of-a-leaf

Sheriff Burp said you lucky cuss
Your raise was of the piker
You filled out three natural eggs
With one wild Fool's Gold Prospector

What do you think of the Mutant Gang
Do you believe they'll fly this way
Or lay low at their hideout in
Attempt to lead the Snickertons astray

Doc Cropperday and Green Horn Gene
Had attended the same university
Doc had studied Ears, Beak and Toes
Gene specialized in science diversity

Doc graduated a licensed veterinarian
With major in avian disease
He was fascinated by fancy pigeons
Unlocked their mysteries with ease

Gene completed as Engineer of Illusion
Wrote master thesis 'The way time flies'
While implications were not fully understood
His thesis disturbed many Oxford minds

Right now our story centers on Doc
Who resides in Coopstone Town
While some might find this hard to believe
In these parts Doc wasn't always found

Doc had went to Chargecard College
The ripest on the Ivy League vine
When it came to teaching King's English
Chargecard graded itself truly divine

At Chargecard you could even learn Latin

A deceased language scientist say
All the world's roads lead to Rome and
Roman Empire is not built in one day

Doc even studied Newton's Theory
The way reaction to action's waves fled
Newton expounded the English Sterling pound
After one hit him on top of the head

In the top of the class Doc graduated
Started practice in New Englandtown
He specialized in Messenger Pigeons
By contract to postal system was bound
He treated the Federal Carrier Pigeons
For all sorts of unsavory parasites
To stop the breathing of lice and pigeon flies
Total loft was dusted with DDT insecticides

Act VI
Hit The Ground Running

It was during his prime of life
With laughing cough he was hung
All the medical specialist diagnosed
Doc Cropperday had Pigeon Breeder Lung

Doc traveled all across the country
And talked to every Doctor around
He searched in total desperation
But no cure could be found

He gave up all his fancy pigeons
And barking symptoms did subside
But much to his disappointment
His laughing cough would not totally hide

The last Doctor he did visit
Said go west to seek a cure
Out to the land of Indian Nations
Where the air is still clean and pure

Tis possible the secret of your cough
May be released by Indian medicine man
You'll be able to recognize him
By the Coo-Stock Rattle in his hand

Doc Cropperday sold out his practice
Took the Troy Horse heading west
A love of life rode with him
As if on a sacred Vision Quest

The train crossed Walbash Canyon
Above the Walbash Canyon Falls
Steamed on past the Ohio River
Only at water stops it would pause

He came to the end of the rails
In the middle of Buffalo Grasslands
Bought him a piebald saddle horse
Placed on it the Last Chance brand

Doc asked of the railway crew
Who were still laying westward rails
Do you know of any Indians
Or from which way they might be hailed

The crew foreman stepped forward
Said Sir you must be from back east
This be middle of Buffalo hunting grounds
Indian's are never far from the beasts

Just ride out thru that grassland
Among the Buffalo travel round
If the Indians wish to speak to you
By your laughing cough you'll be found

Doc Cropperday mounted his horse
And out thru the prairie he went

(Continued On Next Page)

He gave his horse loose rein
The better to avoid buffalo chips

It was on morning of third day
In camp by a big water hole
Doc had just brewed a pot of coffee
When inlo camp they rode

Six warriors in hunting garb
Headed by a buffalo lodge medicine man
Buffalo robe on broad shoulders
Coo-Stick rattle in left hand

Doc had spent much money and time
Hoping a medicine man could be found
But he hadn't learned any native tongue
He raised empty hand and said How

The Indians burst out laughing
Chief said you must be an eastern coolie
All the Indians around these parts
Have attended White Man's tutoring

Doc said yes I guess I'm tenderfoot
I come from a far eastern land
I've been searching high and low
For an American Indian Medicine Man

Tenderfoot it seems you've found one
Along with my feathered friends
Perhaps we should have a pow-wow
Here's chicory for a coffee blend

My name is Buffalo Broken Toes
I ride with the Mississippian Tribe
My medicine and rites of manhood
Are by my name fully described

At age fourteen I took Vision Oust
By my vision of manhood was told
Take knife and bring down bull buffalo
And use his hide for my medicine robe

I followed the old tribal customs
Had sweats in Turtle Lodge of Four Winds
Left Tee Pee before rising sun
On Lookout for hoof of bull bison

On midmorning of the second sun
I caught sight of the vision prize
With knife in teeth I jumped the back
Of the biggest bUll bison ever surprised



PINOCHEED

Rare tail color pattern mentioned in
"Ode To Hoosier Toys". - Photo
from Dennis Sieg, Depauw, Ind.



MARTHA TWO

Rare tail color palfern mentioned in
"Ode To Hoosier Toys". - Photo
from Dennis Sieg, Depauw, Ind.

I slit his throat with one fell cut
While hanging tight to shaggy robe
But in the rolling death throes of battle
I managed to break three toes

All of the Tribal Elders agreed
That manhood vision quest dreamed true
In honor of valorous buffalo slain
The Pow-Wow ate buffalo bar-b-que

Enough of my medicine story
It's Buffalo Broken Toes you've found
Is the reason you seek coo-stick magic
Caused by your funny coughing sound

Doc said I seek the coo-stick medicine
Because of my Pigeon Breeders Lung
To see if your magic can cure it
As no White Man's Doctor has yet done

Seems I'm allergic to pigeon feathers
And none of their dust can abide
If they start flappin and flying
My cough wakes from down deep inside

All the medical doctors I've seen
Have diagnosed disease with no cure
Except to give up all my pigeons
And go west where air's clean and pure

While it's true when pigeons were gone
My laughing cough did slowly subside
In future hopes to again breed pigeons
I've searched west for a cure to find

In barter I can pay for my treatment
You see animal toes are my specialty
It's possible to straighten a pigeon toed walk
I'm an ears, beak and toe veterinary

(to be continued next month)

The following is from "Smithsonian
Report, 1911.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

Accounts by Peter Kalm (1759) and
John James Audubon (1831)

(The former habitat of the passenger
pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) as
given by the American Ornithologists'
Union check list (third edition, 1910) is
as follows:

"Bred formerly from middle western
Mackenzie, central Keewatin, central
Quebec, and Nova Scotia south to
Kansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and
New York; wintered principally from
Arkansas and North Carolina south to
central Texas, Louisiana and Florida;
casual in Cuba, eastern Mexico and
Nevada; now probably extinct."

There is one living bird left. This is
in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens.

The causes of the extermination of
this pigeon are chieny the greed of
civilized man. The destruction of
forests within its range greatly reduced
its natural food supply, and the killing
(by netting, shooting, clubbing, etc.)
of enormous quantities in the end
produced the same effect as with the
bison. When these pigeons were still
numerous great numbers were used in
trap shooting.

In a wild state the pigeon became ex-
tinct about the year 1900-possibly a
few lingered after that date, yet Mer-
shonI estimates (p. 92) that a total of
1,000,000,000 were killed in the
Michigan "nesting" of 1878.)

I.-A DESCRIPTION OF THE
WILD PIGEONS WHICH VISIT
THE SOUTHERN ENGLISH
COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA,
DURING CERTAIN YEARS, IN IN-
CREDIBLE MULTITUDES.

by Peter Kalm (1759)2

In North America there is a species
of wild pigeons³ which, coming from
the upper part of the country, visits
Pennsylvania and others of the
southern English settlements during
some years, and in marvelous
multitudes.

They have, however, already been de-
scribed and exceedingly well illus-
trated in lively colors by the two great
ornithologists and matchless masters
of bird drawing, Catesby and Edwards;
but as I have had occasion to notice



LOW PLAINS DRIFTER

Rare tail color pa(ern mentioned in
"Ode To Housier Toys". - Photo
from Dennis Sieg, Depauw, Ind.

with regard to the description proper and especially as regards the living habits of these pigeons various things which these gentlemen have either left entirely unmentioned, or which at their places of residence they have not been able properly to ascertain, it is my desire to deliver a short account of this subject before the Royal Academy of Sciences, using the notes from my American diary.

Although these pigeons have been splendidly illustrated by ornithologists, they have not been able to reproduce their beautiful colors in true accordance with nature, in one respect, at least; the color indicated on either side of the neck should extend much higher up. (Technical descriptions follow in Latin and are here omitted.)

The size of these pigeons is about that of a ringdove.

Their long tail distinguishes them from other pigeons.

The splendid color which the male and the female have on the sides of the neck and even a little beyond it is also peculiar in that the feathers in that region are as if covered with a finely resplendent copper (color), with a purple tint, which back of the neck shifts more into green, particularly with reference to its position toward the light. Rarely is this color more finely reproduced than in this bird. Mr. Catesby calls it a golden color, but it can hardly be termed that.

In the copy of Mr. Catesby's work which I have seen both the head and the back are of a darker color, and the breast is also of a redder color than the bird actually has. This I could very well see when I laid a recently killed male beside Mr. Catesby's figure, as it is the male which is reproduced in his work. Mr. Edward (sic) has entirely omitted the above-mentioned copper color both in his description and his figure. It may be that some of the young ones do not have it; but it was found on all those which I have handled and which were killed in the spring⁴.

Quite a number of these pigeons may be seen every summer in the woods of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the adjoining provinces, in which region they live and nest; and it is very seldom that a greater number of them are not observed there in the spring, during the months of February and March, than in the other seasons of the year. But there are certain years when they come to Pennsylvania and the southern English provinces in such indescribable multitudes as literally to appall the people. I did not, however, have the opportunity of witnessing such personally (although the spring of the year 1749, when I was there, was considered as one of those in which a greater number of these pigeons appeared than had been the case for some

years previously; yet it was not one of the particular or more unusual ones); but all persons who had observed these happenings and lived long enough to remember several of them recited several incidents connected therewith. Some had even made short notes of various details, of which I will cite the following:

In the spring of 1740, on the 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 22d of March (old style), but more especially on the 11th, there came from the north an incredible multitude of these pigeons to Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Their number, while in flight; extended 3 or 4 English miles in length, and more than 1 such mile in breadth, and they flew so closely together that the sky and the sun were obscured by them, the daylight becoming sensibly diminished by their shadow.

The big as well as the little trees in the woods, sometimes covering a distance of 7 English miles, became so filled with them that hardly a twig or a branch could be seen which they did not cover; on the thicker branches they had piled themselves up on one another's backs, quite about a yard high.

When they alighted on the trees their weight was so heavy that not only big limbs and branches of the size of a man's thigh were broken straight off, but less firmly rooted trees broke down completely under the load.

The ground below the trees where they had spent the night was entirely covered with their dung, which lay in great heaps.

As soon as they had devoured the acorns and other seeds which served them as food and which generally lasted only for a day, they moved away to another place.

The Swedes and others not only killed a great number with shotguns, but they also slew a great quantity with sticks, without any particular difficulty; especially at night they could have dispatched as many as their strength would have enabled them to accomplish, as the pigeons then made such a noise in the trees that they could not hear whether anything dangerous

to them was going on, or whether there were people about. Several of the old men assured me that in the darkness they did not dare to walk beneath the trees where the pigeons were, because all through the night, owing to their numbers and corresponding weight, one thick and heavy branch after another broke asunder and fell down, and this could easily have injured a human being that had ventured below.

About a week or a little later subsequent to the disappearance of this enormous multitude of pigeons from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, a sea captain by the name of Amies, who had just arrived at Philadelphia, and after him several other seafaring men, stated that they had found localities out at sea where the water, to an extent of over 3 French miles, was entirely covered by dead pigeons of this species. It was conjectured that the pigeons, whether owing to a storm, mist, or snowfall, had been carried away to the sea, and then on account of the darkness of the following night or from fatigue had alighted on the water and in that place and manner met their fate. It is said that from that date no such tremendous numbers of this species of pigeons have been seen in Pennsylvania.

In the beginning of the month of February, about the year 1729, according to the stories told by older men, an equally countless multitude of these pigeons as the one just mentioned, if not a still larger number, arrived in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Even extremely aged men stated that on three, four, five or several more occasions in their lifetime they had seen such overwhelming multitudes in these places; and even the parents of these people had in their turn told them that the same phenomenon had occurred several times during their own lives; so that 11, 12 or sometimes more years elapsed between each such unusual visit of pigeons.

From Lawson's History of Carolina (p. 141), I see that in the winter of 1707, which was the severest known in

(Continued On Next Page)

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Carolina since it was settled by Europeans, an equally awe-inspiring number of these pigeons had made an appearance in Carolina and the other southern English settlements, driven thither by causes which I will now mention.

The learned and observant Dr. Colden told me that during his stay in North America, where he had been since the year 1710, at his country place, Coldingham, situated between New York and Albany, he had on two distinct occasions, although at an interval of several years, witnessed the arrival of these pigeons in such great and unusual numbers that during two or three hours, while they flew by his house, the sky was obscured by them, and that they presented the appearance of a thick cloud.

All the old people were of the opinion that the months of February and March is the single season of the year when the pigeons swoop down upon Pennsylvania and the adjacent English provinces in such marvelous quantities; at other seasons of the year they are not to be seen in any great numbers.

The cause of their migrations from the upper part of the country in such great quantities at this season is twofold—first, when there is a failure of the crop of acorns and other fruit in the places where they otherwise generally spend the winter, thus rendering their supply of food insufficient to last until the ensuing summer; and, second, and chiefly, when an unusually severe winter with abundant and long-remaining snow happens to occur in their customary winter haunts, thus covering the ground and making it impossible for them to secure the acorns, beechnuts and other fruit and seeds on which they otherwise feed at this season; in such cases they are forced to leave these localities and seek their food down along the seacoast, where the winters, owing to the sea air, are always milder, and the ground more and earlier free from snow. Experience has shown that both of these circumstances have caused their migrations to take place in such great multitudes.

A peculiar fact, and one which older persons have unanimously maintained to be true, is that on all occasions which they could remember, when the pigeons appeared in such great numbers, there had always been during the preceding autumn, in Pennsylvania and adjacent localities, an abundant crop of acorns and other arboreal seeds, excelling that of several previous years; but during their stay the pigeons had so carefully searched and ransacked all possible nooks and corners that after their departure it was almost impossible to find a single acorn in the woods.

Several extremely aged men also declared that during their childhood there were, in summertime, many more of the pigeons in New Sweden than there are now; the cause of this is that the country is at present much more populous and cultivated and the woods more cleared off, and as a result the pigeons have either been killed off or scared away.

As nearly all the inhabitants of Pennsylvania and the English settlements in the South did not quite know whence these numberless swarms of pigeons came from, they entreated me to ascertain, during my journeys in the interior of the country, where so many were to be found in summertime, what their food and other economic requirements were at that time of the year, and so on. During my journey to and within Canada I found the desired occasion of learning all of this, which I will now briefly relate.

When toward the end of June, 1749 (new style), I had left the English colonies and set out for Canada through the wilderness which separates the English and French colonies from each other, and which to a great extent consists of thick and lofty forests, I had an opportunity of seeing these pigeons in countless numbers. Their young had at this time left their nests, and their great numbers darkened the sky when they occasionally rose en masse from the trees into the air. In some places the trees were full of their nests. The Frenchmen whom we met in this place had shot a great number of them, and of this they gave us a goodly share. These pigeons kept up a noisy murmuring and cooing sound all night, during which time the trees were full of them, and it was difficult to obtain peaceful sleep on account of their continuous noise. (In this wilderness we could hear in the nighttime, during the calmest weather, big trees collapsing in the forests, which, during the silence of the night, caused tremendous reports; this might in all probability be ascribed to the pigeons, which, according to their custom, had loaded a tree down with their numbers to such an extent that it broke down; although other causes might also be found, whereof more is mentioned in the third volume of my American Journey. The additional observations which I had occasion to make as to their economy and manner of life during my stay in North America, both in Canada, the wilderness of the English colonies, and in the land of the savages, are as follows:

The birds spend the entire summer in Canada, and particularly do they nest in the vast wild forests and wastes which abound there, where no men are to be found and where seldom any human being ventures. When in sum-

mer a person travels through these forests he might easily become terrified by the enormous number of these birds which in some places almost entirely cover the branches of the trees, and when taking wing obscure the sky. These pigeons have, however, their distinct boundaries, outside of which they do not often venture; as, for example, somewhat south of Bay St. Paul, which is 20 French miles north of Quebec, not very many of them nest in the woods; and the cause of this is said to be that the oak and the beech tree, which supply them with their principal food, are here arrested in their growth, and grow no farther north.

In forests where there are human settlements, or where the country is inhabited, only a few are to be seen; and as the land is being gradually cultivated by man the pigeons move farther away into the wilderness. It is maintained that the cause of this is partly that their nests and young are disturbed by boys, partly their own sense of a lack of safety, and finally that during a great part of the year this food is shared by the swine.

They build their nests in high trees, pine trees as well as deciduous ones; often as many as 40 or 50 nests are to be found in the same tree.

Some maintain that they raise two broods of young every summer.

In places where they nest in abundance the ground is often covered with their droppings to a thickness of 1 to 2 feet.

While these birds are hatching their young, or while the latter are not yet able to fly, the savages or Indians in North America are in the habit of never shooting or killing them, nor of allowing others to do so, pretending that it would be a great pity on their young, which would in that case have to starve to death. Some of the Frenchmen told me that they had set out with the intention of shooting some of them at that season of the year, but that the savages had at first with kindness endeavored to dissuade them from such a purpose, and later added threats to their entreaties when the latter were of no avail.

(In Canada it is almost everywhere the custom for young farm hands and boys to investigate where the pigeons have their nests and as soon as the young are able to fly they are taken from the nest and brought to the farm, where they are afterwards kept in suitable quarters and industriously fed, whereupon they are killed and eaten. To make doubly sure that they do not escape, one of their wings is generally cut short, so that even in case they do get out they cannot fly away. Such nestlings have a good appetite, thrive comfortably, become quite tame, and within a short time, if well taken care

of, accumulate so much fat that they afford "a most palatable dish.

For food these pigeons select the following fruits, which I will name in the order that they mature:

Seeds of the red-towered maple (*Acer*); these mature in Pennsylvania at the end of May, but somewhat later farther north.

Seeds of the American elm (*Ulmus americana*); these mature in Pennsylvania in the beginning or middle of June, but farther north somewhat later. When on our journey through the wilds between Albany and Canada we cut up some of the pigeons which the French had shot and given us, their crops were generally found to be full of elm seeds.

Mulberries, which ripen in Pennsylvania in the beginning of June (new style), are relished by these pigeons almost above everything else. During my stay in the last-mentioned locality, in 1750, I noticed that as soon as the mulberries became ripe the pigeons put in their appearance in great numbers. Wherever a mulberry tree grew wild it was at this time generally fully of pigeons, which devoured the berries. They often caused me much vexation, because if I had located a mulberry tree in the woods with the intention of securing seeds when the berries became ripe and it should happen that I did not watch out for the proper time, the pigeons had generally, in the meanwhile, been so industrious in their picking that on my arrival scarcely a single berry was left. If some of them were shot the others generally flew away a little distance, but returned within a few minutes to the same mulberry tree; so that a person who owned such trees found no difficulty to obtain daily a sufficient quantity of choice meat as long as the mulberries lasted.

They consume all kinds of grain with the single exception of corn, which is left untouched by them, although it has other enemies. I noticed that they were particularly fond of the following kinds of grain:

They ate rye, although not with particular avidity, but rather as if in the absence of something else more palatable. Some persons assured me that they had seen with their own eyes how these pigeons, during summer time, when they had come to a ripe wheat field, alighted on the fences, vomited up the rye on which they had previously feasted, and then swooped down upon the wheat field, where they gorged their crops with wheat, as being more appetizing.

Wheat is one of their most coveted foods, which may be seen from what has already been stated, as well as from many another experience. As soon as the wheat fields become ripe they swoop down

on them in enormous numbers and take considerable toll of them. When the wheat is stacked up in the field they also visit it and devour all too much of it, if they should happen to be in the least hungry. In the fall, when the wheat is recently sown, they alight in full force in the fields and not only pick up the grains which are more or less in broad daylight but also poke up those which the plow has not sunk sufficiently deep. In order to prevent such a damage boys as well as others are seen at this season of the year running around armed with guns and other "contraptions" to kill or scare them away. On such occasions, however, they are not in general particularly timid, especially the young ones, so that when a few of them have been shot at a stack the others oftentimes fly away only a short distance to another stack, and hence the gunner, albeit he has made some lucky shots, generally becomes exhausted before the birds become scared. In Pennsylvania this species of grain, as well as the rye, commonly ripens about midsummer (old style) and sometimes earlier, but farther north it ripens later.

Buckwheat they are also very fond of, and levy considerable tribute on it. The buckwheat matures in Pennsylvania in the middle of September (old style).

The berries of the tupelo or sour-gum tree (*Nyssa*) they also consume with great avidity. In Pennsylvania these ripen in September. This tree does not grow in Canada.

Most forests in North America consist of oak, of which arboreal genus there are several species; of these the greater part have nearly every year a great number of acorns which in the autumn fall off in such quantities that quite often the ground below the oaks is covered by them one hand high and sometimes more. These serve as food for several kinds of animals and birds, as, for instance, squirrels of several species, forest mice, wild pigeons, etc., in addition to which, in places inhabited by Europeans, they serve as the staple food of hogs during the greater part of the year. During certain

years the numberless swarms of wild pigeons already described come to Pennsylvania and the other English provinces in search of these acorns. In Pennsylvania and other localities in North America the acorns mature in September and the following months.

They are also very fond of beechnuts. There is a great abundance of beech trees in Canada, but farther south they grow somewhat more sparsely. In Canada the nuts become ripe in the middle of September. These, together with acorns, constitute the principal food of the pigeons during the entire latter part of the fall and throughout the winter.

In addition to the kinds already enumerated, they also consume various other seeds and berries of trees and plants which grow in this country.

The trees above referred to, the seeds and berries of which the pigeons are so fond of, grow in the forests of North America nearly everywhere in great abundance. In a good many places, especially farther inland, oaks, elms, beeches, and the red-flowered maple constitute almost alone, with the addition of the walnut tree, the entire forest tract. Thus it will be seen how the all-wise Creator, even in the case of these birds, has so wisely adapted the size of the food supply to the number of mouths to be fed.

I have also observed that the pigeons have a special fondness for the kind of soil which is much mixed with common salt (alkaline deposits); this soil serves them as food, as a spice to blend with the food, or for its medical properties, I do not know which. At the salt springs of Onondago (sic), in the tribe of the Iroquois Indians, where the soil is strongly mixed with salt that the ground during a severe drought becomes entirely covered with it and as white as frost, making it impossible for plants to grow, I noticed with astonishment, in the month of August, 1750, how covetous the pigeons were of this kind of soil. The savages in Onondago had built their huts on the sides of this salt field and here they had

(Continued On Next Page)

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erected sloping nets with a cord attachment leading to the huts where they were sitting; when the pigeons arrived in swarms to eat of this salty soil, the savages pulled the cords, inclosing them in the net, and thus at once secured the entire nock. At certain times, when they came in such numbers that the ground could hardly be seen for them, the savages found it more advisable to use a gun, as by a single discharge of birdshot they could sometimes kill as many as 50 or more; and this proved a splendid source of food supply.

These wild pigeons fly in the same manner as other pigeons; and as soon as they have alighted in a tree or other place they have a habit of making a clapping sound with their wings which, according to some, is a signal for all the others to alight. At times, and when they have had sufficient food, they are quite timid, especially the old birds. Therefore, when one wishes to shoot them it is best to walk to and fro among them, on the ground, as if one did not see them; then they are not so timid, nor do they take wing so soon.

In the vast forests of Canada they remain to the end of August or beginning of September (new style); i.e., until the grain has been stored for the winter. A great number, however, remain until late in the autumn, when the first snow begins to fall, which finally drives them all away. As their food mostly consists of acorns, beechnuts and the seeds and fruits of other trees which become hidden under the snow, they are obliged to leave these places and betake themselves farther south, where the ground is bare all winter. Not one of them remains in Canada throughout the winter; but they generally spend this season in the vast forests of the Illinois, who live at about the same latitude as Pennsylvania and Virginia. They do not willingly migrate toward the seaboard, where the country has been extensively cultivated by the English, and the forests are much cut down; partly because they can not there secure a sufficient food supply, and partly to avoid running the risk of getting killed by the number of people and gunners in that section. They prefer the vast and dense forests in the interior of the country, where there are no human habitations for many miles around. But should it happen during a certain year that there is a failure of the crop of acorns or other food suitable for them, or an unusually severe winter with great snowfall sets in, which to some extent covers the ground, then they are forced to leave their usual winter quarters and seek their way to the English settlements down the seaboard. It is on these occasions that they swarm into Pennsylvania in such enormous numbers;

but as soon as the weather changes a little and becomes milder, they again retire farther inland. Here they remain until the last snow disappears in the spring.

As the snow gradually melts away in the spring the pigeons migrate farther and farther north and when northern Canada is free from snow, which generally occurs toward the end of April or the beginning of May, the pigeons arrive in their old haunts and commence their mating, nesting, hatching of eggs and the rearing of their young, etc.

The French in Canada, who annually catch a number of young pigeons alive which they thereafter rear at their homes, have taken much pains to tame these birds, although with but little success. It is very easy, when they are kept in suitable quarters, to make them so tame as to feed from one's hands, in the manner of any other domesticated pigeon; but as soon as they are let out into the open hardly a few days pass before they fly away to the woods, nevermore to return. It was, however, emphatically asserted that some had succeeded in taming them to the same extent as the domesticated pigeons.

As they fly in great nocks and keep close together, whether on the wing, on the ground, or in the trees, so poor a marksman as to fail to make a hit is difficult to find. Several persons told me that a man who lived at Schenectady, between Albany and Col. Johnson's farm, had killed 150 of these birds with two discharges of birdshot, and in Canada there are said to have been several cases where 130 had been killed in a single shot.

Their flesh is a delight to the epicure and especially is the meat of the young pigeons scarcely second in delicacy to that of any other bird.

The great French Admiral Marquis de la Galissoniere, who in deep knowledge of various sciences, but especially in natural history and its advancement, has had or has very few equals, and who at the time of my arrival in Canada occupied the office of Governor General of that country, told me that he had once brought with him several of these pigeons from Canada to France, and that he had allowed them to escape in the French forests. At this time he had again collected a great number of live birds which in the fall of 1749, he brought with him to France inclosed in large cages, in order to set them free in the woods upon his safe arrival there, with the intention of introducing this handsome as well as useful American bird into Europe.

In addition to the authors referred to above, the following learned men have also mentioned something in their

writings concerning these pigeons; P. de Charlevoix, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, vol. 5, pp. 251-252; Salmon's *Modern History*, vol. 3, p. 440; Williams's *Key into the Language of America*, p. 91. Others whose works I have not had the opportunity of seeing may also have mentioned something concerning this subject, but they have at least related nothing of any particular value.

Readers wishing to pursue this subject further should consult W.B. Mer-shon's book, *The Passenger Pigeon*, 1907, New York, from which the colored plate herewith is reproduced.

Translated by S.M. Gronberger from Kong!. *Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar*, for ar 1759, Vol. 20, Stockholm, 1759. Reprinted by permission from *The Auk*, Vol. 28, Jan., 1911.

The names given by ornithologists and others to these pigeons are as follows: *Columba (macroura) caudacunciformi longa, pectore purpurascente*. Linn. Syst. X, T.I, p. 164.

Columba macroura. The long-tailed dove. Edward's *History of Birds*, T.I, p. 15, l. 15.

Palumbus migratorius. The pigeon of passage. Catesby's *Nal. Hist. of Carolina*, Vol. I, p. 23, l. 23.

Dufvor, *Villa Dufvor* (pigeons, wild pigeons), so called by the Swedes in New Sweden.

Pigeons, wild pigeons, by the English in North America.

Tourtes, by the French in Canada.

'Edwards's figure represents a distinct species of another genus, namely, the *Columba (= Zenaidura) macroura*.

(Part 11- next month)



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Organizations



The Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club 31st Annual Long Island Classic

by BARBARA BEER, 2nd VP & Pub. Chm., Lindenhurst, N.Y.

The Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club held its annual open show "The Long Island Classic" on October 31 and November 1, 1987, in the Knights of Columbus Hall on Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, New York. This is our first year in our new show hall and everyone agreed with me that this hall is even superior to our last show hall.

The show actually began on Thursday evening when all the book secretaries got together to start entering the birds in the books, and away we went. On Saturday morning we set up and decorated the show hall. Anticipation now began.

People now started to bring in a wide variety of outstanding pigeons (representing 29 different varieties of pigeons) to coop and await the beginning of the judging. Judging began at 1:00 p.m. and tension mounted.

This year we had a really terrific turnout of Pouters and Croppers (including Norwich Croppers, Reversewing Pouters, Pigmy Pouters and Pomeranian Pouters), especially in the Pigmy Pouter category. Everyone really looked as they passed the judging cages when the pouter/croppers were judged.

The Long Faced Fancy had a terrific exhibit of outstanding quality birds of many varieties as exhibited in the show report to follow.

The Flight exhibit (including both Show Flights and Flying Flights) was, as always, a terrific showing of outstanding quality birds. In my opinion, probably the best in the country.

The LFCL Tumbler exhibit this year was excellent. I believe they are getting more popular again. They had excellent quality birds in Sells, Bars and Baldheads. They are hoping for an even better and bigger showing next year.

The Short Faced Fancy was a little light this year, however, the quality of birds shown was excellent.

I don't want to be remiss and leave out the other outstanding breeds. African Owls, Turbits, Blondinettes, and last but not least the Homers (Show Racers and Non-Flown).

SHOW RESULTS

Long Faced Fancy

Judges: C. Williams, M. Cocchia, T. Casoria.

Best of Breed LFF/Performing Pomeranian Pouter, #9 (Mealy), L & B Beer.

Best of Breed LFF/Non-performing, MF Helmet, #134, T. Patti.

BRONZE TIPLERS: 1. 301, J. Theurer, 2. 1636, J. Theurer, 3. F8, J. Theurer.

ROLLERS: 1. 2788, A Brown, 2. 207, E. Buraczewski, 3. 3896, A.

Brown.

NUN: 1. 222, T. Patti, 2. 221, T. Patti.

POMERANIAN POUTER: 1. 9, Mealy, L & B Beer, 2. 26, Red, L & B Beer, 3. 7, Mealy, L & B Beer.

REVERSEWING POUTER: 1. 7, Red, L & B Beer, 2. 87, Red, L & B Beer, 3. 38, Yellow, L & B Beer.

NORWICH CROPPER, OLD: 1. 63, Blue, L & B Beer, 2. 251, Blue, L & B Beer, 3. 5, Blue, L & B Beer.

NORWICH CROPPER, YOUNG: 1. 406, Blue, B Boltrek, 2. 48, Blue, L & B Beer.

NORWICH CROPPER, OVERALL: 1. 63, L & B Beer, 2. 251, Blue, L & B Beer, 3. 5, Blue, L & B Beer.

PIGMY POUTER, OC: 1. 919, M. Cocchia, 2. 30, M. Cocchia, 3. 131, M. Cocchia.

PIGMY POUTER, OH: 1. 37, M. Cocchia, 2. 109, L & B Beer, 3. 120, M. Cocchia.

PIGMY POUTER, YC: 1. 608, M. Cocchia, 2. 156, H. Kogan, 3. 688, M. Cocchia.

PIGMY POUTER, YH: 1. 666, M. Cocchia, 2. 693, M. Cocchia, 3. 184, H. Kogan.

PIGMY POUTER, OVERALL: 1. 919, M. Cocchia, 2. 30, M. Cocchia, 3. 608, M. Cocchia.

BERNBERG TRUMPETER: 1. 31, Black, L & B Beer, 2. 23, Black, L & B Beer.

DAMASCENE: 1. 160, R. Fariello, 2. 128, R. Fariello, 3. 147, R. Fariello.

RUSSIAN HIGHFLYER: 1. 3890, S. Brown, 2. 3886, S. Brown.

WEST OF ENGLAND: 1. 11, R. Toth, 2. 50, R. Toth, 3. 83, R. Toth.

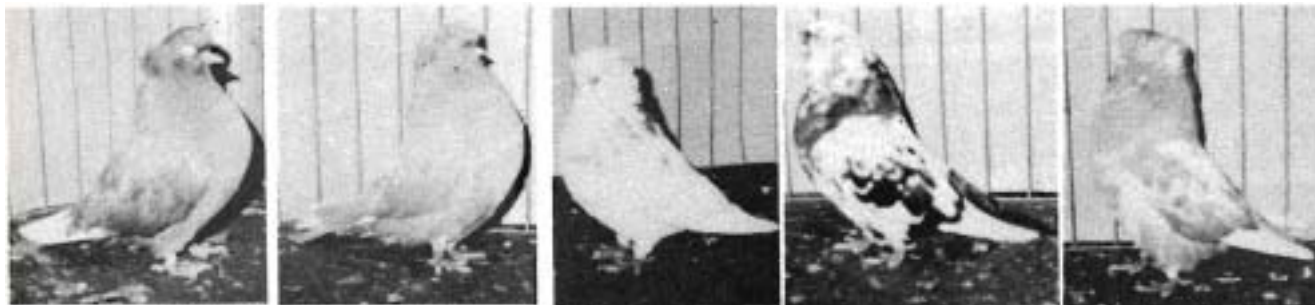
SHORT CLASS PERFORMING: 1. Pomeranian Pouter, #9, L & B Beer.

SHORT CLASS NON-PERFORMING: 1. MF Helmet, 134, T. Patti, 2. Damascene, 160, R. Fariello.

FLYING BH TUMBLERS: 1. 791, White Bar, R. Fariello, 2. 726, Black, R. Fariello, 3. 720, Red, R. Fariello.

Best of Breed Flying Tippler, Grizzle #447, E. Buraczewski.

(Continued On Next Page)



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best Young Cap Show Flight, Best Cap In Show, Best In Show (Show Flights), #106, Bill Freidel; 2nd photo, Best Stock Cap, Old, Show Flight, #356, James Price; 3rd photo, Best Stock Cap, Young, Show Flight, #4368, Paul Rotundo; 4th photo, Best Teager Plainhead, Old, Show Flight, #4333, John Willi; 5th photo, Best Yellow Teager Cap, Young, #147, John Grasso. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.

OLD HEN: 1. 731, Mottle. J. Pace.
2. 153. Grzl.. E. Buraczewski. 3. 150.
Grzl.. E. Buraczewski.

OLD COCK: 1. 447. Grzl., E.
Buraczewski. 2. 413. Grzl.. E. Bura-
czewski. 3. 125. P & C. Cipolla.

YOUNG HEN: 1. 664, Dun, W.
Burke. 2.741. Grzl.. J. Pace. 3. 102,
Grzl.. E. Buraczewski.

YOUNG COCK: 1. 656, Mottle, W.
Burke. 2. 668. Black, W. Burke. 3.
107. Grzl.. E. Buraczewski.

FRILLS

Judge: J. Liska

Best of Breed Frill, Blondinette.

#315. R. Johnson

TURBITS: 1. 207, E. Schmeier. 2.
135. E. Schmeier.

BLONDINETTES: 1. 315, R.
Johnson. 2. 208, R. Johnson. 3. 300,
R. Johnson.

AFRICAN OWLS

Judge: H. Reith

Best of Breed African Owl, Black
#174. J. Izzo.

OLD: 1. 9. Black. H. Kogan. 2.
969. Blue Bar, H. Kogan. 3. 586,
Pied. J. Izzo.

YOUNG: 1. 714, Black, J. Izzo. 2.
708. Pied, J. Izzo. 3. 712, Dun, J.

Izzo.

FLYING FLIGHTS

Judges: J. Weider, J. Pluchino

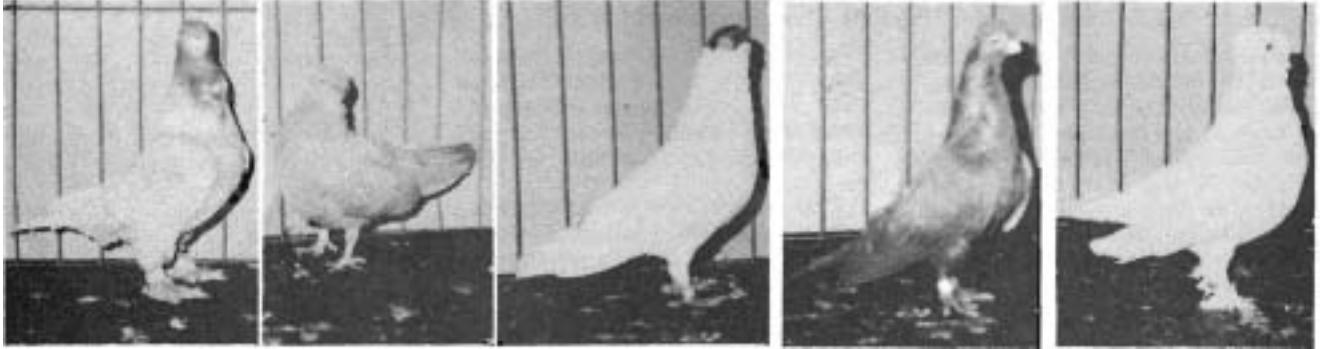
Best of Breed Flying Flight and
Best Tgr. #902, Black, J. Ardito.

SOLID OLD: 1. 3447. Yellow, Bob
Gardell. 2. 2467, G. Rodriguez. 3.
2054. G. Rodriguez.

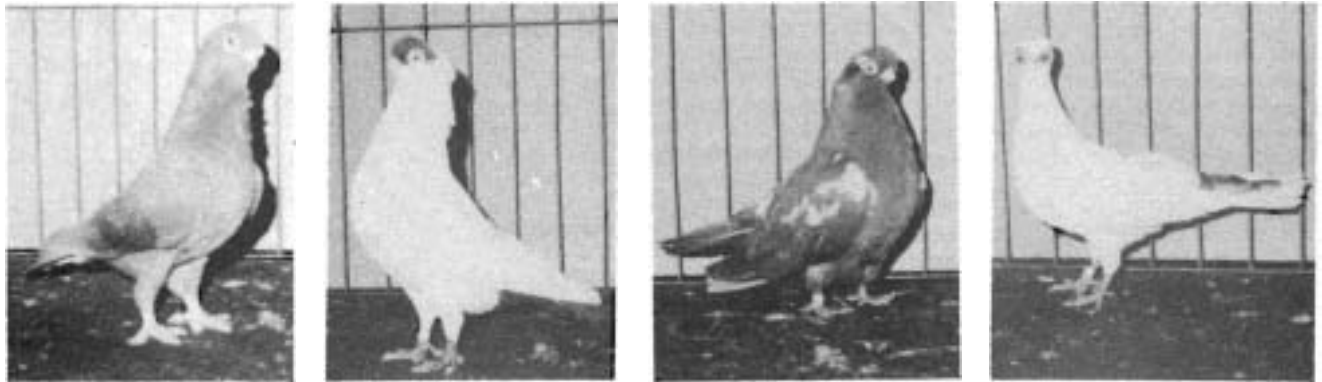
TGR OLD PH: 1. 902, Black. J.
Ardito. 2.. 1864. Black. Bway Bill. 3.
3788, Black, R. White.

BAR OLD: 1. 5399. Blue, R.
Bailin. 2. 1258. Blue, R. Bailin. 3.
3443, Blue. Bob Gardell.

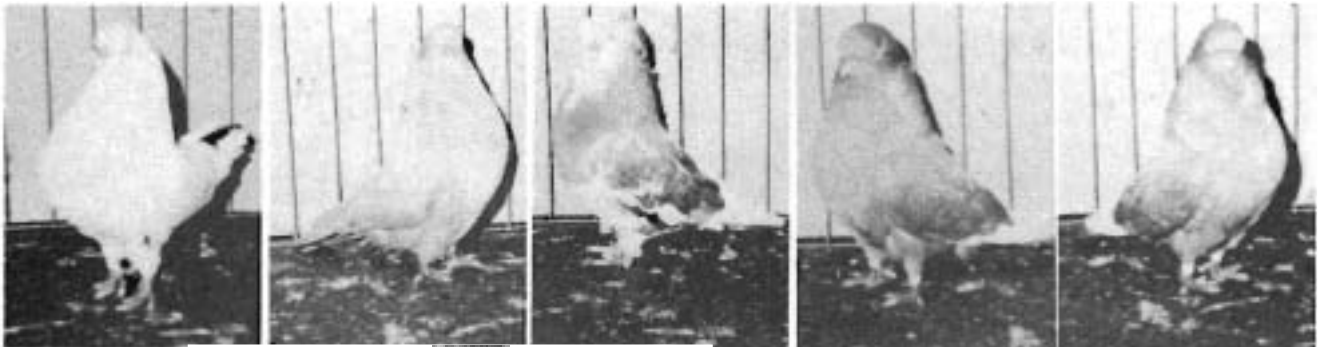
WHITE OLD: 1. 1366. White, R.



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best Dun Laced Blondinette, #315, R. Johnson; 2nd photo, Best Ancient, Yellow OH, #48, Frank Garcia; 3rd photo, Best SF Plainhead Helmet, Black DC, #450. Toni Patti; 4th photo, Best Reinagew, #602, Frank Garcia; 5th photo, Best Vienna, #55, Roy Lebrecht. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best of Breed African Owl, #714. John Izzo; 2nd photo, Best Short Face Helmet and Best Cap In Show, #107, Bob Powell; 3rd photo, Best English Short Face Tumbler and Best Plainhead, #1005, Warren Maurer; 4th photo, Best Budapest Stork and Best Dice Head, #20, E. Schmeier. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best Stock PH Show Flight, #1175, Frank Yonda; 2nd photo, Best Stock Old Plainhead Show Flight, Frank Braccia, #4412; 3rd photo, Best Dun Teager Old Cap Show Flight, #4350, Bill Auger; 4th photo, Best Plainhead Show Flight in Show, #4421, Frank Braccia; 5th photo, Best Yellow Plainhead, Old, Show Flight, #4431, Frank Braccia. --- Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.

White.

STOCK OLD: 1. 894, AOC, L. Ryder. 2. 2899, AOC, R. White. 3. 868. *Abc*, L. Ryder.

TGR OLD CAP: 1. 1907, Black, R. Bailin. 2. 803, Black, R. Menendez. 3. 805, Black, R. Menendez.

SOLID YOUNG: 1. 991, Yellow, J. Grasso. 2. 1062, G. Rodriguez. 3. 2877, J. Ardito.

TGR YOUNG: 1. 2806, Black, J. Ardito. 2. 5191, Black, J. Ardito. 3. 1026, Black, G. Rodriguez.

BAR YOUNG: 1. 513, Blue, R. Bailin. 2. 252, Blue, R. Menendez. 3. 218, Blue, R. Menendez.

WHITE YOUNG: 1. 1524, G. Fiore. 2. 1318, R. White.

STOCK YOUNG: 1. 1202, AOC, A. Sommer. 2. 247, AOC, R. Ackerman. 3. 1029, AOC, G. Rodriguez.

SHOW FLIGHTS

judge: L. Mintz

Best in Show and Best Cap, Red Cap #106, B. Freidel.

Best PH Flight, Yellow #4421, F. Braccia.

YELLOWWIRED PH OLD: 1. 4431, Yellow, F. Braccia. 2. 2101, Yellow, J. Price. 3. 358, Red, J. Price.

TGR PH OLD: 1. 4333, Black, J. Willi. 2. 913, Yellow, J. Grasso. 3. 4453, Yellow, F. Braccia.

TGR CAP OLD: 1. 4350, Dun, B. Auger. 2. 4418, F. Braccia. 3. 4305, Dun, F. Braccia.

SOLID CAP OLD: 1. 4335, Red, J. Willi. 2. 118, Yellow, B. Freidel. 3. 362, Yellow, J. Price.

STOCKCAPOLD: 1. 356, Yellow, J. Price. 2. 146, Yellow, B. Freidel. 3. 1555, Yellow, B & J Seiber.

STOCK PH OLD: 1. 4412, Yellow, F. Braccia. 2. 375, Yellow, J. Price.

SOLID PH YOUNG: 1. 4421, Yellow, F. Braccia. 2. 901, Black, B & J Seiber. 3. 4412, Yellow, F. Braccia.

TGR PH YOUNG: 1. 4312, Red, J. Willi. 2. 4354, Dun, J. Willi. 3. 4322, Dun, P. Rotundo.

SaUD CAP YOUNG: 1. 106, Red, B. Freidel. 2. 913, Yellow, J. Grasso. 3. 923, Yellow, J. Grasso.

TGR CAP YOUNG: 1. 147, Yellow, J. Grasso. 2. 4423, Dun, F. Braccia. 3. 916, Black, B & J Seiber.

STOCK CAP YOUNG: 1. 4368, P. Rotundo. 2. 917, J. Angelico. 3. 1767, F. Yonda.

STOCK PH YOUNG: 1. 1775, F. Yonda. 2. 4308, P. Rotundo. 3. 2659, Cusack/Demerest.

LFCL TUMBLER

Judge: H. Paustien

Best of Breed LFCL Tumbler, #109, Murphy/Piergori.

WHITES: 1. 793, D. DiFiglia. 2. 845, Murphy/Piergori. 3. 30, E. Kaik.

BLACKS: 1. 378, D. DiFiglia. 2. 795, D. DiFiglia.

RED: 1. 361, V. Rooney.

BARS: 1. 109, Murphy/Piergori. 2. 848, Murphy/Piergori. 3. 113, Murphy/Piergori.

BH: 1. 897, T. Patti.

SHORT FACED FANCY

Judge: M. Seiler

Best Dice Head, Buddie #20, E. Schmeier.

Best Cap, SF Helmet #107, B. Powell.

Best PH, ESF Tumbler #1005, W. Maurer.

VIENNA: 1. 55, Red, R. Lebrecht. 2. 57, Yellow, R. Lebrecht. 3. 56, Red, R. Lebrecht.

BUDDIE: 1. 20, Stork, E. Schmeier.

REINAUGEN: 1. 602, White, F. Garcia. 2. 2760, White, F. Garcia.

ANCIENT: 1. 48, F. Garcia. 2. 51, Yellow, F. Garcia. 3. 50, Yellow, F. Garcia.

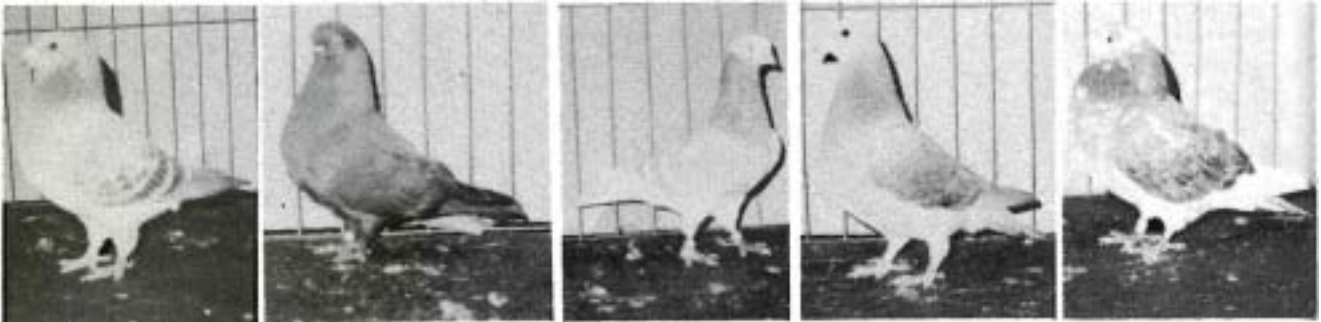
ESF TUMBLER: 1. 1005, Red, W. Maurer. 2. 1018, Red, W. Maurer. 3. 1028, Yellow, W. Maurer.

ESF BH TUMBLER: 1. 500, Red, B. Auger. 2. 98, Blue, T. Patti. 3. 586, T. Patti.

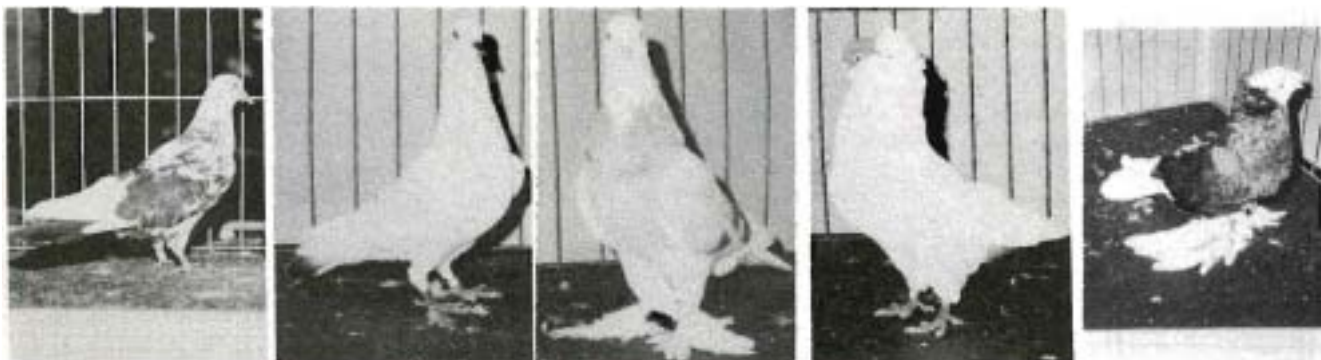
SF HELMET YH CRESTED: 1. 217, Yellow, T. Patti.

SF HELMET YC CRESTED: 1. 107, Red, B. Powell. 2. 232, Blue, T. Patti. 3. 106, Red, B. Powell.

(Continued On Next Page)



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best Show Racer, #258, R. Fey; 2nd photo, Best Bronze Tippler, #301, J. Theurer; 3rd photo, Best Flying BH Tumbler, #791, R. Fariello; 4th photo, Best Non-Flown Racer, #210, R. Fey; 5th photo, Best Roller, #2788, A. Brown. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhursr, N. Y.



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best OJ Breed, Flying Flight and Best Teager, #902, J. Ardito; 2nd photo, Best Russian Highflyer, #3890, S. Brown; 3rd photo, Best West OJ England Tumbler, #11, R. Roth; 4th photo, Best MF Helmet and Best OJ Breed LFF Non-Performing, #134, T. Patti; 5th photo, Best Bernberg Trumperer, #31, L & B Beer. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhursr, N. Y.

SF HELMET OH CRESTED: 1. 224. Red, B. Bowell. 2. F134, Yellow, T. Rimmer. 3. 191, Yellow, T. Patti.
 SF HELMET OC CRESTED: 1. 3290. Black. TRimmer. 2. 714, Red, T. Patti. 3. 222. Black. R. Gravel.

SF HELMET PH: 1. 450, Black. T. Patti.

HOMERS

Judge: F. Orsky

SHOW RACERS: Champion, 258. R. Fey; Res. Champion, 8, A. Hoffman; Best Oc. 27. A. Hoffman; Best OH, 8. A. Hoffman; Best YC. 22. P. Haden; Best YH. 258, R. Fey.

NON-FLOWN: Champion, 210, R. Fey; Res. Champion. 229, R. Fey; Best OC. 1304, A. Hoffman; Best OH. 483. J. Seiber; Best YC, 228, R. Fey; Best YH. 210. R. Fey.

I am sure that, if you attended our show you would agree that an excellent representation of the Pigeon Fancy was there.

I would like to give a special thanks to our judges and to all our members who helped in setting up, running birds, doing books, etc. - they deserve a big THANKS and they are what made this show and make any show a great success. I would also like to give a big THANK YOU to those who donated to our

raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to show with us in 1988 (November 12 and 13, 1988).

Atlanta Pigeon Classic

by J. MARTIN, GODERICH, Ont., Canada

Many positive memories remain on the Greater Atlanta Pigeon and Dove Club Annual Show held at Radisson Inn at Atlanta, Georgia, on Thanksgiving weekend.

The Radisson Inn has good accommodations, great food and on the lower level an excellent show room for a pigeon spectacular.

The show room cooping was well laid out with wide walkways, ample judging sections for the specialty clubs, trophy displays, etc.

Most of our day was spent in the Fantail section. Bill Henderson was Fantail judge and did an excellent job, and we appreciate hearing his comments as the Fantails were placed.

Bob Roberts of Florida, Central Fantail Club, District Number Two Director, did an excellent job in keeping the classes moving along so that the judging was completed in good time.

A drawing for a beautiful pair of

Don't miss a great show. You can write to me for an entry blank at 194 Lido Prom. W., Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757.0

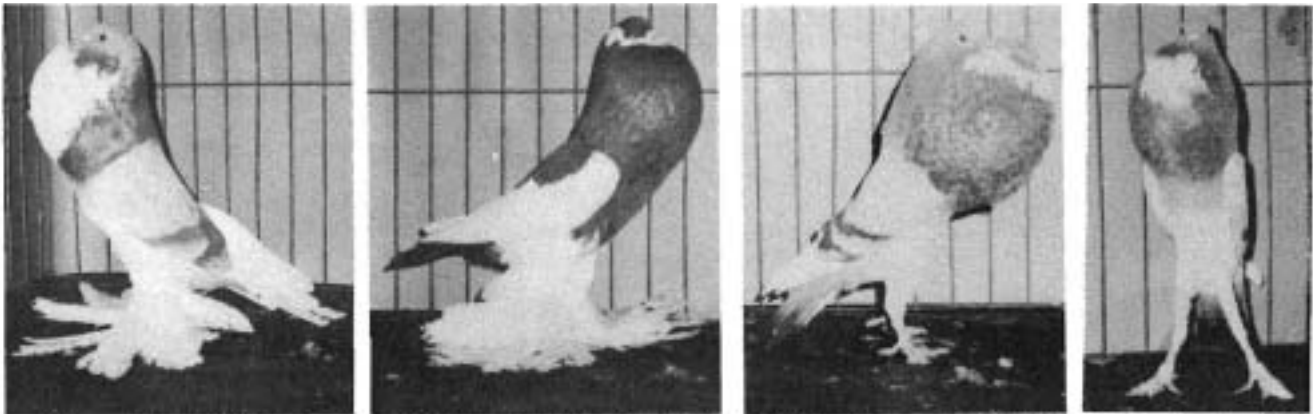
White Fantails took place during a break in judging.

We were greatly impressed with all aspects of this show, the Fantail quality was high, the show room atmosphere just great.

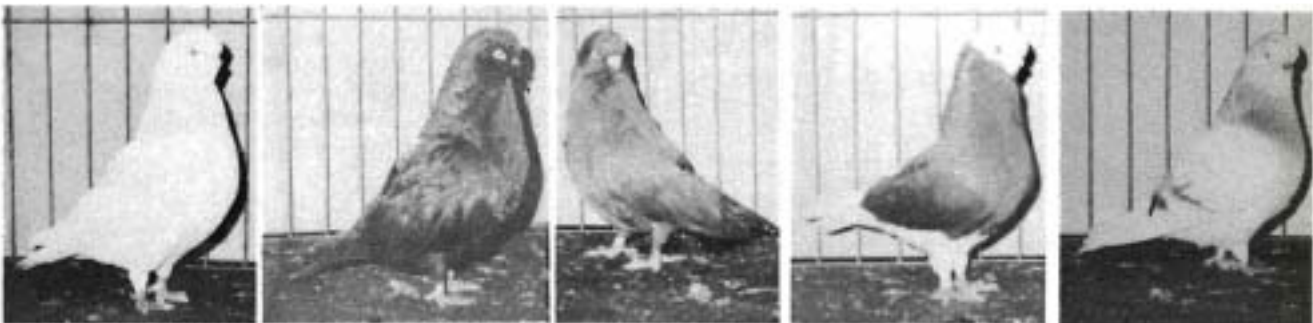
Later at the Banquet, Bob Roberts indicated that the Fantail entry would be larger for next year. This indicates the positive approach for this group.

We want to congratulate the Atlanta Club members who are responsible for this great classic, all the work involved in planning, setting up and following through with perhaps the greatest Pigeon Show we have attended!

As a Fantail exhibitor we had very little time to check out other sections of the Show Room, however. I do recall a good display of Modenas, Flights, Rollers, Rare Breeds and perhaps others that I have missed mentioning.0



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best of Breed LFF Performing and Best Pomeranian Pouter, 1/9, L & B Beer; 2nd photo, Best Reversewing Pouter, 1/7, L & B Beer; 3rd photo, Best Norwich Cropper, 1/63, L & B Beer; 4th photo, Best Pigmy Pouter, 1/919, Mike Cocchia. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.



Winners at the NSPFC's Long Island Classic: 1st photo, Best White LFCL Tumbler, 1/793, D. Dijigia; 2nd photo, Best Black LFCL Tumbler, 1/378, D. Dijigia; 3rd photo, Best Red LFCL Tumbler, 1/361, V. Rooney; 4th photo, Best BH LFCL Tumbler, 1/1897, T. Patti; 5th photo, Best Tumbler In Show and Best Bar LFCL Tumbler, 1/109, MurphylPiergori. - Photos by Barbara Beer, Lindenhurst, N. Y.



American King Club

by SKEETER NEAL, Publicity Director
80so, Mississippi

Alas. Can you believe the show season has come and gone? Where does the time go? This brings to mind the expression that time flies when you're having fun ... and does it ever! And who had more fun than pigeon breeders?

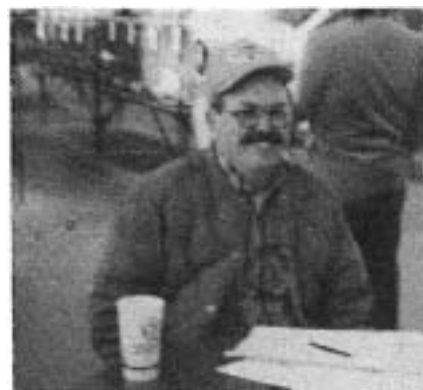
Seventh District Show

The 7th District Show was held in Des Moines, Iowa, on December 4-5 with Jack Hom doing the judging of 380 entries by 35 exhibitors. Comments from the district were as follows: "Doc Horn did an excellent

job of judging the birds. Don Martin did a great table job and Eileen Blanchette did a terrific job of checking the birds in. All went great, even the weather was perfect. Thanks all for a wonderful time." And the proud winners of champions are:

Grand Champion, Young White Cock #759, Darvin Jenner.

Champion White, Young Cock #759, Darvin Jenner; Champion Blue, Yearling Hen #2781, Joe Nethercot; Champion Ash Red,



Conrad Meis, Show Secretary for the 5th District Show, hosted by the Bay Area King Club. - Photo from Skeeter Neal, Laurel, Miss.

Mid-America Lawn Show Report

by ARNOLD SCHROEDER, Pub. Dir., Easton, Minn.

The Mid-America Lawn Show was held September 13, 1987, at Jim and Leona Schneider's residence in Viola, Wisc. The judging was handled by Mike Smith.

Winners of the various color classes were: Whites, Best 825 cock Bill and Marge O'Dell; Reserve 610 hen Wayne Tourville. Blacks, Best 251 hen Jim Cooper; Reserve 611 cock Earl Helmer; Blue, Best 39 cock Don Vaughn; Reserve 72 cock Don Vaughn. Red, Best 516 cock Jim Schneider; Reserve 531 hen Jim Schneider. Checker, Best 369 hen Bob Dannenberg; 536 hen Jim Schneider. Saddle, Best 541 cock Jim Schneider; Reserve 50S hen Jim Schneider. Combined of colors, Best 614 hen Andalusian by Earl Helmer; Reserve Powdered Blue 611 by

Wayne Tourville.

Champion Fantail of the show was awarded to Earl Helmer on his Andalusian hen 614. Reserve Champion went to Bill and Marge O'Dell with a White cock 825. Congratulations to them.

The Mid-America Fantail Club would like to invite you to join and show with us at our annual meet with the Iowa State Pigeon Assn., in Des Moines, Iowa, December 5, 1987. Membership dues are \$7.50 family, \$5.00 adult and \$3.00 junior. Send all dues to our Secretary-Treasurer, Don Vaughn. 1204 33rd St., West Des Moines, Iowa 50265. □



CHAMPION FANTAIL

Champion Fantail Andalusian Young Hen #614 at the Mid-America Lawn Show Sept. 13. Bred and owned by Earl Helmer. - Photo from Arnold Schroeder, Easton, Minn.



RESERVE CHAMPION FANTAIL

Reserve Champion Fantail White Young Cock #825 at the Mid-America Lawn Show Sept. 13, 1987. Bred and owned by Bill and Marge O'Dell. - Photo from Arnold Schroeder, Easton, Minn.

Young Cock #7856, Kenny Montgomery; Champion Silver, Yearling Cock #8205, E. Maciejewski; Champion A.O.C., Young Cock #8918, Friedman; Champion Black, Yearling Hen #9014, Friedman; Champion Check, Young Cock #444, Stu Austin; Champion Rare, Yearling Cock #305, Stu Austin; Champion Brown, Young Hen #5555, Joe Nethercot.

Fifth District Show

This show was held at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, Ca" and hosted by the Bay Area King Club. The club President, Vince DeLillo wrote the following:

"On December 12 and 13, 1987, our Bay Area King Club successfully produced another 5th District Meet.

..Joe Nethercot came from Wichita, Kansas, to pass his excellent judgement on 436 choice Kings and when the dust had cleared, Paolo and Dino DiCandia's white hen #K51 stood alone as champion again. Thanks Joe, for a job well done.

"I would like to express my thanks to our secretaries Conrad Meis, Alice Abreu and Bob Carvallo for a great job, also extend thanks to all the exhibitors, especially the southern California fanciers Jeff Tracht, Bill Harrison and his wife, Ed Robertson, Ron Zottneil, John Schroeder and Dennis Rogers for coming up to compete with us.

"Joe Abreu did his usual great job of superintending and directed several members in the task of erecting and dismantling the show.

"Our ever active member Joe LoPresti organized a good banquet at Hap's 1{restaurant from which everyone left with full stomachs.

"I am always hesitant to begin to mention names for thank yous, so if I missed you, I am sorry and extend to you our deep appreciation.

(Continued On Next Page)

..Hope I see you all at Portland National so until then I wish you a happy and healthy New Year".

And those champions of this show are:

Grand Champion. Old White Hen #K51. Paolo DiCandia.

Champion Novice, Young Check Hen #1755. Dennis Rogers; Champion White, Old Hen #K51. Paolo

DiCandia; Champion Silver. Yearling Hen #530. Bill Harrison; Champion Check. Young Cock #1731, Dennis Rogers; Champion Blue, Yearling Cock #561, Bill Harrison; Champion Ash Red. Young Hen #5339, Ron Zottneck; Champion A.O.C., Yearling Cock #5224, John Schroeder; Champion Rare, Yearling Cock #4679. Dennis Rogers;

Champion Brown, Young Hen #859, J & J Lofts; Champion Black, Young Hen #599, Jeff Tracht; Champion Yellow/Red, Young Yell. Hen #5317, H & Z Loft.

Second District

I received the following letter in December from Bob, DaWanda and Jamie Dunlap, new members of the 2nd District. It really warms my heart to get letters like this and I felt that everyone in the hobby should share it.

"We are new King members in the 2nd District. We had the good fortune to attend the Highland Show in November and just wanted to write and tell you of our experience there.

"Being new at this hobby we went to the show expecting to be treated coldly and like outsiders. **NOT** the case here! From the second we walked in the front door Saturday, until we walked out Sunday afternoon, we were treated like we had been members for years. People at the show introduced themselves to us instead of us having to introduce ourselves to them first. By Sunday afternoon my son Jamie and I were walking around and talking with the old time breeders like they had known us for years.

"I was also impressed by the number of King members that really wanted us to get started in the club the right way. Numerous members even gave us birds and wouldn't take any cash. Two or three of these birds even won their classes.

..Also, I thought the show was run topnotch. I only wish we were able to attend more district shows this year. Perhaps next year I will be able to schedule my vacations different so we can.

"June and Lloyd were right! King people do make you feel like family. They're super people.

..The people who belong to the American King Club can be very proud of their organization. It has to be one of the greatest Pigeon Clubs in America. I know that my family and I all feel it's an honor to belong to such a great organization. Sincerely, **Bob, DaWanda, and Jamie Dunlap**".

Thanks again to the Dunlaps for this letter. We welcome you to the American King Club.

Black King Club

The Black King Club installed its new officers at their Annual Meeting held in November at the Highland 2nd District Show. They are as follows: President, **Bob Gabriel**; Vice President, **William R. Sanders**; Secretary/Treasurer, **Peggy Hom**; Directors - 1st, **Kim Miller**; 2nd, **Roland Blanchette**; 3rd, **Paul Miller**;



Selden Perry, Jeff Tracht and Dennis Rogers at the 5th District Banquet. Photo from Skeeter Neal, Laurel, Miss.



John Schroeder and Jerry Campbell at the 5th District Banquet. -Photo from Skeeter Neal, Laurel, Miss.



Jack Butler and Bob and Mary Carvallo at the 5th District Banquet. - Photo from Skeeter Neal, Laurel, Miss.

4th, Wayne Bryant; 5th, Ron Zottneck; 6th, Richard Cabanayan; 7th, Michael Friedman; Director-at-Large, Jack Hom.

This is a growing club that is doing a fantastic job of promoting the black King pigeon. Peggy Hom puts out three fantastic newsy bulletins each year ... with reports from the district directors, letters from members, etc. (I really need to find out Peggy's secret in getting all this info). For any of you interested in black Kings, do yourself a favor and join this club. Dues are \$5 per year, due in Janaury. Send to Peggy Horn, 6228 N. Hill Lane, Ft. Worth, TX

76135.

Dick and I had a nice surprise today when we found out that our grandson Brandon Duffield of Perris, Ca., has started raising pigeons. Not Kings, but I'm sure that grandpa will try to remedy that situation. Brandon is ten years old and we welcome him into the hobby. Good luck, Brandon.

It is dues time again so if you haven't sent in your dues, don't delay. The March Bulletin is the "biggy", giving complete show results of all the district shows. The dues are still \$10 in the U.S., \$25 outside the U.S. send to Stu Austin, 7671 E. Wood Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.0

was over 50 percent mortality in the unvaccinated yearlings and young birds".

The above quotes from Dr. Eskelund stress the necessity of vaccinating young birds in 1988. Hopefully your old birds are already vaccinated against Paramyxio. "Best To Best"

What does "Best to Best" mean? Evidently it means something different to everyone. The all time greats in various breeds each had different systems of breeding that worked. Is the elusive key to success merely chosing anyone system and sticking with it? Or is there really only one system that unlocks the mystery of breeding really great birds and it's up to you to find it? Yet again, is it the correct combination of systems that is the secret of breeding champions?

Here are some of the systems used by top pigeon breeders. How do they compare with yours?

1. Top Stud Cock: Best cock in the loft is mated to many hens. Creates young that are half-brother, half-sister with the father as the common ancestor.

2. Top Stock Hen: Best hen to many cocks. (same as "stud cock")

3. Key Pair: used as a base or foundation. An extremely well balanced mating. The line descends from this pair.

4. Line Breeding: Best birds to complimentary close relative. Breeding stock is rarely over five years old. Pedigrees are very important.

5. Small Select Stud: Best breeders are culled hard to get down to a few pair where the quality is so high it doesn't really matter who is mated to who.

Those of you selected to do Breeder Interviews will be asked to put into words your Breeding System. to share your theories on this thought provoking subject.

Column Correspondence

Send correspondence to Claudia Lasky, 1960 Fairhaven Street, Lemon Grove, CA 92045. All English Trumpeter breeders are encouraged to submit material for this column. 0

WATe English Trumpeter



HIGHLIGHTS



by CLAUDIA LASKY, Lemon Grove, Calif.

In the chill of late winter pairs mated by Californians in December are off to a sluggish start with cold weather often continuing through March. WATC breeders in the colder states say they have to defrost their ET's before mating which gives them a later start. While things are slow in the lofts, it's a good time to take care of business and renew or start Western American Trumpeter Club memberships. Doddridge's WATC Bulletins, one of the benefits of joining, make good fireside reading.

This column will feature a "Breeder Interview" at intervals. A detailed questionnaire will be sent to prospective breeders which will help them provide material. John Heppner and Gene Cooper gave outstanding informative interviews in '86. This is a good opportunity for those selected to share their knowledge and viewpoints with the English Trumpeter fancy.

Des Moines in December

A large contingent of California WATC breeders descended on the Midwest in December for the popular ETCA Des Moines meet. How did the airline survive Nolan, Holmberg, Fraire, Heppner, Fail. Cooper, Pamplona, Doddridge. etc., traveling on the same flight to Iowa?

Peter Wolf judged John Heppner's Red Splash Old Cock, "The Standardizer", champion. Heppner's 1987 Pageant Champion White Cock took reserve. Board of Directors Meeting

The annual Board of Director's Meeting and pot luck dinner traditionally takes place in March. The

date and place will be announced in the Club Bulletin. This is where many issues are decided for the coming year. definitely an important meeting to attend.

Eradicate Paramyxio in '88

The following excerpts say it all about the importance of vaccinating for Paramyxio. In a report given in July 1987 to the American Pigeon Fanciers' Council Kenneth Eskelund, Veterinarian states:

"When large numbers of birds from many lofts are placed together on a truck for racing or brought together for a show, the virus is transmitted from infected to non-infected birds ... As you can see, the nature of the pigeon fancy, with continuous movement of birds easily spreads PMV-I from one area to another. There is no such thing as isolation. No area is safe It is a fact that any and all vaccines are designed to prevent disease, not to cure it. Unfortunately too many pigeon fanciers fail to understand or accept this and wait until the disease is present in their loft or in the immediate area before they decide to vaccinate. Also, many breeders fail to continue on a vaccination program from one year to the next. The old birds are immune but the young birds are susceptible ... In 1986 many outbreaks of PMV-I occurred in the young unvaccinated birds but the old previously vaccinated birds remained perfectly healthy. In one loft in California it had been nearly two years since these birds were vaccinated but they were still protected ... However there

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George Valiska didn't know until he read his name that he was presenting the awards to himself - Photo by Jim Cox, Amelia, Ohio.

The National Birmingham Roller Club Annual Meet

by JIM COX, Amelia, Ohio

Every year several members of the NBRC meet at the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky. This year was a special event because there were awards given, inductees into the National Birmingham Roller Club Hall of Fame, kit flies, press coverage, a drawing for a free kit and last but not least a picnic.

On Saturday, October 17, 1987, George Valiska of Delta, Pennsylvania and Roger Baker of Rosebud, Arkansas, were inducted into the National Birmingham Roller Club Hall of Fame. George Valiska is the Secretary and Treasurer and is the driving force behind the NBRC. George received an engraved brass platter and plaque in memory of Bill Pensom, who was the founder of the NBRC and the person who introduced the Birmingham Roller to the United States from England. Roger Baker, a Master Roller Breeder, received an engraved brass platter and plaque in memory of Russ Harter, who was a Master Roller Breeder that contributed a great deal to the sport of performing Rollers. Russ Harter was also a very good friend of Roger Baker's that will always be remembered.

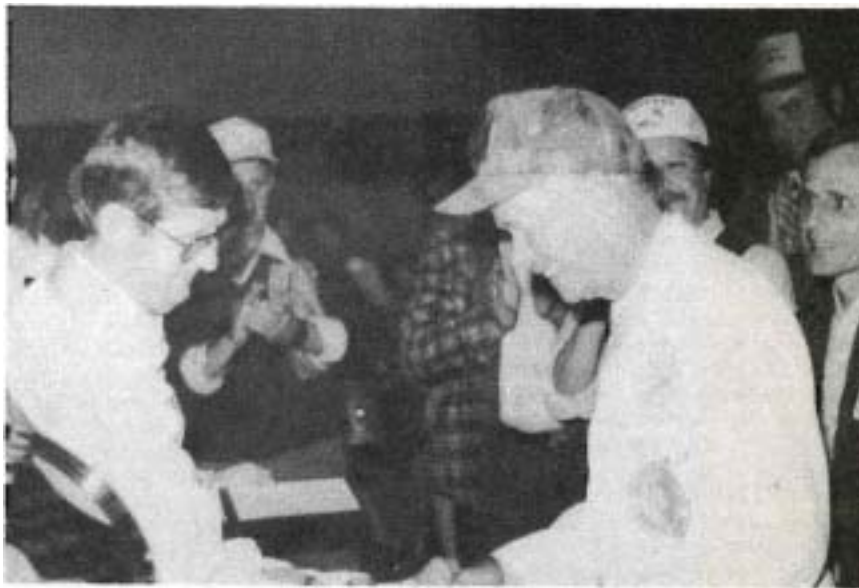
After the award presentation, the majority of us went to Joe Marlett's in Marysville, Indiana. Joe released a young bird kit which had a hard time fighting the wind. In spite of the wind we did get to see a few good rolls. We then went to Tony Dasaro's house in Sellersburg, Indiana. Tony released a large kit of birds and in spite of wind did show

us some spinning. I don't want to sound like I'm making excuses for these gentlemen, but anyone who was there would tell you that it was a lousy day to fly a kit of birds. Some of the members were joking about writing a book on excuses why birds aren't doing well. Regardless of how the birds are doing on any given day, they will give some account for themselves if they are any good.

I want to thank Tony's wife for having fixed lunch for all of us roller crazed nuts. Thank you from all of us. After lunch, Tony released a large group of Doneks. These are

amazing birds to watch perform. They flew up to approximately 500 feet and then dove straight down in a spiral barrel roll back to the loft. At times, it looked as though they would dive straight into the ground. Tony has a sign on his loft that says Dasaro's Flying Circus, and named rightly so. When we left Tony's some went back to the show in Louisville and the rest of us went on down to Owensboro, Kentucky.

The following morning we all met in Jerry Boehmann's backyard. Jerry lives near Maceo, Kentucky, just a few miles east of Owensboro, Kentucky. There was a reporter and a photographer from the Owensboro Messenger and Enquirer there to do an article on the event. They interviewed Jerry Boehmann, George Valiska and Roger Baker and took a photo of Jerry holding a pair of squabs and a picture of Jim Schneider using his video camera. Jim Schneider is from Alamogordo, New Mexico and is also one of the NBRC's Regional Directors. Jim filmed the entire two day event. The day was beautiful for flying birds. Jerry released his kit of birds which flew in a very nice tight kit. Jerry's birds did some nice spinning with a few birds showing more than the rest. Even though Jerry's birds did kit well we didn't see a whole lot of action. Jerry added to the excuse book by saying that it wasn't windy enough or enough overcast. After a while we all left for Carl Hardesty's. Carl released a kit of workhorses. I call them workhorses because they worked harder than any kit I've seen in a long time. They were frequent with good style and depth and didn't seem to get tired. The only thing



George Valiska presenting the awards to Roger Baker. - Photo by Jim Cox, Amelia, Ohio.



There were approximately 40 NBRC members at the kit fly. - Photo by Jim Cox, Amelia, Ohio.

that I didn't see was the very high velocity spinning that I am used to seeing at Carl's.

Larry Foulter of Richmond, Michigan, was so excited and openly gave Carl's birds so much praise that someone jokingly accused Carl of paying Larry to do so. Good going Larry. I always like to see people enjoying themselves.

The next stop was Larry Hubbard's house. Larry's birds did some excellent spinning, but weren't working really well as far as turns go. Larry also has a variety of Bantam chickens, a pair of peacocks and a pair of Lady Amhurst pheasants which were an added treat for everyone.

On to Bill Zoglmann's house. Bill has the most impressive set up for his rollers that I have ever seen. Bill, like the rest of these gentlemen, has some top quality birds. The oldest bird in the kit that Bill flew was seven months old. Bill's birds didn't work as well as Carl's but the quality was there.

I try to give credit where credit is due. I have a great deal of admiration for these gentlemen in southern Indiana and western Kentucky for what they are doing with their birds. If you want to see some of the best rollers that can be found anywhere, you had better try to make the trip next year.

We left Bill's and went back to Jerry Boehmann's house where we had a drawing for a kit of ten young birds. Everyone that was there visiting from out of town was to put their name in the pot for the drawing. The birds were raised by five of the men in the local club. Two by Jerry Boehmann, two by Carl Hardesty, two by Larry Hubbard, two by Bill Zoglmann and two by Hugh Wedding. The drawing took place and Russell Dever of Walcottville, Indiana was the winner. Congratulations Russ.

Carl Hardesty also received a tro-

phy. presented by Jim Palmer of Port Huron, Michigan, for flying the best kit.

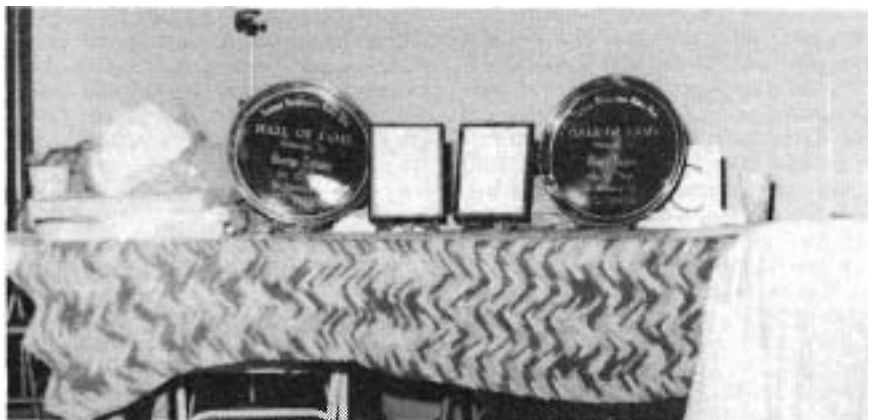
Then it was time to chow down. I want to thank Jerry Boehmann for arranging the picnic. We had Bar-b-Que mutton, Bar-b-Que pork, potato salad, baked beans and cole slaw. We also had delicious blackberry and peach cobbler baked by Jerry's wife. I also want to thank Mrs. Boehmann. Carl and Pam Hardesty for helping Jerry with the picnic. I don't think

that the wives of roller men ever get enough credit.

I have talked to Carl Hardesty since, and he told me that Channel 14 from Evansville, Indiana, came and did a segment on them and that they want to cover the event next year. I call that great publicity.

Now a few words about the NBRC The National Birmingham Roller Club is the largest and most progressive club dedicated to the preservation and the further development of the Birmingham Roller in the air. The NBRC has approximately 500 members, including the members from Australia, Greenland, Canada and Denmark. The NBRC has a certification program, kit competitions, club patches, NBRC pedigrees, NBRC bands and a bi-monthly bulletin.

If anyone is interested in joining the NBRC all you have to do is send \$7.00 for your annual membership along with your name and address to George Valiska, RD 2, Box 437, Delta, PA 17314. Bands are 10 cents each for plain bands and 12 cents each for colored bands. Bands can only be ordered in multiples of 25.0

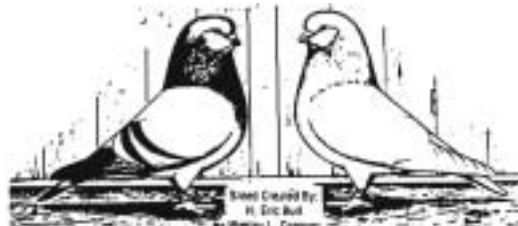


The awards that were presented to George Valiska and Roger Baker. - Photo by Jim Cox, Amelia, Ohio.

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The National Modena Club News

by RICHARD STEVENS, Evansville, Ind.

February Tip - Baby Check

This tip, unlike most others we've shared, is probably less necessary for the beginner than for the breeder who has been at it for a few years. When one first starts, no reminder is needed to check on the nestlings when feeding time comes around. The new breeder is excited and anxious to follow the progress of each baby on a daily basis and may even regularly disturb the nest to the detriment of the babies' development. After the breeder has raised a few hundred Modenas over a few seasons, however, it's easy to take it all for granted. One learns that good parents and mother nature in a reasonably well planned loft will do a good job of filling the young bird pen, but it never hurts to take a look just the same.

At feeding time, take a minute to look in on pairs to see if things are progressing normally. Have any hens laid a new egg? If so, note it on your handy loft record, be it the calendar or a card at the nest site. It's a good idea to check around the nest just in case that egg is the second instead of the first; some hens don't always aim as good as they should. If you catch a mislaid egg and get it into the nest when the second one is laid there is no harm done. On the other hand, if you wait two days and start looking after the expected second egg fails to arrive, the embryo may not develop or the egg may be found splattered on the loft floor.

Hatched youngsters should be checked for normal growth rate. Grossly mismatched siblings should be rotated to nests with a youngster closer to their size, preferably during that first week. Before moving a too small baby, take a real close look at it. Does it have a good reason for being that much smaller than its nest mate, such as hatching two or three days later than the first one? Does it look "right" especially in the eyes, and does it eagerly beg for its feeding the way other babies of that size and age do? Don't move a baby if you have any suspicion that it may be sick. Cull it or treat it and keep a close watch on the parents and nestmate. As banding day approaches, any youngsters that aren't growing as expected should be checked for spraddle leg, a common problem in paper pulp nests with only one youngster. Unless it can keep both legs underneath, it will not be able to beg and thus fail to stimulate the parents to adequately feed it. The solution to this problem as stated in

a previous tip is an identification band on each leg with a rubber band connecting the two. I refer to the baby's legs, not your own.

The most critical check is the morning check during cold weather for those Modenas between 7 and 14 days or so. I thawed out a number of youngsters at that stage before I got heating elements for the waterers. Some of these babies made it without apparent damage and some did not. The heaters (thermostatically controlled pipe warming electric cords run directly through the water) assured that hens had their need for a drink satisfied and returned to the nest quickly. This ounce of prevention beats a cold baby tucked in your shirt next to your belly.

Older nestlings should be checked to make sure they are where they are supposed to be. Missing a meal is something a three week old can recover from but missing a couple meals and getting severely scalped is another thing. On occasion it may be best to move a youngster who doesn't want to stay home into the baby pen a week or so early, even if it means a couple of days of hand feeding till it catches on, rather than let it invite a scalping on the floor. Floors should have a shelter for a fallen youngsters such as a low, wide shelf they can get under.

Master Breeder - Norman Lindsay

Our current club President, Dan Tucker of Opelousas, LA, says that the Master Breeder featured for the month of February is one of the finest gentlemen the pigeon hobby has ever known. A boy who asked a lot of questions and grew up to answer a lot more questions. Hour after hour at shows he would patiently explain genetics and breeding to the newer members. Bob Pettit, of Genesco, III., himself a Master Breeder, points to this man as a great source of inspiration - and today he is still inspiring. Struggling against a formidable list of physical ailments including back injury, several surgeries on his back, partial loss of the use of his arms, severe atherosclerosis, four surgeries for vascular by-pass including open heart surgery with four bypasses, and cataracts, he has been forced to give up breeding pigeons yet manages to stay busy and not let his "minor problems" show him down too much. From Dallas, Texas, Master Breeder Norman Lindsay is presented in a composite of the Questionnaire, phone conversation, and excerpts from an article which

appeared in the May 1987 Texas Modena Club bulletin.

Richard: What is your age and what do you do?

Norman: I'm a retired firefighter for the city of Dallas, with the rank of Captain. I'm disabled, having been injured in the line of duty. I was a firefighter for almost 26 years. I will be 68 June 15 of this year.

Richard: What colors do you breed?

Norman: I breed most all colors that have been produced in Modenas. I believe I was among the first to produce Lavender and Andalusian Gazzi. I worked extensively with barless, but never produced them with quality and viability to my satisfaction. I'm partial to Gazzi, but quality is first, regardless.

Richard: How long have you been in the hobby?

Norman: I've been breeding Modenas for 40 years. I have always bred Modenas. My first were Blue Gazzi, and I still love them to this day. I first joined NMC in the mid '30's - I don't know the date. Bill Minor and I were the first junior members of the NMC, according to Henry Franks. Henry was secretary of the NMC at that time.

Richard: What are some of the important wins, accomplishments, or honors you've received?

Norman: Really, they are too numerous to mention all of them, but two wins stand out in my mind. One was Best Modena at a 5th District meet in Oklahoma City with a Mag hen. The judge, John Becker, said it was the best color and break he had ever seen in a Mag hen. The other win, (even though I didn't show the birds) was with four birds I had raised that were first place Mags and, of course, Best Mag at a Ft. Worth National. I consider my accomplishments to be: producing rare colors in good quality and my work with the Standards Committee. Honors would be NPA Master Breeder of Modena Pigeon and NMC Master Breeder.

Richard: What offices have you held in the NMC and what do you feel you've accomplished during your terms?

Norman: I was Vice President, District Director of the 5th District for several years and also served several years on the Standards Committee. I feel that I helped to rebuild the 5th District when it was at its lowest ebb. I served as a judge for many years, often for no pay, even for my expenses. I hope I have contributed to a better understanding and love of the Modena Pigeon to my fellow fanciers. I cherish the wonderful friendships I have made

through the years in raising, showing and judging Modenas. Many of my close friends are no longer with us but my memories of them will always be cherished. I have never had a hobby that has brought me as many pleasurable rewards as Modenas of all colors. I have no favorite color.

Richard: What first attracted you to Modenas?

Norman: One day, one landed on a telephone wire above my pigeon coop. I had some feral pigeons that I had caught in a cotton gin. It was hot weather and the bird was panting. I set a bowl of water down and put out some feed for the bird. It flew right down to the water and feed, and showed no fear of me. I caught it easily. I thought it was the most beautiful bird I had ever seen and was so proud of it. I was about 9 or 10 years old at the time. I didn't know what breed the pigeon was or its color. Through the kids in the neighborhood, I found out where a man lived that raised show pigeons. The man turned out to be Mr. Raymond Power, a Runt breeder who became a dear friend until his death. The bird was banded so I wrote down the band number and went to see Mr. Power. He called around and found a Modena breeder who knew who the bird belonged to. I learned that the bird was a Modena and a Blue Gazzi. I took the bird to the man who owned it, and he gave me a pair of Modenas. That was my start in Modenas.

Richard: Over the years, who has influenced you in the hobby and in what way?

Norman: Raymond Power first influenced me by taking me to shows and pigeon club meetings. I was the youngest member of the Texas Pigeon Club at that time. My first National show was the 1935 National in Dallas. I will never forget that show. I met many Modena breeders of that time. Bob Hancock said I could ask more questions than any kid he ever saw. Arthur Bianchi was of great help to me in getting started and showing my birds. Dr. W. F. Hollander and Dr. Wilbur Miller were big influences in my genetics study of pigeons. Later, Joe Quinn was a great influence in my genetics study. All three of these men took a great deal of their personal time to write long explanatory letters to me in answer to some of my problems and questions about genetics. And, there are many more who influenced me.

Richard: What sort of setbacks have you overcome on your way to achieving Master Breeder status or since?

Norman: For some reason there was a time when I became more

interested in girls than in my birds. When I married, which was 49 years ago last year, I disposed of my birds because we lived in small apartments and had no place to keep them. In 1950 I started back with Modenas after we bought the house we now live in. I have been wiped out twice by cats getting into my loft and killing the birds. I have been wiped out twice by paratyphoid. I finally learned to breed from paratyphoid "resistant birds that had recovered from mild attacks of what was probably mild forms of the disease. I have had my loft infested with rats. I have had my eggs robbed by snakes. Finally, my demise was injury and failing health.

Richard: What faults will you not breed from?

Norman: Often in genetics projects one does not have much choice but to breed from the F1 progeny produced. I guess I have bred from birds with every fault imaginable. Faults I detest are "neck shakers" and the overstyling that often goes with this fault - long narrow birds, poor leg setting which throws the bird out of balance, legs that are not straight, double decking, loose feathering, low cut head markings on Gazzi, slim, narrow, long necks and long snakey heads. Back in the '30's we did not have the overall general quality to choose from that we see today. Without well set straight legs, the bird cannot have good balance.

Richard: Double decking, for those who don't know, is a noticeable difference in the level of the bird's

underline with the area in front of the legs quite higher than the feathers behind the legs.

Richard: How do you counter some of the faults you will breed from?

Norman: There is an old saying, "Never mate two birds with the same faults." With the quality of stock available today, there is little reason to breed from any bird with a serious fault. The only exception that I can think of is in a project where one may need a mutant factor that the bird would carry. In pairing birds with minor faults, make sure that the mate is very strong in the factor that the other is weak in. I am speaking of physical factors, not color. Color breeding is another story.

Richard: Norman, let's go ahead and touch on the subject of color, since that is your particular area of expertise. First, here is a portion of a recent article to give us a starting point for our discussion.

Norman: The first thing I would like to mention is the meaning of dominance and recessiveness. There seems to be some misconception about the meaning and use of this terminology. These terms apply only to the alternatives or alleles of an allelomorphic series. For example, ash red is dominant to blue and blue is dominant to brown. Dilute is recessive to pale and pale is recessive to intense. Almond (mag) is not dominant to blue because it is at a different locus in or on the chromosome. Almond is epistatic to blue because it expresses over it and

(Continued On Next Page)



(L 10 R) Bob Pettit, Frank Ghash and our featured NMC and NPA Master Breeder Norman Lindsay.

masks the blue. Blue is hypostatic to almond because it is masked by almond. Almond will express on ash red and brown but is usually found expressing over blue because it is closely linked with the (b) locus. The crossover percentage is believed to be only about 2%. With the proper crossovers it would be possible to produce a brown factor, dilute and reduced Mag. The genotype would be St-bbdddrr. This would be a combination of a pair of mutant factors from four different loci of the sex chromosome. Each pair would have its influence in color alteration of the expressed color produced. You can readily see if anyone were dominate over the others only the dominate one would express. In this example we have gene pairs from four different loci of only one chromosome expressing. If we added factors from the autosomal gene sites we could go on and on with the color alterations. I think you can readily see that it would be impossible to produce an ash red, blue and brown combination. Genes or factors are always paired in the male bird at gene sites because the chromosomes are paired on the sex chromosomes as well as all autosomes. This leaves one room for only two factors to be paired, one on each chromosome or autosomes. If ash red and blue were paired, only ash red would express because ash red is dominate to blue. The same would apply if ash red were paired with brown. (Discount the overprinting or tail flecking). If blue were paired with brown, only blue would express because it is dominate to brown.

Richard: Yes, I've noticed that error in articles by people who obviously have a good working knowledge of genetics, particularly with regard to pattern. They tend to throw the Spread factor in as the most dominant allele or option in the pattern series instead of considering it as a separately inherited factor which prevents the expression of the pattern genes as is the actual case.

Norman: Another thing I noticed while reading the bulletin was that some breeders are of the impression that all color expressions in pigeons are sex linked. This is true only for those factors on or in the sex chromosome. It is true that all pigeons are either ash red, blue or brown. These color bases are sex linked because they are on the sex chromosome. However, mutant factors such as pattern, Opal (dominate or recessive), smooth spread (black on blue), grizzle (all types), Indigo, recessive red, and milky are not sex linked. These are called autosomal factors to distinguish them from the factors on



Norman Lindsay in March of 1968.

the sex chromosome. The recessive autosomal factors must be inherited from both the male and female to express. The dominate factors, either complete or incomplete, will be expressed in either the cock or the hen and may be passed on to the youngster by either sex that may be expressing the factor. Dominate factors do not have to be at both gene sites to express. Complete dominates will express the same in a single dose as in a double dose. Example smooth spread. Incomplete dominates will express differently in a double dose (homozygous), example indigo. I read a lot of discussion regarding opinions for the best base color and pattern for Mags. Whatever is working best for you, stay with it. I will offer my opinion and what worked best for me. If the base pattern is bar it will show through the almond and express. This is the worst base pattern in my opinion. Tri (check) will produce some pretty good colored Mags. It does show through to a slight degree. It would be my second choice. T-pattern (Bronze) is my first choice and produced the best color for me. A T-pattern bronze Mag carrying one shot of recessive red produced the best color I ever produced.

I did not read much about opinions for producing break. I will give you my opinion anyway. I usually bred Mag to Mag. You will get an expectation of 25% homo Mag, cocks by this type of breeding. However, when you figure about 500/0 of your youngsters are going to be hens and cannot be homo for almond factor because they are hemizygous for sex linked factors (receive only one) this cuts your homo expectations for total

production to 12 1/2%. believe breeding Mag to Mag is the only way you can breeder select for break, especially in hens. Break in hens can be produced as good as in cocks by this method and hens hold their break longer than cocks do when aging.

Richard: I wish I knew more about linkages. We're just kind of lucky to have the sex chromosome set up like it is; it makes it easy to study that one. So we know so much more about it than apparently we do about the autosomal genes.

Norman: Well, do you have Joe Quinn's book?

Richard: Yes, I've got it and I enjoy it very much.

Norman: He goes into most all of it.

Richard: That's true, he covers them pretty well. My friend, Bob Pettit and Doc Hollander take issue with Joe Quinn over what he does with Toy Stencil.

Norman: Well, I do, too.

Richard: What do you feel is his mistake there?

Norman: I don't think any of us understand it well enough to categorize it the way Joe does.

Richard: I see what you mean; he puts it right in with the Bronzes and in fact, he gives it a symbol that is part of the bronzing thing, and we're not real sure that's the case at all.

Norman: No. I think probably that it's not the case. I still believe that Joe Quinn's "The Pigeon Breeder's Notebook" is the most concise and comprehensive study of pigeon genetics a pigeon breeder can read.

Norman: Do you know how to tell a Recessive Red/Ash Red from a Blue Recessive Red?

Richard: No, but I'd like to know that.

Norman: Alright, I can tell you how to tell. You're not likely to find it on Browns to start with. I don't know whether you've noticed or not, but Browns are usually loose feathered, too. But anyway, an Ash Red will not have the white lateral bar on the outer retrices.

Richard: You're saying that a Recessive Red that's masking Ash Red will not have the albescent strip. Well, I thought that was supposed to be an indication that the bird was carrying spread.

Norman: Yes, it could be. But if you spread the tail on a Red Schietti and you don't see that albescent strip the chances are good that it's Ash Red. If it were spread on blue it would likely have a dark beak, or brown factor you would have a lemon eye.

Richard: And you've proved this out with some outcrossing tests?

Norman: Yes. I think recessive red over spread ash red may produce excellent color. I have never produced this combination. However, you may fall in love with the beautiful silvery color of the spread ash red.

Richard: Did you ever uncover a bird carrying Spread that way?

Norman: No. I never worked with Reds with dark beaks. I suspect these to be Blacks masked by recessive red.

Richard: That's interesting, because I've been wanting to get Spread worked into my Reds in the hopes that it would darken the color and I've been looking for birds that didn't have that strip.

Richard: What do you consider a fair price for a good Modena?

Norman: That is a difficult question. The thing that always bothered me the most was those who charged excessive prices for average or cull birds to an unsuspecting breeder who didn't know the lack of quality he or she was buying. The best birds I have ever received from other breeders were gifts, trades or birds that were loaned to me. The best birds I have ever disposed of were done so in the same manner. That does not mean that I never sold birds. I did, but for prices far less than I thought the birds were worth. I have never sold a bird that I did not think would help the breeder buying it. If money is no object, I would say it depends on how badly one wants the bird and how willing the owner is to sell or not sell it.

Richard: What are your thoughts on judging?

Norman: When a judge walks up to the judging stand he or she should disregard all of his or her personal likes or dislikes in a Modena. If it is a large class, attempt to divide it into three groups: *the* most worthy, *the* average and those that are less than average. Know the Standard and follow it to the letter to *the* best of your ability. Eliminate the birds according to the point spread value of the Standard. Explain to the exhibitors why you are placing the birds as you are. If you are not sure about something, open your Standard and read it. Just because you may be judging does not mean that you know everything there is to know about a Modena. However, you should know just about as much as possible before you get up there to judge. You can never be too well prepared as a judge. If you do a poor job, you are not likely to be asked to judge again in that area.

Richard: How about judging seminars as a teaching tool?

Norman: I think it would be an

excellent idea. I think it would be good for the judges as well as the breeders. It would be a good exercise to let several people judge a class of about 10 birds, mark the results secretly and the reasons why the birds were placed in that manner or order, and then read the results. You would not have to embarrass anyone by having them sign their judging sheets. I'll bet it would make you get your standards out and read them. This would almost have to be done at National or District Shows.

Richard: What sort of breeding program do you use?

Norman: I have always followed the program of breeding best to best and cull the rest. I have already stated that I do not breed two birds together with the same faults. If one follows this program he will eventually have an inbred strain. If a strain begins to show a weakness, I add a bird that is powerful in this weakness, and hopefully not many minor faults. The bird may be mated to many of the old strain. I never backcross to the birds showing the weakness. The closer one inbreeds, the closer the birds must be culled, especially for viability.

Richard: Your advice to beginners?

Norman: Don't pay excessively high prices for your first Modenas. Wait until you really know what you want. Visit other breeders, attend as many shows as possible, and read your Standard over and over until you know it well. When you visit a loft or show, see how closely you can apply what you have learned from your Standard to the birds you are looking at and assessing the value of. If you see a bird that you think is better than the one that won, ask the judge why he placed the bird over the other one. Do this after the judging. Be sure you know what you want in the way of color, pattern, type, etc., before buying high priced birds. Be sure you know how to provide for your birds properly to keep them healthy. Learn how to prepare a bird for a show from the people who are winning. If you breed Gazzi, learn how to trim properly. Learn quickly to recognize the ones that cannot be successfully trimmed. You will never learn it all, but learn as much as possible as quickly as possible. Don't get "hung up" on one quality of the birds such as head and neck. Learn to see the total bird in balance.

Richard: What changes have you seen in the Modena fancy over the years?

Norman: I have seen many changes. In the '30's we had very few birds with good straight legs that were well set. Many of them had

legs that were too short. We had many "neck shakers", some with type and station much like a Holle Cropper. We did not have as many colors as we now have. I think there was a great improvement in domestic Modenas when the Holmes birds were brought into this country. Mr. Holmes was a breeder way ahead of his time in my opinion. We have a lot to thank him for as well as those who brought his birds into this country. Argents of today are so far ahead of those of past years that there is no comparison. There was a time when we gave extra points to Argents for color. This was a great mistake. Now we have Argents that are Modenas. There is much improvement in the color breeding of the birds today.

Richard: How do you see the outlook for the pigeon fancy in general and Modenas in particular?

Norman: I think that the outlook is good unless we have problems with City Ordinances. I don't think interest ever stays on the same plateau in a particular area. It seems to rise and fall but seems to always come back. The Modena has been a very popular breed for so many years. I don't see this changing. It usually takes a highly competitive breeder to breed Modenas. I believe it will always be this way. I can only see the quality getting better and better.

Richard: I appreciate you taking the time to help us with this interview. Thank you very much.

Next month we feature the top Agent Breeder, Robert Beckerdite of Versailles, Mo. December Shows

On the weekend of December 6 the Western Regional was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is another good growth area for the NMC of late. Entries were about 20 shy of the 300 mark and Willi Richert of Valley Center, KS, did the judging. Dennis Weyrauch of San Pedro, CA, showed the Blue Gazzi old hen that Willi picked for Best Gazzi and Best Modena while Best Schietti was a White young cock by Ride Barker of Long Beach, CA. Mike Spencer of West Jordan, UT, who is President of the sponsoring Utah Modena Club informs us that the Blue Gazzi classes were the largest and probably the strongest at this show. Mike was kind enough to supply the names and addresses for my newsletter of people highly interested in Argents as a result of seeing those shown by Rick Barker and Carl Ewert of Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Our third district meet was held Dec. 12 in conjunction with the Wise.

(Continued On Next Page)

State Pigeon Assn. at Sheboygan Falls, Wis. Ron ZiUritsch of Morton, IL. judged 430 Modenas. Best Gazzi went to Dave Minton of Decatur, IL. with an old Black Gazzi cock while Best Schietti hen bred by Paul Ober of Edenton, NC. This White hen had previously won Best Old White Hen for Bob at four different shows.

Another big winner at the third was the district director, Manfred Ecker of Lake Forest, IL. who took all the top Schietti awards with that one exception of Best Old Hen. In Schietti he had Best Young Cock, Best Young Hen, Best Old Cock and in Gazzi he had the Reserve Champion or second Best Gazzi. Manfred and Cherie operate a mostly cage bird and tropical fish pet store in Lake Forest and happen to have a fascinating story originating with his arrival in America as a professional soccer player from Germany. I believe. Maybe we will get the opportunity to share that story with you in the future possibly in the form of a master breeder interview; His success with Blacks and Andalusians commands that degree of consideration.

The Michigan Ohio Modena Club held its annual winter show in conjunction with the Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club Show in Fremont, Ohio, on Dec. 19. Bob Burns and Ron Deisher, Jr., West Union, IL. were pre-empted from winning by virtue of the fact they judged. Best Schietti went to Larry and Kathy Bowles of Tipton, MI. with an Andalusian old cock. Best Gazzi and Best Modena went to Ron Flutter of Brighton, MI, with a Bronze old hen bred by Dan Maschle of Seagrave, Ont., Canada. Bob informed me that some of the stronger classes in Schietti were Andalusian, NCC and Black where again the Bowles couple had a real nice young hen that pushed the Andalusian for top Schietti honors. Larry and Kathy are back strong after a short absence from Modena.

A special award was made recognizing the contribution to the MOMC by Richard Bousson of Capac, MI. in recruiting the most new members. I'd like to second that as I am already aware of the enthusiasm he and his young son, Jeremy express in boosting Modenas and especially Argents on that area of the country.

I must admit that I was beginning to wonder if we would see a Best Modena go to a Gazzi this year but they came through in December. Congratulations to Dennis and Ron for their winning with Gazzis and to all those who won Best Modena with a Schietti in 1987. We have only one

more NMC meet to report on though it will be history by the time you read this and that is the National. Bulletin Review

In looking over December's Bulletin. I note articles by NMC president Dan Tucker. Opelousas, LA, secretary/treasurer Ron Deisher, Jr., West Union, IL. bulletin editor Brad Wilcox. band distributor Russ Sapp of Mt. Holly, N.J. eastern vice president. Bob Burns of Evansville, IN. third district director Manfred Ecker. acting seventh district director Rick Griffith. the publicity director (that's me). fourth district director Allen Goetzman. Winona, MN. second district director Fred Nichols. Iron Station, NC. and sixth district director Dennis Weyrauch. Photos were featured from the Midwest Regional meet in Princeton, IL. Several of the reports heaped praise on that show and the Heart of Illinois Pigeon Club as sponsors.

New members listed in the December bulletin are as follows:

Ashlea Conger. Summer Hill, 111.; Chad Mowl. Battle Creek; Ron Lavoie. Ontario, Canada; Ted Langs. Ontario, Canada; Trevor Bone, Victoria, Australia; Elaine Mingo, Clearwater, Fla.; Tom DiVozzi, Foster, RI; Paul Rose. East Providence, RI; Steven Perreira. East Providence, RI; Sidney Pires. So. Plymouth, MA; Leea C. Small. Waco, TX; Jill Weisz, Sheboygan Falls, WI; Russ Moore, Lincoln, NE; Eugene and Grace Maclejewsl. Jackson, WI; Wendell Conger. Pittsfield, Ill.

Ashlea and Chad are new junior members and as such are especially welcome in the NMC. All new members are appreciated. I'm sure you will find that your dues are an excellent bargain.

A New Member's Note

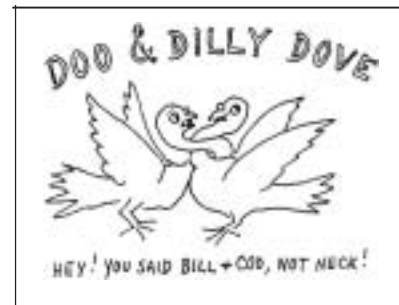
Along with some yearbook materials Ron D. sent to me. he included the following note from a new member who joined too late to make the list for December. I thought it was nice enough to share with everyone:

"I had the pleasure to see my first Modena this spring when I had made a trip out to Wise.. for a rabbit show. I fell in love with some birds Chet Jenkins had at the show.

"I like pigeons anyway, but the way these birds strutted and stood really impressed me. I've since gotten a few pairs - So I'd guess I'm hooked. Sign me up as a new member of your club and with time and a little work. I'll show these tool - Thank you, Kim Walden. Ivoryton, Conn.

..P.S. I would like to thank Reese Johnson for his help and sending me a bulletin from the National Modena Club."

From all of the NMC thanks to Cltet Jenkins wherever you are and Reese Johnson of Sellersville, Pa.. and to Kim Walden for sharing the good news. O



To breed a winning Modena is a happy feeling. Bob Burns' face announces the NYBS Best Modena is his own Young White Hen #208 (in background), winner of two more major shows since this photo was taken.

National Birmingham Roller Club News



Dedicated to the preservation and further development of the Birmingham Roller in the air.

by **JERRY A. BOEHMANN**,
Public Relations Director
7940 Ky. 405, Maceo, Ky. 42355
(502) 264-1241

11/1/88

November News

This month I would like to write about a special group of N.B.R.C. members in the Piedmont Flying Roller Club. I have known these fanciers in the Anderson, S.C., area for several years. A better group of roller men, would be hard to find. Their dedication to the hobby and to the performance roller have placed them in high esteem, by fanciers visiting their area and observing their birds, and partaking of their hospitality.

The Sec.-Treas., and editor of the P.F.R.C. bulletin, John Castro, is to be especially commended on his dedication to the fancy. John knows what it takes to produce and fly top quality performers. He also publishes a top quality bulletin each month, for the members of the club. At one time the P.F.R.C. was close to folding, due to a split in the membership. But through John's determination, he has rebuilt the club membership to over 80 members, covering 11 states. With a N.B.R.C member like this, I think he deserves special praise for his dedication. The membership of the P.F.R.C. is growing every month because of the P.F.R.C. bulletin and the dedication of the members recruiting new members. The bulletin with its down home feeling for its members, who enjoy reading about each others trials and accomplishments, is the bond which holds this club together. With clubs like this as the base for the N.B.R.C., how can the N.B.R.C. not become the greatest roller club in existence.

The P.F.R.C. will be holding two flys this fall, so if any N.B.R.C. member is traveling in this area at this time. be sure and stop by to visit and watch some good kits fly and perform. I know you will be welcome, because I had had the advantage to partake of this great southern hospitality. The fly dates are Nov. 14 all age birds, Dec. 12 young bird fly. For more information contact John Castro, Rt. 7, Marmac Acres, Anderson, S.c. 29624.

If any N.B.R.C. member would like publicity for his area club, just mail me the information, I will be more than glad to promote your club

flys and activities. This column is for the N.B.R.C. members, if you have news or want to write an article for publication, send it to me. This is your club so state your opinions, and share your ideas with the other members. The N.B.R.C. is the home base club, but without the small local clubs to hold our members together through local competitions and get-togethers, the promotion of the roller would come to a stand still.

The N.B.R.C. is for it's members, and to help promote this great hobby of ours. If you would like to join this great family of roller fanciers, send \$7.00 dues to George Valiska, RD 2, Box 437, Delta, PA 17314. The N.B.R.C. also offers coat patches, bands, pedigrees and a very informative bulletin edited every two months for our members enjoyment.

Next month I will report to you the details on the meeting at Louisville, Ky., where the National Young Bird Show is held each year at the Kentucky Fairgrounds. This show has become the meeting place of performance fanciers over the past five years. We all get together and talk birds all day, and meet roller fanciers from different areas of the U.S. This should be the biggest year from the information I have received.

December News

On Friday, Oct. 16, the performance Roller fanciers started arriving in Louisville, Ky., at the National Young Bird Show for the N.B.R.C. get-together. All Friday afternoon until the late hours that night, a lot of roller tales were exchanged, and fanciers were meetiiJg old friends plus a lot of new faces. To list all the names would take a lot of space, because between 60 to 70 fanciers were present Friday and Saturday from IS states. Saturday morning started early, roller fanciers still arriving, meeting and being introduced to different N.B.R.C. members. Many of the roller men and women mingled through the crowd, looking at the various displays and the many breeds of pigeons being shown. Close to 6,000 birds were on display, this in itself was something to see. Carl Hardesty had set up a hospitality table for the N.B.R.C., so the many fanciers could introduce

themselves and be introduced. Close to noon all of the roller fanciers were called to the hospitality table for a surprise presentation. Roger Baker was presented the Hall of Fame Award, in the N.B.R.C., in memory of Russ Harter. George Valiska did the honors and presented the large brass plate, engraved for this occasion. Then George got a surprise, he was also presented the Hall of Fame Award, in the N.B.R.C., in memory of Bill Pensom. Carl made this presentation, stating that both Roger and George were very deserving of these honors, because of their contribution to the roller hobby and the N.B.R.C. Carl also deserves a big hand of thanks, because this was his idea, and got approval from the N.B.R.C. officers. He also selected the plates and had them engraved for this occasion. Carl's thoughtfulness and many hours of shaking hands and introducing fanciers deserves all N.B.R.C. members appreciation. To me this is the spirit of a true sportsman and dedicated roller fancier. I would also like to thank Jim Schnieder for taping everything that happened during the introductions of members and presentations, plus the kit exhibition flys on his VCR camera. Jim is also taking charge of all VCR tapes that are in the N.B.R.C. library for distribution to the members. This VCR tape will be edited for roller fanciers at a later date. Anyone wishing to order this tape contact Jim Schnieder, 509 Boyce Ave., Alamo-gordo. New Mexico 88310. The price will be \$20.00 per tape.

About 1:00 p.m., everyone formed a caravan to head out and watch some rollers perform. Our first stop was at Triple M Loft, home of Joe and Francis Marlett in Marysville, Ind. Joe released his kit and they went to work, some good performance was witnessed before the hard wind blew the kit behind treeS and out of sight. They later drifted back and put on a good show. After lounging around and looking Qver Joe's birds and pens we loaded up and headed to Sellersburg, Ind. The flying circus loft made up of Rollers, Doneks, and Racing Homers, our next stop, the home of Tony and Pamala Dasaro. Tony released his kit and up they went, putting on a good show. Due to the hard wind and a hawk the birds were having trouble kitting, but some good spins were seen by everyone. Then Tony and Pamala treated everyone to a delicious meal, what a layout - ham, cheese, chips, drinks and desert. Thanks Tony and Pamala that meal

(Continued On Next Page)

sure hit the spot, we were all hungry and really appreciate it. After eating Tony turned out his Doneks. they went up very high and when shown a dropper would dive in different spiral rotations. Several of the roller fanciers were seeing this action for the first time, and loved it, what a show. Due to a fine meal and the lateness of the day everyone just laid around and talked rollers and enjoyed each other's company, what a day. It was getting late so several of us headed back to the show, to get birds and pick up friends that were riding back home with us. Several of the roller fanciers were staying over in Louisville so they could visit and talk rollers with the local fanciers. Others headed out for Owensboro, Ky., to spend the night so they could sleep a little late, before the Sunday activities started.

The Blue Grass Roller Club exhibition fly was due to start at my loft at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. By 8:00 a.m. roller fanciers started to arrive, building to a group of over 50 fanciers and their wives. The local newspaper, the Owensboro Messenger and Inquirer, sent a reporter and photographer to cover the gathering and fly. This story made front page news Monday morning. When everyone had assembled I turned my kit out, consisting of 8 old birds and 13 young birds. They climbed to a good viewing height, but the action was light. The day was very clear with no wind and the barometer was rising. A beautiful day for fanciers but not for birds. After everyone had looked my loft over and kit boxes we all loaded up and headed for the star loft, home of Carl and Pam Hardesty. Carl was flying 20 holdover birds and 6 young birds, they went up to a good height and started to perform. Some very good spins were observed in this kit, but they were not at their best. Carl's kit did put on a good show for everyone, in spite of the weather conditions, and they enjoyed it. Pam, Carl's wife, was kept busy serving coffee and drinks to everyone while they were watching the birds. Thanks a lot Pam, you are a very good hostess.

I am going to jump one week ahead here and state what happened then get back to the story. The following Monday, Oct. 26, Channel 14, one of the TV stations located in Evansville, Ind., asked to film my birds. so I invited them out. In the meantime, I located Carl and told him what was going on, so he headed home and I took them over to see Carl's birds. They filmed our birds and interviewed us on the Birmingham Roller. We made the

6:00 p.m. news that night and let everyone know what the Roller pigeon was all about. After the TV people left, I stayed and watched Carl's kit. The weather was overcast with a slight drizzle, I knew this was a good day for spinning and boy was I right. Carl's kit put on a super performance. I saw several birds spinning with the hole showing with excellent velocity. Needless to say there were several spinning past the hole drawing up to baseball size with wings transparent. Sorry everyone could not see this kit at their best, because they are something to behold.

Now back to the fly: Our next stop was at the Hubbard Loft located about 4 miles east of Lewisport, Ky. After everyone had assembled Larry released his kit made up of 17 holdover birds. I have watched this kit on several previous occasions and they have put on a super performance with excellent quality. But today they did not want to go up, a few spins were observed before they dropped early. Larry has stated this is the best kit he has ever had, and I agree, he does have some super birds in this kit. Back to the cars and down the road to Bill Zogman's loft. I did not get to see this kit due to making a trip to Owensboro to pick up the meat for the N.B.R.C. Picnic. I was later told Bill had 5 or 6 birds that were excellent spinners, and his kit put on a great show.

Around 2:00 p.m. everyone arrived back at the Boehmann Loft for the N.B.R.C. picnic, Ky. style. I would like to thank my wife Barbara Jean, Pam Hardesty and Mary Ann Hubbard for the work in setting up and

preparing the delicious dishes served at this meal. Bar-B-Qued chicken, mutton and pork along with cole slaw, potato salad, and baked beans, pickles and onion were served. Everyone filled their plates, and then were seated at the finest tables that could be obtained. Long rough hued oak boards set up on saw horses, this is Ky. style picnic dining at its best. Barbara Jean made peach and blackberry cobbler for desert, and it was all cleaned up before I had a chance to get any, I will know better next year. After everyone had filled up, and laid back to relax, Jim Palmer representing the Michigan Thumb Roller Club made a trophy presentation to Carl Hardesty, for the best performance kit flown this weekend. Congratulations Carl. Then all of the fanciers visiting the Blue Grass area put their names into a box for the drawing on a young bird kit. The following blue grass roller members donated two young birds from their best pairs, Larry Hubbard, Bill Zoglmann, Hugh Wedding, Carl Hardesty, and Jerry Boehmann. Jennifer Boehmann did the honors and drew out the winning fancier, Russell Dever from Brimfield, Ind. Good luck Russell with the young birds, they are out of our best.

I hope everyone had a wonderful time, I know all of the local Blue Grass Roller Club members did, and we are looking forward to next year. If you would like to attend this Roller Weekend, make plans now for next year, we are, see you next Oct.

The N.B.R.C. wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.D

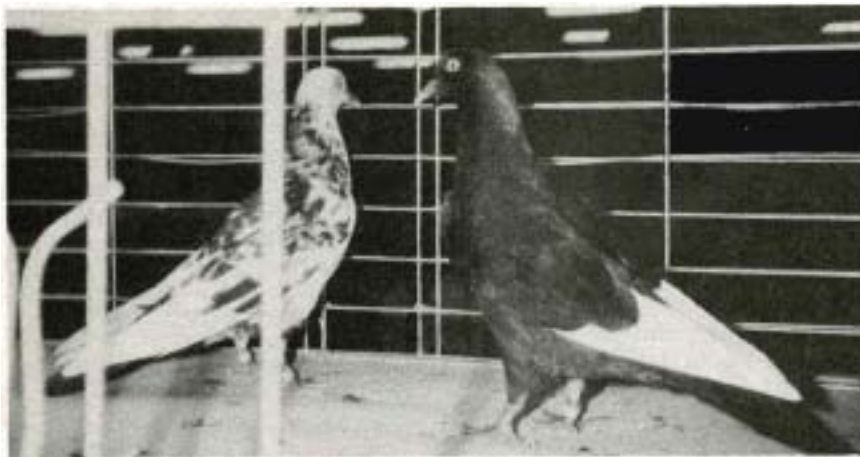
Southern Jacobin Club News

by JOE F. KORTUS, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dec. 12, 1987, the Southern Jacobin Club had their show in Shawnee, Okla., with the O.P.C. We had 189 Jacobins and Bud Traub did the judging for us. Special thanks go to all the Jacobin fanciers who showed with us. We had a special meeting during our lunch break and plans were made to hold our meet again next year with the O.P.C. We have the same officers except for one move, Bob Laughlin, Blackwell, Okla., was elected to Vice President. Bob is a hard worker and a great asset to the Jacobin fancy. My congratulations to all the winners and I am glad you got your revenge on me. I will try harder next year and see if I can make it tougher for you, the old saying, I will return. Everybody had a great time and sure did enjoy visiting with all you Jacobin fanciers who showed with us and also did

meet our new members, welcome to our club.

Now we come back to the same old problem and this is what is hurting our Jacobin club meets, too many shows bunched together. What I would like to see is the Jacobin clubs have a combined meet and hold it in a centrally located place so most of the clubs would have about the same ciistance--We could have a very nice two day show and wouldn't have to rush the judging. Come on you Jacobin Club Sec's, get in touch with each other and find out when everybody is planning on having their shows. The Southern Jacobin Clubs plans are again in Dec. Hope you all have a very good breeding season and see you all in Dec. 1988, Southern Jacobin Club Meet. Hats off again to all the winners, had a great time. 0



This picture shows two winning Flying Flights. The Black Teager Plainhead Flying Flight #1370 is owned by Ralph White. - Photo from Richie Bailin, Levittown, N. Y.

Just Flying Flights

by RICHIE BAILIN, Levittown, N.Y.

December

Just got the results of our annual open show which was held on Dec. 13, 1987, the same show hall as our young bird show. We had a tremendous turnout for this show. Having exhibitors come from New Jersey to show with us.

As before the judging was superb. which was done by Mike Schmidt and Ralph Menendez. Some of the classes of pigeons were quite large and took a bit of time to judge. but the task was done in great form by both judges. All totaled we had about 240 birds in the entire show.

I would like to take a moment to say something about one of the gentlemen who came to show with us who is not a member, John Ardito of West New York, New Jersey. has some of the nicest looking flying flights I have seen in years. They are all well marked birds. while their beaks are clean and the wattle is "cherry" red. The proof of his good breeding stock is shown in the results of our show. He took 7 positions in all different classes which means he does not only dominate one color or type. Again congratulations Mr. Ardito. it was a pleasure to have you show with us.

Getting back to the show itself. all things went very smooth. and when all the judging was done Bob Schaeffer had walked off with the Best of Show Trophy with a beautiful solid Dun hen.

I have to say the choice was tough because fighting for 1st place against the Dun was a Black Teager Cap owned by Mike McGivern. Mike. I know finishing second is not as good as first. but Mike. that teager cap of yours is a beautiful pigeon. Congra-

tulations to both men.

Here is a list of all winners:

(Old) 1st - Blacks and Dun - Bob Schaeffer; (Young) 1st Black and Dun - Bob Schaeffer; (Old) 1st Solid light birds - Ricky Ackerman; (Young) 1st Solid light birds - Bob Schaeffer; (Young and Old) 1st Solid light birds (plainhead) - John Ardito; (Young) 1st Dark Teagers (Plainhead) - Ralph White; (Old) 1st Dark Teagers (Plainheads) - Mike McGivern; (Young and Old) 1st Dark Teager (Cap) - Mike McGivern;

(Young and Old) 1st Light Teagers (Plainheads) - Gary Fiore; (Young and Old) 1st Light Teager (Caps) - George Rutolo; (Young and Old) 1st White (Plainhead) - Gil Rodriguez; (Young and Old) 1st White (Cap) - Jeff Seiber; (Young and Old) 1st Bar Birds (Caps and Plainhead) - Richie Bailin; (Old) 1st Mismark (Plainhead) - Ralph White; (Young) 1st Mismark (Plainhead) - Jeff Sieber; (Old) 1st Mismark (Cap) - John Ardito; (Young) 1st Mismark (Caps) - Frank Weber.

Best - solid - old and young - Dun P.H. #2278 - Bob Schaeffer.

Best . Teager - old and young - Black Teager Cap #2233 - Mike McGivern.

Best of Show - Dun P.H. #2278 Bob Schaeffer.

Once again. congratulations to all winners in their respected class. Let's see a bigger and better show next year. Continued luck in "88".
November News

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. The holiday season was chock full of excitement for our club. First, we had our annual baby show on Nov. 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Central Islip. The hall was beautiful, spacious and everyone seemed to

have a great time. There were almost 200 birds on hand for the competition which is pretty good for a baby show. The birds were good quality flying flights, while the judging was superb. By the way. a big thank you goes out to Clarence Williams and John Pluchino for a job well done. Clarence did all the teagers while John did all the solids and barred birds. When the smoke cleared and all was said and done a beautiful little black flight was pronounced "Best of Show" owned by Ricky Ackerman of Islip, N.Y. This is Ricky's first year in breeding flying flights and I think he has done a great job with the birds he produced this season. The black flight that won best of show was down from two of Bob Schaeffer's family of "Blacks".

While I'm in the "mood" for complimenting my competitors, I must say that the "White" class of flights was quite large and fully dominated by Ralph White. Ralph takes great pride in his whites and the result is that he cleaned up taking all positions in both plainhead and caps. Another man I have to say that is always around the winners circle. if not in it. is Mike McGivern. His dark teagers are second to none in both solids and caps, and what I wouldn't give to have 50 of the beauties in my loft. Hey Mike. if you ever are overloaded remember my phone number. I'd be glad to reduce your feed bill.

In the near future I am going to do one full article on one of our members and try to "pick his brains" while enlightening others about his past and present. Before closing I would like to thank all the members of the club that donated bottles of liquor. bags of feed, crates, etc.. for our raffle.

Here is a list of all the winners:

(Continued On Next Page)



"BEST OF SHOW"

This Flying Flight, Black Plainhead 11926, was "Best of Show". Bred by Ricky Ackerman. - Photo from Richie Bailin, Levittown, N. Y.

1st Black Plainhead - Rick Ackerman; 1st Yellow and Reds - Plainheads - Bob Schaeffer; 1st Yellow and Red - Caps - John Romano; 1st Teager - Blacks! Duns - Plainheads - Ralph White; 1st Teager - Black! Duns - Caps - Mike McGivern; 1st Teager Yellow/Red - Plainheads - Mike McGivern; 1st Teager Yellow! Red - Caps - John Romano; 1st Bar Birds - Plainhead! Caps - Bob Schaeffer; 1st White Plainhead - Ralph White; 1st White - Cap - Ralph White; 1st Mismark - Plainhead - Rick Ackerman; 1st Mismark - Caps - Frank Weber.

Best Solid - Rick Ackerman.

Best Teager - Ralph White.

Best of Show - Rick Ackerman.

Gentlemen. congratulations to all.

you all earned it.

Long Island Domestic Flight Club

The L.I.D.F. held its annual open show on Dec. 20, 1987, with the flying flight section being dominated by none other than Bob Schaeffer. He literally stole the show with a beautiful display of flying flights. He takes great pride in his birds, and you can see it pays off.

Listed below are all winners by class:

(Young) 1st Black (Cap) - Bob Schaeffer; (Old) 1st Solid Dark Birds (P.H.) - Bob Schaeffer; (Young) 1st Solid Light Birds (P.H.) - Bob Schaeffer; (Old) 1st Solid Light Birds (Cap) - Bob Schaeffer; (Young) 1st Dark Teager (P.H. and Caps) - Mike McGivern; (Old) 1st Dark Teager

(P.H. and Caps) - Bob Schaeffer; (Young) 1st Light Teager (P.H. and Caps) - Bob Schaeffer; (Old) 1st Light Teagers (P.H. and Caps) - Gary Fiore;

(Old and Young) 1st Bar Birds (P.H.) - Bob Schaeffer; (Young) 1st White (P.H. and Cap) - Gil Rodriguez; (Old) 1st White (P.H. and Cap) - Gil Rodriguez; (Young) 1st Mismark (P.H.) - Ralph White. (Old) 1st Mismark (Caps) - Gil Rodriguez. (Old) 1st Mismark (P.H. & Cap) - Ralph Menendez.

Best of Show - Black P.H. Hen (Old) #309, Bob Schaeffer. O

Eastern African Owl Club News

by TONY IOMUTO, Brooklyn, N.Y.

I hope everyone has had a happy holiday season. Now that show time is over, it's time to concentrate on our matings for the upcoming season. A lot of fanciers already have youngsters on the floor. I am just getting started myself, a little late as usual. I spoke to Artie Riggs and he has cut down his Africans to a minimum because of space. Also Mike Scalfani is only going with a few pairs. I will only go with 3 or 4 pairs of Africans because of a small loft. Like everyone else I have kept only the very best. There was a few I wanted to keep but I can't have them all. Heard from Chris DiGregorio in Carolina and raised some good ones even though he recently relocated. Chris tells me he has got some fanciers interested in Africans down there. I hear John IzZQ cut down also and will only raise duns and blacks this season. I also heard from Mr. (Skinny) Stratton who is having problems with his health, but will continue to raise but on a small scale.

The E.A.O.C. has still been on a roll with members joining from all over the country so why not join up with a winning club. Send \$5.00 to Howard Kogan, 17 Anchor Court, Huntington, New York 11746.

I would like to get more mail from fanciers who might be interested in African Owls. Feel free to write me at 1095 Sheepshead Bay Road, Brooklyn, New York 11229.

Let us promote our African Owl, I'm sure someone out there is curious or has some questions. If I could help I will, so pick up those pens fanciers your questions are always welcome. Till next month, good luck to all in the upcoming breeding season. O



National English Trumpeter Club News

by EDDIE LUJAN,
Publicity Director

Las Vegas, N. Mex.

Happy New Year! 1988 is upon us and with the coming of January comes the National Pigeon Association's Grand National to be held in Portland, Oregon, this year on January 21-23. I sincerely hope that the English Trumpeters will be well represented there again this year. The National English Trumpeter Club has supported and will continue to support the N.P.A. at all their Grand Nationals. Do not forget to attend this great show this year at Portland. I myself have attended a few nationals, and I always find them exciting as well as very educational.

Congratulations are in order as John Heppner made a clean sweep of the top awards at Louisville, Ky., in October. John, of Vista, California, had champion on an A.O.C. young hen, reserve champion on a yellow young hen, best opposite sex on a red baldhead young cock, plus he had various color class winners. Jaime Baker of Marysville, Ohio, had the champion junior bird at the National Young Bird Show. Congratulations to both of these exhibitors. The N.Y.B.S. had an approximate entry of 6,000 young birds with 121 of them being English Trumpeters. Exhibitors from all over the country and Canada showed at this premier show. Nineteen of these exhibitors showed English Trumpeters. It was also good to note that Norm Geil showed his English Trumpeters there

also. One of Norm's birds placed as best red. Michael Gross was selected as the judge. His placings were very meticulous and the outcomes were excellent. 1988's National Young Bird Show will be held on October 29. Mark this day on your calendar a show to definitely attend.

January is a time to renew your dues in the National English Trumpeter Club. Senior dues remain at 15.00 and junior dues for those 18 and under are still \$3.00. Send your dues to Carlin Whisenhunt, 1030 Judson, Lincoln, Nebr. 68521. If you know of someone who is not a member of the N.E.T.C., but breeds English Trumpeters, why not submit his or her dues for them. You would be doing that person a favor in joining up with one of the best English Trumpeter specialty clubs in the country.

On behalf of the members of the National English Trumpeter Club I would like to express our deepest sympathy to Steve Combs and his family on the passing of his wife early last October. Steve's wife used to accompany him to the Louisville National Young Bird Show.

The best time of the year for me is here as I start gearing up for the 1988 breeding season. The pairings are on paper and breeding season looks promising. I have my fingers crossed, do you have yours? O

Central Oriental Frill Club News

by DALE A. JETT,
Pub. Dir.,
Litchfield, Ill.



The COFC Herb Haupt Memorial Winter Show held Nov. 28 in Muncie, Indiana, was a grand little show. Ray Hoover of the Indiana Pigeon Club went all out to help us set up an excellent frill section. While the numbers were down the quality and enthusiasm was up.

Our COFC President Henry Schmahl had the honors of judging some of the best frills in the mid-west. Mark Tolcou of St. Louis, Mo., had exhibited some top notch brown

laced sannettes at the Louisville Rice Classic in October. Mark's brown sats placed well in Louisville, but it was amazing how well they had developed in another 40 days or so. It was hard to believe they were the same birds. Mark had no trouble winning best young sat (cock and hen) in Muncie, as a matter of fact the brown lace cock went all the way to Reserve Champion Frill. Mark's son Devin also got in the act winning Best Blondinette by a Novice with an

excellent blue white bar blond cock #124. Chuck McCalpin and James Elledge of J & C Lofts are on their way to a great comeback, as J & C Lofts won Best Young Blond with a dandy brown lace cock #202. Best Old Blond Hen and Best Old Frill Hen went to the "Piqua Gentleman" James S. Rice with a beautiful brown lace blond hen #617. Jim also took the Best Blue Lace Sat award with #42, a finely laced blue cock. Curt Brown was there showing his wares and captured the Al Porco Award (Best Bluette) with a ringer of a blue cock, and nosed by those powerful red blonds of Grant Daniels to also win Best Red Blondinette. Curt and Grant must be breeding out of the same "gene pool" as both their birds displayed a beautiful standout red color. Peggy Jett won Best Sat by a Novice with a blue white barred satinette cock. Champion Frill was won by Dale Jett with a black blond old cock #240.

While attending the Herb Haupt Memorial Winter Show I was pleased to meet two of our new members and fellow Frill enthusiast, Martin Duffy of Valley Station, KY. and Brian Curley of Freehold, N.J. We look forward to meeting Brian and Martin at our next big frill show in Louisville, Ky. We would also like to welcome our last new member in COFC, Curt Truitt of Kansas City, Mo.

Curt Brown has agreed to handle a COFC Frill Futurity this year for the Henry Schmahl Classic. All interested fanciers send \$1.00 per band number and denote whether it is for satinettes or blondinettes to Curt Brown, 644 Eighth St., Shelbyville, Indiana, 46176. Curt will give us a breakdown of the payback at a later date. All money for the COFC Frill Futurity and band numbers must be sent to Curt before May 1.

Looks like 1988 is going to be a good year for the frills and the pigeon hobby in general. We are pleased to see the appearance of a vaccine to combat paratyphoid, which has given all of us problems over the years. We are also pleased to hear that the U.S. Postal Service has certified a shipping container for pigeons. Sounds great! As soon as the special containers become available we will be able to have pigeons delivered right to our door. Much credit for this project must go to Tanner Chrisler of St. Louis, Mo.

Well, I hope by the time this sees print everyone has all their matings figured out for 1988, and is striving for that Champion in "THE YEAR OF THE FRILL"! All for now to my favorites "The Breeders of the Elite"! D

Central Jacobin Club News

by L.A. TRAUB, S. Elgin, Ill.

The Club meet was held in Fremont, Ohio, on December 18, 19 and 20, 1987, with approximately 190 Jacobins entered and about the same number exhibited.

Judging the birds was John Manckia, an excellent Jacobin breeder from Virginia.

Weather at Fremont was ideal for this time of year. No snow, approximately 40°, with cloudy and rainy conditions prevailing.

Color winners were white, black and red - Ed Bachmann. Ed also had grand champion with white old cock and also young bird champion and best red with an outstanding super young red hen. Louis Christener had best yellow with a yearling yellow cock. Jim Ecker took best A.O.C. with an excellent double bulleyed red cock. L. Traub had best blue and best almond; and Jon Miller took best silver with an excellent young silver hen.

Tom Reich's young splash cock that was champion at Southern Jacobin meet at Shawnee, Oklahoma a couple of weeks ago was best young A.O.C. but got beat out by Jim Ecker's old cock for best A.a.c., which proves the old adage that competition is in the Central Jacobin Club meets.

The club auction was a success with breeders putting up birds, and all monies collected went into Central Club treasury. If auction birds didn't sell, breeders were required to give

\$50.00 to club treasury.

New officers were elected - Ed Bachmann as President, Louis Christener as Vice President and Tom Reich as Secretary-Treasurer with L. Traub again asked to be publicity.

All in all, even though the amount of birds on exhibit weren't up to some shows, the birds on exhibit were of excellent caliber and 90% of the birds were only a feather or two apart. Best overall class in this writer's opinion was old yellow cocks, 15 on parade and all excellent Jacobins. A placing in top one-half of old yellow cocks was a real achievement. Old black cocks was another good class of Jacobins as was old black hen class.

Some excellent Jacobins on display that come to mind were young red hen of Ed Bachmann's, young silver hen of Jon Miller's, most of the old yellow Jacobin cocks, top half of young red cocks, old black cocks and hen classes.

Show for 1988 will be held with Grand National at Peoria, Illinois (as of now) with Fred Seibel or Charlie Pearson as judge. 0

SHOW KINGS

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Silver, AOe

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United Oriental Roller Assn. News

by JIM GREEN, Salt Lake City, Utah

First of all I would like to congratulate Ed Bills on his big win at the Utah Premier Show. This black O.c. Oriental Roller went on to win best of show with over 1900 birds. A special thanks to John Krein for his great job of judging the Oriental Rollers at this show. with 271 birds and this being his first try at judging and he did a super job.

The club is doing very well and is still growing, this is due to its great membership and all the hard work everyone puts into it. It is hard to find a club and a breed that is growing so fast and still have a fantastic friendship among the membership. so I thank all of you for making this club work and a great breed grow. We are still looking for more members and breeders to join in and have some fun with us as we make the Oriental Roller the greatest breed around today and tomorrow. We invite you to join the United Oriental Roller Assn. Contact Jim Green. 64 W. 3400 So., Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

We still have a few club bands left at IS cents each plus 50 cents postage. they won't last long. By the time this article gets out we should have our rewording of the club standard ready to be sent out to our membership.

We hope to see some of you at the Grand Nat'l in Portland. but if we don't we hope you will write us and let us know what's going on with the breed in your area.

I would like to welcome some new members to our club. They are Robert Beaver of Farmersville, TX and Bill Shaw of High Point, NC and hope to add your name to our membership list this year. JR. MEMBERS WANTED. we need some Jr. members. We only have a few at this time because everyone is growing up and moving up to the adult ranks. As a Jr. you get the same benefits as an adult for a little less money and the Oriental Roller is a very good breed to grow up with. We go all out for our Jr. members. So let's hear from you OK?

We had a super year in 1987 and will do even better in 1988. Join the U.O.R.A. Family \$10.00, Adults \$5.00, Jrs. \$3.00. Contact Jim Green. 64 W. 3400 So., Salt Lake City, Utah 841 IS. Thank you.

U.O.R.A. Premier Show 1987

There were 271 Oriental Rollers shown by 23 exhibitors. Judge was John Krein. He chose the following:

Champion - Black O.c. #123. Ed Bills. 1st Reserve - Dun O.H. #407,

Mike Green. 2nd Reserve - Black O.c. #110. George DelaNuez; Best Young - Red Y.C. #249, George DelaNuez. Best Junior Breeder - Mike Green. Best Novice - Yellow Y.H. #459, Todd Farnsworth.

BEST OF COLOR: Almond O.C. #414. Tom Green. Black O.c. #123, Ed Bills. Red O.c. #78, Jerry Ohm. Yellow O.H. #267, Ed Bills. Dun O.H. #407, Mike Green. White O.c. #285, Jim Green. Check Y.c. #1600, Don Evans. Bar O.H. #935, Jerry Ohm. Grizzle O.H. #1170, Tom Green. Ash O.C. #500, Tom Green. T-P O.H. #58, Mike Green. A.O.C. O.c. #2077, Don Evans. Genetic O.C. #539, Jerry Ohm. Mark O.c. #953. Jim Green.

Futurity Show

There were 26 birds shown by 8 exhibitors. Judge - George DelaNuez chose the following:

1. Almond Y.c. #608, Jim Green, \$35.00. 2. Check Y.c. #606. Jim

Green, \$25.00. 3. Black Y.C. #614, Mike Green, \$20.00. 4. Black Y.c. #626, Ed Bills, \$10.00. 5. Almond Y.C. #657, Tom Green, \$7.00. 6. Yellow Y.H. #617, Tom Green, \$3.00. E,U.P.C. Fall Show 1987

Sixty-four Oriental Rollers were shown by 8 exhibitors. Judging was done by a panel.

Champion - Dun O.H. #407, Mike Green. 1st Reserve - Grizzle O.H. #1170. Tom Green. 2nd Reserve - Grizzle O.C. #1107, Jim Green. Best Young - Grizzle Y.c. #876, Jim Green. Best Jr. Breeder - Grizzle O.H. #1170. Tom Green. Best Novice - Almond O.C. #1119, Chris Staley.

BEST OF COLOR: Almond Y.C. #832. Mike Green. T-Pattern Y.c. #801. Jim Green. Check O.c. #770, Tom Green. Dun O.H. #407, Mike Green. Red O.c. #402, Jim Green. Ash O.C. #500, Tom Green. Black O.H. #213, Mike Green. Yellow Y.c. #845, Jim Green. Bar Y.c. #830, Mike Green. Grizzle O.H. #1170, Tom Green. A.O.C. O.H. #484, Jim Green.O

The English Trumpeter Club Of America

by DENNIS RUPP, Publicity Director
New London, Minn.

To receive the ETCA Outstanding Member Award is indeed an honor and a pleasure. I received this award at the annual meeting of the ETCA meet held at Des Moines Dec. 5 and 6. 1987. I thank the membership for this award. The presentation of this award to me makes me feel my efforts writing this column have not been in vain.

ETCA Annual Meet

Once again one of John Heppner's Trumpeters copped over all honors at the ETCA annual meet. but not without a challenge from several other breeders. John's Old Red Splash cock was over all champion of the meet. Congratulations John. All the members will be back to challenge John again next year. Superior Breeder Award

To all breeders competing in the major E.T. Shows, be sure to send in your placings and points for the superior breeder award. Remember this is your responsibility to send these points to Gene Cooper, 802 Manzanita, Laguna Beach, Calif. 92651.

Nest Material Experiment

I have just completed part of a remodeling job in an old pig barn

which is being converted to a-pigeon loft. There eventually will be six pens in this building. One pen is completely finished and insulated. I plan on using a small milk house heater to heat this pen. I had 12 double nest compartments in this pen before any rollers (feeders for my Trumpeters) were put into this pen. In the left nest of each double nest compartment I am using shredded paper similar to the shredded paper made famous by Ollie North. In the right nest of each double compartment I am using straw for nest material. I put 12 mated pairs of feeders in this pen figuring that each pair would eventually claim one nest compartment. As of today the rollers have been in this pen only five days. The fighting by the cocks for nest compartments has almost ended. I am waiting to see if the rollers prefer the shredded paper or straw for the nest material. I will report in this column what % of the feeder choose paper and what % choose straw for nest material.

Tidbits From Here And There

Duane Johnson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, reports that he has all of

his pairs mated. No young banded yet.

Orin DuChien, Monticello, Minnesota, also reports that he has pairs mated.

2907 Missing From Des Moines

Norm Geihl reports that his young hen number 2907 is missing. She was not in the cage Sunday morning at check out time. Norm asks that all members check your black trumps to determine if 2907 was taken by mistake. Phone Norm at 507-423-5150.

The United Roller Club Of America News

by JIM PETERSEN, Pub. Dir., Davenport, Iowa

On behalf of the URCA, we hope your New Year is a happy one. Do you remember my writing about the video cassette viewing we did after our last Rexroat Memorial Kit Fly Competition? These videos (three in all) were published for the benefit of the NBRC and created by two fine Roller men, Carl Hardesty and Rick Schoening.

In these videos, they discussed various points on assessing quality in the Roller and what direction one should take in loft management, feeding, mating for best results, weaning and training, and assessing various "type" qualities (feather, body, eyes, etc.). I think you can readily see what a nice thing these videos are when you realize that the discussion wasn't limited to fanciers in this country, but English Roller men as well.

When you get that many opinions, you will find that everyone has his/her own pet theories and practices. Many of these theories will conflict. One of the biggest differences I saw in the typical English fanciers loft and about everyone of the American lofts I have visited is the use of the trap or bobs. For anyone who doesn't know what I mean by a "trap", it is a means of letting the birds in after the fly without the fancier having to be there. The light weight "bobs" swing in only so that once the birds have entered the loft, they cannot get out again. The English prefer to be present when the kit lands and then coax the birds into the loft by leaving a door open and tossing small handfuls of feed on the floor of the loft. They will gently rattle the feed can, softly whistle or quietly call "come on" to expedite the process. I think this is great for the fellow who has time for it and there can be no doubt that you are really in control of your flock or kit. You need to have very clean lofts to feed on the floor of course. I would not be able to fly birds during the week in the winter if it were not for a trap, as it's barely

Happy New Year!

Mayall pigeon breeders have a very good year. May each of you raise that Champion you have been striving for all these years. Let me know from time to time how your breeding season is going. All members like to hear how many birds you have raised.

My address is Dennis Rupp, 2840 Co. Rd. 40 N.E., New London, Minn. 56273.0

light enough for me to turn a kit out and be on my way to work in time.

I'm concerned that many of those viewing these fine videos will be confused by all the information presented. Rollers can be handled simply, or you can really make a science out of it. The birds are for the fancier to enjoy. Some ideas which will work well for one family of birds in one area of the world, may not for the other guy. So, keep an open mind and don't get discouraged.

Somebody once wrote, "who are these self appointed guardians or saviors of the hobby?" I think the shoe fit yours truly and perhaps it was meant to, but yes, I do feel an obligation to present my observations in the hobby. I might be a pretty good guy to do it since my heart's in the right place, I've been around the game for more years than most, and I have nothing financially to gain from the hobby ... nor will I ever. I care genuinely about the "hobby" and where it will be years from now. I'm very concerned about the job we are doing to set good examples and encourage our junior fanciers ... the future of our hobby.

I've seen many fanciers come and go during my 34 years in the game. Nearly all of those who have quit, I wish would have stayed. I think we all need to analyze why we have lost these fanciers. I think the prime reason fanciers have left the hobby is because their birds have consistently fallen below their expectations. When it came time to improve on their stock, the second phase of hobby disillusionment set in ... expense. Let's see what we can do to help all the pigeon fanciers enjoy their hobby, and stay to share the fun. When you think of the Birmingham Rollers humble beginnings in the coal mining country of England, you realize that people can do a great job of breeding these little creatures if given the chance and decent stock. A little encouragement

never hurts either. We pigeon fanciers are such a minority, we must continue working together and supporting each other. Amen. you say?

Getting back to the material covered in the videos, there was a lot of talk concerning the "hole" showing when a bird spins and if this represented the ultimate in rolling velocity. I think the consensus on this issue was that it did NOT reflect this fact. If the bird is real fast and tight, the "hole" it creates in the center of this spinning mass is so small, and the angle looking up at a bird in the air so great, that the hole wasn't worth looking that hard for. If a bird is fast and tight enough, and you've seen many of them over the years, it's not hard to tell.

Another theory that was discussed by the fanciers in the videos was the "blood in the eye theory". This theory believes the bird that comes in after the fly with an eye darkened with blood (in fact temporarily blinded) is a champion spinner. All those fanciers asked did not subscribe to this theory. I'm glad, for if that statement were true, I know I'd have to pursue another hobby. I didn't have a bird do this for many years, and always wondered, maybe it was something that should happen once in a while just to substantiate the fact that your birds are spinning with enough velocity. When I found one that had spun blood into it's eye a few years back, I was relieved to find this bird was one of mediocre velocity and tightness. This "fault" is the result of a physical defect, rather than a sure sign of superior quality.

One thing that I haven't heard discussed about determining one's best spinning birds is something I noticed in mine nearly 20 years ago. If you ever see one of your birds immediately after it lands from a good work out (frequent and fast spinning) see if it doesn't look as if someone took a comb and parted it's chest feather right down the middle! The ones I have had do this were always at least above average in the air. They were all good tight feathered birds too, so it's not some kind of feather defect in case you were wondering.

While flying my birds this morning, they were doing an above average job for me. but then they always do on cloudy day with little or no wind and maybe even a little spit of rain. This type of day contrasts to the high sky, high barometric pressure type of day, when the kit wants to fly high with less frequent rolling. Is it because of the barometric pres-

(Continued On Next Page)

sure or aoes it have something to do with eye dialation on the darker days? So many questions! Such an interesting breed of pigeons! What a great club the United Roller Club is for those fanciers interested in this great breed! Come join us! Look for our advertisement elsewhere here in the American Pigeon Journal.

My friend Ron Torrence will be along next time to visit about Show Rollers. By the way, the United Roller and Pensom Roller Clubs are in the process of putting together another book about Rollers as a followup to the 1967 Roller Digest. I thought it was to reflect all aspects of Roller keeping, but it now sounds like it will be geared towards Show Rollers only. Ron will probably have more about this.

Not to take away from Ron's report, but my son Jerry and I did take in two shows this fall. The Southeast Iowa Pigeon Club at Burlington, Iowa, put on its usual good all breed show. The Central Roller Club held its annual meet there. Bob Crawford did a good job of evaluating the exhibits. Bob Hord's old blue check marked hen was selected champion. This fine champion was followed down champion's lane by a couple of Jerry Petersen's tortoise hens and then by a couple more Bob Hord cock birds.

Curt Neuendorf had a group of certified spinners on hand for us to take a crack at ranking according to how good in the air we thought each were. There was fifteen or so of us who tried our hand at it. Most of us picked the 2nd best bird as the best spinner, and in general got them wrong ... but the winner of the cash prize for getting them ranked correctly was a Giant Homer breeder who hadn't had rollers for 20 or more years! Did we/he have fun with that?! You bet! I hope this will be a regular feature of the CRC annual. It cost a dollar to try your hand at it, half was a prize fund and half went to the club. Try it sometime.

In December, Jerry and I watched Barry Jennings evaluate the 150 rollers entered for the Iowa Roller Club Annual Show held with the Iowa State Pigeon Association. They had just under 3000 total entries at this great show. When it was all over, we were shaking Ray Smith's hand for bringing along such a great red check self hen for us to admire in the winner's circle. His blue check self hen was next in order followed by a dandy John Putney cock (maybe those guys ought to get together!). The wirming group proved Mr. Jennings sure knows his show rollers.

A nice section of Flying Rollers

was exhibited with Don Steffens little dark blue grizzle young hen reigning as the Champ of that group. It was good to see Ken Burgess do such a fine job of judging these flying birds. Pigeon geneticist par excellence, Dr. Hollander, exhibited a special group of unusual pigeons at this show. I had never seen pigeons with extra toes, web feet, silky plumage and porcupine plumage (or the lack of plumage as it were) except in Mr. Levi's book. All in all it was a great show!

Southern Illinois Pigeon Club News

by GERALD STEVENS, Pub. Dir., Parkersburg, Ill.

Winter! What a great time of year. Don't you agree? Icy roads, snow, frozen water troughs, dead squabs that you only yesterday banded. It doesn't get much better than this. But seriously won't you be glad when Mother Nature gets tired of blowing her cool and gives us some of that ole eighty degree weather that we complained about last summer? I, for one, will be. I have heard from a few members that have told me that some of their first hopefuls for 1988 have already been taken care of by old Mother Nature and taken to that great Pigeon Loft in the sky. I guess I don't have to worry about that for a while because my birds seem not to want to start their families yet. It's probably for the best. Below zero weather is not my favorite time to get out and do pigeon chores that have to be done whether I want to or not. That ought to be enough gloom so we'll change to a brighter side of things.

I have some new members to report this time. John Bassemier of Evansville, Ind., and his son James have joined the club. Two members that I left out last time were Bill Jelley and his son Ronald of Geff, Ill. We welcome these new members to our ranks and if at any time we can be of help don't be afraid to ask. We were all new in the club at one time so we know about needing to ask questions. Asking questions does not mean that you don't know anything, it is a sign that you are interested. I have been into the pigeon game for almost ten years and I am still asking questions of people who have been in the game for over fifty years and they are still asking.

In November the club decided that we were getting big enough to have our own newsletter. It was voted upon and this writer got the honor of being the first newsletter editor. In January I got out our first newsletter and it seems to be taken very well. I have gotten some positive reports

Our best buddy, George A. Reeve, has had open heart surgery since I last wrote. He's had a pretty tough time of it and we are all hoping for a little good luck for a change and a good recovery. George is one of the most generous, hard working and knowledgeable persons in this hobby, so we wish him the best. His address is 4701 Korff Road S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403, if you care to drop him a note of encouragement.

Until our next visit ... Keep 'em Flying! 0

from other members that think it was a good idea. I don't expect to be up to par with a very widely read pigeon monthly that I receive but I am going to try to come in a close second. The first newsletter contained bilihs, deaths, show reports, thank yous and a show and swap calender. Also dates of all meetings for 1988. If you would like to get on our mailing list and see what is going on in the Southern Illinois Pigeon Club send \$2.00 for postage and handling to our secretary Beulah Paddick, III Sycamore, Sumner, Illinois 62466 or to me Gerald Stevens, Box 47, Parkersburg, Illinois 62452 and you will receive our newsletter which will be quarterly.

Got a letter from George Wiedlocher of Carbondale, Ill., and he tells me that he and his brother have invited a 4-H group to their loft this coming spring. They plan on having some pigeon material typed and passed out. Things such as breeding and medication and lofts will be discussed. And get this, they are planning to give out old issues of the APJ. What a great idea. That should put the kids on the right path to start.

Those elected to lead our club in 1988 are Pres. Lowell Paddick, V. Pres. Kay Miller. Sec. I Treas. Beulah Paddick, Publicity Director and Newsletter Editor Gerald Stevens, Show Supts. Lowell Paddick, Judd Hunt and Oscar Crouch, Board of Directors Helen Crouch, Karen Osmon, David Paddick Sr., Judd Hunt and David Miller. We hope that this will be another successful year and with the help of all members I am sure that it will be even better than 1987. Especially in the "Wrote to the Publicity Director department". I'm sure all P.D.s would love to hear from more members. Gives us all something to write about. Until next time remember, "One banded youngster in the nest is worth more than a whole spinach pie". 0

Chinese O.I. Chauer

by JOHN COE
Turlock, Calif.

The economics of feeding pigeons has always been difficult to explain to my wife. Some days, I even try to shave without looking in the mirror because I can't even face myself over this subject. However, it's easier to tell someone else what to do than it is to do it. My good wife has stuck it out for over 40 years now. I don't know whether this puts me on secure ground or shakey ground. She still speaks to me although she doesn't go near the pigeons. I never mention pigeon food on grocery shopping days.

Tony Brancato of Santa Maria, CA., writes: "I always enjoy your column in the A.P.J. and wanted you to know it is appreciated. Several years ago I talked to you about what you feed your birds. At that time you were feeding clean whole wheat (four scoops to one scoop of whole corn). Are you still using this feed?"

"I've been using pellets for years and a scoop of hen scratch as a treat. The droppings are getting to me. They are too loose. Plus my Bernberg Trumpeters prefer the pellets and they refuse to eat the grain. The other birds love the scratch. Anyway, I've been using the pellets (all purpose sixteen percent protein) for years and I think it is time for a change.

"Pigeon grain here is just too expensive at \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hundred. I'd appreciate your thoughts on this matter. I do use Vitapol in the water, medicate on a regular basis, etc.

"Lately the droppings are just like water, especially in the Bernberg loft. Thanks. John, I appreciate your help."

I am afraid, Tony, that a straight concise answer might send you off in the wrong direction. What is good for me is not necessarily good for you. I'll do some explaining. For many, many years I have been feeding my pigeons a good healthy diet of hard wheat and dent field corn. There is some research to substantiate this feed for pigeons. This research is what started me off. The greatest danger in this method of feeding is a lack of protein in the diet. There is a great difference in the protein contents of various wheats. They may vary from about six percent protein to about sixteen percent protein. Every substantial farmer knows what the protein con-

tent of his crop of wheat is. Ask him. He'll tell you.

I keep about 125 pigeons. My wheat cost me \$4.50 this year and the same price last year. The corn costs about the same. Thus with amenities, my pigeon feed costs me about \$5.00 a hundred. I have gone through about 30 generations with this type of feeding, and my pigeons seem to be very healthy. I use cafeteria style feeding now and I find that my birds eat 25 percent corn in chilly weather and a little less in the summer. I average about two pounds per bird per year of 28 percent protein pellets at a cost of \$13.00 per hundred. If a hen doesn't lay when I think she should, I throw a few pellets in by her nest bowl for a few days. Sometimes I think this helps. When a hen stops laying due to old age, I give her a treatment of tetracycline and high protein pellets for a couple of weeks. She will often lay two or three more rounds. This has been mostly experimental. I have taken other breeders ten-year-old birds and eked a few more eggs from them with this method. I do not think this is practical. If you haven't done any good with them in ten years, you would be better off to farm them out.

You can't expect a farmer to sack his grain and store it for minimum price. You have to go directly into the field and get it loose from the harvester. I store mine in barrels. It must be hard and dry when it goes into the barrel. I throw a few ounces of diatomaceous earth in the bottom of the barrel to keep the weevils down to a minimum. I get no spoilage other than weevil, and I get very little of that.

And now for some of your problems as I see them. I would not feed my pigeons scratch feed as the sharp edges of the cracked corn tends to scratch the mucus membranes and allow germs to enter through these injuries. One that seems to enter easily through these injuries is the protozoan *Trichomonas Columbae* that causes canker in pigeons. I feed only whole dent corn. Popcorn will not do the job in combination with wheat. If pigeons are fed only wheat or wheat and popcorn, they will go sterile due in part to a lack of vitamin A. If fed wheat and dent corn, they maintain good fertility. If your water is lacking iodine, you must add that (about one drop per gallon). Don't add too much iodine or you will run into other troubles. About popcorn, Levi says, "There is usually no yellow endosperm and it lacks vitamin A." Pigeons such as rollers, tipplers and other small breeds swallow acorns and junk food with ease and can

handle dent corn easily. They may need to learn what it is. Due to man created changes in anatomy, I find that oriental frills and other breeds with extremely short beaks have a hard time getting large food particles into the throat and I do not recommend it for them. As far as getting your trumpeters to eat grain, I think it is about like getting my own children to eat foods other than candy. Sometimes they had to get hungry first. Pellets are somewhat scratchy and very dry. They often stick to the mucus membranes until they get moistened.

I think that your greatest problem in changing pigeons that have been raised on pellets to eating whole hard grains would be associated with atrophied gizzards. I think that you would need to make the change quite slowly so that the gizzard muscles could build up and become functional. I have no idea how long this would take. You could probably monitor it by watching the droppings. Feed pellets in the morning and hard feeds in the afternoon. This should help to dry up the perches.

If you make the change, it would be interesting to hear from you again to see how things are going. Why don't you try Chinese Owls? They are America's Number one fancy breed. - John Coe, 3000 Curtion, Turlock, Calif. 95380.0

Helmet Happenings

by BRUCE SCOTT,
Richardson, Texas

Publicity Director
American Helmet
Association



February is that time of the year when all the shows are over and our thoughts now turn to mating our birds for 1988. From conversations I've had with members at the 1987 shows, this year should be the best yet for the number and quality of young birds raised. Hope springs eternal and this is so true in breeding pigeons. I hope most of you have purchased or traded for a cock or hen you need, as most members have pretty well cleared out their surplus birds to make room in their loft. However, if you do need help, let Al Flinn our Bulletin Editor know and he'll list your needs in the Bulletin. As a reminder, his address

(Continued On Next Page)

is as follows: Albert B. Flinn, 192 Geiger Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817. Louisville National Young Bird Show

There were 215 Helmets entered in this year's Young Bird Show at Louisville. That is ~~something~~ and it only goes to show you how popular Helmets have become, especially in the eastern two-thirds of the United States. If it had been an all age show, it could easily have been a 300 bird meet. Those kinds of numbers were unthinkable just a few years ago. I'm sure this was no one time thing and you'll be seeing 200 plus every year at Louisville. Plans are underway to make this Helmet Young Bird Meet even more meaningful. For most of us it's a long trip. However, if this show continues to be the great show it has become, it is well worth the drive. We had a record turnout of AHA Members (see photo), as well as a lot of birds. These folks had a great time and most of us stayed at the Executive Inn just across the street from the show hall. Half the fun of the show is the after hour fellowship. I'm sure we'll see most of these members back again next October.

Goals in Breeding

Over the years, I have made it a goal of mine to lessen the percentage of culls. Well sir, for the past few years I've achieved that goal and initially I felt real good about that. Perhaps the worst chore of our hobby is culling and I thought once I'd achieved my goal of fewer and fewer culls. I would be all set. However, a strange thing happened on my way to lessen the number of culls and that was I started to not win as much at the shows. In other words, I created a good looking flock of Helmets but no more of those sensational birds that win Champion of the Show. In my 1988 breeding program I'm going to try to reverse this trend by mating my pairs with off setting extremes of crest, type, etc. I will undoubtedly see my number of culls increase dramatically, but to hit the

"jack pot" you can't go down the middle of the road so to speak. Undoubtedly, some of my young will look a little weird by doing this, but you can't have your cake and eat it too.

Also, this year, I'm going to use more and more of my individual breeding pens for my pairs with the most potential. Let's face it, we've all got one or two aggressive cocks in our flock that makes the bloodline of some of your young bred in an open loft singly suspect. Sometimes the renegade cock is a young guy trying to sow his oats with all the hens or it's an older cock that's had his own way in the loft for too long. I'd say, if these cocks are worth keeping, that they should be the first to go into individual breeding pens.

Well, there you have it, my secret of success (I hope) for 1988. Don't fall into the trap that caught me by surprise. Unless you just want a flock of good looking Helmets, you better try mixing your breeding stock. I can't promise you a rose garden, but it's worth a try. In a few months, I'll know the results of my redefined goal and I'll share the good and bad news about the youngsters that come out of these matings.

Master Breeder Show Points

Our Points Director, Harold Strawniak, wants to wind-up the results of all our AHA Meets for the 1987 show season. Any of you who were in charge of the books for an AHA Meet, that haven't been mailed in to Harold, should do so at your earliest opportunity. We are fortunate to have a member of his caliber to perform this task for us, so please help him by doing your part. A lot of show points were won this year and Harold will publish an updated list in the Bulletin in the near future.

New Members

We had a great group of Helmet Fanciers join the AHA recently. I want to welcome these folks to our club at this time. They are a nice

cross section of 7 of our districts. This is a healthy sign, as it means we are truly a national club in our scope of membership. Here they are by district:

District 3, Nick Marzec, Lemont, IL; District 4, Salvatore Guttilla, Houston, TX; District 6, Bob Dunlap and Jamie Dunlap from Sherwood, OH, Mary Dwight, Clyde, OH, and Brian Thompson, Alexandria, IN; District 7, Roger Gravel, Waterbury, CN, Ronald Jarvais, Warren, RI, Robert Powell, Hauppauge, NY, Edmund Reinhart, Reading, PA and Frank Selvaggi, Allentown, PA.; District 8, Barry Roberts and Family; Odgen, Utah; District 10, Edward Huisman, Wyoming, Ontario, Canada; District II, Eric Hanger, Imperial, NB and Ken Walter, Edgewood, NM.

Portland National

In order to meet my deadline with the APJ, I won't have the highlights of the Portland National until next month. All indications were that it was going to be a real barn burner of a show. I'll have the highlights next month for those members who were unable to attend. Hopefully, I'll have a photo of this show in Helmet Happenings too.

1988 Pairings Timetable

Normally I put my pairs together in February each year. Last year I started earlier, but with negative results. I do not have much light in my loft and with the long cold dark January nights my birds just did not produce. I'll still have plenty of time for at least four rounds before the hot summer starts. however.

Club Info

The American Helmet Association is composed of a great bunch of Helmet fanciers from coast to coast. They are waiting to welcome you into their club. For information about us just write to our AHA secretary: Lloyd L. Larghe, 110 Rodeo Court, Elizabeth, CO 80107.

Until next month, happy Helming.O



AHA members who attended the 1987 Louisville Young Bird National. - Photo by Charles Dwight, Clyde, Ohio.

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Mondain Motters

by EARL GOLDING,
Waco, Texas

At a recent gathering of French Mondain breeders in Broussard, Louisiana, there was much discussion about the best way to promote French Mondain pigeons through the country. Dan Davis, the long-time secretary of the National French Mondain Association, had a quick recommendation. "If we can get somebody to write a monthly column in the American Pigeon Journal," Dan said, "it would help us more than anything else we could do."

Those in attendance, including Mervine Hernandez, Raymond Rodrigue, Floyd Menard, L.J. Segura, Harold Guidry, A.J. Girouard, and Ellis Romero of Louisiana; and Davis, Paul Cook, and I, all from Texas, readily agreed. And that idea led to this column. All of us believe it will be a benefit to the French Mondain pigeon hobby and the Journal. And first, let me introduce myself. I have raised pigeons for about 40 years, and started in Mondains in 1957. Martha and I live in Waco, Texas and along with Howard Hardin, Bill Buckler, Elmer Stark, and Obie Stobaugh, I helped organize the Texas French Mondain Club in 1957. I had raised other breeds for years, but upon

seeing my first French, became instantly committed to them. I have enjoyed great friendships and fellowship with not only the great breeders of my home state, but with neighboring Louisiana, and Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, California, Oklahoma and other states which are comparative hot beds of this breed. I won the National Championship with a white in 1966, and have had a rewarding share of champions over the years. I have served as secretary of the Texas club's bulletin for most of its existence, and during a two-year period was secretary of the NFMA. I am a newspaperman by profession, and have been the Outdoors Editor of the Waco Tribune-Herald for the past 38 years. I write a hunting and fishing column which runs seven days a week.

Now, about our breed, and our hobby.

In this space in the months ahead, I will be reporting on a wide variety of subjects which will be of interest to Mondain breeders already into this breed ... and which hopefully will perk some interest among pigeon breeders still searching for a breed. We'll have show and club reports, breeding tips, advice on feeding, care, and management; and other info on this big, strong, and beautiful bird. We'll also submit pictures, and invite you to send good-quality prints of your club's champions, preferably in black and white, but good quality color will do.

Briefly, for those not familiar with Mondains, here's a brief insight. These are big birds, either the largest or second-largest of all pigeons in our country. They come in 10 color classes, and are bred to a standard of perfection which has been in existence for over 30 years. The hot bed of this breed has historically been in Texas and Louisiana but is also popular in a number of other states, including California, New Jersey, Wisconsin and a number of others. Hopefully, we'll see the range of this big, powerful pigeon expand greatly in the future.

As this is written, most of the annual club shows are recent history and the National Pigeon Show is fast approaching. The Texas French Mondain Club held its September show in Waco, with Clifford and Ethel Martin of Belton winning with a super young Ash Cock, JA 3. Earl Golding, Waco, had the Reserve Champion with young AOC Cock JB 229, as well as Best Display.

The Big Three in the Texas-Louisiana area came within a period of six weeks. The NFMA's Southwest District Show was held in connection with the Beaumont State Fair Oct. 16-17 in Beaumont, and I had the honor of judging it. I drew 233 entries, with Charley LaBorde, a veteran breeder from Vidor, Texas, winning the Grand Champion with a super Old Black Cock 6032. Old Brown Cock 4912, owned by Woody Wiley of Louisiana, took the Reserve Champion honors. This is an excellent show, held each year. Dan Davis and other breeders on the Coast combine to make this an annual bright spot in showcasing Mondains. Paul Cook made the trip with me and we thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality.

Next, the Texas French Mondain Club held its 1987 All-Age in Waco Oct. 31-Nov. 1, with Mervine Hernandez judging. There were 128 young birds and 138 old birds, and with the Louisiana and Gulf Coast boys on hand, plus the usual in-landers from Texas, it was another very competitive display of French. A.B. Melancon of Rockport continued his strong run in TFMC meets by taking the Young Bird Grand Champion with AOC Cock 725, and with Marvin Koenig, Austin, winning Reserve Champion with Blue Cock 826. In the old birds, Earl Golding won the Grand Champion with AOC Hen 5235, and Floyd Menard of Louisiana won the Reserve Champion with Blue Cock 8589. Golding took both Best Displays.

Paul Cook and I were in Lafayette,



CHAMPION FRENCH MONDAIN

Old Black Cock #6032 owned by Charley LaBorde of Vidor, Texas, was Grand Champion of the 1987 Beaumont State Fair Show.

(Continued On Next Page)

Louisiana, for the Louisiana French Mondain Club's Annual Show Dec. 5-6, which I judged, and it was an excellent meet. Floyd Menard won Old Bird Grand Champion with Blue Cock 8589, and A.J. Girouard had Reserve Champion with Black Cock 829. In Young Birds, Rodney Trahan won Grand Champion with AOC Cock 5412; with the Reserve Championship going to Girouard's Indigo Cock, 2721. This show drew a total of 171 young birds, and 151 old birds.

Now, here's information on some of the French Mondain Clubs around the country. The National French Mondain Association puts out six bulletins a year, and Dan Davis has been secretary for years. Dues are \$10 annually, and for complete info, contact Dan at L080 Evangeline Lane, Vidor, Texas 77662.

The Texas French Mondain Club holds six shows a year in Waco, and this year for the first time will publish its TFMC NEWSLETTER on a monthly basis. Dues are just \$7.50 a year, which includes the Newsletter. Paul Cook is the 1988 president. Jimmy Gatlin. McGregor, is show secretary, and I am the secretary-treasurer and also publish the Newsletter. We have a limited number of Newsletters, which include many pictures of champions, from past issues. For complimentary copies, or to join, contact me at 525 N. 35th, Waco, Texas 76710.

The Texas club's first show of the year will be in Waco the last of February; and Paul Cook, the new President, plans a Mondain seminar which will probably be held in Waco in January. It will be mostly for new breeders. The club added about a dozen beginners late in the year, and is dedicated to making this growth continue throughout 1988.

L.J. Segura is the secretary of the Louisiana French Mondain Club, and for info about joining, and about this club's show schedule, contact him at 1007 Corrine St., New Iberia, Louisiana 70560.

John List is the live wire who sparks the Midwest Club, and he can be contacted at 11722 S. Millard, Chicago, Ill. 60655.

On the West Coast, Bud Steele is the man to contact about the Western French Mondain Club's program. His address is Rt. 8, Box 26, Bakersfield, California 93307. Other good contacts about Mondains include: Les Heisserman, 211 Stokes Ave., Mt. Holly, N.J. 08060; Jim Franklin, 1107 High St., Aurora, Ill. 60505; Leonard Batchelder, 3010 White Pine, Carson City, Nevada 89701; William Brownfield, 70 Sheffield Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45240;

Don Hesse, W220 N8712 Town Line Rd., Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; and Robert McLnyk, 6006 DeJumonville, Montreal, Quebec, Canada HIM-I.

Should you have information about French Mondain activities which should be of interest to readers of this column each month, please mail to me, Earl Golding, 525 N. 35th St., Waco, Texas 76710 or call 817-752-2388.

Also, the American Pigeon Journal offers group subscription rates, giving a 25 percent discount when 10 or more yearly subscriptions are sent in at the same time. This way, breeders in the various Mondain clubs not only will get to keep up with what is happening with their favorite breed, but will be able to keep up with all that is happening in all the pigeon world. Send group subscriptions, with check, to American Pigeon Journal, P.O. Box 278, Warrenton, Mo. 63383.

It goes without saying the more input which comes from French Mondain breeders everywhere, the more effective this column will be in calling attention to our breeds. So you veteran Mondain men and beginners alike send me news and ideas. The address, again, is 525 N. 35th, Waco, TX 76710. The phone number is 817-752-2388.0



5th District AGHA Meet

The entry of 276 American Giant Homers by 16 Exhibitors at the 5th District Meet held with the Tulsa State Fair on October 10 was a tremendous show. This District Meet is only one of nine held throughout the country and it provided outstanding competition, fellowship and great facilities. Jack Anderson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma had Champion with Black Check Cock #572 and Best Opposite Sex with Blue Bar Hen #653.

7th District AGHA Meet

The largest District Show of Record with an entry of 423 American Giant Homers. 387 in show, was held Oct. 31-Nov. 1 with



Master Breeder Denby Williamson and Jud Appley, both of Wyoming, at the 14th Annual American Giant Homer Young Bird Futurity. - Photo from Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.



Ray Arnold judging Young Hens at the 14th Annual American Giant Homer Young Bird Futurity. - Photo from Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.



Howard and James Boothe with their Champion Jr. Cock and Hen at the 14th Annual American Giant Homer Young Bird Futurity. - Photo from Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.

the Black Hills Pigeon Club in Rapid City, S.D. This District Meet also provides outstanding facilities, fellowship and keen competition. Carroll Cooper of Tyler, Texas, had Champion Giant Homer with Silver Bar Hen #17. This hen was also picked Champion of the entire Show over all breeds. Jack Anderson had Best Opposite Sex with Opal Check #764. Highlights of the 7th District show is a free banquet held by the Black Hills Pigeon Club, headed up by Morris Phelbs. (Great Job Morris.) "See You Next Year".

AGHA 14th Annual Young Bird Futurity

Was again held Dec. 4, 5, and 6 in El Reno, Oklahoma. This annual event held each December was the largest and possibly the best to date, and will again be held in El Reno in 1988 so make your plans to attend. Now about the show and what a show. Competition was the best yet and winners were spread all around. The Futurity entry this year was 850 nominated, 743 number of birds in show with 59 exhibitors representing 20 states. If you have never attended a Futurity make your plans now to be in El Reno, OK., in December 1988. Winners at this years Futurity are as follows:

HENS: Champion: Maurice Durkee, Faded Bar. 1st Res. Dave Harrett, Black Check. 2nd Res. Carroll Cooper, Indigo Check. 3rd Res. Carroll Cooper, Black.

COCKS: Champion: Jack Anderson, Opal Check. 1st Res. Dave Harrett, Grizzle. 2nd Res. Carroll Cooper, Blue Bar. 3rd Res. Jack Anderson, Black Check.

Champion Jr. Hen: Howard Boothe.

Champion Jr. Cock: James Boothe.
Champion Novice Hen: Bill Boothe.

Champion Novice Cock: Aubrey Mire.

Loft Tips

This section will be included every month as I feel it is important to pass valuable information on to all breeders. Clip the vent area on both the Cock and Hen - seems to improve productivity and reduce any infertility problems. This, along with removal of excessive fat, seems to help the pairs go right into production.

New Members

I certainly want to welcome those new members who have chosen the American Giant Homer as their breed. They are: Don Bisclof, Sherwood, Oregon.

Portland Nationlll

This show will be history by the time this column is published. All indications are that this will be an

excellent show for the AGHA. Since I will be judging I will report Judge's Comments in next month's column.

Guest Writers

The response has been just outstanding and future columns will contain articles on a vast array of subjects written by guest writers, who are all well known members of the AGHA. We are all looking forward to these articles.

Bands

Have you ordered your 1988 AGH bands yet? If not, it is not too late. Don't jeopardize your Giants worth by not banding it with the proper band. Be Proud of your Giants and band with AGHA Bands. Send orders to Tom Larkin, 1301 E. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77301.

Inquiries welcomed

For the AGHA's free brochure, write to: Secretary Aubrey Mire, 34 Jean Vidrine, Ville Platte, La. 70586. Anyone interested in joining a great group of fanciers that welcomes new members write today for this information.

This year's AGHA Benefit Auction, with all money raised from birds donated by various members, raised \$1,815.60. All of these monies go directly to the treasury of the AGHA to be used in the promotion of the Club. A special thanks is due to those members who contributed to this Auction either through their donations or purchases.

A new record was set by the Ladies Auction . a total of \$638.00 was raised and thanks to all who made it possible.

This year's Young Bird Auction saw 351 birds sold for a total of \$22,650.00, another new record. The average selling price was \$64.53.

Highlights of the show, the new Junior Class won by the Boothe Brothers of Wichita, Kansas. Lowlights - not enough time to visit

with all old friends ~~from~~ around the country.

Holding the most attention was the great Judging by the two Judges, Maurice Durkee - Cocks, Ray Arnold - Hens. Both are to be congratulated for a job well done.

Other points and items of interest were Auctioneer John Jones and Head Tout - Jack Anderson - both kept the interest of those bidding in both Auctions.

Busiest were Randy Spahr and Jim Orten, keeping the records straight at the Auction.

Worst Feeling - Jack Anderson - unknown sickness (day before the futurity began).

Others deserve mentioning, however for the life of me that's about all from this year's show.

The three above mentioned shows are only a small portion of the AGHA Shows held all across the country. Scheduling of all AGHA Shows are sometimes only a week apart in the various areas of the country, and we in the AGHA want to welcome anyone interested in Giant Homers to attend one of the shows in your area. As to previous articles mentioning conflicts of Show Dates, I know of no solution as show dates are set based on availability of Show Halls made well in advance with local club meets. Each breeder and fancier must decide which shows they can and will attend.

Show Dates 1988

Future Columns of American Giant Homer World will contain all AGHA Shows.

5th District AGHA Meet: Oct. 8, 1988. Tulsa State Fair, George Lechener - Judge.

7th District AGHA Meet: Oct. 29-30, 1988. Rapid City, S.D., Black Hills Pigeon Club, Ray Arnold Judge. 0



American Giant Homer breeders (l-r.) Ray Cottier of Nebraska, Dave Harrelt of Washington, Johny Severson of So. Dakota and Jud Appley of Wyoming attending the 14th Annual American Giant Homer Futurity in El Reno, Okla. - Photo from Carroll Cooper, Tyler, Texas.

New York Combine News



by PETER P. FRATANGELO,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Man of the Month - John Spahr

At the Combine we have such top honors as Master Breeders, Breeder of the Year, Grand Champion and Best in Show to name a few. Some of the greatest honor any breeder can receive in trying to become one or all of the above is the recognition by your competitors and your club as being the best. All with one goal in mind to become a consistent winner, a top breeder of the Combine or a breeder who breeds champion. To achieve this monumental feat a breeder must start somewhere and one would be to raise a Grand Champion. Once this is done, the breeder would have to breed consistent winners or place birds 2nd or 3rd each year. Also improvements must be made each year to achieve one of these top honors.

It took John Spahr 12 years to raise his Grand Champion although John has been placing winning Domestic throughout his 12 years at the Combine. This is a first for John as far as Grand Champion. This put John in the winning circle as this

month's "Man of the Month" for breeding a Grand Champion at the Combine Fall Show held at Polish National Hall in Maspeth, L.I., N.Y., on Saturday and Sunday, November 28 and 29, 1987. There was close to 300 beautiful Domestic Flights being shown and only one Grand Champion and that was a beautiful red teager cap bred by John Spahr. This outstanding red teager cap which was a bird with a straight beak, high chest, good arch, good head and good markings with a double bar and the good expression needed to become a Grand Champion. This should start John on his way in the near future to achieve one or more of the combine top honors. Congratulations to John Spahr for breeding such an outstanding Domestic Flight. We all look forward to seeing John in the winning circle more often in the years ahead and to become one of the combine's top breeders by achieving one or more of the top honors that the Combine has to offer.

The past Grand Champion winners were Lenny Mintz with his Black Teager Caps in 1976, 1977 and 1978, Angelo Cavallo with his Red Plainhead in 1979, Gigante and Monteleone with their Yellow Teager Caps in 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983, Tony Lombardi with his Red Plainhead in 1984 and Gigante and Monteleone again in 1985 and 1986 with a Yellow Plainhead and Red Plainhead consecutively and of course, John Spahr in 1987 with his Red Teager Cap. Once again congratulations to



The Happy Couple, John and Ann Spahr. - Photo from Pete Fratangelo, Brooklyn, N. Y.

John Spahr for breeding his beautiful Grand Champion.

John was from the old Brooklyn Domestic Flight Association where he was one of the top breeders of Domestic Flights for many years. He started breeding Domestic Shows Flights in the late forties. He used to cross yellow english short face with extremely broad heads to small red hens with a good full neck, but was poor in head. He raised some beautiful small crosses, some with thin necks, some with full necks. He discarded the thin necked birds. He kept breeding these crosses together and also he discarded the short edged birds. He also purchased the best full neck birds around at that time, but one toe bent a little when the bird turned. That bad toe kept producing itself forever, which he said means you cannot have any disqualification in the parents when breeding a family of birds. John won many shows with these beautiful little birds. He then decided to raise black Domestic Flights. He sent six pair of the best headed Yellow Domestic to his friend Joe Arnones. Shortly after his dear friend Joe Arnones passed away, a short time later these Domestic were stolen and never to be seen again. He decided to breed black domestic, he purchased a black teager cap cock with an extremely good shape and a good red beak from the late Benny Rosenbloom. He got a pure white cap hen with an extremely good beak setting from Bud Zeiger. He mated them together. The first year he raised two Black Caps and seven white caps. He continued breeding all these young ones together for the next eight years (never an out cross) he bred beautiful black caps, black teager caps, white caps and dun teager caps. John's strain was so pure that he could put two white caps together and raise a black cap



GRAND CHAMPION DOMESTIC FLIGHT

This Red Teager Cap was Grand Champion at the New York Combine Fall Show. Bred by John Spahr. - Photo from Pete Fratangelo, Brooklyn, N. Y.

and vice versa. He once had a pure white cap in the nest when the bird shedded out it became a perfect dun teager cap with double bars. John went on to win many shows with his strain of Domestic. 0

American Giant Rumbler Facts

by **TONY CABRAL**,
London, Ont., Canada

A few individuals have asked me to comment on the Giant Rumbler - Runt controversy as far as I'm concerned there is no controversy. The National Pigeon Association and the Canadian Pigeon Fanciers Association have approved the Giant Rumbler as a BREED OF PIGEON this is a fact. If the N.P.A. and the C.P.F.A. say it's a breed that is good enough for me.

We have three new members this month: Frank Formosa, Oshawa, Ontario; Harold Warwick, Tillsonburg, Ontario; Marel Langlois, Montmagny, Quebec. Welcome to the American Giant Rumbler Club gentlemen.

I have two show reports this month, so let's get to them.

2nd District Show, November 1, 1987, York, Pa.: Champion, Reserve Champion, Champion Young, Best Young Hen and Best Old Cock - Theodore Weaver - Best Opp Sex and Best Old Hen Paul Fuese - Best Young Cock George Long. There were 52 entires by five exhibitors. The judge was Wesley Conover. Paul Fuese has been working hard all year promoting the Giant Rumbler in the 2nd District. This was the first show for the 2nd District. This was also the first show for Theodore Weaver and George Long and I know they will be back next year.

3rd District Show, November 28, 29, 1987, Woodstock, Ontario: This show can be summed up in two words: Manuel Sousa. Manuel had Champion, Reserve Champion, Champion Young, Best Opp. Sex, Best Young Hen, Best Young Cock, Best Old Hen and Best Old Cock. I cannot remember this ever happening at a A.G.R.C. show. There were 49 entries by five exhibitors. The judge was Welsey Conover.

At all the shows that I went to this show season I had numerous breeders come up to me and comment on our slogan "Show Your Best and Leave the Rest". They loved the idea that we were promoting quality over quantity. The show room is for perfection as our standard of perfection

reads. It is not a place to rack up numbers. Now don't get me wrong, the membership of the A.G.R.C. does not have a limit on how many birds one may show, each member can show as many birds as he or she wants. It's just that we prefer quality over quantity. This business of show them all does not belong in the showroom. Another comment that I got in the shows was why this column is a bit short at times. I could make it a page or two long but I do not want this column to become Tony Cabral's monthly mail and phone call review. There is nothing wrong with it but I prefer not to do it.

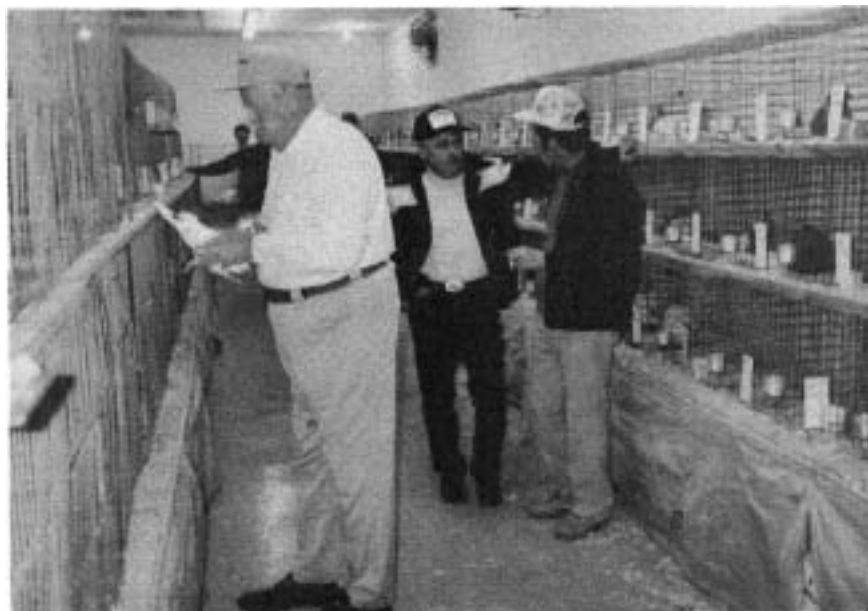
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GIANTRUMBLER
AOC Old Cock Giant Rumbler bred by Rex Brinks. - Photo from Tony Cabral, London, Ont., Canada.

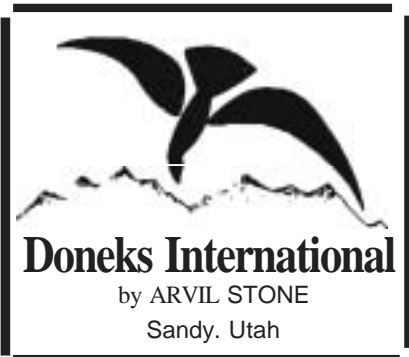


Jose Salema judging Rumlbers at the National Young Bird Show, 1987. - Photo from Tony Cabral, London, Ont., Canada.



Wesley Conover jUdging the 1987 AGRC 3rd District Show. John Medeiros in the middle and Jacinto Cabral on the right. - Photo from Tony Cabral, London, Ont., Canada.

That is all for now, until next month keep breeding "The Bird With A Beautiful Face" and "Show Your Best and Leave The Rest". - Tony Cabral. 96 Speight Crescent, London. ant.. Canada N5V 3R9.D



Erv Gillen, prominent roller, homer, and donek fancier, stopped in to see our doneks in action. Vern Brown, local roller fancier, dropped by to see doneks perform. Richard Dresser of 65 Highland, Taughton, Maine 12780, wrote to let us know that he is another east coast, USA, donek fancier. He got his birds from Bob Munson and Pete Jolevski. He also has kelebeks (a donek variety) from Wray Reese. He says he has rollers, but that they may disappear if the kelebeks perform as well as the doneks. He reports little trouble with hawks. Once in a while he loses a roller, but never a donek.

Gunther Worrlein writes us from General Delivery, Laury, New Mexico 87540. He came here to the USA in 1979 from West Germany. He would like to see some doneks perform. If any breeders live near him, give him an invitation. Laury is near Santa Fe in Northern N.M.

Joe Canteloupe, 1101 W. Oakland, Chandler, Arizona 85224, has written. He wants to see doneks in action and possibly get some. If you are near him, get in touch.

Richard McKillop, 4 Elizabeth St., Warwick, Queensland, Australia, wrote that he has doneks.

Bill Talley, of 5360 Del Viento, Alamosa, Colo. 81107, phone (303) 589-3259, called. He is one of our outstanding donek breeders, but has had to cease his operations because of an allergy to pigeon dust. If any of you have secret cures or helps let Bill know. Bill had 100 mph divers. On one occasion a falcon dove after diving doneks and gave up half way down. Bill has written a booklet on training and raising doneks. Maybe you can get a copy from him.

Erv Gillen and I visited Paul Bradford and saw his famous young, black donek cock, "Smyrnof", who is a favorite with visitors to the

Bradford Ranch.

If you'll write to us and enclose a self addressed stamped envelop (SASE) we'll try to answer your letter. Send us a snapshot of you and your birds, loft etc.

This 1987 breeding season has been our best. Last Fall we installed wall-hanging, covered feeders and waterers. We've put a drop of iodine in each gallon of drinking water and have hatched virtually every egg and raised young to maturity with no other medication and with no sickness.

Donek entertainment is at a new high at our place. We're flying 18 birds at a time, letting them climb to, speck-in-the-sky, height and then dropping them with a release of a low flying bird or two. They come down one or two at a time. It is exciting to note the variety of styles under development with these young birds, and then to check the parentage.

We have a young black and white bird, three months and one week old, that is burning-up the atmosphere. If it gets any better it will disintegrate in space. It is a full brother or sister to Paul Bradford's, "Smyrnof". A photo is enclosed of Mr. Bradford on the left, explaining the performance of this bird to Erv Gillen, shown on the right.

Many Doneks International readers are just now joining us, so we repeat; if you want to belong to this association, then you are a member. We collect no dues, have no shows (of course no shows for a performance bird) and entertain no fights or quarrels. We are just one big, happy family, sharing with each other our pleasure at being so fortunate as to have the world's

greatest feathered entertainer.

It is not uncommon to tell a friend about the donek performance and have him say, "I don't believe it," then to have him see it and then repeat, "I don't believe it". - Good luck until next time.

P.S. Thanks, Pete Jolevski, for publishing photos of your birds in the August 1987 issue of the APJ. We've had some writers ask, "What does a donek look like?" 0

Runt RumHngs

by CHARLIE BROWN
Newton, Kansas

Well, I hope everybody enjoyed Runt Special 1988. It was a lot of work. It took a lot of stamps and letters to get all the information together. I would like to thank all of you who participated. Your ads were well put together and made it a lot easier for me. There were plenty of articles and pictures.

Everytime I swear I'll never put on another Runt Special. Well in 8 years or so who knows. One thing about it it marks time. You can always pull out the special and say here are my ads in the 1980 and 1988 Giant Runt Special.

Jerry Hymes was very helpful in taking me to Warrenton, Missouri. Jerry and I had to take off a day's work to put the special together. Mike and Joan Worley were a lot of help. Joan has her act together when it comes to the Specials.

We tried to advertise in the APJ in my Column and the GRCA Bulletin about the special so we wouldn't leave



Paul Bradford, (left), and Erv Gillen, right, prominent Donek breeders with "Smyrnof", an outstanding young Donek cock. - Photo by Arvil Stone, Sandy, Utah.

anyone out. Once again we had tremendous support. A lot of New faces and names in this one and I'm sure in the next one there will be more as we are going to get a lot of new members plus we are gaining back a lot of old ones lately.

I really like this new crop of new breeders we are getting. They have that new fierce spirit that I like so well. It looks like a lot of action in the future. There are a lot of plans for 88 on the drawing board.

Mail Call

I must say these 10-11 years of writing this column have been fun. I always enjoy the visits on the phone. It seems as I usually get two calls a night and two letters a day on the average. I try to answer all letters. I'd like to win 10,000 stamps in a lottery, it would sure help.

I enjoyed talking to Manual Mello last night, said his birds are fine and his lawn mower business is keeping him busy. He's mowing grass and I'm shoveling snow.

A letter from "the Eagle" Nick Kocisko of Minn. He has really raised some nice young birds as of late. A real nice AOC and Blue Bar. He also said Matt Koob raised a real nice AOC hen. I'll drink to that, I saw the picture of it Matt sent me.

A letter from John Delahoussaye of Miss. He had a real good year, raised a lot of nice birds. John had to judge in New England and the Des Moines show in December.

John has had a visit from former GRCA Secretary, John Lamberson. We would like to see Lamberson back in the fold. He was always a lot of fun at the shows.

A nice visit from James Avery of Newalla, Oklahoma, he came up to look at the birds with his nice wife. She had a good eye for Giant Runts also. I really enjoyed their visit. I wish it would of been a little warmer. James will be a real credit to the GRCA in years to come and will breed up a fine stud of birds.

A letter from my good friend H. Earl Palmer of Boulder, Colorado. Earl has a lot of knowledge of the Giant Runt Club of the past. I always enjoy talking to him. We had a good chat at the Lincoln National and have kept in touch every since. Earl has done a lot for the GRCA and is looking forward to the Giant Runt Special 1988.

A call from our Secretary Joe Stewart last night. Joe puts out a super bulletin and I want you to know Joe we appreciate it. I know some of the members don't thank you but they do like it. Joe has had a pretty good year, raised some birds he really likes. Joe is also looking forward to Giant Runt Special 88.

A call from Don Scalf at Texas. He has had a pretty good year said he worked hard as a steward at the show.

Don is one member who works hard for the GRCA I know he helps Joe Stewart when he can. Don has a good eye for a Giant Runt.

A letter from Ken DeMuth of Wisconsin. He likes his new breeding stock and is anxious to start breeding them. I'm sure he will be tough in years to come. Ken has a lot of good ideas. I like these young men in our club. I can remember when Ken was just a kid, now he is a serious breeder. We will hear a lot from him in the future.

A nice letter from Matt Koob of Minn. He is looking forward to the 88 breeding season. Wished he could go to Portland National. Matt raised a couple real nice birds this year.

Business

Let's all get our dues paid so we have some operating money. Also bands are for sale from secretary Joe Stewart. The year ahead should be a good one as ~~there~~ are a lot of new breeders in their second and third years who are starting to get things figured out.

I'm sure we will have some interesting things for 1988.

Helpful Hints

As we breed our birds in 1988 let's pay close attention to the tail angle and back angles. We want the 45° back angle and the tail 1" off the floor.

Also let's pay strict attention to the face, this is very important and should be one of the first concerns when judging your birds. Anyone can breed weight just put your two heaviest birds together and you got it.

This is one area I have always concentrated on was the face, History

Let's talk of a fellow breeder who I know well. His ad in the Feb. 80 Giant Runt Special stated he raised Giant Runts since 1950, this is 88.

That spans 38 years. The breeder is Manual Mello of Antioch, California.

Manual is quite a fellow. I know he is over 70 but looks like he is 52.

There are few in our Club who have the gift of a great personality like Manual Mello has. I liked this fellow since the first time I ever met him at San Jose.

Manual has won a lot of shows on the West Coast and placed well in the West Nationals. Manual is a real credit to the GRCA. At this time Manual I just want to tell you that all of us appreciate all you have done for the Giant Runt. 0

by TONY BRANCATO
Santa Marla, Calif.

Indian Fantails are fairly aggressive birds. Not as aggressive as some breeds (kings, homers, rollers, etc.) and more aggressive than pouters, German toys, etc. Keeping this in mind each pair should have two nest boxes. The more space the better is the rule of thumb. Crowding produces stress that causes fighting, disease, infertility and chaos! If I may quote Dave Helm he states:

"Regardless of how many pens the interior arrangement of nest boxes and perches should be the same so the pens look alike. In that way a bird that was in nest box 3, Pen A can be put into nest box 3 Pen B or C without too much trouble. It is also helpful that holdover breeders be put back into the same nest box. If pairs are broken up and switched then put the cock back where he was, say nest box 3 Loft A but put the hen and her new mate in nest box 3 Loft B. It is difficult to remate birds and keep them in the same pen even if they have been separated. No matter what you do, some birds will be fighters. If you know this beforehand and your lowest row of nest boxes is no higher off the floor than 6 or 8 inches you can cut flights and put the fighter into a ground level nest box.

"It just really takes time - eventually things settle down. Remember though, the longer a problem exists the harder it will be to break the bad habits. Don't let a cock really get badly beaten because he may never bounce back to hold his nest box. Being vigilant the first week really pays."

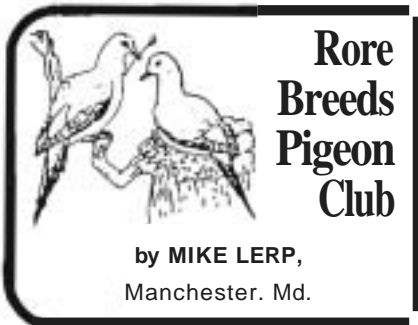
Some Indians breed very well in large 3x5 pens and others for whatever reason need the stimulation of a loft environment to be productive.

In conclusion the key is don't overcrowd, be judicious when introducing new birds to the loft society. Remember the stress on the newcomers can weaken and cause the new birds to become ill. 0

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Rore Breeds Pigeon Club

by MIKE LERP,
Manchester, Md.

Of the many rare breeds that can be found in the United States there is one that stands in my mind as perhaps the rarest. Introduced into this country shortly after the American Civil War as a utility breed, the pigeon we Americans know as the Duchess never did achieve any great measure of popularity. Its massive muffs lead to its downfall as a utility breed, but it did function as such for over 30 years. The Duchess did manage to maintain some semblance of popularity as an exhibition breed for another 40 years or so, but they suffered a noticeable and almost critical decline in numbers during the mid and late 1940's. After that time, the Duchess did turn up in showrooms on occasion, but the arrival of the 1970's saw this breed nearly disappear from America. Rumors of their survival have persisted since that time, but for the most part, their survival was held very much in doubt. However, I have managed to turn up at least one survivor and that bird resides in the loft of my friend, Muard Naugle, of Pennsylvania. Muard has assured me he will continue to attempt to build up a stud of Duchess and I hope to report on his progress at a later date. As noted, we Americans called this breed the Duchess after they were introduced by Dutch immigrants ("Dutchies" - Dutchess - hence Duchess), but their true country of origin is officially unknown. These pigeons are certainly members of the Mondain family and they could quite possibly be the Italian Romagnol. In the U.S., the Duchess could be found with or without shell crests. Although White selfs were the traditional color, they were also found in self Silver. The Romagnol, to the best of my knowledge, no longer can be found in America, yet they were here at one time. They were exhibited at the Italian exhibit of the 1939 World Poultry Congress that was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Romagnols come in many colors that include White, Sivler and Black Selfs, blue checkered and barred, red barred and checkered, as well as splashed. The major difference between what we call the Duchess

and the Romagnol is the muff length. The Romagnol has either groused legs or small muffs, while the muffs of the Duchess are long and thick. Perhaps the Duchess is closely related to the Romagnol, and the long muffs and shell crest were originated somewhere in Europe but pinpointing an exact country of origin is nearly impossible. It's been speculated the Duchess had its origins in one of the following countries: Italy, France, Germany or Holland.

While I did miss out on this year's APFC convention, I didn't miss out on the booklets they've published that deal with some of the health problems that our birds can encounter. These booklets are small in size, but they're loaded with a wealth of useful information and the complete set fits handily into a pocket of my loft coat. Contact the APFC for prices and believe me you'll be satisfied with what you'll receive for your money.

King Trivia

BY JUNE TRONE,
AKC 2nd Dist. Dir.,
Meredosia, Ill.

Our man of the year was once a young boy who was fascinated by anything that had feathers! He has maintained that interest and excitement throughout his adult life.

He grew up in eastern Missouri and graduated from Wentzville High School. He served in the Navy during World War II. Upon leaving the service he worked briefly in St. Louis, just long enough to earn enough money to get married in Sept. of 1946 and get enrolled in the University of Missouri, where he majored in Agriculture and Poultry Husbandry.

Our Recipient has spent his life and developed several careers in the poultry and egg industry. Following graduation he managed a Swift and Co. Hatchery in Iowa. He held a management position in a poultry co-op in California for some years before returning to Missouri to manage a poultry production unit for MFA. Currently he's associated with the Moore Quality Farms and recognized as a grower of fine pullets and as a keen and astute flock service manager.

By this time you've guessed that our Egg Man of the Year is **Wendell Eugene "Gene" Sederwall**.

We recognize Gene not just because of his lifetime relationship to the poultry industry, but because of



GENE SEDER WALL
Gene Sederwall of LaPlata, Mo. See "King Trivia" column. - Photo from June Trone, Meredosia, Ill.

his unique personal characteristics - his loyalty, his concern, his support and his willingness to give his time and skills to our industry and to others involved in it, to its organizations and institutions. He has shown dedication and pride in the industry and his community that need recognition.

Gene has been a long time promoter and supporter of MEMC and MEIA. And, by the way, has been chairman of the Awards Committee since it was begun - but his selection for this award was done by other committee members and support from some of you without his knowledge. We thought we ought to say that!

Gene, now married 41 years - all to the same woman, Wanda, is the father of three children and takes pride in them all - a daughter who is a home economics teacher, a son in California with Del Monte Corporation and another son who farms in Missouri. One granddaughter, Dana, the apple of his eye is said to be able to "boss" him around!

Gene loves MU sports, is a bowler and likes to coon hunt. The community of LaPlata, Mo., is more active and vital because of Gene.

As President of the Commercial Club he's brought vitality to the area, developing the first and only Soybean Festival in Missouri, attracting a 1,000 or more participants.

The author of the "Doc Savage" mystery books and radio fame of the 30's came from the LaPlata area. Gene is working to get some national recognition for this man and his home community.

Gene promotes the egg and poul-

try industries with energy; he's loyal to its organizations and institutions; he's a family and community man; he supports education and helps and encourages youth. We salute you, Gene, as the Man of the Year 1987.

(This above was written up in the Poultry Magazine that goes all over the World as well as in the local newspaper.)

We all want to congratulate Gene for his award. Gene is also a loyal pigeon breeder, breeding both Modenas and Kings. Gene had Grand Champion King in 1978 at the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Ky., with the late Gene Fry as the judge. Gene had held President and Vice President in the Midwest King Club for many years and was the runner up in the American Pigeon Club as President a few years ago.

Joe Schenk, Evansville, Ind., died on Nov. 17 due to a heart attack, while he was on his way to turn on the lights in his pigeon loft. Joe was 64 years old. He was a Brewmaster and raised Kings and Homers most of his life.

On Dec. 13, Anthony Witkoski, Ill., died. he was a pigeon breeder for many years, a good friend of Roy Duckmanton.

Bill Doebeling writes that he and Wilma enjoyed the many cards and etc., they got for their 50th Wedding Anniversary and want to THANK all of you pigeon people for responding. Bill goes to see Wilma at the Convalescent Center each day and takes care of his Kings and hopes to be able to come to Highland in Nov. 88, he wants to be where the action is. O

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Obituaries

THE END OF AN ERA

During Thanksgiving week 1987, an era slipped away from us here on the East Coast. Sam Inzano passed away after a recent automobile accident. His passing will leave a hole in the pigeon hobby that will never be filled.

I can't count the number of times I asked Sam to get me a particular type of pigeon and sure enough within a week or two I'd get a phone call from him. No breed of pigeon was out of the reach of Sam.

I've got Sam to thank for my original stock of Nuns. Over a three year period Sam would call me every time some Nuns came in and I'd make the trip to see him.

Over the years Sam was one of the best pigeon men I've ever seen. Sam's life was pigeons.

I'd like to offer sympathy to Sam's children and to the rest of his family. Maybe you can be comforted by the thought that while he was with us, Sam was among the top pigeon men in the world. He was one of the best at what he did and this is something not achieved by many.

Sam, it's not going to be the same without you. - Submitted by Stan Ryan, Jr., N. Branch, N.Y.D

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Pigeon Show Calendar

March 20 - Fremont Fancy Pigeon Club 7th Annual Swap Day. SandUSky Co., Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Charles Dwight, Show Sec., 2866 C.R. 262, Clyde, Ohio 43410.

April 17 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club Swap and Trade Day. Sec. Dave G. Daugan, RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

April 24 - Fond du Lac All Variety Pigeon Club, Inc., Swapper's Day, Information: Dick Hilke, W11791 Hwy. 23, Ripon, Wis. 54971. 414-748-9418.

May 15 - High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Breed, All Age Spring Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N. Car. Write: Thurmond Michael, 813 Mark St., High Point, N.C. 27260. 919-882-3273.

May 22 - Southern Illinois Pigeon Club Swap and Trade, Lanterman Park, Bridgeport, Ill. Beulah Paddick, 111 Sycamore St., Sumner, Ill. 62466, 618-936-2559.

June 12 - Southern Illinois Pigeon Club All Breed Show, Lanterman Park, Bridgeport, Ill. Beulah Paddick, Sec.-Treas., 111 Sycamore St., Sumner, Ill. 62466. 618-936-2559.

June 26 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club Show, Sec. Dave G. Daugan, RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Sept. 18 - Fremont Pigeon Club Annual Summer Show, Young Birds, Sandusky Co., Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Charles DWight, Show Sec., 2866 C.R. 262, Clyde, Ohio 43410.

Sept. 24 - Southern Illinois Pigeon Club Swap and Trade, Lanterman Park, Bridgeport, Ill. Beulah Paddick, Sec.-Treas., 111 Sycamore St., Sumner, Ill. 62466. 618-936-2559.

Oct. 1 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club Show, Sec. Dave G. Daugan, RR 2, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542.

Oct. 15 - Southern Illinois Pigeon Club All Breed Show, Lanterman Park, Bridgeport, Ill. Beulah Paddick, Sec.-Treas., 111 Sycamore St., Sumner, Ill. 62466. 618-936-2559.

Oct. 16 - Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Baby Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. Show Sec., Mrs. Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom. W., Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 (516-226-3534 evenings) or President Peter Valentine, 8 Andrew Ave., Islip Terrace, N.Y. 11752 (516-277-1087).

Nov. 12-13 - Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club "Long Island Classic" Open Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. Show Sec.: Mrs. Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom. W., Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 (516-226-3534 evening) or President: Peter Valentine, 8 Andrew Ave., Islip Terrace, N.Y. 11752 (516-277-1087).

Nov. 20 - High Point Pigeon Club Annual All Breed, All Age Fall Pigeon and Dove Show, Oak View Recreation Center, High Point, N.C. Write: Thurmond Michael, 813 Mark St., High Point, N.C. 27260. 919-882-3273.

1989

Jan. 7 - Midwest International Pigeon Show, Fremont Pigeon Club 45th Annual Winter Show, Sandusky Co., Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Charles Dwight, Show Sec., 2866 C.R. 262, Clyde, Ohio 43410.

I KEPT THEM FLYING by Conrad A. Mahr

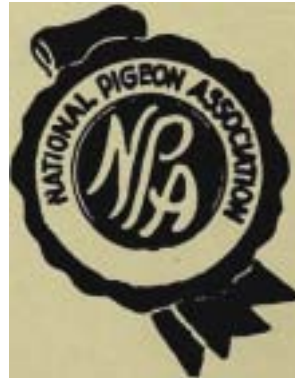
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