

# Newsletter of the United Swallow Club



Winter 2008

Supporting Swallow Pigeons <http://personal.riverusers.com/~swallowclub/>

Since 1969

## Message from the Secretary

*Elliot Yeske*

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. By now the show season is done. The club was able to bring in Hans Schipper again to judge our swallows at our annual meet at the Pageant in California. The cost to bring him to the U.S. was shared by the Southern California Color Pigeon Club. This helped both clubs a lot with costs being shared. I did not attend to Pageant but I heard from people that were there, that Hans did another great job judging the birds.

It is the time of the year to take time and renew your dues to the USC if you have not already done so. Dues are still \$10 and again this year we have bands for both the clean leg birds size 8mm and the muffed swallows size 11mm. Please get your dues and band orders in quickly. Check the membership list to see if your dues have expired. It is our hope that all of you stay with the United Swallow Club.

The Des Moines show this year was a good show with a little more than 60 swallows exhibited. Gloria Weisgram did the judging it was good to see her back at Des Moines after not making it there the last few years. Gloria did a good job and it was interesting to see what her opinion was the swallows entered at Des Moines.

There were 4 USC members that were able to attend the Saxon color pigeon show in Zwonitz Germany this January 2008. Leon Stephens, Nate Wayne, Elliot Yeske, and Bill Griebel Sr. We had a great time, there were 1400 saxon color pigeons entered. Saxon Swallows, Saxon Shields, Saxon Monks, Saxon Priests, Old German Moorheads, Saxon Field pigeons, Storks, and Crescents. What a show it was to see, the quality was very good. Also it was nice to see some of the rare colors that we don't see very often here in the U.S. I would recommend this show to anyone that

## President's Report

*Perry Mueller*

I count it a privilege and an honor to have been elected president. I've been a member of the USC for over thirty years now and have served in all the offices except president. We have had some great leadership over the years and I hope I can continue the tradition. My plan is to work with our fellow officers to promote the USC and the swallow pigeon in all its forms.

In this bulletin we will have nominations for our annual meet and judge. I want to get this info out early to allow for everyone to make travel plans. I've asked Tim Starr to continue in the election commissioner position.

I think as a club we need to promote the Fullhead Swallow (saxon swallow). You just don't see these in the show room in large numbers. If each member made it a point to breed a pair or two and show them, I think the interest would come back. Maybe we can come up with some kind of special award like we did with the reds and yellows a few years ago. Think about it and let me know your thoughts.

Later on this year we need to take a look at our constitution. We need to get a copy out on our web site. Every one should have one or have access to it. We may need to update it.

Also we may need to do some adjusting to our certified judging program. I'm not planning to suggest any major changes, just to get some dialog going.

Again, my main goal as President is to promote our Swallows. Let me know your thoughts.

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*Continued from first column*

ever has the chance to go a show in Germany as it all saxon color pigeons.

Hope you all have a great breeding season.

**See Inside on where to send your nominations to decide on the judge and where the annual meet will be held.**

## Central District Director Report

*Bob Benson*

The "07" Des Moines Show is history, and the show season is over, at least for me. I'm a little depressed at this time of year, the cold and snow and the swallows look like I feel. I don't know how they can stand Minnesota weather 24-7. Last week the morning temperatures were near or below zero.

The Iowa weather isn't much better. Driving home after the Show was very special, I haven't been in a storm like that in fifty years! First came rain and sleet (at 15°) which froze onto the windshield, the defrost couldn't clear it unless we dropped the car speed to 35 mph. Halfway through Iowa the sleet turned to snow which cars and trucks threw up and obscured the road for what seemed like forever. After entering Minne-

sota the snowing stopped, thank God. The two hundred mile trip took four and one half hours, my driver said, "I will never go to Des Moines again!"

But the Show itself was good, the birds were great in quality if not in numbers. The Show number was just short of four thousand. The weather forecast may have caused some of the short fall. Sixty three swallows were entered, more than I expected.

Two members were showing for the first time - John Navant, from Colorado, won Best Fairy with a nice Blue White Bar. The other new member showing is editor of Minnesota State Pigeon Association Bulletin, her name is Kim Bartz; she had nice blue check Silesian. Chris Lindbom won Best Fullhead

with a nice Black Barless - amazing considering his loss in August! Best Thuringer Fullhead was a beautiful red barless owned by Elliot Yeske. Jerry Kress had the Best Thuringer Wing Pigeon - a nice red bird.

The Champion Swallow was a fine young silver check hen, owned by one of the best swallow breeders in this country - Perry Mueller! His birds are always of high quality and in good condition. The Reserve Champion was also a silver check, a young cock owned by Bob Benson.

The judging was also championship caliber; Gloria Weisgram made it look easy, like she had done it many times.

Thank you very much Gloria and all members that attended.

# Results of the USC Annual Meet held at the Pageant of Pigeons, San Bernardino, CA Nov. 2007

**Judge: Hans Schipper, Holland**

**Number Shown: 110**

**Champion & Best Silesian: \*\*\*\***

**Best Fairy & Best Young:\*\*\***

**Best Fullhead:\*\***

**Best Thuringer: \***

**Fairy Swallows**

**Black Spangle OH**

G91 841 Leon Stephens

**YH**

G91 415 Leon Stephens

**Black W/B OC**

S95 182 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 998 Leon Stephens

**OH**

S95 882 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 753 Leon Stephens

G92 411 Leon Stephens

G91 628 Jim Cain

**YC**

S95 410 Leon Stephens

S94 16 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 60 Bill Griebel Sr.

I90 381 Jim Cain

**YH**

S93 475 Leon Stephens

G91 423 Leon Stephens

**Blue Barless OC**

HS96 1725 Leon Stephens

S94 509 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 457 Bill Griebel Sr.

**Silver Barless YC**

HS96 340 Leon Stephens

**Blue W/B OC**

S94 935 Geo. De la Nuez

G92 456 David Harris

G92 848 Leon Stephens

**OH**

S94 302 Geo. De la Nuez

G92 612 Leon Stephens

**YC**

HS96 61 Geo. De la Nuez

G91 230 David Harris

**YH**

S95 80 Geo. De la Nuez

S93 683 David Harris

**Silver W/B YH**

**HS96 81 Geo. De la Nuez\*\*\***

**Red Spangle OH**

S94 635 Leon Stephens

**Yellow Spangle OH**

S95 11 Leon Stephens

**Red W/B OC**

S95 10 Leon Stephens

S94 7 Leon Stephens

**YC**

S93 535 Gary Romig

S93 518 Gary Romig

G92 507 Gary Romig

**Yellow W/B OH**

G91 10 Leon Stephens

I90 205 Jim Cain

**Silesian Swallow**

**Black Barless OC**

S95 802 Leon Stephens

**OH**

S94 16 Leon Stephens

**Blue Barless OH**

S95 304 Leon Stephens

**Blue Black Bar OC**

S95 585 David Harris

S95 410 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 555 David Harris

**OH**

**E97 432 Bill Griebel Sr.\*\*\*\***

S94 381 Leon Stephens

S94 523 Bill Griebel Sr.

G92 521 David Harris

**YC**

S94 397 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 234 David Harris

S93 65 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 396 Bill Griebel Sr.

**YH**

S95 21 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 229 David Harris

**Silver Bar YC**

S94 596 David Harris

**YH**

S93 19 Bill Griebel Sr.

G92 222 David Harris

G92 64 Bill Griebel Sr.

**Blue W/B OC**

S93 503 Leon Stephens

S93 144 Leon Stephens

**OH**

S94 683 Leon Stephens

**Fullhead Swallows**

**Blue W/B OC**

S94 954 Leon Stephens

**Blue Spangle OC**

**S95 11 Leon Stephens\*\***

**Black Barless OC**

S94 1852 Bill Griebel Sr.

I90 621 David Harris

**OH**

S95 424 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 589 David Harris

S94 314 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 274 Bill Griebel Sr.

**YC**

S94 77 Bill Griebel Sr.

S93 529 David Harris

S93 391 Bill Griebel Sr.

I90 262 David Harris

I90 245 David Harris

**YH**

S95 390 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 261 David Harris

S94 15 Bill Griebel Sr.

G92 279 David Harris

I90 501 David Harris

**Thuringer Spot Swallow**

**Black Barless OC**

S93 1184 Jay Beals

**OH**

**HS96 1181 Jay Beals\***

S95 669 Jay Beals

S94 1193 Jay Beals

S94 633 Jay Beals

**YC**

G92 282 Carl Rodegerdts

**YH**

G92 593 Jay Beals

I90 251 Carl Rodegerdts

**Blue Black Bar OC**

S93 577 Carl Rodegerdts

**YC**

HS96 1022 Ron Smith

S95 283 Carl Rodegerdts

**YH**

G92 253 Carl Rodegerdts

**Silver Dun Bar YC**

S95 287 Carl Rodegerdts

**YH**

S93 534 Dave Holloway

**Blue Check YH**

S94 256 Carl Rodegerdts

**Blue Barless OC**

S94 588 Carl Rodegerdts

**YH**

S94 520 Dave Holloway

**Blue Spangle YH**

G92 533 Dave Holloway

**Red W/B OH**

S95 2005 Leon Stephens

**Ash Red Barless YC**

S95 519 Dave Holloway

**Ash Red Check YC**

S93 535 Dave Holloway

**Ash Yellow Check YH**

S95 542 Dave Holloway

**Ash Yellow Bar YC**

I90 527 Dave Holloway

**YH**

S94 528 Dave Holloway

S93 551 Dave Holloway



*Hans Schipper judging. Photo by Dave Holloway*



Leon Stephens present Hans Schipper with the award for judge. Photo by Gary Romig



Group of fanciers in attendance at the USC annual meet. Top row from left: Leny Medford, Dave Holloway, Marvin Jones, Leon Stephens, Jay Beals, Gorege De La Nuez, Ron Smith Hans Schipper, Gary Romig. Seated: Bill Griebel, Herman Baertschi, Tom McCaig, Roger Worsham. Photo by Dave Holloway



Bill Griebel's Champion Swallow Blue black bar Silesion, Old hen No. 432 Rated E97 Photo by Gary Romig



Leon Stephens' best Fullhead Swallow, Blue Spangle, Old Cock No. 11 Rated S95. Photo by Dave Holloway



Jay Beal's best Thuringer Wing Pigeon, Black barless Old Hen No. 1181 Rated HS96. Photo by Gary Romig



George De La Nuez's best Fairy Swallow and best Young Swallow, Silver White Barred Young Hen No. 81 Rated HS96. Photo by Dave Holloway

# 2007 Central District Meet - Des Moines, IA

Saturday, December 8, 2007 • 63 Swallows Shown • Judge: Gloria Weisgram

## Silesian Swallows

### Young Hens

Perry Mueller	Silver Check	384	HS	96	<b>Champion, Best Silesian Best Young Bird</b>
Perry Mueller	Silver Barless	320	HS1	96	

### Young Cocks

Bob Benson	Blue Bar	1530	G	92	<b>Reserve Champion</b>
Bob Benson	Blue Check	1514	S1	95	
Bob Benson	Silver Check	1511	S	95	
Bob Benson	Silver Check	1508	HS	96	
Perry Mueller	Blue Check	371	S	95	
Perry Mueller	Silver Check	4391	S	95	
Perry Mueller	Blue Barless	367	HS	96	
Perry Mueller	Blue Barless	344	S	94	

### Old Hens

Kim Bartz	Blue Check	229	S	94
Bob Benson	Blue Check	208	S	95
Bob Benson	Silver Bar	257	G	92
Chris Lindbom	Blue Barless	605	S	93
Chris Lindbom	Blue/Black Bar	631	G	92
Perry Mueller	Silver Barless	354	S	94
Perry Mueller	Silver Barless	306	HS2	96
Perry Mueller	Blue Barless	1600	S	95
Perry Mueller	Silver Check	368	HS4	96
Perry Mueller	Silver Check	344	S	94

### Old Cocks

Kim Bartz	Blue Check	801	S	95
Bob Benson	Blue Check	611	S	94
Kim Bartz	Blue Check	213	S	94
Bob Benson	Blue Check	607	S	95
Bob Benson	Blue Check	732	S	95
Bob Benson	Silver Check	212	HS3	96
Bob Benson	Silver Check	267	S	95
Chris Lindbom	Blue/Black Bar	644	S	93

## Saxon Fairy Swallows

### Young Hens

Perry Mueller	Black Spangle	364	S	94
Perry Mueller	Black Spangle	374	S	93

### Old Hens

John Navant	Blue White Bar	813	S	94	<b>Best Fairy</b>
John Navant	Blue White Bar	632	S1	95	

### Old Cocks

Chris Lindbom	Black Spangle	679	G	92
John Navant	Blue White Bar	630	S2	95



Perry Mueller's Champion Swallow, Silver Check Silesian, Rated HS96



Perry Mueller and Bob Benson receiving awards for Champion and Reserve Champion



Reserve Champion Swallow, silver check Silesian, Rated HS96, Bob Benson

## Saxon Fullhead

### Young Hens

Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	393	S1	94	<b>Best Fullhead</b>
Perry Mueller	Blue White Bar	327	G	92	

### Young Cocks

Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	scratch		
Perry Mueller	Blue White Bar	356	G	92

### Old Hens

Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	1281	S2	94
Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	1287	S	93

### Old Cocks

Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	1290	S3	94
Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	scratch		
Chris Lindbom	Black Barless	436	G	92

## Thuringer Wing Pigeon

### Young Hens

Perry Mueller	Yellow Barless	433	S	94	<b>Best TWP</b>
Perry Mueller	Yellow Spangle	455	S	94	
Perry Mueller	Red White Bar	23	S	93	
Perry Mueller	Yellow White Bar	454	S	93	
Gerald Kress	Red	208	S1	95	
Gerald Kress	Red Spangle	227	S	94	

### Young Cocks

Perry Mueller	Red Spangle	418	S	94
Perry Mueller	Red White Bar	466	S	93
Perry Mueller	Yellow White Bar	25	S	93
Gerald Kress	Red	201	S	95

### Old Hens

Gerald Kress	Red	310	S	93
Gerald Kress	Yellow	718	G	92

### Old Cocks

Gerald Kress	Red	710	I	90
Elliot Yeske	Blue Black Bar	13	G	92

## Thuringer Fullhead

### Old Hen

Elliot Yeske	Red	12	S	94
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### Old Cock

Elliot Yeske	Blue Check	8	S	95	<b>Best TF</b>
Elliot Yeske	Black	4	S	95	
Elliot Yeske	Yellow	27	HS2	96	
Elliot Yeske	Red	16	HS1	96	

# Judging Swallows at Des Moines

*Gloria Weisgram*

I had the privilege of judging swallows at the Central District Meet in Des Moines on December 8, 2007. There were some fine birds entered in all categories, the largest class being the Silesian entry. Mary Hapala and Nate Wayne helped out with clerking and recording duties. Thanks to both of them for their assistance.

We were treated to a nice display of Thuringer Wing and Fullhead swallow varieties including some wonderful colors and markings. I was very impressed with the markings of Perry Mueller's red spangled young cock and though it was not the winner it was quite memorable. Noteworthy were Gerry Kress's improvements in the type of his red barless wing pigeons and the strong color entry of Elliot Yeske. Gerry took home the top honors for best Thuringer Wing pigeon with a red barless young hen. Elliot had a nice entry of Thuringer Fullheads that included two old hens, a yellow and a red barless that I rated highly superior. The red had slightly better feather quality and a nicer station and I placed it first.

Chris Lindbom surprised us by showing up with a good entry, mainly black barless Fullheads. Earlier this year Chris and his family experienced a devastating tornado that took the roof off his house, leveled his barn and destroyed his lofts. He lost livestock and birds but one loft was tipped over and his birds were alright. Chris had the best Fullhead in the show with a young hen despite all of his previous setbacks.

The Saxon Fairy class was smaller than usual. John Navant had a striking group of blue white bars and there were some beautiful black spangles entered. John's old hen had a little more type and near perfect bars and she edged out the competition to come away with the top spot.

The largest entry of the show was the Silesian class. The blue and silver barless entry by Perry Mueller was outstanding and the condition of these and all the birds in this class was extremely good. The blue and silver checkers dominated the mark-

ings. Newcomer Kim Bartz challenged the seasoned breeders with some high quality blue checkers but it was Bob Benson's Louisville winner # 1514 who was eventually the best blue check.

The silver checker class was more difficult to judge as the quality was a bit higher and very similar between the top birds. This group of swallows contained both the show champion and reserve of the show. Perry had a nice young hen with great style and balance. Bob Benson's young cock was perfectly marked with a beautiful heart and muffs. Either bird would have been a good pick for show champion but I gave it to the hen. All things being almost equal, she had just a little more type that day.

It was nice to see so many young birds win top awards. Thank you for the honor of judging the show. Congratulations to the winning breeders and best of luck with all these fine birds in your 2008 breeding programs.



*Gloria Weisgram judging*



*Best Saxon Fairy Swallow, blue white bar Rated S95, John Navant*



*Best Fullhead Swallow, black barless Rated S94, Chris Lindbom*



*Best Thuringer Wing Pigeon Red barless Rated S95, Gerald Kress*



*Best Thuringer Swallow Red barless Rated HS96, Elliot Yeske*



*Beautiful blue check Silesian shown by Kim Bartz, Rated S95*

# USC Membership February 2008

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Burkart, Klaus Teichstr. 34 04626 WeiBbach Germany		Jakubowski, Robert R. 8707 White Fawn Trail Rockford, MI 49341 <a href="mailto:fawnlofts@charter.net">fawnlofts@charter.net</a>	Nelson, Jud 1505 Pebble Court Grove, OK 74344-4305 918-786-3885 <a href="mailto:judnjudy@sbcglobal.net">judnjudy@sbcglobal.net</a>	Stephens, Leon 5238 La Madera Ave El Monte, CA 91732-1263 <a href="mailto:taubens@yahoo.com">taubens@yahoo.com</a>		
Chaney, Arnold 30544 Terrace View Ln. Valley Center, Ca 92082 <a href="mailto:a2chaney@aol.com">a2chaney@aol.com</a>	01/09	Kaiser, Jerry 110 Lincoln Dr. Taylorsville, KY 40071 01/09	Pool, Joe 11832 Yvonne Circle Lower Lake, CA 95457 01/09	Swanson, Mike 4800 Road 23 Fr Lupton, CO 80621 303-857-0985		
Curtis, Jon 889 W. Tyrrell Rd. Morrice, MI 48857 <a href="mailto:jcurtis11@rds.net">jcurtis11@rds.net</a>	01/09	Jefferson, Kenneth 500 Rocky Meadow Rd. New Salisbury, IN 47161 <a href="mailto:jojefferferson@aol.com">jojefferferson@aol.com</a>				

# Purebred Pigeon Magazine Breed of the Issue

*Perry Mueller*

I talked to most of the club officers and they agreed with me that we should reserve our dates for a "Breed of the Issue" in the Purebred Pigeon Magazine. We will have to wait until March and April 2010 but this will give us plenty of time to prepare our articles and adds.

All they require now is a commitment by purchasing the front cover. The USC will do this now and we can decide what we want to put on it later. All articles will be sent directly to Larry and Doratha at the purebred magazine. All adds other than the front cover are 15% off also. Keep this in mind and lets start planning for a great special.

Nominations are due for **where** to have our  
Annual Meet and the **Judge** for 2008  
(pick judge from list to the right).  
Send all nominations by **March 30** to Tim Starr:

E-mail: [timstarr@comcast.net](mailto:timstarr@comcast.net)  
Phone: 717-328-9751 or mail him at  
8804 Ft. Loudon Rd. Mercersburg, PA 17236

## Eligible judges :

Mike Swanson  
Leon Stephens  
Perry Mueller  
Gary Romig  
Dave Harris  
Bill Griebel  
Steve Ball  
Howard Angevine  
Gloria Weisgram

## USC Officers for 2008-2010

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5238 La Madera Ave.  
El Monte CA 91732-1263  
[taubens@yahoo.com](mailto:taubens@yahoo.com)



**Red White Bar Fairy Swallows**  
Some Young birds available by April  
\$25 to \$35 Per bird • Contact



**Gary Romig**  
PO Box 152  
Patagonia, AZ 85624  
520-394-2174  
[gromig@theriver.com](mailto:gromig@theriver.com)

### United Swallow Club Financial Report

*Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec 2007*

<b>Beginning balance:</b>	<b>2573.73</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
From bands and dues	223.45
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Monthly checking service chgs	15.00
NPA Dues	20.00
Gary Romig (for awards)	144.00
Judges Plan ticked (Hans Schipper)	420.00
Young Bird Show Ad	50.00
<b>Ending statement balance:</b>	<b>2120.18</b>

**Black Barless Fullhead Swallows Available**  
**Blue Black Bar Silesian Swallows Available**  
\$50 to \$75 Per Pair • Contact **Bill Griebel Sr.**



12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy.  
EL Monte, CA 91732  
626-448-8565  
[griebel@worldnet.att.net](mailto:griebel@worldnet.att.net)

**Color Pigeon Breeders**  
check out the new  
**National Color Pigeon Club**



Karl Rau, 29 Windsor Rd.  
South China, ME 04358  
[krau@fairpoint.net](mailto:krau@fairpoint.net)  
207-445-3718  
<http://www.nationalcolorpigeonclub.com/>

# A Visit to the Lofts of Ben Kocken

Article and pictures Frank Bailey and Ben Kocken



*The Kocken home and landscaped garden - note his Thuringers as they enjoy their freedom through free flying.*

Hello my fellow members of our United Swallow Club. This is my second of featured fanciers and this time our journey takes us to the Netherlands. I remain hopeful that biographies such as this can and will provide a greater insight of who we are and what our organization is all about - both at home and abroad.

In November of 2006 I spoke with a familiar face and dear friend to all of us around the world - Mr. Hans Schipper. Hans spoke very highly of this man. Claiming that he is an excellent breeder, show conditioner, exhibitor and has gone onto becoming schooled via intensive training and testing in order to become a certified licensed judge. Unlike most of our American judges that are asked to judge based on their respectable reputation, overall knowledge and their offering of assumed expertise, those in Europe must quantify their expertise and obtain a license before judging. They must go through a schooling process that requires numerous hours that's made up of intense training - class room education, followed by very difficult breed by breed written as well as panel group oral exams before they are given the opportunity to judge. Then and only then, they can judge breeds they received their license for.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you my friend Mr. Ben Kocken. If you check our USC membership list you see that he is a current member, but like most of us on the list, we have little to no knowledge about our membership.

Ben is a home interior carpenter that makes his living building wooden stairways inside homes. His chosen profession requires a great deal of mandatory overtime in order to achieve his companies' objectives. Ben is 42 years old and is very happily married to his wife Ilse. Ben & Ilse have three sons, ages 14, 11, and 5.

When asked if there is a future tauben "pigeon" breeder among them? Bens responds was: "I DON'T KNOW". Ben is a highly respected breeder and exhibitor of the Thuringer Fullhead Swallow. He began raising them in 1979 sum 28 years ago and credits his hobby started with the receiving of a single



*Best in Black with 96 points, champion with twice V 97 points with Blue Black Barred. Second in Barless with twice HV 96 points*

pair from a man that had passed away and his birds were being spread out to others having an interest in them. Then many years later he acquired some birds from Gunter Schuffert and the blending of these two blood lines was a hit for him. Just a few years back he sold some of his birds to Mr. Gothard Einhorn of Chemnitz / Einsiedel in an area located in the heart of Saxony, Germany. Today Ben speaks proudly of his Thuringer Fullhead Swallows made up of 15 breeding pairs in 3 colors (Blue Barless, Blue Black Bars and Black Barless). In addition to his Thuringers he



*Ben is holding a nice Black White Barred Saxon Fairy Swallow - as a judge he's placing his judgments on these entries, making notes and giving them a grade/mark of achievement*





*Ben and his family seen here enjoying some time away from their demanding responsibilities*



*A pair of nesting Blue Barless*

also raises Nurnberg Fullhead Swallows plus a good breeding group of Damascenes. In 2000 his Crested Blue Black Barred Thuringer hen received the mark of best Fullhead Swallow and best foreign bird on Thuringer Hauptsonderschau in Plaue (Germany) every one wanted to buy this hen from him. He tells me he is glad that he did not sell this hen because her offspring are still very good birds.

His biggest prize was in Nurnberg 2006 when he received the title German Master with Thuringer Swallow Fullhead with a Crested Blue Black Barred Thuringer.

In 2004 he received a mark as German Champion with Damascenes in Sinsheim (Germany)

His love for birds goes beyond the raising of pigeons. Much like our American friend Leon Stephens of sunny southern California here in the USA that raises many rare species of doves, Ben also raises exotic birds and in his collection he even includes our beautiful American Red Cardinal.



*A perching 2006 bred Blue Black Bar*



*Here we are inside Bens breeding loft - note small water and food cups mounted to a horizontal small board inside each breeding compartment. He uses red clay bowls for nesting and offers them tobacco stems for nest material.*



*A very nice 2006 bred Black Barless*



United Swallow Club  
P.O. Box 152  
Patagonia, AZ 85624

## Pictures from Zwönitz 2008

*Photos by Leon Stephens and Bill Griebel Sr., forwarded by Frank Bailey*

