



Presidents Message

Greetings,

It has regrettably been many months since our last bulletin and for that I apologize. However, with assistance from Gloria Weisgram, Gary Romig and other members we are now back on track.

This year has been very exciting for the Swallow Hobby with many members not only attending the big show in Germany but also importing some

very nice colors and markings not commonly found in this country. We can also look forward to seeing these birds in the shows later this year.

As a club we are going to try to complete the nomination and voting process for officers, directors, annual meet site and annual meet judge in a more timely manner. This will allow for more time for travel plans and maximum flexibility in selecting the judge. The current plan is to send out separate post cards. Please return these promptly.

In the next bulletin there will be information about updating the Clean Leg Standard, the Judging Program and special club awards. Good luck on a great start to your breeding season. *Nate Wayne*

Gloria Weisgram Wins the USC Annual Meet

Gloria Weisgram has been establishing herself as the premier breeder of barless Swallows for the past few years. Her efforts were notably recognized at this years annual meet held in Des Moines, Iowa, December of 2000. Gloria won Champion Swallow with her Blue Barless Old Cock #855 and she won best Red or Yellow with a beautiful Red Barless Young Hen Fairy Swallow #927. Special award winners for the meet are as follows:

Best Swallow by a Junior Exhibitor...Joelle Volzke, Blue Bar YC #973

Best Young Swallow...Bob Benson, Silver Check YH #357

Best Fairy Swallow... Norm House, Blue White Bar OH #1622

Best Fullhead Swallow...Elliot Yeske, Black Barless OC #417

Best Clean Leg Swallow...Elliot Yeske, Black Barless Fullhead OC #56

Best Red or Yellow... Gloria Weisgram, Red Barless YH Fairy #927

Best Silesian & Champion...Gloria Weisgram, Blue Barless OC #855

See the complete show results on page 2.

Dave Harris wins Best Swallow at the Pageant of Pigeons with a Clean Leg Black Barless Fullhead (Rated E)

Yes, Dave won the Pageant with a Black Barless Fullhead Thuringer (clean-leg) Swallow. Watch out muffed Swallow breeders. The good clean-leg Swallows are here.

See complete show results on page 7



Blue Barless Silesian Swallow Old Cock #855 bred and owned by Gloria Weisgram. Photo by Nate Wayne.



Black Barless Thuringer Fullhead Swallow Old Cock #2030 bred and owned by Dave Harris. Photo by George De la Nuez.

United Swallow Club Annual Meet Des Moines, IA Dec. 2000

Fullhead Swallows (6)

Owner	Sex/Age	Color	Band#	Rating	Special
Bob Jakubowski	YC	Black w-bar	1030	S	-
Bob Jakubowski	YC	Black w-bar	1033	G	-
Bob Jakubowski	OC	Black barless	96	S	-
Elliot Yeske	OC	Black barless	222	G	-
Elliot Yeske	OC	Black barless	222	G	-
Elliot Yeske	OC	Black barless	417	S	Best Fullhead

Silesian Swallows (24)

Owner	Sex/Age	Color	Band#	Rating	Special
Joelle Volzke	YC	Blue b-bar	973	S	Best Jr. Exb.
Greg Volzke	YH	Red w-bar	361	G	-
Greg Volzke	YH	Yellow w-bar	360	G	-
Robert Benson	YH	Silver check	357	HS	Best Young
Robert Benson	YH	Silver check	389	S2	-
Robert Benson	YH	Silver check	835	S3	-
Joelle Volzke	YH	Silver check	389	G	-
Robert Benson	YH	Silver check	389	G	-
Robert Benson	YC	Silver check	388	HS	-
Joelle Volzke	YH	Silver check	976	G	-
Robert Benson	YH	Blue check	382	G	-
Robert Benson	YC	Blue check	398	G	-
Nate Wayne	OC	Blue check	288	HS	-
Barry Wilson	YH	Silver b-bar	934	G	-
Barry Wilson	OH	Silver b-bar	630	G	-
Barry Wilson	OC	Silver b-bar	1183	G	-
Nate Wayne	OH	Silver barless	270	S3	-
Nate Wayne	OC	Silver barless	282	S	-
Gloria Weisgram	YH	Silver barless	916	S	-
Gloria Weisgram	YH	Blue barless	900	HS	-
Gloria Weisgram	OH	Blue barless	945	HS	-
Gloria Weisgram	OH	Blue barless	1019	S	-
Gloria Weisgram	OC	Blue barless	855	HS	CHAMPION & Best Silesian
Gloria Weisgram	OH	Black barless	1016	S	-

Fairy Swallows (23)

Owner	Sex/Age	Color	Band#	Rating	Special
Rick & Jana Peters	YH	Red Spangle	604	G	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OH	Yellow Spangle	598	G	-
Barry Wilson	OC	Red Spangle	403	G	-
Rick & Jana Peters	YH	Black Spangle	620	S	-
Rick & Jana Peters	YH	Black Spangle	635	G	-
Robert Benson	YC	Black Spangle	837	S1	-
Rick & Jana Peters	YC	Black Spangle	600	S2	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OH	Black Spangle	357	G	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OH	Black Spangle	959	G	-
Bob Jakubowski	YH	Yellow w-bar	1023	S3	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OH	Yellow Spangle	595	G	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OC	Red w-bar	718	S1	-
Elliot Yeske	OC	Red w-bar	266	G	-
Norm House	OC	Red w-bar	15	S2	-
Bob Jakubowski	YH	Black w-bar	1010	HS	-
Norm House	OH	Black w-bar	313	G	-
Norm House	OH	Black w-bar	725	G	-
Bob Jakubowski	OH	Black w-bar	350	S	-
Norm House	OH	Blue w-bar	1622	HS	Best Fairy
Norm House	OC	Blue w-bar	1364	S2	-
Rick & Jana Peters	OH	Silver w-bar	706	G	-
Gloria Weisgram	YH	Red barless	927	S	Best Red/Yellow
Norm House	OH	Yellow barless	303	G	-

Thuringer Spot Swallows (Clean Leg) (5)

Owner	Sex/Age	Color	Band#	Rating	Special
Gerald Kress	YH	Yellow barless	366	G	-
Gerald Kress	YC	Red barless	377	S	-
Gerald Kress	YC	Red barless	379	S	-
Elliot Yeske	OC	Red barless	33	G	-
Elliot Yeske	YC	Blue b-bar	41	G	-

Thuringer Fullhead Swallows (Clean Leg) (1)

Owner	Sex/Age	Color	Band#	Rating	Special
Elliot Yeske	OC	Black barless	56	HS	Best Clean Leg

TOTAL SWALLOWS SHOWN = 69

Ratings

E = Excellent
 HS = Highly Superior
 S = Superior
 G = Good
 I = Inferior



Judge: Perry Mueller



MY FIRST YEAR WITH THE UNITED SWALLOW CLUB

By Dick Baker
Lyons, New York

For the last two or three years, I have been wanting to get back into raising Swallows and had been looking for some breeding stock locally. I live in central New York and found nothing available here. I talked to everyone in the area and even tried to get our local Club to do something as a project. I could never get anything going.

One day I received a phone call from Bill Griebel. He was looking for someone to help him on the history of Swallows in the Rochester, New York area. We talked for quite a while and I mentioned my idea to him. He said that maybe he could help me and got me an application for membership to the United Swallow Club.

Once I became a member, I got in contact with the right people. The first person was Gloria Weisgram. Even though it was right at the start of breeding season she said "I think I can locate something to help you." Well, I ended up with a box of ten birds the first time. They came with all of their breeding background. I explained to her what I wanted to do and she said "I will raise some young for you because this sounds like a worthwhile project." She then gave me some phone numbers and said these people may be able to help you also. Sure enough, I got more birds. About 75% of these birds were for free, all I had to pay was the shipping. I am not used to this type of generosity from people that I have never met. So this has really gotten me fired up to make this project work.

Then in August, we had our New York State Fair which lasted for twelve days. I made a nice poster and took 16 different pattern and color Swallows for display to promote the United Swallow Club and Swallows. It was the highlight of the Pigeon Department. We had a space next to the office and everyone got to see the display. I collected names and addresses of people who were serious about raising Swallows. I have since made these birds available to them at no cost except they had to join the United Swallow Club for one year. As of now, we have 6 new Swallow breeders in Central New York and at least 3 more waiting to get started as soon as I can get mates or they can get the space available.

I would like to thank all the members of the United Swallow Club. Especially Bill Griebel, Gloria Weisgram, Bob Benson, Steve Ripper, Merle Starr, Leon Stephens and several others who provided me with lots of information and tips. These people have provided birds and answered many, many emails, phone calls and letters and have tried very hard to help me. I think this project has come a long way in less than a year. I owe the rapid progress to the members of the United Swallow Club.

EDITORS NOTE—two articles by Dick Baker shed light on the past Swallow Fancy in the Rochester NY area and Dick's current efforts to charge up the fancy again in NY State. Many thanks to Dick. Photos supplied by Dick Baker of the display of Swallow Pigeons at a recent show in NY State.



MY EXPERIENCE WITH SWALLOWS IN ROCHESTER, NY from 1955 to 2000

by Dick Baker

My name is Richard Baker and I live in Central New York about half way between Rochester and Syracuse. I have had pigeons everyday since 1955. I have raised several breeds over the years.

As some of you know, this area used to be a hot bed of Swallows. I remember seeing them and I was so impressed with the large boots on them. At that time the ones I remember seeing were reds and blacks, barless and white bar, mostly fullheads. But at the time I did not have the experience or the money to get into top show birds.

It was about 12 years later that I got a my first pair of red fullhead from Carl Biddick from Buffalo. I also got some from Joe Reulbach and Sonny Miller, never did get to see inside their lofts as they always said it interrupted the birds when someone strange came around.

There was at least three other people that had swallows at the time, one of them owned a grocery store but I can not recall their names.

All the birds that I was able to get were birds that Doc Hummel did not want. Doc Hummel got the best that were for sale every time he came to this area. At one time I remember seeing five carrying boxes full of swallows and two beautiful M. Frank Cook paintings all going home with Lynn Hummel. I sure wish I had been smarter and grabbed onto some of the things I had seen that were done by M. Frank Cook. I have seen a feed barrel with two large Pouters in full color on it and Walt Zimmer had two watering cans with Swallows on them.

Looking back, the quality of the art work and the birds was so good. All of these things, birds and people who had them are gone from this area and have been for some time. For the last year, I have been advertising for information, articles or someone who could shed light on the Swallows in this area.

So far, I have located three Cook paintings, one of them is of two blue barless fullheads. It is signed M. Frank Cook stating bred by Fred Hable, Woodside Drive, Rochester, NY 1927. The other two are only signed and I have no history about them.

I have yet to find any early documents, history or information of the early swallows and their breeders, except the Pigeon Journal has had several articles. The Club records from the early days do not seem to be available since no one knows exactly where they went.

I do remember that the Swallow breeders always had problems with the local clubs, as they wanted their birds in separate areas and handled only by them, as the Swallows at the time were very wild. This created a problem as some thought that they were getting special favors. But the ones that did show sure made a magnificent display. As I had gotten some of my birds from them, I knew what they were talking about. The birds beat themselves on the walls and windows when even I went in the lofts.

I raised the Swallows I got in 1967 for 15 years. Even when I raised some nice looking birds, no one around here wanted swallows, except Joe Miller from Syracuse. He always showed a lot of birds at the New York State Fair and liked the German Toy breeds. We had the only Swallows around here for a long time. Now Joe is no longer with us and my Swallows got so old and inbred that I quit.

About three years ago, I tried to talk our local club into starting a project to bring the Swallows back to Rochester, New York. I could not get any support as a group project, but I kept talking to everyone about the idea. Finally, one day I got a call from Bill Griebel. He asked if I knew anyone in the area that could give him any information on the history of Swallows in Rochester, New York. I told him about my idea and he said he could get me the help I needed. He got me in touch with the United Swallow Club. Boy was he ever right. The Club members have sent me a lot of stock birds, about three quarters of which were free. I can not believe the quality of the birds that they have sent me. I also have noticed that after they were here for only a very short time, they settled right down and are no way as flighty as the Swallows of the past.

Over the past eight months, I have been sharing the stock birds I received with other people in the area who want to raise Swallows. So far six people had gotten some and I still have three who are making space for them. The only cost to them is they have to join the United Swallow Club. If they have the same experiences I have had since getting started with the Swallow Club, we should have Swallows back in Rochester, New York before you know it. Words can not express the gratitude I have for the United Swallow Club members for all their help and advice.



A large variety of Swallow Pigeons painted by Frank Cook in the 1940's.

Frank Cook is one of the most important artists of the Pigeon Fancy. His works are sought after and rare.

Frank Cook was also an important contributor to the Swallow Pigeon Fancy; In the 1940's Rochester NY area at a time when raising Swallow Pigeons was flourishing in the USA.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Gloria Weisgram, USC Vice President

The year 2000 has had its ups and downs. A little over a year ago we said goodbye to one of the Swallow Club legends when Cal Breadhoff of Grandville Michigan passed away in his loft. We all knew that day would come but we were never quite prepared for the impact of it. It has taken some time for us, as a club to adjust. It might be accurate to say that the United Swallow Club exists today in part, because of Cal. During his younger years he held all three offices, President, Vice president and Secretary and some times he held all of them at once. No matter how big or small the membership grew Cal was always the promoter of the Swallow. His support was steadfast and the club persevered through the years.

Norm House began the year publishing our bulletin and got off to a nice start but the death of his father, followed by the news that his grandson had cancer made the duties difficult. We finished the year with only two bulletins published. Most members were not aware of these problems and as result our membership has decreased a bit. At a meeting last week at the Oklahoma National Show a dozen or so members sat down together to work out a strategy to put the club back on track.

As we head into 2001 Bill Griebel and Gary Romig are back in the picture and will be publishing our first and second bulletins. The third and fourth bulletins will be published by myself. We have some lost ground to cover. Members who signed up last year will be receiving 4 more bulletins. An updated membership list will be sent out as soon as it can be compiled. We will be nominating people for office for next year in this first bulletin issue and voting on them in the following bulletin. Along with electing officers we will be voting on our site and judge for next year's annual meet. There is now a little excitement in the air and hopefully a group effort to rapidly make up for the past few months.

One of the bright spots of this year's season is the project of new member Dick Baker of Lyons New York to bring the Swallow back to the Rochester area. Dick purchased birds from various swallow breeders (and in some cases birds were donated to this cause). After breeding them he exhibited 16 different types of swallows at the NY State Fair and made them available to local club members and others at no cost except that they had to join the Swallow Club for one year. There are now six new breeders in Central New York and three waiting to join. That is an incredible undertaking for one person. Dick will be keeping us up to date with the success of this project and I am sure he would welcome any help.

The second bright spot greeted a group of Minnesota swallow members who marched into the show hall in Oklahoma last week. We were stopped in our tracks to find a group of Canadian Swallow fanciers had decided to drive 1500 miles to exhibit their swallows. What a nice group of birds they brought!

Cleanleg swallows of great quality and color filled the top row of pens on one side, crested spot and silesians on the other! We were more than impressed, we were worried and with good reason as these birds received some high prizes. The sleeping volcano of Canada has erupted and is spewing good swallows out of the Medicine Hat, Alberta area. John Taupert and his crew reminded us, as they left that we will see them again in Tacoma in 12 months.

For those that are interested, Tacoma is the site of next year's Grand National.

Lastly, as near as I can tell, over 100 swallows have been purchased and imported into the United States from Europe by about a 10 or 12 members. This will no doubt upgrade some varieties and add some that we have not seen before. It may help take our red and yellow program to the next level. Because of the interest and increase in the showing of cleanlegged swallows we must hurry to upgrade our standard for these birds as soon as possible.

Looking back through the struggle of the past year we now look forward to Tacoma, to import youngsters in our lofts, to continued friendships not only in our own country but to the new friends we have made in Canada and Europe and Yes, Cal, your Swallow club remains united and stronger than ever!

CANADIAN NEWS and VIEWS

January, 2001

"Canadian Sunset"???- Yes it has been very quiet here in the "Great White North".

But.....the swallow world is still alive! It seems like each successive year the number of swallow fanciers, at least those whose main or only breed is swallows, continues to remain very low and scattered across Canada. We continue however to strive for quality over quantity; both with the swallows themselves...and with the swallow fanciers who stick with it. This goal is a major challenge to most of us "endangered species" who only have small lofts and therefore smaller gene pools to work with.

Here in Eastern Canada., we have a few fanciers such as one known in Prince Edward Island (Trevor Macdonald) another one or two in Nova Scotia, one or more in Montreal, Quebec (Clement Page), and a few more here in Ontario (Bruce Codack near Toronto, etc.)...and Ross Dobson in Cornwall temporarily without swallows and with plans to re-stock or reload the loft in a couple more years....all in all not any great "critical mass" of fanciers.

Out West, I understand that there has been a resurgence of swallow interest with the importation of some California birds to John Taupert of Medicine Hat, Alberta , and subsequent dispersal to a number of pigeon breeders to promote the breed. (This status will be updated after we are able to connect with John or someone who received these birds). They intended to show them in Edmonton, Calgary and other regional shows so stay tuned for updates.

Also in Alberta, my good friend and swallow supporter Ron Hornby of Calgary Alberta still has swallows and likes to keep a number of varieties (hope to hear from him soon too)

Thanks all for now folks....short on specifics but long on good intentions! We will continue to support the United Swallow Club and this breed in whatever way we can over this new millennium!

Ross Dobson

Cornwall, Ontario, Canada



Canadian Swallow Meet

By Bill Griebel

When I was asked to judge an all breeds show in Edmonton, Alberta I knew I would see a few swallows. The previous year I organized a shipment of swallows and color pigeons from various breeders here in the states to various breeders in Western Canada. John Taupert of Medicine Hat, Alberta sent me a shopping list of color pigeons and it paid off big time in numbers of these types of birds in the show. To my surprise 87 swallows were shown and the list of exhibitors was impressive: John Taupert, Bob Pilchar, Bernie Leight, Dick Taylor, Casey Vandermeer, Rocky Coslovich, Larry Driscoll, Jim Jesse, Brian Heck and G. Owen.

The quality of the swallows was very good but I think the most pleasant surprise was seeing an entry of 46 Thuringen Wing Pigeons. Bernie Leight imported blacks, blues, reds and yellows several years ago and the quality of these birds was wonderful. By the time the show was over Bernie had at least 6 new breeders of CL swallows started. John Taupert was busy making sure that several people went away with muffed swallows for their breeding program.

John Taupert won Champion and Best Young Swallow with a super blue black bar Silesian and Bernie Leight had Res. Champion with a blue barless Thuringen Wing Pigeon. Congratulations to these guys on their wins. They both promise to bring many birds to the National in Tacoma, Washington in January of 2001.

USC Canadian Swallow Meet
Edmonton, Canada
November 2000

Number shown: 87
Judge: Bill Griebel

Champion Swallow - Silesian
Blue Bar YH #212 John Taupert
Res. Champ. Swallow - Thuringen
Blue Barless OC #383 Bernie Lieght
Best Young Swallow - Silesian
Blue Bar YH #212 John Taupert

THURINGER SWALLOWS

Yellow Barless OH
G 380 Taylor & Taupert

YC
S 13 Taylor & Taupert
G 24 Taylor & Taupert

YH
G1 25 Taylor & Taupert
G2 207 Taylor & Taupert

Red Barless YC
HS 160 B. Leight
S1 5 Taylor & Taupert
S2 23 Taylor & Taupert
G1 161 B. Leight
G2 10 Taylor & Taupert
G3 17 Taylor & Taupert

YH
S1 5 Taylor & Taupert
S2 165 B. Leight
G1 146 B. Leight
G2 22 Taylor & Taupert
G3 11 Taylor & Taupert
G4 21 Taylor & Taupert

THURINGER SWALLOWS

Black Barless OH
G 393 Taylor & Taupert

YC
G 7 Taylor & Taupert

YH
G 6 Taylor & Taupert

Blue Check YC
G1 140 Taylor & Taupert
G2 3 Taylor & Taupert

YH
G1 20 Taylor & Taupert
G2 137 Taylor & Taupert
G3 204 Taylor & Taupert

Silver Barless OC
S 413 B. Leight
G 389 B. Leight

OH
S1 547 B. Leight
S2 714 B. Leight
G 386 B. Leight

YC
HS 152 B. Leight

YH
S1 173 B. Leight
S2 172 B. Leight
S3 170 B. Leight

Blue Barless OC
R 383 B. Leight
HS 406 B. Leight
S 387 B. Leight
G 384 B. Leight

OH
HS 590 B. Leight
G 589 B. Leight

THURINGER SWALLOWS

Blue Barless YC
S1 154 B. Leight
S2 147 B. Leight

YH
S 163 B. Leight
G 150 B. Leight

Blue Bar OC
G 235 B. Pilchar

SILESIAN SWALLOWS

Blue Barless OC
G 1547 Taupert

Silver Barless OH
G 951 Taupert

Blue Check OC
S UK# C. Vandereer

YC
G UK# C. Vandereer

Silver Check OH
G UK# C. Vandereer

Silver Bar YC
S 213 R. Coslovich

YH
S1 280 Taupert
S2 222 R. Coslovich
G 214 Taupert

Blue Bar OC
S1 192 L. Driscoll
S2 198 Taupert
S3 321 Taupert

SILESIAN SWALLOWS

Blue Bar OH
HS 351 Taupert
S1 348 R. Coslovich
S2 171 Taupert
G 200 L. Driscoll

YC
HS 590 Taupert
S1 215 R. Coslovich
S2 227 Taupert

YH
R 212 Taupert
S 224 Taupert
G1 221 Taupert
G2 205 Taupert

FAIRY SWALLOWS

Blue W/B OC
HS 640 Taupert

YC
S 302 J. Jesse

YH
HS 223 Taupert
S1 303 J. Jesse
S2 300 J. Jesse

Black W/B OC
S1 101 Taupert
S2 10 C. Vandermeer
G1 702 B. Heck
G2 537 G. Owen

OH
S1 UK# B. Heck
S2 351 Taupert
G1 181 G. Owen
G2 46 C. Vandermeer

YC
HS 211 Taupert

YH
G 210 Taupert

Red W/B OC
G 12 B. Heck

OH
G1 224 B. Heck
G2 21 B. Heck

2000 Pageant of Pigeons San Bernardino, CA

Number shown: 67
Judge: Nate Wayne

Champion & Best Thuringer Swallow Black Barless OC #2030 David Harris
Best Young Swallow Blue Black Bar YC #1800 David Harris
Best Fullhead Swallow Blue Check OH #860 David Harris
Best Silesian Swallow Blue Check OC #279 Bill Griebel Jr.
Best Fairy Swallow Black W/B OH #1233 Bill Lawson
Best Junior Swallow - Thuringer Blue Check YC #267 Susan Johnson

FULLHEAD SWALLOWS

Black W/B, Old Cock

G 34 Stephens

Old Hen

G 5 Griebel Sr.

G 4 Griebel Sr.

Blue Check, Old Hen

HS 860 Harris

Blue W/B, Old Cock

G 35 Stephens

Red Barless, Old Hen

S 2177 Harris

Young Cock

S 1811 Harris

SILESIA SWALLOWS

Black Barless, Old Hen

S 22 Stephens

Blue Black Bar, Old Cock

S 1818 Harris

G 2334 Grill

Old Hen

HS 462 Griebel Jr.

S 356 Valencia

G 127 Valencia

Young Cock

HS 1800 Harris

G 261 Valencia

Blue Check, Old Cock

HS 279 Griebel Jr.

Old Hen

S 200 Stephens

Blue W/B, Old Hen

G 23 Stephens

Young Hen

S 120 Stephens

Red W/B, Old Cock

G 322 Stephens

Silver Dun Bar, Old Hen

G 167 Griebel Jr.

FAIRY SWALLOWS

Black W/B, Old Cock

HS 653 Griebel Sr.

S1 649 Lawson

S2 648 Lawson

S3 74 Stephens

Old Hen

HS1 1233 Lawson

HS2 148 Lawson

G1 423 Stephens

G2 30 Griebel

Young Cock

G 420 Lawson

Young Hen

S 419 Lawson

G 401 Lawson

Black Spangle, Old Hen

S 31 Stephens

Blue W/B, Old Cock

S 231 Harris

Silver Spangle, Young Hen

G 32 Stephens

Red W/B, Old Cock

S1 481 Stephens

S2 131 Lawson

Old Hen

S 42 Lawson

G 151 Lawson

Young Cock

G 440 Lawson

Young Hen

G 32 Stephens

G 436 Lawson

G 404 Lawson

Yellow W/B, Old Cock

S1 668 Lawson

S2 1257 Lawson

Old Hen

G 611 Lawson

Young Cock

G 438 Lawson

Young Hen

G 443 Lawson

CLEAN LEG SWALLOWS

Thuringer Spot, Blue Barless, Young Cock

S 2317 Beals

Blue Black Bar, Old Cock

HS 259 Griebel Jr.

Young Hen

G 613 Griebel Jr.

Blue Check, Young Cock

G 267 Johnson

Thuringer Fullhead, Black Barless, Old Cock

E 2030 Harris

Old Hen

G 2043 Harris

United Swallow Club Financial Statement 1/30/2001

By Dave Harris: USC Sec./Treas.

Balance previous statement 1/31/00 = \$874.97

INCOME:

Reading 2000 rebate	30.00
Milwaukee rebate	84.75
Des Moines rebate	77.00
NYBS rebate	42.50
Des Moines Auction	145.00
Dues	550.00
2000 band sales	75.00
2001 band sales	258.25
Total	1262.50
Previous Balance	874.97
Total Income	2137.47

EXPENSES:

Postage	66.02
NPA USC Bands	420.00
Copies	9.00
Bulletins	238.01
NPA affiliate dues	20.00
Band mailers	23.54
Annual Meet Judge Airfare	273.00
Total Expenses	1049.57

Income	2137.47
minus Expenses	-1049.57
Balance as of 1/30/2001	1087.90

MY TRIP TO THE SHOW

.....a reality story from the loft.

by: *Sammy Swallow*

Well hurrah it is over for another season...another stressful experience for me which I need to share with you humans to help you appreciate what we swallows go through...just for you! (Hey it was I who won that champion rosette but am still waiting for it to be hung up on MY wall here in the loft...loft rumour-spreaders amongst us birds continue to spread the idea that it is in YOUR HOUSE somewhere obscure like on a "living room" wall whatever that is! (to us a loft is a loft is a loft...can you imagine if we had separate loft rooms for excrement purposes, for breeding purposes, for moulting, for squab raising/care purposes, for show grooming purposes, etc. etc..you get this picture? Ridiculous and even a bit STRANGE in my opin-

ion; this keeps us all apart and reduces our opportunities to breed more "champion" swallows which we understand is a human goal!). Anyways the concept of humans taking all the credit for our breeding prowess is a long standing issue with us swallows, but I guess as humans say..."the journeys the thing; not the destination" (with apologies to all swallows around the world for using a human quote).

Anyways back to my story...with the winter snow outside and a howling North wind blowing it is a good time just fluff our feathers up and reflect back on this show experience; the good, the bad and the ugly. Let's start at the Beginning...I think you humans call it "phase 1" whatever that means?

But first , just a few words about "STANDARDS"; in our world even this word conjures up strong emotions including fear. We all, as intelligent birds of course in addition to being good looking, understand the flip side of being genetically aligned or even just "phenotypical correct" (or translated to human-talk, meaning we simply may LOOK like birds very close to the "ideal" or standards). Once long ago one or two of our ancestors happened by accident to see some actual pencil or ink sketches of "ideal" swallows by a human named Gary Romig; pointing out too some of the "faults" or non-compliance features some of us have (actually most of us have but that is another story). After the shock wore off, and some subsequent loft meetings by leader swallows over the next few generations, we as a breed have come to accept the fact that such a STANDARD does indeed exist....and whenever one of us has an opportunity to glimpse at this paper document we hope to mount a counter-action of some sort such as increased "accidental" multi-matings in order to confuse the human record keepers and create a more random selection process of "KEEPERS" (or as we say the euphemism for "non-culls"). Besides we feel that by this strategic counter-move we are actually increasing or broadening the gene pool for future yet to be hatched swallows. Smart eh?

It all starts months before the actual SHOW event....our fancier (=human feed source) looks us all over like hunks of meat on the shelf, and chooses a few most likely show candidates...sort of like a beauty contest in which the rules are unspoken (to us at least). We think there may be quite a bit of guess work involved, or at best some subjectivity, as this pre-selection usually happens before our annual moult and therefore before we even get a chance to show our final coat! This process however continues as the show date gets closer. Oh yes I almost forgot that at this time we are also captured and "people-handled"...looked at real up close and "all over" (now that's a frightful experience!; this also includes some wing spreading activities which we don't yet understand). It seems as if this very close inspection process by humans will somehow magically transform us all into "champion" swallows! Usually at this time we have

to endure a series of "dustings" with toxic powders to ensure our feathers are all mite-free....including dusting of our down feathers 'down South' which is highly intrusive. While down there our human usually reads our band number and records it for another paper transfer to a show entry form...and we are now officially entered (or "committed" to be) in the show...this usually involved money exchange so some dollar value seems to be placed on us which is highly distasteful in our world but humans like it).

I will now describe a process which has not happened for all shows but does occur some years in some lofts; sort of a "phase 2" I guess. After some of us are "chosen" as show candidates, some very careful "trimming" takes place (actually we call this feather plucking...like in duck de-feathering but more selective). The so-called "mis-marked" feathers are yanked out! And yes...this does hurt, but not nearly as much as the major feather trauma which involved muff feather removal or pulling so all our foot feathers get to grow back in before the show day...IF our human has timed it right for such amazing re-growth like a salamanders tail. We all annually talk about this muff removal practice and question whether our humans would endure having their toenails yanked our each year before St. Patrick's Day or some other human holiday in order to "look good" in a parade? ...well maybe they would on second thought.

As the big show day or days get closer, we get handled more frequently and eventually get so used to it (=resigned) that we stop struggling and give the appearance of being "calm" or even "tame" (not a chance it is just a ruse to get us over this experience without injuring ourselves).

Some of us even get put in tiny show cages overnight as "practice"! We ask...how can you "practice" in such small quarters?

Finally we get placed in carrying boxes or cages and trucked off to the show...for us swallows like Columbus sailing off the end of the world not knowing where it ends or whether we can ever get back to our loft and fellow-swallows again. After more poking, prodding, some rude comments from passing humans, more handling, etc. we are placed back in our show cages and somebody slaps some ribbons up along the cages...for only a few of us "lucky" ones. This may be the last we see of these ribbons and rosettes as I mentioned at the beginning...but I am not bitter as long as we get taken back to our home loft and extended swallow family all is well!

Yours from the loft

Sammy "showboat" swallow

P.S. here is a little swallow joke I overheard at the show...

Question ... "how do you catch a very special swallow ?"

Answer... "unique up on it"

Maybe you had to be there to get it!

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