

Newsletter of the United Swallow Club



Spring Summer 2009 • Supporting Swallow Pigeons • <http://personal.riverusers.com/~swallowclub/> • Since 1969

Red With White Bar Swallows?

Gary Romig

Back in Sept of 2001 I wrote an article on my experience with breeding red white barred Saxon Fairy Swallows. The article appeared in our issue of the *United Swallow Club bulletin* for that month.

More recently I have exchanged emails with Frank Bailey about raising red white barred swallows. I have included my comments to Frank in this article. Ultimately I would like to get comments from other breeders on their experience with red white barred pigeons.

The genetic factors involved in creating this color in pigeons must be fairly complex. I don't fully understand them. But, I have some ideas about what is involved and I have presented them in my email to Frank Bailey and the early article that I did back in 2001.

Email comments would be most appreciated. See my comments on red white barred swallows inside this bulletin. Gary Romig gromig@theriver.com

Message from the President

Perry Mueller

Summer is here and the breeding season is in full swing. I hope everyone is having a successful season. The bulletin will have the voting for annual meet and judge. Please remember to cast your ballot. We will also be having nominations for club officers. Our constitution says we should vote on them every two years.

Remember to start preparing those articles for the "Breed of the Issue" in the March and April Pure Bred Magazine. You may want to take a lot of pictures this fall after the moult to use with your articles.

The NPA is planning to put out a new standard book soon so we are in the process of reconfiguring our USC Standard to meet their format. The standards will be the same, we are just changing some of the drawings.

That's about all the Swallow business that is going on at this time.

Please Vote by July 4th

Send to: Tim Starr, 8804 Ft. Loudon Rd. Mercersburg, PA 17236 • Or Call him at 717-328-9751

Here is Tim's email. Try clicking on it right here: timstarr@comcast.net

Locations:

- Des Moines, IA – Dec 11th and 12th
- Salt Lake City, UT – NPA Grand National – Jan 28th, 29th, and 30th
- Pageant of Pigeons – San Bernardino, CA – Nov 19th, 20th and 21st

Judges and locations where they are available to judge at:

- Perry Mueller – All 3 locations
- Leon Stephens – Des Moines only
- Hans Schipper – Salt Lake City only
- Gary Romig – All 3 locations

More Nominations are Needed. Please have them to Tim by July 4th.

Important business of deciding who will be our officers for 2010 and 2011. Please look on the last page of this bulletin for a list of our current officers. Make nominations for the following categories but nominate for district director of your area.

President,
Vice President,
Sec./Treas.,
Western district director,
Eastern district director,
Central district director,
Canadian district director

USC Membership May 2009

Albrecht, Rich
4295 Boone Rd.
McAlester, Ok 74501
918-429-2215
ralbrecht@hughes.net • 01/10

Albrecht, Joe
2746 Homeyer Rd.
North Tonawanda, NY
14120
716-693-8358 • 01/10

Angevine, Howard
815 Pleasant St.
Attleboro, MA 02703
brihowang@comcast.net • 01/10

Ashton, James
399 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
james-ashton@live.com • 01/10

Bailey, Frank
21506 E. Lost Lake Rd.
Snohomish, WA 98296
360-668-1371
frankbailey@verizon.net • 01/10

Ball, Steve
6379 Jamieson Ave.
Encino, CA 91316
s4nature@aol.com • 01/11

Bartz, Kimberly
10775 102nd St.
Cologne, MN 55322
pigeonfokb@embarqmail.com
952-466-5603 01/10

Beals, Jay
274 Chickadee Circle
Highgrove, CA 92507
909-788-7606
jwbealsbeals@yahoo.com • 01/10

Ben David, Gus
P.O. Box 1055
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557 • 01/10

Benson, Robert E.
5 Fareway Dr.
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-7230 • 01/10

Best, Horst
Birkenhof
65812 Bad Soden/Neuenhain
Germany

Bitter, Allen
3251 Rose Hill Rd.
Skaneateles, NY 13152
allenbitter@aol.com • 01/10

Brown, Larry
7413 S 53rd St.
Omaha, NE 68157 • 01/10

Burkhardt, Klaus
Teichstr. 34
04626 Schmolln
Germany

Dauner, Georg
Hoherweg 6
87700 Memmingen-Eisenburg
Germany

De la Nuez, George
2350 Del Mar Way
Apt 103
Corona, CA 92882
georged@prodigy.net • 01/10

DeClement, Ron
11179 Olde Princess Anne Rd.
Princess Anne, MD 21853 • 01/10

Eriksen, Bert
1 Lookout Lane
Ocala, FL 34482
berterksen@aol.com • 01/10

Obar Fonseca
P.O. Box 507
Patillas, Puerto Rico 00723
obarfonseca@hotmail.com • 01/10

Griebel, Bill Jr.
3610 Whitestone Dr.
Pearland, TX 77584
blueblackbar@yahoo.com • 01/10

Griebel, Bill Sr.
12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy.
El Monte, CA 91732
626-448-8565
griebel@worldnet.att.net • 01/11

Harris, David
23901 Stottlemeyer Rd. NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
Dharris39@att.net
360-779-7860 • 01/10

Hendricks, Kerry
225A NE 40 Rd.
Great Bend, KS 67530
khendricks@uratel.net • 01/10

Holloway, David
30255 NW Evergreen
Hillsboro, OR 97124
dianne.holloway@verizon.net • 01/10

Homung, Ted
820 Wisconsin St.
Oswego, KS 67356 • 01/11

Houck, Sandy
144 Co Hwy 46
MT Vision, NY 13810 • 01/10

Jakubowski, Robert
8707 White Fawn Trail
Rockford, MI 49341
fawnlofts@charter.net • 01/10

Kocken, Ben
Noordparallelweg 32
NL-570
A X Helmond
Netherlands

Kohnemann, Julia
Albert Schweitzer Str 8
76316 Malsch
Germany

Kolinski, Raymond
215 Mexico St.
Boswell, PA 15531
rays_animal_paradise@yahoo.com • 01/10

Kreher, Rudi
Pestalozzistr 4
64839 Munster Germany

Kress, Gerald
W9971 Beechnut Dr.
Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-1498
pigeonpl@centurytel.net • 01/10

Landry, Scott
67 Weld St.
Wilton, ME 04294
207-645-4265
scottlandry1@verizon.net • 01/10

Lawson, Bill
693 Montecito Blvd.
Napa, CA 94558
707-226-2121
billlawson@yahoo.com
life member

Lindbom, Chris
2936 60th Ave.
Wilson, WI 54027
celindbom@wvt.net • 01/10

Link Martin
5218 Crestwood Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109
martinlofts@gmail.com • 01/10

Mueller, Perry
9836 Coventry St.
St Louis, MO 63123
314-631-3772
pemysusie@charter.net • 01/11

Nattenmiller, Erwin
Schlössleweg 7
87789 Woringen
Germany

Navant, John
1020 Terry St.
Golden, CO 80401
navant@hotmail.com • 01/10

Neuhofer Jr. Peter
Kleinlehenstrasse 24
A-5102 Anthering
Austria

Nelson, Jud
1505 Pebble Court
Grove, OK 74344
918-786-3885
juchjudy@sbcglobal.net • 01/10

Parrott, Rolly
302 Olive St.
Atlantic, IA 50022 • 01/10

Pool, Joe
11832 Yvonne Circle
Lower Lake, CA 95457 • 01/10

Redmond, Ariel
706 Black Oak Dr.
Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245
arielredmond@yahoo.com • 01/10

Ripper, Stephen
1195
W. Sawmill Rd.
Quakertown, PA 18951
srips@verizon.net • 01/10

Roelofs, Wout
Baron d'Osystr. 22
NL-6602
Bl Wijchen
Netherlands

Romig, Gary
PO Box 152
Patagonia, AZ 85624
520-394-2174
gromig@theriver.com • 01/11

Schipper, Hans
Nijverdalsestr 106A
NL-7642
LG Weerden
Netherlands
Hans-schipper@planet.nl

Sciame, Michael
959 N. Niagara Ave.
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
pigeon726@hotmail.com • 01/10

Sheehy, Patrick
44 Suncook Valley Rd.
Barnstead, NH 03218
SerenityFarmNH@aol.com
603-435-8164 • 01/10

Sizemore, Phillip
419 West Wind Dr.
Villa Rica, Georgia 03218
sizmo_99@yahoo.com • 01/10

Skistimas, Kaylee
8727 S. Stillhouse Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
(Junior Member)
kns1995@hotmail.com • 01/10

Smith, Ron
9 N. 40 Rd.
Ponca, OK 74601
ronsmith9809@yahoo.com
580-363-9809 • 01/10

Starr, Merle
8900 Lemar Rd.
Greencastle, PA 17225
pigeon8900@comcast.net • 01/10

Starr, Tim
8804 Ft. Loudon Rd.
Mercersburg, PA 17236
717-328-9751
timstarr@comcast.net • 01/10

Stephens, Leon
5238 La Madera Ave.
El Monte, CA 91732
taubens@yahoo.com • 01/10

Swanson, Mike
4800 Road 23
Ft. Lupton, CO 80621
cathybighorn@yahoo.com
303-857-0985 • 01/11

Van der Post, Paul
Van Bergen IJzendoornpark 29A
2801 AB Gouda
Netherlands

Van der Post, C.N.M.
Methen 6a
6904 GN Zevenaar
Netherlands

Walsh, Frank
5386 Fir Ave.
Erie, CO 80516
303-828-2490 • 01/10

Wayne, Nathan
205 Rhode Island S.
Minneapolis, MN 55426
763-545-7313
nwayne@dsb-qa.com • 01/10

Webb, Charlie
3200 Olympic Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93308
661-391-9736
Webb0873@sbcglobal.net • 01/10

Weisgram, Gloria
508 S 5th St
Moorhead, MN 56560
sky@gomoorhead.com • 01/10

Wolf, Reiner
Annaberger Str. 38
09488 Schonfeld
Germany
zfreinerwolf@aol.com

Wolfram, Dirk
Bashgasse 3
07907 Schleiz-Oschitz
Germany

Yeske, Elliot
21649 State Hwy 108
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
ej@loretel.net • 01/10

Zahn, Wemer
Wilhelm Strasse 18
63179 Oberhausen
Germany

Easy Nest Bowl Maintenance

By Perry Mueller

I've been using plastic nest bowls for years now and have added clay nest bowls lately. At the end of every season it takes me forever to soak the bowls and clean them.

Well, I've tried something new this year that I'd like to share with you. Now I have to admit, this was not my original idea. I saw it on an e-mail or somewhere, I can't exactly remember where.

What I do is take a full sheet of newspaper, lay it down and set a nest bowl on it. Then I fold the sides up into the bowl. After it's folded, I put in a handful of wood shavings in the center. The birds don't seem to mind at all.

I like two things about this. One is the paper adds a little insulation between the bird and the bowl. I think this may help out in the winter. Second, I can take the bowl later as the squab matures and the nest gets soiled and simply peel the paper from the back and the bowl is spotless. Then, simply wrap the bowl again in paper and the squab has a nice new clean bowl.

It is amazing that after years of breeding pigeons, we can learn new things that make life easier. Try it. I think you will be hooked.



A visit to Mike Swanson's Swallow & Color Pigeon loft

Photos:
Frank Bailey



Red White bar Fairy Swallows

By Gary Romig reprinted from Sept. 2001

This is an overview of how dramatically Red White Bar Wing Pigeons (Saxon Fairy Swallows) change after their first moult. It is apparent that young Red White Barred birds cannot be judged as to the quality of their color or white bars until they have completed their first moult. This year I raised a fair number of young birds. And, among the young birds were several which showed very light feathers in their primary flight feathers. There were even a couple of birds which were so light that the entire wing shield had only traces of red color.

The majority of young red white barred birds show solid red colored wings without white bars or a faded red color where white bars normally appear. As the secondaries and secondary coverts complete the moult white bars appear on the newly moulted feathers. Some of these solid colored birds complete their moult without ever getting white bars or show dark weak bars.

The light colored wing birds moult almost the opposite of the solid colored birds. Their secondaries are so light that white bars are not apparent. Rather, they have an almost completely white feather with just the tip of the feather showing some red color. As they complete their moult the feathers get solid color with white bars showing very clearly on the feather.

I have also raised several intermediate young red birds which show a slightly faded red feather with a more intense color only at the tip of the feather. These intermediate colored birds generally showed a faded bar area that was not nearly white but they complete their moult with more intense color on the wings and clear white bars.

I have found that the young red birds with the very light wings often do not achieve desirable deep red color on their wings after completing their moults but are very much darker than when they were young. However the intermediate colored birds often do achieve desirable color and white bars.

My speculation is that there is a genetic factor, possibly some type of grizzle, in these red white barred birds. I have heard other breeders speculate on this possibility but I don't think there has been any studies of the factor. It may be that this factor in the heterozygous state is expressed in the above mentioned intermediate colored birds and the homozygous expression are possibly the very light colored birds described above. Birds without the possible grizzle factor are the very solid colored birds with less than desirable white bars or no white bars.

The question is, does this possible grizzle factor need to be expressed in the heterozygous state to achieve the properly marked and colored red white barred pigeon? It is obvious that the possible homozygous expression or light colored birds are not desirable. But, the heterozygous expression possibly is variable in appearance with some birds showing good red color and good red flight color with nice white bars and other birds showing a lack of good color. Are birds which lack this possible grizzle factor the best colored birds and can still have good white bars? Birds with very good color often show a darker or non clear white bar. Are they lacking the possible grizzle factor that would give them clear white bars? Perhaps a flock of good quality Red White Barred Swallows will have all three types of birds: those lacking the possible grizzle factor, and birds which are heterozygous and homozygous for this possible factor.



Example of a red white bar with poor bars (not clear) but the bird has good color all the way into the new flights which have recently molted. Note that the last 3 flights have not molted yet and are not rich red color.



This photo shows an example of a young red white bar approximately 8 months old which when younger did not have white bars but at this age and after the moult shows very nice white bars. This bird may possibly be heterozygous grizzle



This photo shows an example of a young red white bar approximately 2 months old which has not molted. It shows some light faded areas in the wing shield and almost white flights. This bird is probably homozygous to grizzle and will not achieve full rich color especially in the flight feathers.

Comments to Frank Bailey on the difficulty in raising red white barred Swallows

By Gary Romig 2009

Since I raise red Fairy Swallows and red white barred Saxon Field Pigeons, I have a few things to say about reds.

First one must understand that red with white bars or spangling it is far more difficult to achieve even color than with reds that are bar-less. And when I talk about red bar-less these pigeons are often not true bar-less. Rather, most of them are T-pattern not bar-less. The combination of dominate red, T-pattern, spread factor, velvet factor, sooty, dirty and recessive red is the best formula for achieving the richest even red colors in pigeons. Alas, trying to add the Toy Stencil factor to this formula is perhaps folly.

The second thing to understand is that reds with white bars have a mysterious combination of modifying factors and I don't know of anyone that understands all the factors involved. These are some of the factors I believe are involved: Ash red (dominate red), Toy Stencil, spread factor, velvet factor, sooty, dirty, recessive red and grizzle factor. It is the combinations of Sooty, Grizzle and Toy Stencil where the color problems you mention are affected. Sooty and Grizzle are often the problems but in my opinion necessary factors in the most beautiful marked birds. With both of these factors they must be in the heterozygous state in the pigeon not homozygous. There is the problem. You will end up raising some ugly birds with uneven color. The homozygous birds will not be worth keeping for sure. And, many of the heterozygous birds will be all over the place; some beautiful and some with slight but still there spots of white in the flights and on the wing shield. I believe that these factors are in the formula to achieve long even pure white bars and they must be there if you want to achieve that look. There will be some birds with sooty and grizzle in them that will have just the right balance of these factors and will have perfectly dark flights and even wing color and then even good muff color. They are the rare ones in the loft that breeds red white barred pigeons. One other thing to mention is that the bar pattern itself can vary a great deal. I have seen birds where the pattern goes all the way into the flights and primary coverts. I remember Andreas was looking at one of Leon's birds and saying that was good to have the bars extending that far.

My opinion on Velvet Factor is not out yet. I have seen some pretty good birds without it and some pretty ugly birds with it.

From what I understand after talking with Hans, Leon, Andreas and others, some light areas in the flights are not deducted if they do not show on a closed wing. In the last two photos at the bottom of the page there are some birds that show grizzling in the flights with closed wings. You should avoid mating birds with this together. But should match them with birds like in the photos at the top of your page. You can clearly see the effect on the white bars of these pigeons. Some where in between would be perfect. You have to raise a lot of them to get the perfect bars and color. At the same time of course there are all the other things to achieve in a good Swallow; Body type, markings, muffs.

When I see those photos of the red white bar swallows and wing pigeons in Germany I know that those birds and been bred and selected carefully for many, many generations. We, in America have a few more generations to go.



Probably another Homozygous grizzle bird. But, you can see how dramatically the color changes in the three molted primaries. However, this bird will never achieve enough color saturation.



Probably a heterozygous grizzle bird. This bird shows 2 unmolted light flights typical of a homozygous bird. The color here is much better than the previous bird and maybe this bird could be a show bird.



A red spangle showing pretty good flight color.



Red white bar Saxon Swallow from a recent show in Germany rated 97, Klaus Hentschel



Group of Silesian Swallows
Art by Gary Romig

USC Officers for 2008-2010

President: Perry Mueller
9836 Coventry St.
St Louis, MO 63123
314-631-3772
perrynsusie@charter.net

Vice President: Mike Swanson
4800 Rd. 23
Ft. Lupton, CO 80621
303-857-0985

Secretary: Elliot Yeske
21649 State Hwy 108
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
ejy@loretel.net

Canadian District Director: John Taupert
610 Spencer St. S. E.
Medicine Hat
Alberta T1A 1Y7 Canada

Eastern District Director: Merle Starr
8900 Lemar Rd
Greencastle, PA 17225
717-597-7760
pigeon8900@comcast.net

Central District Director: Bob Benson
5 Fareway Dr.
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-7230

Western District Director: Leon Stephens
5238 La Madera Ave.
El Monte CA 91732-1263
taubens@yahoo.com



Muffed and Clean leg Swallows
Perry Mueller
314 631 3772
perrynsusie@charter.net




**BLUE SPANGLES:
Thuringer Wing Pigeons &
Field Color Pigeons**
Dave Holloway
30255 NW Evergreen
Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-648-7893 (prefer email)
dianne.holloway@verizon.net



Swallows for Sale, from the loft of Bill Griebel Sr.



Top rated silver white
bar Fairy Swallow \$50

8 blue barless
Fairy Swallows \$100

beautiful pair of silver
dun bar Silesians \$75

Group of 14 black barless
Fullhead Swallows \$300

12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy., EL Monte CA 91732 • griebel@worldnet.att.net • 626-448-8565