

BULLETIN

United Swallow Club

Saxon Color Pigeon Club



U. S. C.

Picture: Tiger Swallow
Reiserflugel

S. C. P. C.

President: Alex Lacy

President: H. P. Macklin

Secy., Treas: Cal Breadhoff

Vice Pres.: Cal Breadhoff

Secy. Treas.: Dr. L. E. Hummel

The Reiserflugel
by L. E. Hummel

The term "Reiserflugel" comes from the German and refers to a Silesian Swallow that I have always seen pictured as smooth headed (without crest), but, of course, I am sure that they also appear with crest since it is no problem to transfer the crest to a noncrested variety. The word "flugel" means wing but I have never been able to find out what the term "reiser" meant. Perhaps our member Gunter Preusse can tell us. The Spot Swallow is called the Flugeltauben in German. In English this would be "Wing pigeon". The "Reiserflugel" would therefore presumably be a "Reiser" wing, and if you can find out what reiser means then you know what kind of a wing pigeon (Spot Swallow) it is.

Several german books that I have read, and standards in german that I have seen state that the Reiserflugels are red or yellow checkered smooth headed Saxon (muffed) Swallows. I put the word muffed in parentheses after the word Saxon because this term in pigeons nearly always implies that the bird is muffed. The name of the club "Saxon Color Pigeon Club" therefore implies that among other things these pigeons have feathered feet. In Germany this club is called the "Belatched Farbentauben Club", or "Feather-legged Color Pigeon Club". Altho it does not so state it is taken for granted that these "feather-legged" pigeons are Saxon Color Pigeons.

Perhaps at this place we should transfer the terms "red checkered" and "yellow checkered" into the terms used by our pigeon geneticists. These terms are standard terminology and will be understood by any pigeon breeder anywhere who uses scientific terms. A red checkered is not the red color we find in our recessive red Swallows. (To make things a bit easier with the term recessive let's add the word 'blood', and with the word dominant add the word 'light'. A recessive red color is the (blood) red color of a good red Swallow. (All of our red Swallows are recessive red except the Reiserflugel which is a dominant (light) red in the checkering like the red checkered Homer). This dominant red color is often referred to in the various breeds of pigeons as "strawberry", "mealy", "red checkered", and by other names. The scientific name for this is ash red. (Correct me if I am wrong. I am not a geneticist. I will appreciate being corrected and will make the correction in the bulletin and I will not be offended).

The red Reiserflugel, then, has ash (lavendar) flights and dominant (light) red checkering. This ash color is quite light and appears almost white. The foot feathers are also the same light color in the good specimens. You realize, of course, that all colors tend to come in various "tints" and not all are equally attractive. It is the light tint of ash that we want.

The yellow checkered is what we call "cream" yellow checkered. I think most of us are familiar with the color cream, and of course, we know the color yellow. Or do we? I would like to discuss this color in a later article.

To prove my former statement that I do not know much about genetics let me say here that "cream" is not the dilute of "ash" as yellow is the dilute of red, so here we have two related colors that are not sex linked as in recessive (blood) red and yellow. Well, this is no problem in breeding so we can forget it, but with ~~dilute~~ red and yellow we can have problems in producing yellow cocks unless we understand the "sex linked" phenomena.

To conclude this tirade I might say that I have seen only one European loft in which there were Reiserflugels (I am using the English plural of the word, not the German). He had them only in ash red checkered and cream yellow checkered. I also have a rather large loft of these birds. They just "evolved" out of some blue checkered Silesians I have. To make a long story shorter I now have them in ash red bar, ash barless (lavendar as in the Lahore) cream yellow bar and occasionally in cream barless (which is a very light tint of cream and the Swallow appears solid white unless you examine it very closely). I have just recently sold some of these birds and there are several enthusiastic breeders of Reiserflugels now. I am one of them.

Note: There will be a complete display of Reiserflugels at the St. Louis Show.

There will be an article on Tiger Swallows in a later issue of the SCPC Bulletin.

BULLETIN
Saxon Color Pigeon Club.
Fall 1971
L. E. Hummel, Bulletin Editor

In our first bulletin (Spring 1971) the groundwork was laid for a constitution and by-laws of the club. A committee will soon go to work on this (it has not been appointed yet, but will be soon) and present it to the membership for adoption, revision, or rejection. Until that time we will follow those proposed suggestions presented in our first bulletin. I will try to present the following news items in the order that they might relate to our club.

1. The first article in the proposed constitution listed the name of our club as the "Saxon Color Pigeon Club". Since we organized our club at least two other clubs of similar or related type have been organized. One of these is (I am not sure the name is correct) the Color Pigeon Club of California. This club is under the leadership of Leon Stephens, 4416 Cogswell Rd., El Monte, California, and in addition to Saxon Color Pigeons includes a few other German toys including among others the various Archangels (or perhaps a more universally accepted term would be "Gimpels"). The activities of the club will center around the Pageant of Pigeons held at Los Angeles County Fair Grounds, Nov. 17-21. As time goes on it is my hope that this club will either affiliate with us in a loose affiliation, or any or all of their members will join our club. I believe their dues are \$3. yearly. One of their members - Tom McCaig is already a member of our club. He is known for his breeding of Frillbacks, but he has recently taken up the breeding of Saxon Shields, I believe. We are glad to have men the caliber of Tom as members of our club.

2. Our club is dedicated to the promotion of the welfare of the Saxon Color Pigeons - and in a forthcoming issue I hope to list our members together with the variety, or varieties of Saxon Color Pigeons they breed. Please fill out ~~the enclosed~~ slip and mail it to me so that I can have this information. I hope to put it in the next bulletin. In addition to the California club a "Rare Pigeon Club" has been organized with the guidance and blessings of the United Pigeon Fanciers and this club seems to be meeting with lots of enthusiasm by many breeders of rare breeds. The "tailtwister" of their bulletin, Paul Steiden, is a member of our club. One of the proposed goals of their club is to use the European system of judging, and since an "Americanized" version of this system was presented in our first bulletin I sent it to him with the suggestion that if we wanted it to catch on here the system of all clubs using it should be the same. He presented this system to the Rare Breeds Club in one of their bulletins.

3. As I have said, the main purpose of the Saxon Color Pigeon Club is to promote the welfare of the Saxon Color Pigeons by various means. From time to time translations of the German standards for Color Pigeons will appear in our bulletin. Some promotional work has already been done and the next issue of the bulletin (which will be another combined issue) will contain the proposed revised standard as drawn up by the committee (Breadhoff and Hummel) appointed by the USC. You should get this bulletin about January first. More about the standard at that time but the columns of the bulletins will be open to comment before a final vote is taken on officially adopting the standard. So expect to find articles discussing various points of the standard written by the committee.

At the meeting of the American Pigeon Fanciers Council held in St. Louis July 24-25 a talk on Saxon Color Pigeons was given together with a display of many of the Color Pigeons. A number of fanciers present who breed pigeons not bred especially for their color - an example is the Racing Homer - commented favorably on the color pigeons and said that they did not realize such beautifully colored birds existed.

The first person to join our club - Dr. J. W. Selby - gave a very interesting and instructive talk on pigeon diseases and their cure. I called Dr. Selby a short time ago to ask him to write a series of articles on this subject for our club bulletins and found much to my sorrow that Dr. Selby died on Sept. 10. Dr. Selby had had open heart surgery about a year ago and looked wonderful during the conference in July. His death is a great loss to his many friends, to the Saxon Color Pigeon Club, and to the pigeon fancy in general.

The second bit of publicity came as a result of a call to me from the president of our local Lions Club. He asked me if I would give a talk on my pigeons (all Saxon Color Pigeons) at the meeting of the Lions Club which, of course, I said I would be happy to do. I took quite a number of the color pigeons with me so that they could see exactly what I was talking about. After the meeting was over the club adjourned in mass for a visit to my pigeon loft. I believe this is a first for this type of thing.

Since the Lions Club meeting I have given the same talk and demonstration at the Ladies Night meeting of the local Kiwanis Club (I was a Kiwanian for over twenty five years), and it will be the program for the Ladies Night meeting of the Rotary Club early in December. Frank Hollman has suggested this program also be given at the Warrenton Rotary Club, and I am going to twist his arm to get him to show our Rotary Club his films on his trip to Australia and other parts of the South Pacific.

This type of program is a good one for Fathers and Sons banquets and I have used it for that purpose in the past, but this is the first time I have used it for Ladies Night parties. At the question and answer period the ladies ask more (and better) questions than the men. (The ladies love the beautiful - Saxon Color Pigeons that is. And me). Well, at least one married me and that proves something. (She probably was just hungry). President Lacy (USC) recently wrote an article for the APJ in which he mentioned something about so many members of the old Swallow Club being either divorced or single. I'd like to go on record by saying I have been married to the same lady for over forty years and that, too, should prove something. (Probably that I am a glutton for punishment).

I had a call from Harold Schroedl the other night and during our conversation I heard a child's voice and I said to Harold "My G- , Harold surely you're not married again?! And he said in a weak, meak voice - "y e s". And this after all those happy years of single blessedness. He still has a lively interest in his pigeons which probably proves something, too. Probably too old to have a lively interest in other things. But let's get on with the BULLETIN. But the little lady just said one of her sweetest things to me, and I love to hear it: "Dinner's ready." So excuse me while I eat and take a nap!

Later - well, dinner is over - the usual warmed over dishes it seems we have had about four days. There was one new dish, however. The wife had opened a can of spinach! The nap wasn't so hot either. The cat kept jumping up on my lap and this didn't improve things any. By the way, I've got some news for you. You're getting some warmed over things too. Take for instance this bulletin. I've had it written for about six weeks and have spent the last day or so warming it up so that it would be up to date. Think probably it would have been best and quicker to just start over again at scratch. But as I said before - let's get on with the bulletin:

And seriously now - let's go back to our discussion of displays and talks to various interested groups. As a way to partly reach our goal of being an organized club to promote the welfare of Saxon Color Pigeons (and all pigeons for that part) you, as a member of our club can do this same type of thing at many different places. Among these could be meetings of youth groups of the various churches, the monthly fellowship supper meeting of the churches, civic clubs, 4-H Club meetings, Boy or Girl Scout groups, or any group that meets regularly and has need for program material. They will love you for telling ~~about what you can do for~~ them and incidentally you will benefit not only the Saxon Color Pigeons, but yourself as well. Remember, these groups are the "prestige" groups of the town. No matter what you yourself think of these groups, remember they are the groups that people give money to promote and when a person gives money to a thing he must value that thing. Again I say they are prestige groups. Associating pigeons with these prestige groups also tends to put the raising of pigeons in the prestige class - and that is where they belong. No kid!

I have recently been elected (by a scant 2 vote majority) a director of the districts of the National Pigeon Assn. One thing I hope to do is to furnish the program at a number of local pigeon clubs with a talk and demonstration using live birds of some of the points to look for in the judging of Saxon Color Pigeons. This is a much needed thing. Unless we do this I am afraid the following trend will be followed: The judge knows when a pigeon without bars is a deep red, or a deep black. He probably has some idea of what a Swallow should look like, even though he might not know the fine points of the bird. He is therefore fairly safe in being able to justify his selection of a bird if he sticks to these colors. These would be barless birds, of course because the addition of a bar also leaves room for other complications where he might not feel safe of his ground. The result is that the champion Swallow tends to be a black barless, or a red barless - probably the black because it is harder to say exactly what a good red color is, but good black is not so complicated. What then happens to the birds in other colors and markings? Since the "all breeds" judge may not be sure of his ground on the fine points of color and marking he will probably not give birds of colors other than red or black their just treatment. You can help correct this situation. Why don't you? You would also gain stature among your fancier friends. Please let me know if you do any of the above things because I now have an additional obligation to the NPA to help get things done. I would like to publicize on a national scale the things you do.

In the next bulletin I expect to tell you, among other things, of what has happened in the way of Color Pigeons in shows this year. So much has already happened that I think you will be quite pleasantly surprised.

We are having a club meeting of our own on a national basis in connection with the St. Louis Pigeon Club show to be held Jan. 13 - 15 in St. Louis, Mo. Entry blanks will be sent to you ~~in the next bulletin~~ with complete instructions and information. If any one would like to contribute money for prizes this can be sent to me and I will take care of the matter. I, personally, will contribute \$10. for prizes to be used as the club sees fit. Who will add to this? We will also have money for prizes from the "kick back" from the show itself. The entry fee is \$1. per bird. If you show you should start to get ready now as it takes some six weeks for a pulled foot feather to come back in. We do want you to show because this is a critical time for us and if we make a good showing it will be so much easier to have a better show next year. Let's go!

Notice, too, that this is a joint show between the SCPC and the USC. I can guarantee that there will be at least 100 Swallows in all colors and markings of the highest quality in the show. There seems to be a rule in the USC that birds cannot be taken from an exhibit and placed in competition, but the SCPC has no such rule and we will arrange to take care of the matter through our club if we have to.

You will get the ~~next bulletin with~~ entry blank in plenty of time to get the entry in on time, but you must start working on the birds for the show now! . . .

Arrangements have been made to have a large exhibit of Color Pigeons in the show. These will include most breeds in most colors and markings. There is quite a bit of interest in these birds in and around St. Louis and this should be a real good show.

At least part of the judging will be on the Americanized - European system of judging.

SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS JAN. 13 - 15.

Birds can be taken from the show by Saturday afternoon. For information on anything pertaining to the interest of our clubs write to: Dr. L. E. Hummel, Rt. 2, Box 466, Bonne Terre, Mo. 63628 (for the SCPC) and to: Cal Breadhoff, 4282 Mill St. S. W., Grandville, Mich. 49418 (for the USC)

From the President's Desk - - - - -

For several years now I have been breeding the Saxony Spot Pigeon, among others, and I was wondering---when is a Spot NOT a Spot?

I started out by purchasing a pair of smoothheaded reds and two pairs of black crested Spots. In each case the birds were nicely marked but always one of each pair lacked a spot on the forehead---the trademark of the variety. Unfortunately, the red hen died before she ever layed so the first year I bred only the crested blacks. Being young birds (at least I hope that was

the reason;) they proved poor parents and I raised only a few young. Youever, the cocks were good drivers and each nest always had two young, BUT in 90% of the young in the nest one was marked with a forehead spot, the other without. I must admit the tail marking was always perfect!

Is this characteristic of the variety? And why is it that the one which always dies, or gets sick the easiest, is predominantly the one with the forehead marking? This is probably just a coincident but it seemed predictable that when I had two young in a nest the one which lived always was spotless!

I finally mated the red smooth headed cock to a black crested hen. They did a little better in the production department but always the young were without crests. Also, nary a black did I raise. All youngsters from this black-red mating came with a grey or burnt-grey tail and always the spot was a redish-brown. But here again the average favored the birds without a forehead marking.

I am wondering if any of you members have had similar experiences with the Spot variety. I would imagine a pigeon named after its own design would have that marking so deeply bred in, the rarity would be a youngster without the spot. In my particular experience, I guess it was a case of tails I won, heads I lost!

----H. P. Macklin

Comments from the Secretary - I have had the same thing in my crested Spots, but only one of many young over the years without crest has come without the spot marking. I have only one black Spot without crest and this is mated to a red hen. The young come with the rather silver tails with the exception of one bird which has a good black tail - but no spot!

----L. E. Hummel

"THE UNITED SWALLOW CLUB BULLETIN"

F.11 1971

Cal Breadhoff, Editor

I must apologize for the lateness of the fall issue of the bulletin. I have no excuse except for laziness on ^{my} my part. It is so easy to put things off. This comes with old age, I guess.

This issue will be in combination with the Saxon Color Pigeon Club. Since the bulletins for both clubs are late for this fall issue, Dr. Hummel and I thought it would be to our advantage if we put out a bulletin jointly. Also, there are members that belong to both clubs and some of the material used in this combined issue would have to be needlessly duplicated if the two separate bulletins were printed, I refer to the proposed Swallow standard which will reach you about Jan. 1st... news of the show of the two clubs in St. Louis Jan. 13 - 16 etc. One thing for sure, we will have a larger and better bulletin with more information in it pertaining to the Saxon Color Pigeons in general, and to Swallows in particular. The proposed revised Swallow standard has already been completed. Each issue of the bulletin will contain at least one article on some phase of the standard. You are welcome to write comments pro or con about the standard and these will be published in the bulletin.

If this combined bulletin idea meets with your approval, please let me know and we will continue it from time to time in the future.

Since our last bulletin, I have received a few ideas for making the bulletin a bit better. Gunter Preusse, our Vice President, suggests that we have a Swallow Club Directory made up and published periodically. This may not only be for Swallows but other breeds as well. By that I mean each member would list Swallows first and then the other breeds that he raised. He suggests that a questionnaire be sent to all members to be returned with the

information to me. I would suggest that we use the membership application form that we have, to save time, cost, etc. These will be sent out shortly. Just fill out where it says kinds of Swallows bred and add other breeds that you breed. Dr. Hummel's suggestion in the last bulletin that each member write a short article about himself for the bulletin has brought some response. A few such articles are published in this issue. Let's have more of the same from the rest of you members!

From the office of the Secretary:

I want to bring to the attention of the United Swallow Club Members and the SCPC that there will be a German Toy Special in the American Pigeon Journal planned for July, 1972. This project is being co-ordinated by Tom McKaig, 2040 LaCana Dr., Hacienda Heights, California 91745. Of course, to be successful there must be full cooperation from the German Toy Pigeon Breeders across the country. Tom wants good black and white photos (no color prints) of Toy Pigeons or Saxon Color Pigeons. These photos may not be returned so get duplicates made if they are important to you. Articles are also needed. Also, ads are wanted for the A. P. J.

This project is very much needed to put our beautiful color pigeons in the limelight as they should be. Let's all get behind this and make it a success. Write me or Tom McKaig for more information concerning ads, pledges, etc.

I'm very sure that some good articles can be written by many of the members of the United Swallow Club. Try to keep away from the "why I breed Swallows" type of thing. What is most needed is articles of more informative nature, such as the best way to cure rust in ring bars for example. Many subjects can be written about that will be of interest to the German Toy Fancy, and to the general fancy as well. This is the chance of a life time to promote our quaint and beautiful Swallows and other German Color Pigeons as well.

Be sure to consider taking out an ad, even if it is a small one. There is a minimum of ad space that must be met before Frank Hollmann will put out a special issue of the A. P. J. So let's all of the membership of the U. S. C. get behind this thing and make it a great success. (SCPC members also take note - Hummel)

The United Swallow Club has been invited to place its Central District Show with the St. Louis Pigeon Club. This will be on Jan 13 - 16. The rule has been to hold the show where at least 3 members will be showing. I for one will show there along with Dr. Hummel. If anyone else will consider showing there also please let me know ^{as it is} ~~so I can make it~~ an official District Club Meet. This show will be held in conjunction with the Saxon Color Pigeon Club. H. P. Macklin and Dr. Hummel will be the members in charge for both clubs.

By the time you receive this bulletin the Eastern and Western District shows will be over. A full show report will appear in the next issue.

The Treasures Report:

The bank account of the United Swallow Club had reached on all time high of \$72.00. On October 18th, 1971, \$37.14 was withdrawn to purchase 5 trophies to support the two district shows. This left a balance of \$34.86. We have since received 1 members dues and \$1.50 for stationary making our total assets \$39.36.

The break down in expenditures are as follows:

1 trophy for the Calgary Poultry show	\$ 8.32
2 trophies for Western District Show	\$14.82
2 trophies for Eastern District Show	\$14.00
Total	<u>\$37.14</u>

Cal Breadhoff - Secretary-Treasurer

Please send in your articles and show reports, etc early for the next issue of the bulletin. I plan to put the next issue out in ^{Feb.} ~~December~~, and it will again be combined with the Saxon Color Pigeon Club. The reason for combining the two bulletins once again will be the show reports of interest to both clubs and the next installment of the Swallow standard. This is a proposed Standard and when it is published in its entirety, the members will have some comments in regards to the proposed Standard in each of the issues.

"NEWS FROM CANADA"

By: G. C. Preusse
Red Deer, Alto., Canada

Feathers are flying all over the loft, a sure sign that fall is here, and the shows not too far away. Our next show here in the west will be in Edmonton, Alberta. It's a show for Pigeons only, Fancys and Homers.

A good selection of Swallows are always entered from several varieties. The Calgary Poultry Show follows a month later in December. Besides Pigeons, this show also has a large exhibit of standard Poultry, Water Fowl, Rantams, Rabbits and Cavies. A good display of German Toy Pigeons can always be seen with most entries in the classes for Spot Swallows.

Just read a report about the 1970 Lipsia Show in East Germany. This is the worlds largest Poultry and pigeon Show with around 21,000 entries. Among the 10,000 pigeons there were about 1,220 German Toys. Of special interest were the Swallows: 51 Saxon Fairies, 29 Saxon Fullheads, 26 Mueremberg Fullheads, 4 Bohemian Tigers, 113 Cleanlegged Thuringian Fullheads, and 285 Cleanlegged Thuringian Spot Swallows. In Germany and other European countries the cleanlegged varities are much more popular than the muffed types.

*Note by editor - A second article by Mr. Preussee will appear in an early issue of the bulletin.

*In response to our asking for articles from the members about themselves Daniel Rodes sent me the following article:

SOME THOUGHTS ON MATING PIGEONS

by: Daniel Rodes

R. F. D., Greencastle, Penna.

Most pigoen fanciers will agree that some real top birds have been the fruit of well planned inbreeding. However, not everyone would agree that inbreeding is essential to establish a family of quality birds. I for one believe if the same skill of a master breeder were used in selecting a mate for a chosen cock the results would still be rewarding even if such a mate were unrelated.

I feel that mating two birds together that are similar is a must to establish a uniform family. In other words avoid extremes such as mating an oversize bird to one that is undersize etc., hoping to come up with something in between. Such matings seldom are successful and are somewhat like a person trying to wash his feet in ^{by} like warm water by placing one foot in ice cold water, and the other in boiling hot water with high hopes of arriving at a happy medium. In other words both of these birds are nothing short of undesirable characters. If a bird needs improving, mate that bird to one that has the desired qualities, ^{see} but not to one that has these qualities in the extreme.

Now don't misunderstand me. I don't feel that a real serious breeder should or would try to establish a family with such inferior birds, but this is somewhat the type of birds some have to work with. My advice to anyone who is working with anything except real top birds is to avoid inbreeding. I believe this is the cause of failure for most people who tried linebreeding and had poor success.

Just how good are the birds we are working with? Let me say inbreeding is for the breeder who has quality birds, keeps close records, and knows what he is breeding for. He knows why he is mating this cock and that hen together. Such fanciers have had good success with inbreeding and the results were most rewarding. On the other hand, just because one may have a real good bird doesn't prove that this bird is a good bird to linebreed from. In other words, a bird selected for such a position should not only be a top bird himself, but should be from a family that has proven their transmitting ability. I would sooner breed from an average stock bird out of a top family, then from an outstanding bird from a family where the good ones are few and far between.

If you were to walk into a loft and your eyes fell up on a beautiful set of birds, all very similar in appearance, you could almost be assured that they were from a well planned inbreeding program. Such a sight is indeed rewarding, especially if they are the fruit of your labor.

I know there are fanciers who have plenty to say against inbreeding and some could almost raise the roof in proclaiming so, but some of those same fanciers would make a brother-sister mating if they had to. How much closer inbreeding can you get than that?

Well anyway, whether you plan to inbreed or not just don't put two birds in a mating coop together without a good reason for doing so. Keep only the best, dispose of the rest, keep close records, cull out any bird that is inferior. Remember it takes a long time to establish a top family, but a little carelessness can soon make havock of all your well laid plans and your labor may become vain.

*Daniel writes the following about himself.

I was born on March 2., 1938, in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. I was raised on a farm near a little village of Pleasant Valley with my 9 sisters and 5 brothers.

My wife, Esther and I, one son, and 5 foster children now live on a dairy farm outside of Greencastle, Pa. In addition to our herd of registered and grade Holstein cows, we also raise Ornamental Pheasants, Peafowl, Partridge, Wild Waterfowl, and Fancy Pigeons.

I am not new at raising pigeons but I am somewhat new in breeding the Swallow Pigeon. About a year or so ago I made up my mind I just had to have some of those beautiful Swallows, so I wrote to some breeders that I knew had Swallows and ask them about breeding stock. I enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. It would have been just about as well to have mailed those letters in the nearest trashcan, for that must be what the receivers must have done with them. Finally after a few more letters and telephone calls I was able to get a few pair.

If we want others to become interested in Swallows, let at least take time enough to answer their letters. I get letters from coast to coast and I know it takes time to answer them all but if anyone didn't get an answer from me I didn't get their letter.

Well anyway, I have a few good Swallows. I am especially fond of the Saxon Colored Pigeons and hope I can work with them for many years to come.

If you ever get around this way, stop in, visitors welcomed!

Daniel Rodes

Our new member Leon Stephens writes the following bit about himself and his fine loft of pigeons.

I have been breeding Swallows and German Toys for about 15 years. At present I have 150 - 200 Swallows, (maybe more.)

I have Silesians in red and yellow white bar and spangle-----stock from Dr. Hummel. This stock I obtained while on visits to his loft while in the Army, Stationed At Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I started with only reds and have

made great progress. I have some of each variety that are classed as "Dreams!" This year I have produced one excellent yellow white bar and one yellow spangle with unusually deep color for a Swallow. It has good muff, extremely good for red or yellow but the back is not properly marked.

I have black white bar Silesians, blue check, silver check, blue bar, silver bar, blue barless, and silver barless. I also have some blue white bar and spangle Silesians.

I have tigers in red, yellow, black, blue and silver, without crest, and in red and yellow with crest. I haven't taken the time to mark most of the tigers as I have been just stocking them and not showing. Some are getting to the point I may start showing them again.

I also have Priests in red, yellow, black, blue, silver and dun--all with white bars; Blaze face in red, yellow, black white bar and spangle; Ice in white bar and Breast Pigeons in red and yellow. I have Frillbacks in red and yellow, and I also breed clean leg Tumblers. I raised and showed the champion Tumbler at the last Pageant; a black hen.

I have just taken up Fantails as a competitive breed as I like good competition. I will, however, keep-up with my Toys. I am a student of genetics and will be using Fantails for my color projects. So maybe you will hear of some new colors in Fans such as brown and andalusians.

I hope to build a new loft this year which will hold 150 pairs of breeders and enough young bird lofts to hold the young. I find that we often over-crowd our young birds.

.. Another new member, Judine M. Nelson writes:

Thank you for accepting my membership in the U.S.C. I am a novice at the sport of raising swallows although I have raised some pigeons off and on all my life.

You indicated that you could use some loft news, or articles of some sort for a future Swallow bulletin. I can tell you how I got started and what's been happening this summer. I realize that I am an unknown in the pigeon fancy, so you can use your own good judgement as to whether you would like to print the following or not. I am looking forward to meeting you and other club members, and if you are ever in the Fort Dodge area look me up.

I got started full swing in the pigeon fancy last fall (1970) with a few fantails and few other breeds. I was using an old pony shed in which I also had some rabbits. There are quite a few pigeon breeders in Fort Dodge now, at least a dozen that I have visited, and possibly a few more that I haven't met yet. Anyway, through talking with them and my own interest I decided that I wanted to make it a hobby.

I was out in the yard one night really "raking the coals" over the idea of building a nice loft. I looked over in my neighbors yard and noticed a building there that I really hadn't paid too much attention too before. It was in among a couple of other buildings that had been put together to make kind of a guest house at one time I would guess. I went over and asked her if she would be interested in selling that building, knowing that it would be a lot easier to move it over to my yard than it would be to build one, and also a lot cheaper. She said she didn't want to sell it but that if I was interested in tearing down the other two, I could have the one I was talking about. There has never been a faster deal made than that. This building was a 12' x 20' in excellent condition, complete with windows and the works. It was a prefad job all bolted together which made it real easy to take down and move over to my back yard. Then to top it all off, after I had it reassembled in my yard, she called me and said she had purchased 3 gallons of paint that she was going tu use to paint it with this summer. She

said she had no use for it now, and if I wanted the paint he would give it to me. Some heighbor, huh?

The next thing I wanted to do was pick out a breed that really appealed to me. There are a lot of pouter breeders in town, and they were really working on me. No offense to pouter breeders, but pouters didn't particularly appeal to me. A friend of mine has the encyclopedia of pigeons and I sat down and looked through it. I didn't even go any further than the S's. Those Swallows of Dr. Hummels really caught my eye. I have a 10 year old boy who wanted these as a project for a 4-H too, so we decided on Swallows. I figured with all those pictures in the encyclopedia he must have the best there are, so I contacted Dr. Hummel in Missouri and obtained some birds by air express. I was more impressed with the live birds than the pictures. I also acquired a few more last May when I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Hummel's loft and enjoyment of Dr. and Mrs. Hummel's hospitality for a couple of days. They are really nice people.

Well, to sum it all up. I have really enjoyed the Swallows. From the first four pairs of birds I purchased I have raised 28 young and I recently broke up all the pairs and remated them and am getting production out of all of them again. The birds out of the first matings are not too well marked, But I have six young ones out of the second mating and they seem to be a little better. Oh well! I'm getting some experience and I hope to acquire some better birds this fall. I'll probably see some of you at the shows this fall and sinter, I hope to anyway.

Sincerely,

Judine M. Nelson

Sales Department: Want to buy your excess stock of Swallows all types and colors. Please send full description and price. First letter: Stephen Anderson, 6411 S. 1865 E., Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

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