

U N I T E D

Swallow Club



FALL 1994

President's Message by Bill Griebel

This the time of year when nutrition, a sharp eye and a rigid culling policy goes a long way in preparing your Swallows for our upcoming shows. Nutrition, for proper feather development; a sharp eye, to catch health problems in the early stages; and rigid culling, to keep the overcrowding down and the quality up. We just started experiencing the feather storm (the moult) out here in the West. I'll be glad when this stage is over.

Recently, Gus Coletti and Barbara and Lothar Beer were paid a visit by German Swallow Breeder Julia Kohnemann. I'm looking forward to a report on this visit with Gus in our next bulletin. Here in the West, Steve Ball, Leon Stephens and I had two groups of visitors from Europe. First, we had the pleasure to spend time with Karlheinz Sollfrank, his son Dieter and their friend, Manfred Koll. Karlheinz is the person who was probably the largest mover behind the 1989 Nurnberg Show in Germany with 32,000 pigeons shown. Then we had a visit from Dick Hamer, a top breeder, exhibitor and judge in Holland. We had a great time.

Now is the time to starting preparing for our USC Club Shows. There are many good District shows coming up and, of course, our Annual meet. You might want to start "pigeon holing" some money for travel expenses. Try to hit the top district meet in your district and the Annual meet, if possible. Get involved in our shows and meet the breeders.

As for our Annual meet, the voting was super! The voting turnout was better than ever with the show awarded to Oklahoma City (see voting results on page 5). Congratulations to Leon Stephens for his election to the role of Annual meet judge for this show. I know we will get our monies' worth. See you there!

I would like to thank our Canadian members, District Director Ron Hornby and Ross Dobson for their support in our last bulletin. I look forward to more information from Canada and we will hopefully see good growth in the Swallow fraternity in that district in the future. Thanks Ross for your article, I enjoyed your sense of humor!

USC did some advertising again this year. We placed ads in the *Pigeon Fancier* and the *Pigeon Debut* to let the fancy know what we are doing. David Harris is compiling a list of shows from all districts and will have them published in the calendar section of each of these magazines at no cost to us. Our ads will say, "see calendar section for a list of our shows." We also put an ad in the National Young Bird Show premium book. We've supported this show for many years with birds and it doesn't hurt to support every once in a while with an ad (see cost of ads in Treasurer's Report in this bulletin).

As most of you members can tell, my enthusiasm for USC has been very high. I am probably more excited now than ever before. We have good member participation (this has been our greatest asset), our shows keep getting better and better and our Annual meets have been fun for all who have attended. We are working on two projects that mean a lot to all of us. We have people working on these projects who have dedicated themselves to Swallows for many, many years. I am realistic enough to know that every little detail won't be perfect but I do know that the decisions will be fair for all of us. I hope we all find these programs workable and that we will continue to grow together.

Finally, I've been hearing reports of good to exceptional breeding seasons from members all over the country. This tells me we are in for a good show season. See you there!

THINGS TO DO!

- ✓ Select birds to donate for the auction at our Annual Meet.
- ✓ Contact Elliot Yeske with your raffle donation for our Annual Meet.
- ✓ Gear up and attend as many shows as you can this year.
- ✓ Muffs should be pulled six to eight weeks prior to a show.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

by Dave Harris

Route 3, Box 99, Appleton, MN 56208

Hello, USC Members ...

Correspondence has been fair since our last bulletin. Usually everyone is busy during the spring and early summer months waiting to see those promising youngsters begin the moult. I would expect to have the incoming mail increase fairly soon.

We have a new member from the "land down under", AUSTRALIA. His name is Darren Rafton. Darren likes the Fairy Swallows and I believe he made arrangements to have a few imported to Australia from our President Bill Griebel. Darren also told me there are no Fullhead or Thuringer Swallows in Australia, at least to the best of his knowledge. Welcome to the USC, Darren!

Our member in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, Ross Dobson did a fine job on his article. Ross has been associated with the USC for many years. Thanks Ross.

Our '94 show season should be very busy and full of fun for everyone this year. The club is advertising in the *Pigeon Debut* and *Pigeon Fancier*. Look for the District and Annual meet schedules in the Show Calendar section of these publications.

There will be a financial report published in every other bulletin in the future. It was felt that this way everyone can stay informed as to what the club funds look like. Actually, this will be a bit easier for me to keep my records more current.

Most members I have talked to have had a fair season. There are a few that have had a terrific season as far as numbers go. I believe Howard Angevine raised over 200. Jesse Espinosa in Florida had a very good season, also.

The voting is completed for the Annual Meet site and Judge. Okalahoma City, OK, NPA National will be the site for the Annual meet with Leon Stephens doing the honors as our Swallow judge. I have known Leon for many years and can tell you that he does know Swallows. I'm sure he will do a fine job for us this year. Congratulations, Leon.

I was fortunate to go to a training seminar this spring in Longmont, CO, which was very close to Fort Lupton. My friends, Mike and Kathy Swanson, invited me over one evening for some great food, beverages and lots of Swallow talk. I believe we were up until past 2 a.m. talking. I had to be up and ready to go by 7 a.m. that morning. Was a little tired but it was worth it to see Mike and Kathy. Thanks for a great time. Mike has some beautiful Blue White Bar Fairy Swallows and a magnificent stud of Saxon Whitetails.

I have ended my season early this year. The birds got off to a slow start but still managed to raise around 100 birds. Time will tell after the moult how well the birds really did.

Well members, thats about it for now. Hope all of you have had a great breeding season and hope to see many of you at the shows this winter.

Another note of thanks before I sign off goes to our Publicity Director Gloria Weisgram in Moorhead, MN, for a fine job on the bulletin coordinatng, printing and excellent publicity for the USC. Also, I don't want to forget Gus Colletti in the Eastern District, NY. Gus has really been on a mission to boost the USC in his district. Gus has lots of gusto and really gets things fired up to keep the Swallow interest alive in the East. Thanks, Gus. Almost forgot ol' Jesse Espinosa. Jesse has done a great job as our newly appointed election commissioner. Thanks a lot, Jesse.

Enough for now. Take care, be safe and God Bless.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Dave Harris

Balance - January 23, 1994		\$ 1,097.36
INCOME		
Dues	\$ 175.00	
NPA Rebate	24.00	
Hat Sales	50.00	
Donation	5.00	
Interest	<u>13.25</u>	
		<u>267.25</u>
		\$ 1,364.61
EXPENSES		
Winter Bulletin	141.22	
Spring Bulletin	60.17	
Postage (correspondence)	39.40	
Telephone Jan, Feb, Mar	24.82	
Money Order Fee	1.00	
APJ Advertising	41.75	
Debut Advertising	39.00	
Fancier Advertising	30.00	
NYBS Advertising	<u>47.00</u>	
		<u>(424.36)</u>
Balance - July 25, 1994		\$ 940.25

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT

by Perry Mueller, Director
9836 Coventry Lane
St. Louis, MO 63123

I hope everyone is finishing up a great breeding season. This is the time of the year when the young bird pen is filling up, birds are starting to moult and here, in St. Louis, we are looking forward to some cooler fall weather.

My season has gone well, banding over 100 birds. I enjoy watching the young birds start to come out of the moult and seeing just what I produced.

My compliments to all those involved in the club activities. Lets keep things moving in a positive direction. This fall and winter looks like a great opportunity to show birds. I'll be handling the annual young bird meet in Louisville, KY, again this year.

We also plan on having another District meet in Des Moines, IA, in December. Gloria Weisgram will be handling this show again and it sounds like it will be another good one.

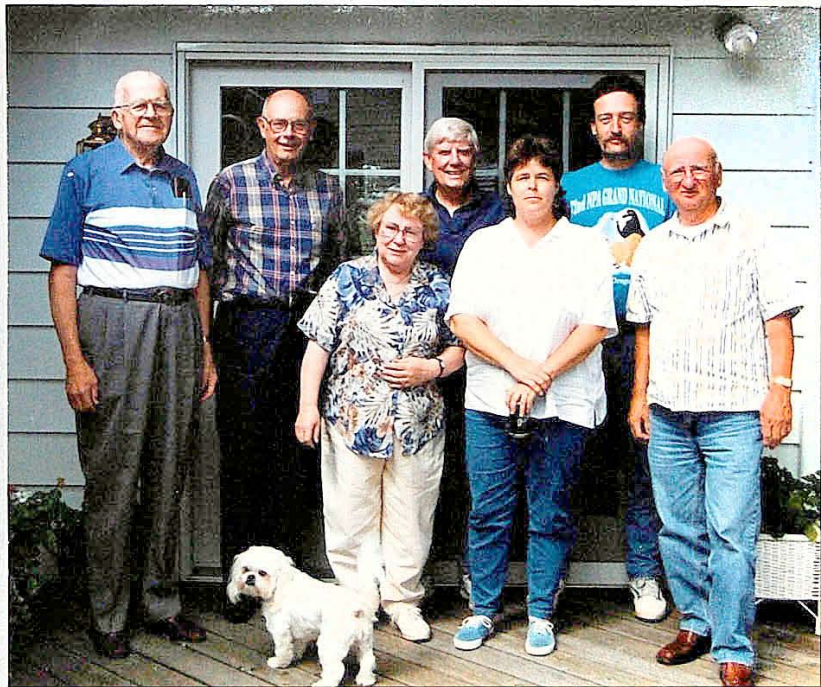
Our Annual Swallow Club meet will be held in Oklahoma City, OK, in conjunction with the NPA National show. A few members have said they plan to attend and it sounds like it will shape up into a great Swallow meet, also. Now is the time to make plans to attend the shows. Also, if anyone would like to put up any special awards now is the time. Hopefully, we can get most of this information in the next bulletin. Just contact the member in charge or one of the Club officers.

If anyone would like to have a District meet at their local show, now is the time to get organized. Let me know and we might be able to help publicize it in the bulletin.

Hope to see you at the shows!



Cal Breadhoff, Grandville, MI, along with his wife Karen, spent part of their vacation "loft-hopping" in the Central District. Here, Cal is shown with Harold Schroedl, Minneapolis, MN, in Harold's back yard. Cal and Karen also visited the lofts of Elliot Yeske, Pelican Rapids, MN, Nate Wayne, Minneapolis, MN, Dave Harris, Appleton, MN, and Gloria Weisgram, Moorhead, MN.



Central District "get-together" at Nate Wayne's, Minneapolis, MN — July 1994.
(l. to r.) John Wayne, Cal Breadhoff, Karen Breadhoff, Bob Benson, Gloria Weisgram, Elliot Yeske, Harold Schroedl

EASTERN DISTRICT REPORT

by Howard Angevine, Director
815 Pleasant Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

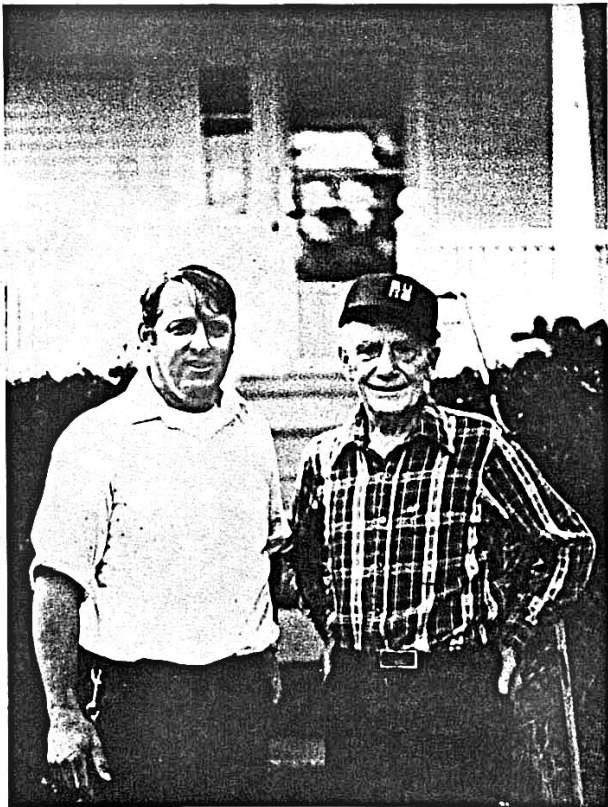
In talking with Gus Colleti, it was decided to have two meets this year in the Eastern District. The first one will be with the Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club at Holtsville, NY. Gus has volunteered to send out entry forms to all district one members.

The Eastern District Annual Meet will be at Reading, PA, with the Reading Pigeon Association. Show site is the Sheraton-Bershire, Reading, PA. Contact Terry Fick, RD #3, Box 412 G, Pine Grove, PA 17963. Awards for this meet will be certificates from the USC for Best Fairy, Best Silesian, Best Fullhead, Best Clean Leg also trophies for the same classes.

I've had a pretty good breeding season, raised about 200 Swallows, now a handful of these should be show quality, won't know till after the moult. I have four lofts consisting of 13 breeding pens, one young bird pen and one 8'x8' pen for conditioning show prospects.

Bob Dean has raised some good ones also, didn't say how many he's banded. Gus Colleti says he's banded about 50 youngsters.

Have a good show season!



Howard Angevine, Attleboro, MA, and Joe Reulbach, Rochester, NY, taken in October 1979, in front of Joe's house. Joe Reulbach was a top breeder of red and yellow Fullheads plus black white bar Fairies.

Using Our Rating System

by Bill Griebel, USC President
12032 Rio Hondo Parkway
El Monte, CA 91732

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the late Lynn Hummel for his efforts in setting up our Rating System for us 20 plus years ago. There has been very few changes, if any, since its inception. As I see it, we have been doing an excellent job of administering the system especially over the last three years, since we've offered our judges their travel expenses.

I use the Rating System in several ways. Of course I use it when I judge a show; but further I use it when I look at other lofts of birds, evaluating the quality by using the system; I select birds for breeding partially by using the system; and finally, I select my birds for show mainly by using the Rating System.

What I will focus on in this article is selecting birds for show. In discussing this subject with new exhibitors, it has become very apparent in most cases that an understanding of the Rating System is lacking thus leading to low ratings and new fancier frustration. In an article by Gloria Weisgram in *The Pigeon Debut* [March 1994] entitled "Tips from Top Lofts", my comment was that beginning fanciers need to attend top shows, talk to the top breeders, watch the judging and ask the judge questions as to his decisions. With an understanding of our Rating System, a fancier can then make quality decisions when purchasing birds, selecting birds for breeding and, most importantly, selecting the right birds for show. It will help to remove some of the guesswork.

There are several items that I take into consideration when selecting birds for show. They are: how the bird went through the moult, its health, who will judge and finally, how the birds compare to the standard.

The bird's health and how it goes through the moult go hand-in-hand. You have to start when the young birds come out of the nest and when the old birds start their moult. *Feather condition* is the key to good ratings at shows. If birds are sick through the moult or proper nutrition is lacking, the feather quality will suffer. Special lofts for conditioning must be set up and nutrition and health must be checked *every day*. Ask the top breeders what their programs are regarding conditioning through this period. I guarantee this is a big part of their success.

Now that your birds are through the moult in top condition, muffs and broken feathers must be pulled eight weeks prior to the show you will attend. Pay attention to the fact that some colors (reds, yellows

Using Our Rating System
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United Swallow Club Qualified Judging Report

By Mike Swanson, Chairman
4800 Road 23
Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Our committee is now in full swing, working on setting up the qualified judging program. Over the past couple of years, I've been collecting and receiving ideas on what should be included in the program. Also, several surveys have been sent out to the committee members. These surveys are very time consuming. At this point, I would like to personally thank committee members: Steve Ball, Ron DeClement, Bill Griebel, Dave Harris, Perry Mueller and Leon Stephens. These members have taken a lot of time to write out their ideas and help on the wording of the program. Even as I am writing this, I have a revision survey sitting next to me waiting to be mailed out for the committee to work on. These people have a tremendous amount of knowledge in the Swallow fancy, years of experience in judging and the breeding of Swallows. Again, thank you, as without your support, I could never complete my job as chairman.

Now, I would like to inform the general USC membership on "some" of the things we have been working on and will be working on in the future. As you are reading some of the recommendations remember this program is an evolving one. One which cannot be finished and fine tuned in one or two years. This is a long term project. Some of the things which don't work will be thrown out. Subsequently, every year new ideas will be added. So if you have objections or better yet creative ideas, please contact me or any of the committee members and let them know your thoughts and ideas. At the annual USC club meeting this upcoming winter, I'll present to the club the progress we have made. This will enable us to have the program up and running by this January.

Our goal is to have a list of qualified judges to select from for the USC Annual meets. The membership still votes on who will judge the USC meet; however, the judge must come from this list. Remember, this is only for the USC Annual meet.

The group of judges will also form the Qualified Judging Committee from which a chairman will be selected who will oversee the program. This individual will preside over the board of judges who will collectively set rules and policy for annual meets, oversee the approval process of new judges into the program and oversee judging policy and procedures as much as possible for all USC meets.

We, as the committee, have been formulating requirements for judges and policy which will be presented at the annual meet.

One of the hardest things that has come out of this process is what makes a qualified judge. I believe it is a multitude of things which can be objective or very subjective. Anyway, we have a lot of ideas which will be presented. We will also have recommendations on how the show should be set up and the order of judging set.

One of the parts of the judging program which seems to have some real differences of opinion is the rating of an "E" bird. In the USC Constitution and By-Laws, it states: *In no case shall less than two (2) qualified Swallow judges be allowed to assign the grade of "E" to a bird. When two (2) qualified judges are not available, no "E" grade shall be assigned.* [Article VIII]

Since we are now working on the Qualified Judging Program and have a list of "Qualified Judges", the argument is that if we have a qualified judge, why should we have a second judge? There are good arguments for both sides of this issue and other issues we are working on. We must always remember that we cannot always come up with a right or wrong answer; instead in the end we must come up with solutions that we as a club feel are the best for the club to grow and improve.

I feel really good about what we are doing and know this will push our club to a higher level. Remember, this is a very general overview of what our committee is working on. If you would like a more detailed account of what we are doing contact any of the committee members and talk to them or contact me and I would be glad to send you more detailed information.

Hoping all of you had a successful breeding season!

VOTING RESULTS

Submitted by Jesse Espinosa,
USC Election Commissioner
171 Aster Avenue
Middleberg, FL 32068

Annual Meet Judge: Leon Stephens - 15 votes
Steve Ball - 7 votes Perry Mueller - 7 votes
Steve Ripper - 3 votes

Annual Meet Site: Oklahoma City - 20 votes
Des Moines, IA - 11 votes
Abstained - 1 vote

Using Our Rating System continued from page 4

and some families of blues) have trouble with grizzling when muffs are pulled. One way to deal with these colors is to let the birds go through the moult in special lofts set up to protect muffs and only pull the broken feathers eight weeks prior to the show hoping those feathers will not grizzle out.

The judge must be considered when selecting our birds for show. As you meet and get to know the judges in our system, you will find that each has preferences on different features of the bird. Some focus more on bar, some on muff, others on body, etc. It helps when selecting birds for show to know these things. Then, with this understanding, your ratings will change – upward.

You must have a good working understanding of our Standard, especially the fault section. When I select birds for show and the above items are already taken into consideration, I look at how the birds look in the loft. I have the ability to visualize the birds trimmed for show – this is a big advantage. I then put the bird in a show pen and see how it stations. If it passes the show pen test, then I get down to business. I pick the bird up and go head to toe (as if I was judging it at the show). First, I start at the beak, checking for lower stained beaks, and the proper amount of color on the upper beaks, then I go to the spot, is it property shaped? The color cannot go down to the corner of the mouth, there must be some white between the spot and the corner of the mouth. I check for stained eye cere and flat heads on Silesians. If I see any of these problems in the head

area – *the bird stays home*. Now I check for crooked keel, I feel the body in the hand, I then check the muffs for shape and grizzling. Muff shape is very important to a winning show bird. Make sure it has the proper fill-in between muffs and hocks, make sure there is not too much front muff. If I see any problems in these areas – *the bird stays home*.

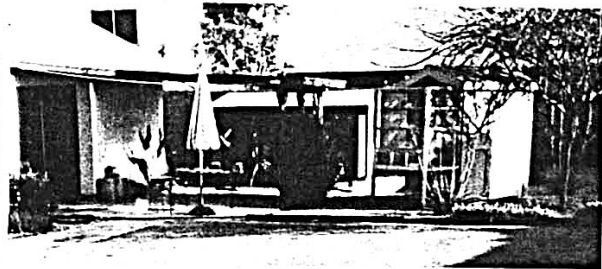
I then put the bird back in the show pen and look for overall harmony and balance and most of all, I look at the back. If the bird has an open back or sails – *it stays home*.

Now you are probably saying that a good portion of the birds you were planning to show would have to stay home – if you followed the above suggestions – *you're right!* What you will see is that the birds you do show under these conditions will receive higher ratings! I have one rule when I show Swallows – the "G"s stay home! If I receive an "S" rating or better at any show with my show team, I have been successful. I've reached my goal.

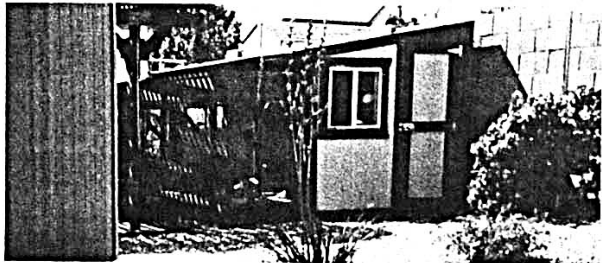
The last thing I will say is that there is nothing perfect! We have to realize that a Swallow, any Swallow, will never be perfect, our interpretation of the Rating System and Standard will never be exact and of course judges will vary in what they pick. We have to be tolerant of all these variables and learn how to work within the system. I've done it, I know it works. I have always believed that the quality of birds in each of our lofts is reasonably equal – I contend that conditioning, health and show preparation is what makes the difference when grades are handed out.



Ed Conlon, Chandler, AZ, USC member and breeder of Clean Leg Swallows.



Ed Conlon's backyard entirely enclosed by masonry privacy wall.



Ed Conlon's Dove loft in foreground (left); Swallow loft in background.

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Reprinted from *American Pigeon Keeper*, May 1933

Why the Swallow Is My Favorite Pigeon

By J. Nelson McIntosh
Washington, Rhode Island

My first recollection of the Swallow was in 1868. One of my neighbors had about 200 in the loft of his barn. They were all white barred, black fullheads. As near as I can remember they were well marked, short birds but were very shy on foot feathering not over one inch long. But I sure did get a thrill watching those birds and I used to say that when I grew up I would have some.

Well, in 1879 I owned by first Swallows, a few blues and a pair of reds, very poor specimens, but at the time they looked good to me. Since then I have owned and bred almost all the recognized breeds from the English Carrier to the smallest toy. In 1900, I got the racing homer bug and had very good success, made the 500-mile stations in the day. Then had layoff until 1915. I got the Swallow fever bad. My wife knew what it meant, but no use. I started in and have made a specialty of them as a show bird since. Got birds from T.A. Havemeyer, A. Samuels and Aug Eckert. They are wonderful breeders, the best feeders, and are a long-lived bird if given the proper care and not bred too hard. Let them raise about three nests and break them up after June. I have a hen bred in 1922 and is going yet. Her mother has just died. She was a 1920 bird. They have access to outdoor flight all year 'round except when conditioning for a show. I breed only the barless velvets in four colors and they are pleasing to see in the fly pen on a nice day. Blacks, blues, reds and yellows. I get a kick watching them in the fall after they have finished the moult.

It used to be the custom to trim the boots during the breeding season, but I find it need not be done if given a good roomy nest and plenty of nesting material. When I used the regular nest bowl, it happened quite often they kicked eggs and young out of the nest.

The thrill in breeding Swallows is the uncertainty how they are going to finish, and you can't always tell until they moult. Some breeders cut the boots about nine weeks before a show, then when the stubs dry up pull them out, one at a time and that gives them seven weeks to grow new ones for the show. In the meantime, remove all

nests and perches, put in plenty of litter, planer chips are good, keep out of wet, and make them live on the floor. The only disadvantage in growing new boots for each show is a few white feathers are apt to show up. It is not good to show more than once or twice a year.

The Eastern Swallow Club holds mets at Rochester and New York City, and if a fellow can win a place at either of these shows, he can say he has bred a Swallow! Rochester is a hot spot and to go these and buck up against that bunch of good breeders you have to go some.

Aug Eckert was the daddy of them all. He passed away about two years ago. His loft of about 150 birds was disposed of by Mrs. Eckert. L. Miller has the largest loft there now, mostly black, white barred Fullheads. Fred Habel has the best blue barless and a few silvers. Geo. E. Peer at one time had a wonderful stud of blue, black barred. The best silver I ever saw was at his loft and I showed my liking so plain that he told Frank Cook to keep his eye on me while I was his guest, and they both did. They tried to make me drink all the ginger ale in the house, with almost disastrous results.

T.A. Havemeyer of New York I think owns the largest and best loft of Swallows in America, all varieties except blue barless and tigers. At one time he had over 500. He has put the Swallow where it is today. He is always helping us out with a good bird to improve ours, and when we have a show he is there with the specials and good entries. He is a good loser as well as winner.

I have often wished we could have the Milwaukee boys show with us, just to see how we stack up with them as they are old and seasoned breeders.

Also some day some breeder to develop a strain of velvets in the barred birds such as spot or snips and the barred Fullheads. I know it will take time and a lot of patience.

SWALLOWS
FULL HEAD BARLESS AND WHITE BARS
ALL COLORS
Also Blue Black Bars
SPOT AND FAIRIES, ALL COLORS AND
SPANGLED \$5.00 PAIR UP
J. J. KEIFER
637 So. 38 St. LOUISVILLE, KY.

USC Upcoming Show Schedule

EASTERN DISTRICT

Nov. 5, 1994 – Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club, Holtsville Ecology Site, Park and Zoo, Holtsville, NY 11757. Contact: Gus Colletti, P.O. Box Q9, Oak Beach, NY 11720

Jan. 6 & 7, 1995 – Reading Pigeon Association, Sheraton Beckshire, Reading, PA. Contact Terry Fick, Rd #3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, PA 17963

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Oct. 29, 1994 – National Young Bird Show, Louisville, KY. Contact Rita Courtney, P.O. Box 21, Milton, KY 40045

Dec. 2 & 3, 1994 – Iowa State Pigeon Association, Des Moines, IA. Contact Gloria Weisgram, 508 South 5th Street, Moorhead, MN 56560

WESTERN DISTRICT

Sept. 25, 1994 – California Color Pigeon Club and USC Young Bird Show. Contact Mike Cobb, 4023 Fairmont St., Lakewood, CA 90712

Oct. 22, 1994 – Western National Young Bird Show. Contact Dave Holloway, 3052 NW Lincoln, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

Nov. 17-19, 1994 – USC Western District Meet in conjunction with Southern California Color Pigeon Club and Pageant of Pigeons National Orange Show Fairgrounds, San Bernardino, CA. Contact Frank Barrachina, 17376 Bryant St., Yucaipa, CA 92399

ANNUAL MEET

Jan. 19-21, 1995 – 73rd NPA Grand National Show and Convention. Contact Pat Avery, P.O. Box 271, Newalla, OK 74857