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Swallow Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Nate Wayne

Spring 1999

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and well wishes. I had the misfortune of being hospitalized with heart problems just after the first of the year. I am doing well now and am looking forward to another breeding and show season. I also talked to Howard Angevine who had bypass surgery in January and is recovering well.

There are several things coming up in the next couple of issues I would like to get member response on. First, this bulletin will contain post cards for you to return regarding nominations of Annual Meet site and nomination of judge for the Annual Meet. It is important that as many members as possible take time to nominate and later vote. It is possible depending on how the nomination and election go that we may be able to get Hans Schipper of the Netherlands as judge of our Annual Meet.

Second, I received a letter from Norm House inquiring about Michigan moving from the Eastern District to the Central District. Norm was also speaking for Calvin and since it affects mostly them it seems reasonable. Anyway, give it some consideration because it would require a membership vote.

I will also be looking for nomination of officers. To make a club the size of ours with the different projects we have going on work, it takes some time commitment. Please give consideration to how you can contribute. We will also follow up the nominations with an election.

The "trial" standard has been used for approximately two years now. People have had a chance to use it and comment on it. In the next bulletin, I would also like to vote on the

standard. In conjunction with this, there has also been discussions among some members regarding the creation of an "AOC" class for Swallows. This would also require a vote of the membership. Please read Bill Griebel's article in this bulletin.

Once the initial part of the Standard was done, we talked about reviewing the clean leg part of the standard. If you are interested in working on this, please let me know. I would propose we approach this like we recently did. Have a committee make suggested changes, present to and get input from the membership, use it for a trial period and then vote.

Several people have contacted me regarding next year's annual meet. We will have expenses for the judge but even more so if the membership elects to have Hans Schipper. If you have any ideas regarding awards, fund raising, judging area, etc. please contact me. To that point, I understand there are already two cash prizes of \$150 each for Best Young Red or Yellow Swallow and Best Young Swallow. I will be contacting people directly, too, for help with the Annual Meet.

Return your nomination card.

Proposals to be voted on in the next bulletin are:

- Moving Michigan to the Central District
- Adding an AOC Class
- Approving the Standard

Central District Report

by Gloria Weisgram

Congratulations to all the winners from this past show season and a special thank you to Nate Wayne for pulling his entry at Des Moines and judging the Annual Meet. Nate had some very nice birds entered that I'm sure would have received high ratings. Thank you also to George De la Nuez and Bill Lawson for judging the reds and yellows.

There are some issues in this bulletin to consider and I hope you will take the time to participate by nominating and voting so that the decisions that will be made are yours. I am in favor of adding Michigan to the Central District and if this is your opinion also, it will take a vote of 50% or greater by the club to change it. Please vote.

This is as good a time as any to let you know I will not be running again for Central District Director. I will look to help the Club in some other ways and begin to go through the process of becoming a judge. I have enjoyed this job but you all know I believe change is good and I look forward to doing something else for awhile. I hope someone will step up and accept this position and take charge of the Central District. I can say from my experience that you will have a lot of help. It's not too difficult and new ways of doing things are what I believe our club needs right now.

I hear Hans Schipper has offered to judge for us again. Let's all get involved with this project and see if we can make the most of our time with him. This is a great opportunity for those of you who missed him last time.

Bill Griebel has agreed to judge this year's Des Moines Show in December and we are excited to have him do it. I'm anxious to see if we can top last year's red and yellow entry. If we continue to do this and raise quality birds, we should see some fairly rapid improvement in a short period of time. It will be nice to get an early opinion on these birds and our other Swallows before Milwaukee. Most members now have reds and yellows in their lofts.

To inspire you to raise and enter these birds at Milwaukee, Bill Lawson, Bill Griebel and myself are offering to award \$150 for the Best Red or Yellow Young Swallow any variety, provided there are 20 or more shown. In addition to this, I am working on a similar award for Best Young Swallow any variety with the same stipulations. Anyone who would like to be part of this may contribute ... just let me know as soon as possible.

Good luck on your breeding programs this season. Put a little more thought into your pairs and don't overcrowd. It only takes one good bird to win a show! Most of all, participate in club affairs this year in any way that you are able!

Attention: Swallow Club Members!

Not in this bulletin but in the next one, we will be voting on items for inclusion in the USC Constitution and By-Laws. There will be several issues that are important to us. It is not important that you vote for or against an issue. What is important is that you VOTE!

Here is why it is so important. In order to cause change in the Constitution and By-Laws, **one over half of the total membership has to vote!**

We were successful in our last C & BL vote several years ago and it is hoped that everyone takes this vote seriously also.

If you have a question, call another member or officer of the club. We can help.

Again, it is not important that you vote for or against an issue. What is important is that you VOTE!

Canadian District Report

by Ross Dobson

Mar. 16, 1999 – Well, here it is mid-March already and here in Cornwall at least there is still a couple feet of that fluffy white stuff on the ground ... but the water dish in the loft did not freeze last night so there IS HOPE FOR SPRING!

Not too much to report on so far this year. Except the hope that our tiny membership “up here” can increase during 1999 somehow. This is a real challenge of course as my guesstimates of current swallow fancier numbers across Canada are about 15 ... and that is being optimistic.

Clement Page from the Montreal area (Quebec) called me the other day. He is still a keen swallow breeder and both he and I have some California genes now into our stock, courtesy of Bill Griebel Sr. a couple years ago. Ron Hornby from Calgary (Alberta) also has been active lately and is looking to increase his swallow stock. All three of us mainly have Saxon fairy swallow varieties; however, Ron has always been working towards having samples of most swallow varieties.

Back here in Cornwall, I have 27 swallows at present. Mostly black white bar, black spangled, and blue and silver spangled (my favorite). The new loft is now occupied by my flock. However, still missing nest boxes and a flypen ... maybe this spring this job will be completed although my specialty is procrastination and my carpentry skills leave a lot to be desired.

Good luck to all our global swallow fanciers for the 1999 breeding season and the hope for a good crop of millennium champion birds!

What's your “URL” you ask? Why it's ...

<http://members.aol.com/Fancyclub/usc.html>

Submitted by Ross Dobson & Alex Lacey

Cyber-swallows? Virtual swallow judging and assessments? Global swallow networking?

Here's an amazing fact ... in August 1998, there were 71 USC members ... of which at least 14 are now on-line and can communicate

through the Internet system (e-mail). This means that about 20% of our total club members are connected electronically through this computer network!! How many other specialty clubs or all breed clubs of this size could say this? I suspect very few if any. This implies that collectively, we are a future-looking and a creative group of fanciers.

This article is about our club web page (Internet address or URL is above in the title), its status and some thoughts on where this could be taking us as we approach the 21st century.

Some Recent History ...

Back in Spring 1997, club member and supporter Alex Lacey took the initiative and created a USC web page product to get this rolling and “on-line” for others to view. All you need is access to a modem, a computer and the World Wide Web or Internet services whether at home, at work, or through public opportunities such as public libraries or schools. By doing this, Alex became our official USC “Web master” in charge of this tool and administering its content. Alex received content ideas, materials and technical services from a few others at the time such as Mike Lerp (links to NPA web site, etc.) Gary Romig (artwork), and Bill Griebel Sr. (direction, etc.)

During August 1997, then President Bill Griebel Sr. asked a few of us to operate a small committee to explore and propose a longer term strategy for the USC Web site (Lacey and Dobson/Romig and Lerp). Unfortunately, this committee never really got off the ground as a group activity, but individually we have certainly continued to contribute since then, such as cross-promotional efforts on the 900+ PML (Pigeon Mail List) by Mike and Ross, Cross-links on other web sites, Web page additions, etc.

What's on the USC Web site?

As of January 1999, was what we have on-line:

- Welcome page/entry
- List of current club officers, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses

- List of upcoming shows with USC participation or sponsorship
- List of members on-line with e-mail addresses
- An article about the judging system used for swallows and the USC
- Buy/sell page
- Swallow standard (the draft USC standard – text only)
- A few photographs of recent show champions
- Some classy variety illustrations by Gary Romig (one per type)
- Links list (hot-linked to a few sites such as the NPA Web page)
- USC membership application form

What next?

This communications vehicle could continue to evolve in a number of directions, dependent on both our club needs and capabilities to add more material and maintain it, plus the kinds and scale of response from non-members around the globe. It is obvious that the CLUB BULLETIN (hard copy) is an excellent service for members and will likely continue to be the primary tool for members to communicate with each other with news and views, and address shared issues and Club priorities between shows when people can meet face to face., etc.

For the USC Web site, here are a few ideas and suggestions about some possible additions:

- sample bulletin articles from past bulletins;
- more links to sites which have close relevance or cross-links to our USC site, especially those web sites with swallow content in other countries around the globe (i.e., Germany, Australia, Canada, etc.). (i.e., CPFA, Rare Breeds Club, etc.) This may involve some personal Web pages plus club sites.
- add a page with List of Certified USC judges and the judging standards/certification process
- adding the USC Standard illustrations done by Gary Romig after the USC Standard is approved
- setting up a members "Chatline" or network vehicle to be shared by all on-line members
- discussions about the swallow standards around the globe and similarities and differences in breed types and where this is going ... towards more diversity and

differences or towards closer affiliations? (This may be best discussed amongst USC members first via The Bulletin, etc. before going on-line with a wider swallow fancier network.)

- photos of club members and group activities/events such as at shows.

This electronic communications tool is doing an excellent job of club and breed awareness. Hats off and thanks to those members who have contributed so far.

If you have a chance, check out this web page soon and offer your ideas and/or material for future updates to Alex Lacy who will communicate such suggestions to the wide network and current USC executive for any decisions or direction required. One of the needs which the Club executive may wish to direct over the shorter term is to clarify Web page roles and a procedure regarding how and who to contact for future web page additions, adjustments and suggestions, including maintenance and communication roles, and publish this information in a future Bulletin for all members.

Seeing RED (ash) Over a DUN deal!

By Bill Griebel, Sr.

When I wrote the article "What Makes a Color Pigeon", I didn't expect the reaction from members Ross Dobson and Dave Holloway. If these two Swallow breeders are concerned, then I know there are others out there who have not, for various reasons, voiced their concerns. At times in this article, I will be quoting from Ross and Dave's articles in the Fall 1998 bulletin so you might want to have it handy.

Continued on the next page

Ross states, "... by omission or default, colors such as "dun" are not mentioned as reasons for "disqualification" from show consideration in the proposed USC swallow standard." I must admit here that we may be guilty of an over-simplification in our standard. Gloria Weisgram pointed out to me a long time ago, "You guys that have been around a long time assume the rest of us understand the things that you do - we don't." This being said, we have operated under the premise that what you see is what you get. If it is in the standard, it's accepted. If not in the standard, it's not accepted. Sorry for the confusion but when this proposed standard and the previous standard was assembled, dun was purposely left out because it is one of those colors that is hard to breed in quality and not accepted in European standards.

Dave Holloway refers to the book *Color Pigeons* by Bennett and Bernard. This is a good book but like the book *Toy Pigeons and other Continental Races* by C.A.M. Spruijt the translation is not quite as accurate as we would hope it to be. Those of you with these books know what I mean. Referencing the Bennett and Bernard works, Dave states, "The use of the words exist and found show that the listed colors were those that existed at the time the standards were written and were not intended to be the only colors allowed". Dave, you're correct, the door is left wide open but what is interesting is "The same colors in Bennett and Bernard's book translated 25 years ago are the same colors 'existing' today in the German standard and I would venture to guess that they were the same 50 years ago and perhaps even 100 years ago!"

To continue, Dave states, "Notice the larked variety is also mentioned". In a recent phone conversation with Hans Schipper of Holland, who is familiar with Bennett and Bernard's works, we both agreed that the word "larked" (gelarcht in the German standard) in English means "silver checker". So, what is new here, nothing! The English standard mirrors the German standard, then and now.

In reviewing our USC proposed standard and the previous USC standard, you will notice that color classes for ash red and ash yellow bar and barless exist. USC has been progressive by adding these two color classes but one question comes to mind, "When is the last time you saw an ash red or yellow bar or barless in a

show?" In 1975, I judged a USC meet in St. Louis and judged some nice ash reds and yellows but this was probably the last time I saw these colors in any show.

Dave mentions an article in the Pigeon Debut that discusses the colors Isabel and hellblau. These were new colors added to the Field Pigeon group in Germany. If you go back to my article on "What makes a Color Pigeon", my comment is "Refer to the German standard for the colors that are acceptable in a particular breed". On a single colored bird such as the Field Pigeon, these colors might work. Have these colors been accepted by the swallow fraternity in Europe - not yet and I maintain for obvious reasons - contrast!

OK, enough of the confrontational stuff. We could wage a war of words until the cows come home but I think it's time we found another way.

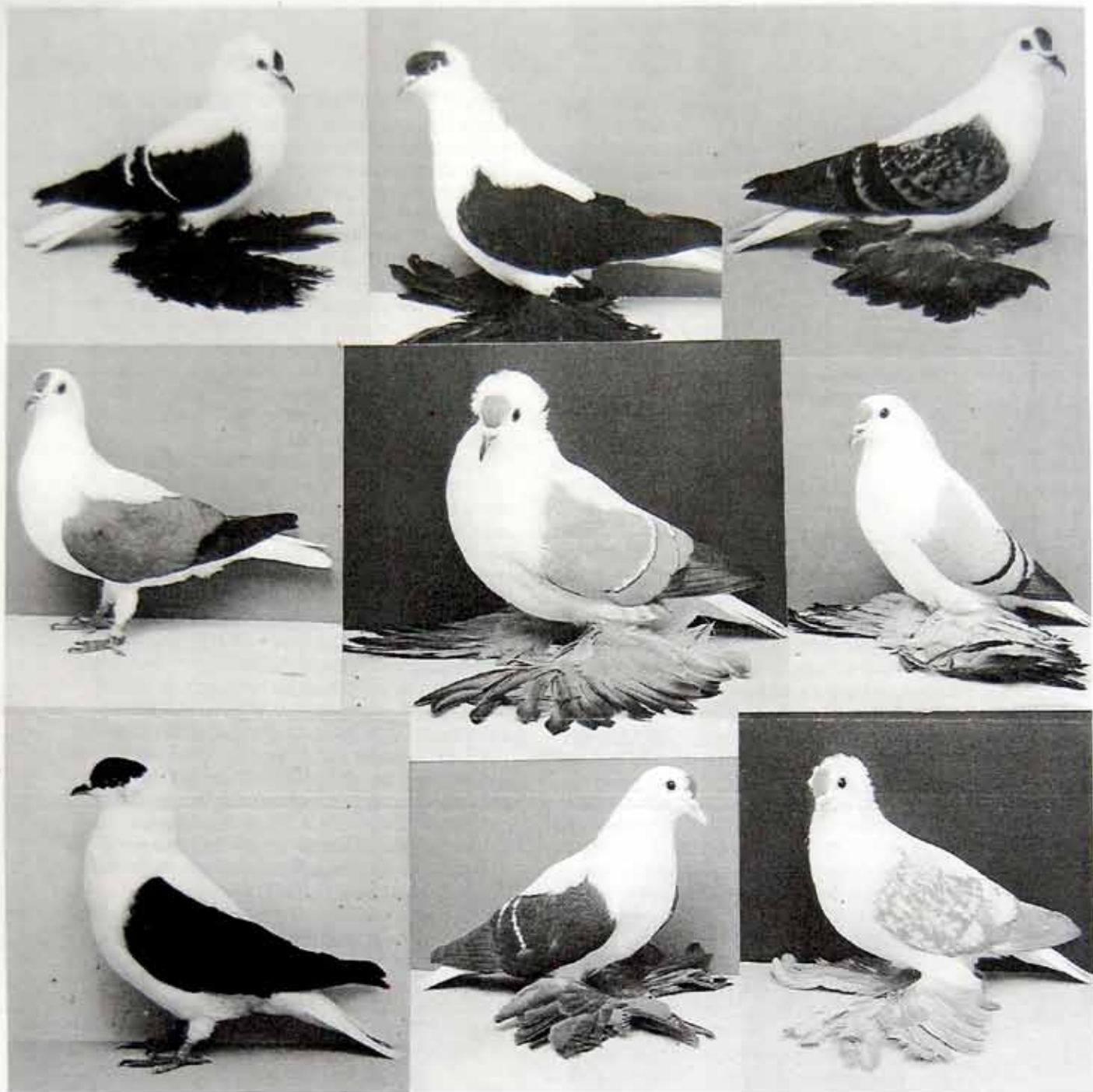
Both Ross and Dave have valid arguments and leave us with some reasonable doubt. The issues that readily come to mind are: (1) Can dun, ash red and ash yellow white bar and spangle be bred to the level of "color quality" that is necessary to qualify them as swallows or color pigeons? (2) Should members be able to breed and show any color they desire? (3) Is the standard written in such a way that confuses our USC members?

On the first issue, all I can say is you know the struggle that is going on with the red and yellow swallows. With these, type not color is the main issue. There is no doubt in my mind that the dun, ash red and ash yellow groups will be even more difficult if not impossible.

On the second issue, my suggestion is to set up a color class category that would accept all colors not already mentioned in the standard in one grouping, say an AOC class. This would achieve two goals: (1) allow the showing of new colors and (2) increase the number of birds at our shows. I have made some proposals along these lines that you will see elsewhere in this bulletin.

On the third issue, I think if we add the AOC class at least the color confusion will hopefully disappear.

I don't think it will be a problem for our judges to adjust to the new color class. As the new colors become more popular they can be broken out into their own color classes. Maybe this will help, what do you think?



THE BEST OF '98 – (l. to r.) Black White Bar Fairy, Bill Griebel, Sr.; Black Fullhead, Dave Harris; Blue Check Silesian, Bob Benson; Blue Barless Clean Leg, Jay Beals; Blue White Bar Fairy, George De la Nuez; Blue Black Bar Silesian, Bill Griebel, Jr.; Black Fullhead Clean Leg, Elliot Yeske; Red White Bar Silesian, Leon Stephens; Yellow Spangle, Rick and Jana Peters.

Photos courtesy of George De la Nuez and Nate Wayne.