
U N I T E D

Swallow Club



President's Message by Bill Griebel

Have you seen the May 1994 issue of the *Pigeon Fancier*? It brought a smile to my face. Not because my son's bird was on the cover (although that didn't hurt) but because of the great publicity USC received. Layne Gardner, editor of the *Pigeon Fancier*, must be complimented on the wonderful layout on pages 12-15. Gloria Weisgram and Gary Romig wrote articles supporting our annual meet in Des Moines, Iowa. If we can do this kind of promotion at least once or twice a year, things will get better and better. If you haven't subscribed to the *Pigeon Fancier*, my suggestion is that you support it by sending \$28 to *Pigeon Fancier*, P.O. Box 694, Colton, CA 92324.

The half page ad for USC was my idea and the funds did not come out of the USC Treasury; it came out of my pocket. Both ads, my ad and the USC ad, were my responsibility towards the cover. I'd like to see the club do this, possibly 1/4 page, every so often to keep our image in front of the fancy. We are advertising in all three pigeon publications under the classified section under the heading of clubs.

Elliot Yeske, our 1993 raffle chairman, has offered his services again this year to run the raffle at our 1994 Annual Meet. David and I agree and look forward to another great raffle organized by Elliot. Please let Elliot know what you can do – either send your raffle items to him or let him know you will bring them to the show. We need to make a list for the bulletin so people will know what will be available. We made almost \$200 last year; let's do better this year.

We are very fortunate to have as a member of USC probably the best pigeon photographer in the USA today. George de la Nuez, staff photographer for the *Pigeon Fancier* and breeder of blue and black white bar Fairy Swallows, has offered several photos for us to publish in our future use bulletins. If anyone is interested in some of these photos (4 x 4 or 8 x 10), George can supply them to you at a very reasonable price. When you see George at future shows, he will take photos of any birds you wish and supply photos to you at reasonable prices. Let's take advantage of this quality service. You can contact

George at 3021 Del Monte Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 668-9090.

The standard committee continues to work, this time you will see the Clean Leg Standard included in this bulletin. Please look it over and send your suggested changes to Nate Wayne, the standards committee chairman. The muffed standard is being worked on now and sometime in the future the committee will present an updated version through the bulletin.

Mike Swanson, judging committee chairman, has sent out a questionnaire to the committee members for review and revision. We should have something concrete for our next bulletin for the general memberships review. When standards and judging programs are published in our bulletin, if you see something you don't feel is right, say something, otherwise the committees will finalize their projects and move on. Don't miss out – participate.

In the next bulletin, I would like to comment about our rating or grading system. We've come a long way since the days of Dr. L.E. Hummel when he presented the system to us (roughly 20+ years ago). I will discuss how I use the grading system prior to shows to select my birds for show and also some new changes I would like to see initiated. Generally, I feel we are doing a very good job across the country with this system.

Lastly, Gloria Weisgram is trying to put together an article on Pioneer Breeders. What we need is information, articles or photos on pioneer breeders – Hummel, Reulbach, Reed, etc. – to make this project happen. It would be nice to put a face with a name. This can only be done if the Swallow fraternity makes an effort to get this material to Gloria. If you want the material back, we can make quality copies and return the original material to you. Additionally, we want to start an archive/photo album on pioneer breeders that we can have on hand at all Annual meets. This would be a great benefit to new breeders to bring them up to speed with our Swallow history. And a request that I have, please tell your spouse or family that you would like your memorabilia, photos, articles, etc. sent to the USC secretary when it is time to move on. Too often, this material gets thrown away and is lost forever.

STANDARD COMMITTEE UPDATE

June 3, 1994
by Nate Wayne, Chairman

First of all, I want to apologize for any misunderstanding. After discussing my first article with some of the former club members, it was felt that if I, or other committee members did not receive input by the specified date it would be too late. This is not the case. The time line was set simply to try to encourage members to get their ideas submitted early so that we could try to accomplish our work sooner. In fact, at this time, I have not yet received information from members that I have spoken with that were going to submit information. So please feel free to contact me or other committee members with any input that you may have.

Several members have expressed strong concerns regarding what they feel is an effort to do a major rewrite of the Swallow Standard. I have told these members that this is not our objective. In fact if I had felt that a major rewrite of the Swallow Standard was the objective, I would have not accepted the chairmanship of this committee.

What I would like to see as the goal for this committee is to review the standard, paying attention to areas which are either confusing, contradicting or unclear. We need to address these items in such a way that it is easy for new members or new swallow breeders to understand the standard and use it more effectively in their breeding programs. Given the large increase of new members, I feel that this is our responsibility as a club. I have yet to hear any member say that there is a major issue with the swallow standard that absolutely has to be changed. On the contrary, I think we're fortunate because Steve Ball, Leon Stephens and Bill Griebel did a majority of the writing on the previous standard and it was reviewed by Dr. Lynn Hummel also with input from Calvin Breadhoff.

Although Lynn had only minor suggestions about changes in the last standard as it was written, we no longer have the benefit of his guidance like we do the others. However, it is reassuring that some of the swallow club members, such as Perry Mueller, Mike Swanson, Leon Stephens and Ron DeClement (I apologize for omitting anyone) had spent a lot of time with Lynn discussing the swallow standard and his perception of it. I think that it is important in this process that those people provide us with their thoughts.

Again, I encourage all of you at any point to communicate with myself or the committee regarding any concerns you may have about the standard or the process we are entering into to review it.

I hope all of you are enjoying a successful breeding season.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

by Dave Harris
Route 3, Box 99
Appleton, MN 56208

Hello, USC Members ...

I would imagine by now everyone is in full swing with this year's breeding program. I got a bit of a late start with the Minnesota winter not wanting to let go. Finally have around 20 banded, with a couple youngsters that might be promising.

The membership has dropped in numbers. I still will never understand why some folks that have been members of the USC for some time fail to pay their dues. I won't expound on the subject but do appreciate those of you that have continued to support the club.

We should have some very good shows this season. We know that Des Moines, Iowa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, will have meets. Just don't know where the annual meet will go as yet. Please send in your ballot so we can have as many as possible voting on the annual meet.

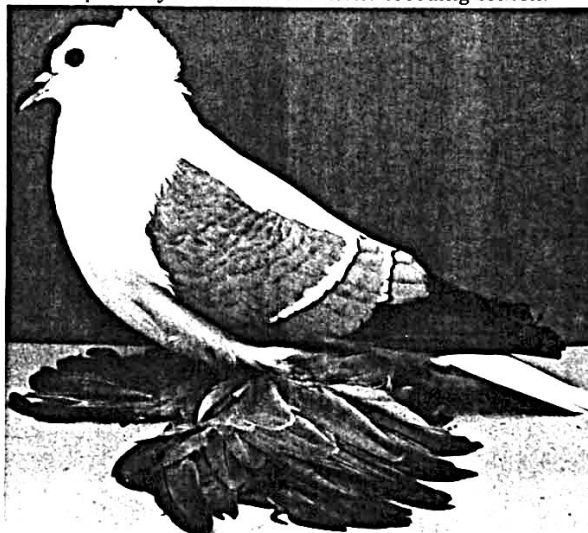
The National Young Bird Show in Louisville is also a very good young bird meet. I hope to attend it this year. I know I will be at both Des Moines and the National.

I have really cut down on my Swallows. Shipped out over 50 birds in the past few weeks. I believe I still have 150 birds though. Mated up close to 45 pair of Swallows, including a few pair of genetic programs and some Saxon Spots I recently acquired.

This time of year is a bit slow on correspondence, although I do receive mail weekly from inquiries and my pigeon friends. If you know of any past or future members that would like to rejoin or become new members, any help is appreciated for the club.

Gloria and Mary have been doing a great job on the bulletins and thanks to Gloria we have really got a wonderful article in the *Pigeonancier* May issue. If you haven't subscribed, you should.

Hope everyone has an excellent breeding season.



1994 Portland National - Champlon - Saxon Fairy Swallow bred by Rudy Sabo, Lakewood CA. Photo by George A. de la Nuez.

CANADIAN DISTRICT REPORT

by Ron Hornby, Director
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Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2B 0S9

I am pleased to be the USC Canadian District Director this year. Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed talking to Bill Griebel, Gloria Weisgram, Ross Dobson on the phone.

I will do my best to direct Swallows in the Canadian District. Over the next few weeks, I will spend time writing all the members here in Canada, asking them for their ideas.

Have started breeding Swallows at this time, a few are out and on the floor. I wish all USC members a great breeding season. If Canadian members have information, please write or phone me.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ District Directors – show dates need to be into the Secretary by August 1st.
- ✓ Ballot for Annual Meet Show Site and Judge are included in this bulletin. Please cast your vote.
- ✓ If you are increasing your band order for 1995, please let the Secretary know.
- ✓ Judging Program Chairman, Mike Swanson, will report in our next Bulletin.
- ✓ If you haven't made suggestions for the Standard Revisions, please do so now.

RAISING SWALLOWS IN A COLD CLIMATE Some observations from Canada

by Ross Dobson
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Cornwall, Ontario, Canada K6J 1X1

Monday, March 21 (at about 3:21 p.m. in fact), the radio announcement informed us that SPRING had officially arrived! Well, this was certainly nice to hear, and it reminded me that I have for some time now been meaning to make some observations on some survival techniques that are often required to get your birds through a "typical" Canadian winter. Having recently survived ten years on the prairies (Winnipeg, Manitoba) plus having lived across Canada in a variety of spots such as northern Cape Breton Island (Nova Scotia), Banff, Alberta in the Rockies, Calgary, and even Vancouver, BC, I feel qualified to make some observations on this subject. First lets get rid of some myths –

1. You cannot get your Swallows through the cold season by simply putting antifreeze in their water, changing the SAE weight of their oil glands, and installing block heaters on each bird. If only it were that easy.

2. Winters "up here" in Canada (as distinguished from "down under" where our Australian friends thrive) are very diverse and range from mild climatic zones to the high Arctic. As about 90% of Canadians live within shouting distance of the Canada/USA border, it is not surprising to learn that many northern Americans "enjoy" winters similar to many Canadians. Actually, some like myself live within a 10 minutes drive of the border. Cold air, wind and snow do not respect political boundaries; and no, David Harris, the "very cold" Minnesota winters are unlikely to get much warmer

than the one you just "enjoyed"!

3. Deep cold can be miserable but the other nice characteristics such as the western prevailing winds and different humidity factors complicate the effects on your birds; snow doesn't really matter, folks – actually it helps to insulate and shelter. A drafty loft becomes a risk to your birds as the temperature drops.

4. Canadians use Celcius units to measure and report temperature. Today's generation of young people think in Celcius, unlike us older folks who were raised in a culture where Farenheit was the unit of measure and so we still get confused by the TV reports on cold fronts, highs and lows. However, minus 30 is cold in either Celcius or Farenheit.

Now, lets talk Swallows. Many pigeon fanciers here actually heat their insulated lofts during the winter; especially those who want to band their squeekers January 1 at 1 a.m. in order to get their young birds through the moult before the Fall shows! But others such as myself still hold on to the old methods of breeding their pigeons "the natural way" – not heat, no fostering, no January breeding. It is still cold here in late March, lots of snow is still on the ground, but my birds are starting to get excited about laying eggs as each day the amount of daylight increases incrementally. The only way I would "control" this mounting spring breeding frenzy if I wanted to would be to delay putting in nest boxes and more

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WESTERN DISTRICT REPORT

by Steve Ball, Director
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I hope everyone is having a productive breeding season. I've received communications from only a few Western District members. Bill Griebel is breeding many young as usual; Leon Stephens is also having a nice season and is enjoying his recently remodeled loft. Bill Lawsom is also having a good season breeding his black, red and yellow Fairy Swallows. I plan to communicate with more Western District breeders in the near future.

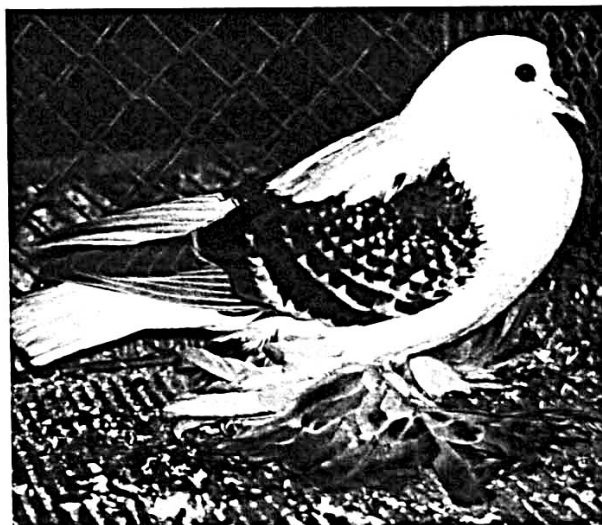
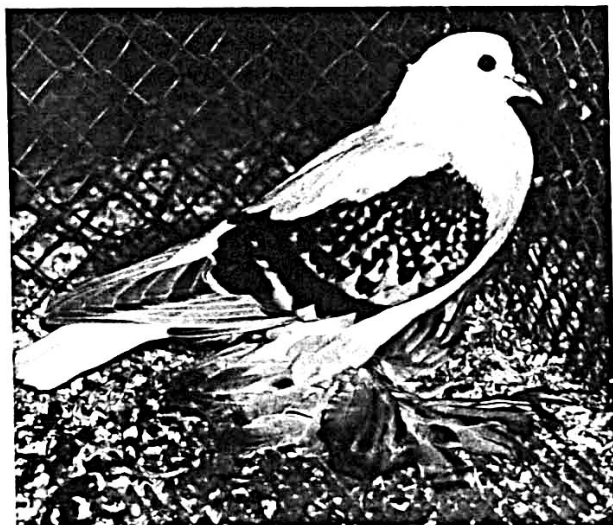
It is pleasing to hear that our President, Bill Griebel, has established a committee to evaluate the Swallow Standard to determine whether or not changes are needed. I feel our Swallow Standard is a good one but does need some revision in the major and minor fault sections. I am confident that the committee, with membership input, will develop an improved standard that will be a clean definitive description of the points (features) considered in rating and judging our Swallow pigeons. Our pigeons are great—our standard should also be great.

I know there has been discussion and concern expressed recently regarding the type of Swallow German breeders are breeding, value and are selecting as show winners. Bill Lawsom and I share some of the conclusions that the German breeders are looking for the same Swallow that we are here in America. This conclusion is justified by the fact that we have had the opportunity to evaluate the Swallows exhibited at shows prior to the judging over the last five years in Nuremburg, Koln, Frankfurt and Ulm. The birds we felt were the best

always received the highest ratings and were usually the show winners. Also, the birds we decided we would like to buy out of the show or lofts to import were not available. Bill Griebel and Leon Stephens had the same experiences when they visited Germany in 1989. During that 1989 trip, Leon and I saw a Black White Bar Fairy Swallow Cock that we both felt was the best Swallow we had seen. The bird had near perfect form, markings, color, muff and power in the head. It was our kind of bird and was not available for sale.

We have visited Swallow breeders and enjoyed their hospitality and their birds from northern to southern Germany. We have learned a great deal from the established breeders such as Werner Zahn, Rudi Kreher, Georg Dauner, Reiner Wolf, Kurt Melzer and Julia Kohnemann, a relatively new breeder of Silesian Swallows (Wing Pigeons). Julia is a dedicated, enthusiastic breeder of excellent quality Silesian Swallows. She is focused and especially values a Swallow with fine type, form and muffs. Her values and exemplified in the consistent quality of her Swallows. Julia was very helpful to all American visitors at the 1993 German National Pigeon Show in Ulm. She made our last trip to Germany an enjoyable one. At first (1989), we visited Germany to see the pigeons. We now look forward to our trips to Germany to visit with the wonderful pigeon breeders there and to experience their culture.

There will be a German National Pigeon Show in Nuremurg in December 1995. Karlheinz Sollfrank, show chairman, plans to have fifty thousand pigeons entered. This will be the *pigeon show of a lifetime*. If at all possible, United Swallow Club members should plan to attend and visit the **Homeland** of our beautiful Swallow pigeons.



Silver Checker Swallows bred and owned by Julia Kohnemann, Germany. Both shown at the 1993 Ulm National Show.

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importantly not provide any nesting material such as straw. Egg removal also works, of course. The problem with March, April or even May breeding happens when the young birds become older and parents sometimes stop night-time sitting towards the 3-4 week stage, and a freezing night will cause unfeathered young to die of temperature loss especially if they are not fed frequently.

In the fall or early winter season, dependent on the timing of any shows, I usually trim muffs with scissors to a fairly short length. This makes the Swallows less attractive and unbalanced to look at, but seems to make the winters easier for them to walk about a cold loft which has a bumpy frozen landscape and perches composed of solid pigeon droppings. Cleaning your unheated loft in the winter becomes a technical and physical challenge, and usually occurs infrequently at best – Spring thaw is a messy time though.

Water does a strange thing as the temperature drops. It changes from liquid to the solid state as we all know. However, to a pigeon fancier with an unheated loft, and more importantly to our Swallows, this requires a daily relay ritual from your warm house to a loft with fresh liquid water. I have a rotational system of plastic vinegar or bleach containers recycled in and out in a daily freeze/thaw cycle. Watching your birds clank their beaks into a container of ice and drink in vain reminds you to bring out the water quick ... and also clearly demonstrates why your pigeons will never go to college. Bathing opportunities for your Swallows are eliminated during the winter, although it never fails that at least one bird/year meets the challenge and crawls inside your plastic watering container and gets stuck.

The Swallow's dinner menu also changes in the winter, with a shift to nice high quality energy/heat generating grain such as corn mixed with other grains such as wheat.

On a final note, you may wish to create an image of a warmer winter atmosphere for your birds by putting up wall posters of sunny tropical beaches. One local fancier also swears that his birds are happier because he keeps a radio on with music during the day. His birds apparently like Country and Western music best.

I think it may interest other Swallow fanciers to hear from others with diverse climatic conditions to deal with around the world. Lets hear from you through the USC bulletin!

OFFICIAL STANDARDS

OFFICIAL USE STANDARD FOR THURINGIAN SWALLOW

Origin: In Thuringia, originally from the area of Sonneberg where they spread over the whole of Germany.

General Appearance: Similar to the clean legged field pigeon, only of a more elegant stance and longer body (streamlined).

The Thuringian Swallow is bred with two different head markings. The spot marking, with and without a crest, and the fullhead cap with a crest.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Head: Longish and narrow, with medium high smooth forehead or with crest in the form of a shell directed forward close to the head which should be wide and full and end in two rosettes.

Eyes: Dark (bull) with narrow smooth, flesh colored to red cere, smooth in texture.

Beak: Medium long and narrow. The upper beak slightly rounded at tip. Flesh-colored for reds and yellows. The upper beak should be black for blacks and blues. Silvers should be horn-colored. The lower beak should always be flesh colored.

Neck: Medium length, narrowing towards the head, slightly curved. Throat nicely rounded.

Breast: Somewhat broad and tapering downward.

Wings: Long, well closed, resting on tail. Not extending beyond the tail.

Tail: Relatively long and narrow and carried well closed.

Legs: Short and free from feathers. The toe nails should be as close to the color of the upper beak as possible.

Feathering: Somewhat long feathers. Not too soft and laying tightly.

Colors: Black, red, yellow, blue and silver without bars, with white bars and with a white spangled marking. Blue with black bar and black check. Silver with dun bar and dun check. Also in Reisserfluged (ash red and cream colored).

Color and Markings: Color pure and intense. Only the wings and head marking are colored, all else is white. The white area (heart) on the back between the wings should be as large as possible in order to make the colored wings look narrow and long. On black, red and yellow it is essential to have a good gloss color to the colored areas. Blue and silver light wing shield color and darker flight feathers. On all colors, the color of the wing must extend to the underside of the wing and when the wings are in position the color should meet across the lower back and form a closure of the saddle or heart shape.

Faults: Dark under beaks. Light beak points on dark color birds or dark beak point on light color birds. Traces of a bar on a barless bird. Faded flights or poor color. Colored feathers in white parts of bird. White underwing. Too short or weak in body size. Feathers on legs and feet. Bad saddle marking. Too broad a colored section.

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Gary Romig
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Pageant of Pigeons - Champlon - Saxon Fairy Swallow.
Owned and bred by Leon Stephens. Photo by George de la Nuez.



National Young Bird Show - Champlon Silesian - Saxon
Silesian Swallow. Owned and bred by Howard Angevine.
Photo by George de la Nuez.

