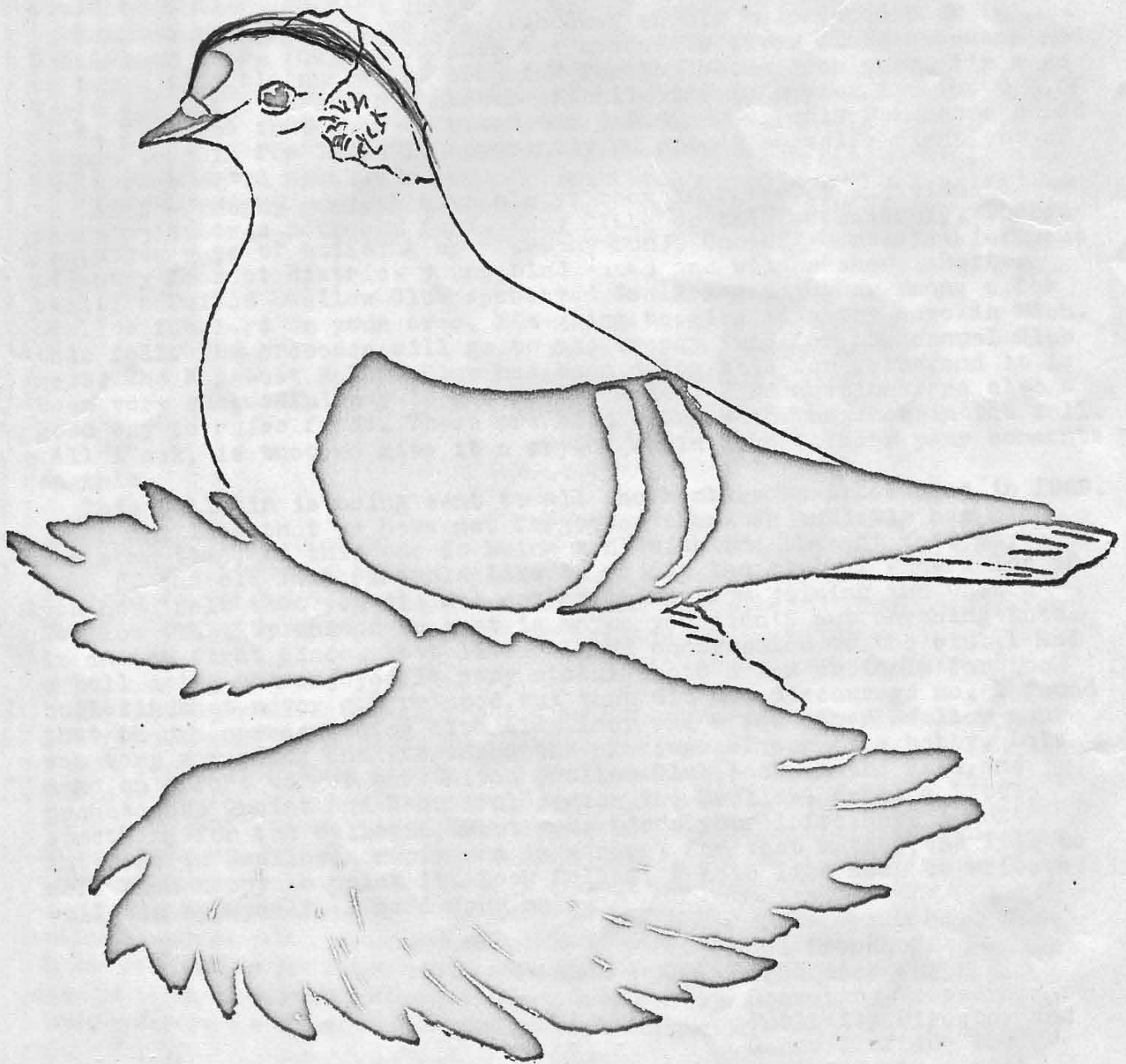


Jan, 1911

THE UNITED SWALLOW CLUB

TO ADVANCE AND ENCOURAGE THE SCIENTIFIC CULTURE OF SWALLOW PIGEONS



THE UNITED SWALLOW CLUB BULLETIN
for
JANUARY 1971

Well, what do you know. The United Swallow Club is not dead after all. It was just living in South America under an assumed name.

Some changes have come about in the past month. Alex Lacy has found it impossible to continue as our Secretary-Treasurer and Publicity Director of the Club. I have elected to take over the job. My firm hope is to spark some interest in the Club once again. I welcome your help in this endeavor. The United Swallow Club had a fantastic growth, starting with a few Swallow fanciers on the West Coast and going to a national membership of over 40 members in just one year. I'm sure this could be done again, with a few changes in the Clubs policies.

For one thing, I believe the Club dues should be reduced back to \$ 3.00 per year. The \$ 5.00 dues was needed to cover Clubs expences and to buy a sizeable number of trophies for the shows each year. I'm sure I can put out a reasonable number of bulletins in a year for the \$ 3.00 dues. It seems that when we voted the \$ 5.00 dues, only 9 members cared enough to join for 1970-71. Apperently, we priced ourselves right out of the market so to speak.

As for trophy money, I have always been in favor of individuals donating towards a trophy fund. Many Clubs do this successfully. There are other ways of building up a trophy fund. One of course is kickbacks of entry fees at district young bird shows and winner shows. Better still, a United Swallow Club sponsored, Swallow gettogether among a few Swallow fanciers in your area. I'm going to give it a try here in Mich. this fall. The procedes will go to the trophy fund for the annual Club meet. The Mid-West Roller Club has been doing this for years, and it is been very successful way to get trophy money. Bird auctions are also a good way to raise funds. These are held along with the shows in the fall.

All I ask, is that we give it a try. I would like to hear your comments on this.

This bulletin is being sent to all the members that belonged in 1969. with the idea that we have not forgotten them. No bulletin has been for some time, and this one is being sent with the thought that maybe some of the old members would like to rejoin the club. I know a lot of you have felt that you did not get anything from joining the United Swallow Club. My answer to that is, maybe you didn't put anything into it in the first place. What little I had contributed to the club, I had a ball doing and enjoyed it very much. I wrote a few articles for the bulletin that never got printed, but that did not discourage me. I found that though corresponding with Alex Lacy and a few other Swallow men was very rewarding and increased the pleasure of our fine hobby. Lets make an effort to get the United Swallow Club back on the road, and promote our Quaint and Beautiful pigeon, the Swallow. Write a little something for the bulletin, about your birds, your lofts, anything of interest in Swallows or pigeons in general for that matter, and I'll be more than happy to print it. Look fellas, I hate like Heck to write a bulletin by myself. I need your help.

Cal Breadhoff
President
Secretary-Treasurer
Publicity Director and
General office boy
United Swallow Club

Show Preparation Of The Swallow

by
Art Strauch

Before I begin this essay, let me make one thing clear. I am by no means an experienced Swallow breeder nor professional writer. I'm just relating my own ideas and experiences. I practice what I preach, if I may use a popular cliché. I have been breeding the Swallow for about 2 years now, and although my show experience is minimal, I have had some notable wins. I feel that the preparation of my Swallows received prior to the show gave them that extra edge. Enough said.

The Swallow is, of course, an art and a science. No matter how many years a person has been raising Swallows, he seldom breeds a perfectly marked bird. The same is true for the other breeds. A certain amount of plucking and trimming is needed here and there. Let's say you breed a bird that you feel is of show quality. Not a knockout, but a good bird. How can you get the most out of the bird? Let me emphasize the fact that you must have something to work with. You can not just take any cull and expect, with a little trimming, to make a show specimen. You have to have a good bird. The idea of the show preparation is to enhance what the bird already has. The key work is quality. You must have quality birds to work with. Now we get into the procedure. First of all, some equipment is needed:

1. Show cages - about 6 or 7 is sufficient
2. Bottle of wheat germ oil capsules
3. Cedar shavings or pine chips
4. Scissors - dissecting scissors, if possible
5. Tweezers - a small pair will do
6. Emery paper - or nail file
7. Vaseline petroleum jelly
8. A little patience
9. A copy of the U. S. C. Standard

The show preparation should start when the bird is in the nest. This may sound strange, but it is true. As soon as the bird begins to get it's baby feathers, start to shape the muffs and adjust the bird. In other words, play with it. As you know, Swallows are pretty wild if not tamed. Your birds should be tame before hand and it will make your job much easier.

Now, suppose that bird has feathered out into a youngster of fairly good quality. Most of the big shows are in the fall, around November. If you want to enter a bird, you must start the preparation about 2 1/2 months prior to the show. You may ask what possibly can be done at this time. Pluck the muffs. This must be done carefully. Start with the back feathers first because they take the longest to grow in. Holding the foot of the bird, along with the bird, in one hand, you give a quick firm jerk with the other hand and the feather will come out with no trouble. Only pluck about four feathers a day. This is important because if you pluck any more, the bird may go into shock and may even die. So take care. Also another point is do not pluck blood quills. If by any chance the cavity where the feather was starts to bleed a little, just take a cotton swab moistened with hydrogen peroxide and dab it on the cavity. This will stop the bleeding and clean it out. It's surprising how

(Show Preparation continued)

profuse the muffs will come in. I once had a youngster with just stubs about 1 1/2 inches long for muffs. I plucked them, and to my surprise they came in about 3 1/2 inches long. One more point. During the growth period, you'll notice that large blood quills will come in encasing the feathers. Be sure proper roosts are provided so the quills will not break. Also during the growth period be sure plenty of grit is provided to help build the feathers.

Now we get to the pre-show training. This should start about 1 1/2 weeks before the show. Put all your projects in show pens. Be sure to put cedar or pine shavings in the cages. Besides keeping the new muffs clean, the natural oils give the a nice luster. While the bird is in confinement handle it often. The oils in your hand give the feathers an excellent sheen. Also give each bird along with the feed, grit and water one wheat germ oil capsule daily. Again, this vitamin helps give the feathers a nice appearance. Although it is not necessary, it seems to perk up the bird a little, so I recommend using wheat germ during the training.

It is best to start trimming the bird from the head down. Before you begin, read the standard carefully. We have an excellent Standard, there is nothing vague. Everything is described clearly and concisely. Starting with the crest, if you have the crested types, pluck the feathers that are extremely long and disrupting the continuity of the crest. Be careful not to pluck too many, as you will leave a gap, which is a split crest. Do not use scissors. This is easily detected and may be grounds for disqualification. The next project is the spot or cap, depending on the variety. The only thing to be done here is to pluck the white feathers from the colored portion and visa versa. Using the tweezers carefully pluck one feather at a time. Do not pluck too many in one area as you will leave a bald spot. The bird should be held parallel to you with the head held between the thumb and the forefinger. Again, if your bird is fairly tame, your job will be much easier. Moving to the beak, take a very small amount of vaseline and rub it between your fingers. Apply it to the beak, being careful not to get any on the cere. The vaseline takes all the scaliness off the beak leaving it a smooth even black or horn color. If the upper mandible has a hook on the end, that is, it is a little longer than the lower mandible, take the emery board and file it down. Always file down, never up. Do not file too much, as the beak may bleed a little.

Down now to the breast. Pluck the colored feathers and with the scissors trim the long protruding feathers around the throat and breast. No big deal there, Same thing goes for the heart or saddle. You'll find that colored feathers, particularly around the edges of the heart do disrupt the symmetry and shape of the heart.

Pluck any stray white feathers in the wings. Do not, in any way, try to trim the bars. As you see the bars are located on the secondary feathers. If you pluck these your out of the game. If the rump has one or two colored feathers weed them out. Now your Swallow should really look great. One final thing is the hock feathering. Naturally they should be white. Its fine to take out one or two, but not too many colored feathers. If too many are plucked, the Swallow loses its low, sweeping station. Before the show wipe the muffs down with a damp cloth and wash the feet and toenails.

In closing, just let me say one thing. Do not pluck so many feathers as to leave a

(Show Preparation contined)

bald spot. Trimming is defined as the removal of any feathers that mar the general appearance of the pigeon. If too many colored feathers are located in one place, leave them in. If the bird is good in other aspects, it might come out with a third or fourth. Any fancier will tell you a third or fourth place is better than a disqualification. I hope some of you have benefitted from my ideas. As I said before, I am by no means an experianced master. I will be happy to hear from anyone who has his own ideas on show preparation, whether in agreements or contrary to mine.. Wishing you all a successful 1971 season.

Trip South

President Cal Breadhoff. journied to Bonne Terr, Mo. for the Saxon Color Pigeon Show held at the new residence of Dr. L. E. Hummel. Here in part is a recent letter from Cal about his adventure.

"I just got home from a 3 day stay at Dr. Hummels. I went there to see his new loft and to attend the Saxon Color Pigeon Show at his new home in Bonne Terre, Mo. Man, what a beautiful place he has. I had a lot of time to look over about 650 Swallows in all colors and markings. We organized a new club called the Saxon Color Pigeon Club. H. P. Macklin is president, I am Vice-President, and Dr. Hummel is Secretary-Treasurer"

Trip East

John Brown of South California recently went East and had time to stop and see Dr. Hummels new loft also. Here is part of his letter:

"Just thought I'd write and tell you a little about my visit to see Dr. Hummel in Bonne Terre, Mo. I went there to possibly buy some red barless fullheads. It was a most beautiful sight you could ever see. Six hundred and fifty Swallows in every type and color. His new loft cost him more than \$4,000.00. What do you think of that? (WOW) It has an isle down the middle with pens on both sides. It has individual fly pens which you see in the picture and the thing is two story with the bottom one a giant loft with individual mating coops. Also sending a snap of my loft. It is 16' X 10' and has four pens 4' X 10'.

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Buy, Sell, or Trade

Wanted - I'm looking for Saxon Ruffed Snips or Spots. Eric Baker, 6715 Brantford Avenue, South Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

Trade - I'd like to trade the Encyclopedia of Pigeons, in excellant condition, for 1 pair of Black, Red, or Yellow Barless Fullheads. Good quality birds only. John Brown, 12213 Orr and Day Road, Norwalk, California, 90650.

Wanted - A very good Black White Barred Crested Fairy Hen. Clear white bars and good muffs. Gunter C. Preusse, 5435 - 39th Street, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

'From Out Of The Past'

The following article is a reprint from the August "1950" American Pigeon Journal. It is written by Dr. Hummel, and it is reprinted here with his permission.

Note the comments on the variety of color and markings in Swallows just 21 years ago. I think it is solid proof that we have come a long way in improving this quaint and beautiful breed of Pigeon.

For those "youngsters" in our group, who do not remember the publicity that Dr. L. E. Hummel created for the Swallows back in the "1950's", I'll print an article in a series in each bulletin. It makes good reading.

"The Fullhead Swallow"

In previous articles on Swallows the Spot Swallow has been described in detail. What has been said of the Spot Swallows can also be said of the Fullhead Swallow. It can be bred in the same colors as the Spot Swallow with the addition of barless, which is not to be found in our Spot Swallows in America, although the marking does exist in Europe. This does not mean that Fullhead Swallows are plentiful in all markings, or even to be found generally in most markings. The Fullhead comes mostly in barless being bred in this color in Red, Yellow, and Blue. There is one outstanding loft or Red White Bar Fullheads of excellent type and marvelous color that has been bred in America for many years, but the writer knows of only this one loft. There are one or two lofts of some size of Black White Bar Fullheads also of fine quality that have been in existence for a long time. Blue, and Yellow White Barred Fullheads are even rarer and the writer knows of no loft of large size in this marking, although the birds do exist here in America.

There are a number of good lofts in Black Barless, and some of the birds in this marking and color are very remarkable birds. The dean of Black Barless breeders in America is Henry Uhl of New York State who has bred Swallows continuously for almost eighty years. His birds are still tops.

The Blue Black Bar Fullhead Swallow is a bird that is very lovely, but one that was neglected until recently until it was practically impossible to find quality birds in this marking. Several breeders are now working on this marking and it has improved rapidly in the last few years.

Spangled Swallows in Fullhead are practically non-existent. The fullhead is fully as lovely a bird as the Spot Swallow and it is hard to conceive that these lovely birds are not more widely bred in White Bar in America, and that one does not find them in all colors in spangle marking. It is no task to transfer any of the markings from the Fullhead to the Spot, or vice versa, so it should be easily possible to produce these lovely markings in Fullhead.

One rarely finds Blue Checks in Fullheads, but the marking is a lovely one and a cross between either Blue Barless or Black Barless will ordinarily produce a few Checks. It is conceivably possible to produce Red Checks and Yellow Checks through using Blue Checks, but not one to date breeds these markings.

The velvet in our Swallows-- the rows of oil quills running from the base of the tail up under the wings--comes originally from the Fullhead Swallow. This is a Swallow known as the Nunnburg Swallows and originally was bred with short muffs.

We now have the phenomena in both Fullhead and spot marking with muffs as good or better than those birds without velvet.

(The Fullhead Swallow continued)

All that is needed to produce many of the lovely colors and markings in Swallows not now commonly seen is to find breeders who will devote a long period of time to the development of one or two markings. While it is easy to understand why a person should wish to breed Swallows in many colors and markings, still one must be faithful to one particular phase of the variety to reach the top in achievement. We need more breeders of this type working with Swallows to improve our birds here in America.

By: Mr. L. E. Hummel
Pres. American Swallow Club

I received two letters in the past month, both from fanciers that have given up their Swallows.

One was from Fred Reed, of Florida, who has given up his Swallows after breeding them for many years. I believe he told me he got his first Swallows in 1929. Fred has been to my home on several occasions and I certainly enjoyed talking Swallows with him. I for one will miss him from our ranks.

The other letter was from Art Fenton, of Port Orchard, Washington. I'm sorry to say, I did not know this gentleman, but feel that I should have. He must of been a devoted fancier. Art writes: Everything has been changed 100% over what it was a short time ago. When I go to shows or into lofts, I get sick from feather dust. I recently went to the National in Seattle and now I'm laid up worst than ever. Sick inside plus lungs working at $\frac{1}{4}$ capacity.

As I'm nearly 80 I also have an age factor involved. I have tried and tried to avoid this problem, but must admit it has me whipped. So as of today I will be out of the fancy. I am letting all my birds, a 100 or so, go, I.e., Swallows Frills, carriers and Frillbacks. So, I will not be able to enter birds in shows and therefore not likely to be near them. With Regrets, Art.

I personally share the regrets of these two fanciers. It would be the hardest thing in the world for me to have to give up my pigeons. I don't think anything could leave a greater void in my life than an empty loft after breeding pigeons for the past 37 years. We shall miss these two Swallow fanciers and I thank them for their contributions to the Swallow fancy in the past.

Please forgive the appearance of the front cover of the bulletin. I thought it would be an easy matter to run a drawing off on the Xerox copier at work. Things didn't turn out as I expected. I'm going to make up for it however, next bulletin will be an electronically cut stencil with pictures, similar to what we had a year ago. Anyway I tried.

Cal Broadhoff, Publicity

Along with the beautiful Swallows in my loft, I breed another rare beauty, the Stork pigeon. I have bred them now for the past 10 years.

Starting with some mismarked Silosian Swallows, I had bred some fairly good marked blacks. In 1962 Dr. Lyn Hummolloaned me a red cock, the only Stork in America at the time. I mated this red cock to a yellow Tiger Swallow hen and produced several very nice and perfectly marked Storks. Unfortunately, all but 1 hen daid. This one hen was mated to a black cock and thus produced both blacks and reds. Since there was yellow mixed in this combination, a few yellow Storks were produced. However, they not many good marked birds. A lot of ash-red colored birds were produced also. These were all discarded.

In 1969, with the help of Vince Bodnar and Harold Schroedle, I imported a pair of crested red Storks from Germany. These were typical European birds with short muffs and small bodies. These are now being crossed onto my homo grown reds and should set the markings and rich color a bit better.

The Stork, you might say, is a kissing cousin to the Swallow. With the exception of the wing markings, I would say the two breeds are the same in type and rich colors. They come in crested, smooth head and clean leg varieties. The Stork also originated in Saxony and is a very old breed of pigeon, mentioned in pigeon literature as far back as 1725.

It is one of the most challenging broods of pigeons to raise. Two features give trouble. One is the spot. Levi writes that "some families of Storks are without spots". To me these are mismarked Storks. Since white travels rapidly in pie-bald marked pigeons, quite a number of Storks are produced without spots. This fault should not be bred back into the stud repetely, which holds true for Swallows also. Another difficult thing in breeding Storks, is holding the number of colored flight feathers to 14 or 15. This is important, since it makes the white "tab" of secondary flight feathers that is so unique in the Stork. If the number of colored flight feathers were 10 it would not be so difficult as it is comparatively easy hold color lines to feather tracks. This is true in the Nun and Baldhead Tumblers, etc. But, in the Stork, one is trying to hold a color line at a random point among the flight feathers. Of course, the trick is to breed over marked birds together, and try to produce a happy medium. Any white in the primaries seems to produce a large number of white feathers in the muffs. Another difficult thing in Storks is the size and shape of the shoulder marking. It must be triangular in shape with the point pointing up. Therefore, several feathers near the bastard pinions must be colored also. Again there is no feather tracks to hold the line. All in all, the Stork is a challenge for any fancier.

I'm now trying to produce them in Blue. This is one of the most beautiful of all the colors in the Stork. The Flights are a dark black and the shoulder marking a light blue. There is light blue edged in black in the muffs. My trouble in producing Blues, is that I'm starting with blacks and any Swallow breeder knows what happens when blue and blacks are crossed. The few I have are very dull in color. Just give me another 10 years and I'll have the problem whipped.

I must add, that it has been a very rewarding experience to work with this rare breed. There are only a few pairs in America at present and I have been trying to get enough breeding to distribute around. It will take a few devoted fanciers and a lot of hard work to bring them up to the quality that they should be. If we keep at it, I'm sure there will a large number of them around once again. Maybe they will be as popular as their Kissing cousins, the Quaint and Beautiful Swallow.

Cal Broadhoff.