Winter 2011-2012 Newsletter www.unitedswallowclub.com **Since 1969** 

## Message from the President

Perry Mueller

It's hard to believe that we are starting the 2012 season so soon. 2011 was a busy year. First, I want to thank those who have served as club officers the last two years. It's important for members to step up and serve in the club. We need to keep promoting the swallow pigeon.

This may be my last two year's serving as president. After this term, it will be six years that I will have served in this capacity. I think it's a good thing to rotate those members who serve as club officers. Frank Baily will be serving again as vice-president. Dave Holloway will be taking on the western district. Jesse Espinosa will be the eastern director and David Averbeck will be the central director. These three guys are new this year and I'm sure will be bringing in some enthusiasm for the breed. We will have a Canadian director again, Jim Richards has agreed to take the position.

I judged the NYB show this year. There were about 15 birds entered. The entries were down a little this year. We missed Bob Benson; he always brought a nice entry. David Averbeck won this year with a nice black white bar silesian swallow.

I, also, ended up judging the Des Moines District Meet. The entries were down here as well with only 30 birds. One of our Jr. members, Kaylee Skistimas won the show with a nice blue black bar silesian swallow. Kaylee does a great job preparing her birds for the show. Congratulations,

The highlight of my show season was to go to our Annual at the Pageant of Pigeons in Los Angeles. I want to thank, again, Tony and Barbara Brancato for allowing me to stay with them this year. They were terrific hosts.

As usual, Hans Schipper did a great job of judging. It is a privilege to have an international judge come to the US once in a while to help us stay focused. Leon Stephens was the show winner this year with a nice blue check silesian. He ended up with five "E" ratings with his swallows and color pigeons. Congratulations, Leon. It was a pleasure to see so many good quality color pigeons in one place. The show report and pictures should be in this bulletin.

The Swallow Club, Color Pigeon Club and Archangel Club shared in the expenses to bring in Hans. We ended up paying just \$500 from our club treasury.

# Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

Elliot Yeske

Hello everyone, Happy New Year to you all, it is hard to believe that 2011 has already gone. Each year brings with it trials and treasures and I think that we can all agree that the memories of friends are one of the things that we will always treasure. The passing of our good friend and pigeon fancier, Bob Benson leaves a void that can only be filled with the wonderful memories we shared with him. Bob was a faithful member of the club, always supporting the club in whatever way he could. His enthusiasm and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all who knew

This time of the year once again brings the need for all members to renew their dues and submit their band orders for the 2012 breeding season. Bands this year will once again be 35 cents each. They are available in the 8mm and 11mm sizes. Patches with a black white barred fairy swallow are still available for \$5 each. Please include an additional \$3 with all band orders for the mailer and postage. Bands are sold on a first come, first serve basis so get your orders in early to ensure you get them. Wishing you all a great breeding season in 2012.

# **Beloved Bob Benson has Passed**

by Gloria Weisgram



Bob Benson passed away peacefully The morning of December 19, 2011. He was diagnosed with cancer just recently and went into hospice care. A memorial service was held January 3rd at the Methodist church in Northfield, MN.

#### Club Officers for 2012 & 2013

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# **Robert Benson (1929-2011)**



Bob Benson won many champions with his checker pattern Silesian Swallows.

Benson. His father died when he was 3 and he lived with his mother in Jasper and at times in nearby Pipestone. When his mother had to leave the state to find work, he lived with his Grandmother Madetzke in Jasper. He attended school in both Pipestone and Jasper and graduated from Jasper High School. He played baseball, basketball, and football in school and pitched town ball for Jasper.

On January 22, 1949 Bob married Betty Jane Lorenz in Luverne, Minnesota. At the time Bob worked at O.K. Cleaners in Pipestone. He also joined the new National Guard Unit in Pipestone. When his unit was called up for deployment to Korea he was made a Sergeant. He received burns in Korea which ended his military service.

Back in Minnesota, Bob used the GI bill to go to barber school. In late 1955 he got a chair in Ed Pflipsen's shop in Northfield and moved his family here. For over 20 years Bob had his own barber shop in Northfield. He retired in 1991.

Bob liked sports, especially baseball and basketball. He loved the Twins and Red Sox and hated the Yankees. He was excellent at pool and could be found every Monday playing Snooker at Tiny's. Bob and Betty loved to spend time at their son's cabin on Little Pine Lake in Perham, Minnesota. They enjoyed playing bridge any chance they got. Bob was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church.

When Bob retired he started to raise pigeons (a youthful interest rekindled). He eventually specialized in Silesian

Swallows. He raised many champions. He traveled all around the country to pigeon shows making friends. In 2009 he received the NPA (National Pigeon Association) Master Breeder Award at the NPA National Convention.

Bob is survived by his wife Betty; daughter Mary (Mike) Kindseth of Dundas; sons Bruce (Susanne) Benson and Robert (Susan) Benson both of Northfield; Grandchildren, Elizabeth Chester, Ann Benson, Laura Lyon, Alexander Benson, Rob Benson, and Matthew Benson; Great Grandchildren, Sydney and Jasmin Chester and Katherine Ohde. He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, and his stepfather Joe Reinart.

Memorials to Northfield Hospice, Northfield United Methodist Church and Northfield Senior Center. Funeral arrangements by the Bierman Funeral Home of Northfield.



Bob Benson, Bill Griebel Sr. and Mike Swanson in Des Moines December 2008. Bob holds his champion swallow.

# Bob Benson Accomplished Breeder of Swallows Pigeons.

By Gloria Weisgram

Bob Benson of Northfield, Minnesota has received the NPA Master Breeder Award at the 2009 NPA National Convention. He joins breeders Lyn Hummel, Bill Griebel, Dave Harris and Perry Mueller as USC master breeders. A NPA Master Breeder recipient must be able to demonstrate the skill and ability to produce pigeons of outstanding quality that continually win top honors at well known American pigeon shows over a period of 10 years or more.

Bob joined the United Swallow Club (USC) in 1992. Before that time, he had raised a variety of different breeds of pigeons, including swallow pigeons. In 1995, at a show in Des Moines, he purchased a pair of blue check Silesian swallows at the club auction. Shortly after that, Bob acquired two check hens from Cal Breadhoff of Grandville, Michigan and went on to create a small stud of check swallows. He quickly began his climb to the top, winning the National Young Bird Show in 1997 & 1998.



Bob Benson & Gloria Weisgram

## Letter for Bob's Master Breeder Award

I count it an honor to write this letter of recommendation for Robert Benson. He is indeed, one of our top Swallow Breeders and, in these few words, I will tell you why.

Bob has been consistently breeding and showing Swallows for over ten years now. To start off his show career, he won the NYB Show in 1978-79 Followed by a Reserve Champion win at the 2000 NPA National in Milwaukee with Hans Schipper judging. The year 2002 was a great year for Bob. He won Champion and Reserve Champion at the NYB show, Best Young at Des Moines, followed by Champion Swallow at the NPA Nationals in Tacoma (with Hans Schipper judging again). Since then, he has had four more wins at Louisville and two more in Des Moines.

Bob is, indeed, one of the finest Swallow Breeders in the country. There is no one in the Swallow Fancy that consistently brings a better show team to the show than Bob. I am sincere in saying this. His birds are always in top condition and of very high quality.

I highly recommend that you consider Bob Benson for the NPA Master Breeder Award.

Sincerely Perry Mueller President, United Swallow Club

In 2000, Bob had the Reserve Champion at the Grand National in Milwaukee and his first E rating. By 2002, he had both the Champion and Reserve at Louisville, the top young bird at Des Moines and the Grand National winner in Tacoma, which received an E rating from Hans Schipper of the Netherlands.

There has been no slow down as Bob added another major win with an E rated check at Des Moines in 2004. He has had the top Louisville young swallow from 2005 - 2007 and Reserve Champion.

This past season. He followed with his latest win at our USC annual meet when judge Bill Griebel selected his silver check OC as the top bird at Des Moines. Bob may very well be one of our clubs most winning and respected breeders. What is so incredible is the short amount of time it took him to achieve this level of success.

Bob has been elected as our USC Central District Director for his fourth term. He is generous in helping young people get started with swallows. Each year, Bob has given birds to our club auction. He willingly sells or gives quality birds to anyone interested in getting started in swallows and is always available to help a fellow club member.



Betty Benson and "Hank"



Bob Benson with Perry Mueller: Des Moines 2008

## **Bob's Swallows**

By Gloria Weisgram

Betty Benson asked me to help her find a new place for Bob's birds. I consulted with Bob's good friend Bill Tietze and Nancy Pinke who used to trim Bob's show birds. We all agreed it would be best to keep the entire loft together, if possible. I came up with the idea of asking Mike & Cathy Swanson if they would like to purchase Bob's loft of birds. Bill and Nancy agreed with me so I contacted Mike and we talked. He was excited about this and thought he would have room to take them all. Also there are other members in his area who have purchased birds from Bob and might be interested too. We were overjoyed and felt that it was sort of meant to be.

Fortunately Bob had separated his pairs and had narrowed down his young birds to 18. I think there were 56 birds total. On the 31st of December everyone met in Northfield to help. Three hours later the lofts were empty, the trailer was loaded with perches, feeders & waterers and other pigeon related material. The birds traveled inside Mike's jeep and were in Colorado 14 hours later. It is still hard to realize Bob is gone and the club will soon feel his absence. He has shown great birds at Louisville and Des Moines for the last 15 years. More than just a good breeder he was a fine person and friend!



The one Swallow that remains with Betty: A painting by Gloria Weisgram







Pictures of Bob Loft taken during the transfer of Bob's birds to their new home with Mike and Kathy Swanson.



Mike Swanson, Bill Tietze, Nancy Pinke, Dave Pinke, Gloria Weisgram behind Mike's trailer loaded with parts of Bob's Swallow Loft.

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# USC Annual Meet at the Pageant of Pigeons, Riverside, Calif., Nov. 2011



The Judge of the show, Hans Schipper, of Holland, listens to comments of Werner Zahn of Germany. Here they look over some fine black fullhead swallows. Photo by Tom Moss

Silesian Swallows		,				Cover Folia Cuelle	(Oamtimal)			
	Calan	Cour/A ma	Dand Na	Datina	Consist	Saxon Fairy Swallo		/	Daniel Ma	D-4: 0
Exhibitor	Color		Band No.	Rating	Speciai	Exhibitor	Color Se		Band No.	Rating Special
Steve Ball	Black Barless	OH	725	94-S		Leon Stephens	Blue White bar	OC	1332	94-S
Steve Ball	Black Barless	OH	156	94-S		Leon Stephens	Blue White bar	OH	258	94-S
Steve Ball	Black Barless	ОН	211	94-S		Leon Stephens	Blue White bar	OH	1778	95-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		737	95-S		George DeLa Nuez		OC	436	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar	r YH	732	93-S		George DeLa Nuez	Blue White bar	OC	1437	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar	r YC	736	94-S		Leon Stephens	Red Spangle	OC	1597	96-HS
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		738	94-S		Leon Stephens	Silver Barless	ŎČ	359	97-E
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		1598	93-S		Leon Stephens	Yellow Spangle	OH	799	95-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		504	93-S		Leon Stephens	Yellow Spangle	OC	482	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		1859	94-S						
						Leon Stephens	Yellow White bar	OC	1807	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		1032	93-S		Jim Cain	Red Spangle	YC	328	90-1
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	ΥH	780	93-S		Jim Cain	Black White bar	OC	381	90-I
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	OH	1012	94-S		Jim Cain	Red White bar	OH	309	92-G
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	YC	779	93-S		Jim Cain	Black White bar	OH	408	90-l
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Ba	r OC	629	97-E		Fullhead Swallows	;			
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	OH	526	95-S		Bill Griebel Sr.	Black Barless	ОН	314	96-HS Best
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	ŎН	580	95-S		Bill Griebel Sr.	Black Barless	OH	424	95-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	OC	399	92-G		Bill Griebel Sr.	Black Barless	OC	1561	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Blue Black Bar	OC	628	96-HS		Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar	OC	1025	93-S
Leon Stephens	Blue Check	YC	178	95-S		Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar	OC	1661	93-3 92-G
		ОH	1759		Ohamaian					
Leon Stephens	Blue Check				Champion	Leon Stephens	Blue Spangle	OH	1308	92-G
Leon Stephens	Blue Check	OH	160	94-S		Leon Stephens	Blue Spangle	OC	1799	95-S
Leon Stephens	Blue Check	YC	1800	94-S		Leon Stephens	Blue White bar	YC	1908	93-S
Leon Stephens	Red White Bar	ОН	1485	97-E		Leon Stephens	Blue White bar	YC	1917	93-S
Saxon Fairy Swall						Thuringer Wing Pig	geons			
Steve Ball	Black Barless	OH	1204	94-S		Jay Beals	Black Barless	YC	405	95-S
Steve Ball	Black Barless	OH	570	95-S		Jay Beals	Black Barless	YC	409	94-S
Steve Ball	Black Barless	OH	230	96-HS		Jay Beals	Black Barless	OH	303	97-E Best
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		860	95-S		Jay Beals	Black Barless	OC	309	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		716	97-E	Best Young	Jay Beals	Black Barless	OC	302	93-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba		1541	93-S	Dest roung	Jay Beals	Black Barless	OC	248	93-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba	-	1181	94-S				OC	2396	94-S
						Dave Holloway	Blue Spangle			
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White ba	-	1553	95-S		Dave Holloway	Cream Yellow bar		551	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		1033	96-HS		Dave Holloway	Cream Yellow Ck	YC	3118	94-S
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		954	94-S		Tony Brancato	Red Barless	YC	9	90-I
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		1860	94-S		Tony Brancato	Red Barless	OC	2415	92-G
Bill Griebel Sr.	Black White bar		1000	95-S		Dave Holloway	Red White bar	YC	3167	94-S
Leon Stephens	Black White bar	OH	928	94-S		Dave Holloway	Silver barless	YΗ	3139	92-G
Leon Stephens	Black White bar	OH	1437	92-G		Dave Holloway	Silver Spangle	YΗ	3155	95-S
Leon Stephens	Black White bar	-	1409	94-S		Dave Holloway	Silver Spangle	ΥH	3115	96-HS
Leon Stephens	Blue Black bar	ŎĤ	177	92-G		Perry Mueller	Black White bar	Ϋ́Η	786	95-S
Leon Stephens	Blue Black bar	OC	176	93-S		Ali Siddiqui	Blue Black bar	ÖC	991	93-S
Leon Stephens	Blue Black bar	OC	1499	94-S		Thuringer Swallow		00	991	30-O
	Blue Barless	OC OC	478	94-3 92-G				YC	2770	94-S
Leon Stephens	Dide Dalless	UU	4/0	92-U		Tony Brancato	Blue Barless		2779	
						Tony Brancato	Blue Barless	YΗ	944	95-S <b>Best</b>



Left to right top row: Dave Holloway, Cor Van der Post, Paul Van der Post, Hermann Baertschi, Bill Griebel, Owen Kalland, George De La Nuez, Leon Stephens, Frank Bailey, Mike Lerp, Jesse Espinosa, Nate Wayne, Steve St Claire, Larry Brown. Bottom Row: Gary Romig, Perry Mueller, Jay Beals, Werner Zahn, Hans Schipper, Steve Ball. Photo by Tom Moss



Champion Swallow E-97-Blue Check Silesian, Leon Stephens. Photo By Tom Moss



Best Young Swallow and Best Fairy Swallow rated E-97 By Bill Griebel Sr. Photo by Tom Moss



Bill Griebel, Best Blue Black Bar Silesian rated E-97 Photo By Tom Moss



Leon Stephens, Red White Bar Silesian Swallow rated E-97. Photo By Gary Romig



Leon Stephens, Silver Barless Fariy Swallow rated E-97. Photo By Tom Moss



Jesse Espinosa and Leon Stephens. Photo by Tom Moss



HS-96 Black Barless Fairy By Steve Ball. Photo By Gary Romig



Jay Beals wins best Thuringer Swallow with an E-97 rated-black. And, here receives his award. Photo By Tom Moss



Hans, Leon and Dave Holloway during Judging. Photo By Tom Moss



Hans explains a bird to Jesse Espinosa, Frank Bailey, Bill Griebel and Leon Stephens. Photo By Tom Moss



Hans Schipper, Judge, receives awards from Leon Stephens: Bob Nolan's LAPC history book and a custom LAPC banner by Gary Romig. Photo By Tom Moss



The European Delegation with Leon Stephens on the left: Cor Van der Post, Paul Van der Post, Werner Zahn, Hans Schipper. Photo by Tom Moss



Leon Stephens and Bill Griebel on the right announce the presentation of awards with a nice view of the show hall. Photo by Tom Moss



Leon Stephens presents the award for best Saxon Priest to Tom Moss. Photo by Tom Moss



Steve ball receives the award for best Saxon Shield. Photo By Tom Moss

# United Swallow Club Central District Meet at Des Moines Dec. 9-10, 2011 Judge: Perry Mueller



Kaylee Skistimas, A junior fancier, wins Champion Swallow with this Blue Black Bar Silesian OC rated 96-Highly Superior

### **Silesian Swallows**

Exhibitor	Color	Sex/Age	Band No.	Rating Special						
Kaylee Skistimas	Silver Check	OH	1712	95-S						
Kaylee Skistimas	Silver Check	OH	1513	95-S						
Kaylee Skistimas	Blue Black Bar	OC	1707	94-S						
Kaylee Skistimas	Silver Check	OC	1716	95-S						
Kaylee Skistimas.	Blue Black Bar	OC	386	96-HS Champion						
Mark Eldridge	Blue	YC	301	93-S						
Mark Eldridge	Blue	YC	302	91-G						
Mark Eldridge	Blue	YC	304	91-G						
Mark Eldridge	Blue	YC	305	94-S						
	Saxo	n Fairy	Swallov	<b>/</b> S						
Nate Wayne	Yellow White ba	ar OH	25	92-G						
Nate Wayne	Yellow White ba	ar OH	232	95-S						
Nate Wayne	Yellow White ba	ar OH	109	94-S						
Nate Wayne	Yellow White ba	ar OH	103	96-HS Res. Champ						
Nate Wayne	Yellow White ba	ar OC	107	94-S						
Nate Wayne	Red White bar	OC	207	95-S						
	Saxon	Fullhea	ad Swalle	ows						
Nate Wayne	Black Barless	OH	134	94-S						
Nate Wayne	Black Barless	ΥH	1460	94-S Best Fullhead						
Thuringer Spot Swallows										
Gerald Kress	Yellow White ba	ar YH	200	92-G						
Gerald Kress	Yellow	YC	227	94-S						
Gerald Kress	Red	OH	208	93-S						
Gerald Kress	Red	OC	234	95-S Best Th Spot						
Gerald Kress	Red Spangle	OC	173	93-S						
Thuringer Swallows										
Elliot Yeske	Black White bar	r YH	98	91-G						
Elliot Yeske	Black Barless	ΥH	90	94-S						
Elliot Yeske	Blue Barless	OC	11	95-S						
Elliot Yeske	Blue Black bar	YC	96	96-HS Best Th Swallov						
Elliot Yeske	Blue Black bar	OC	42	94-S						
Elliot Yeske	Blue Check	ΥH	72	94-S						



Nate Wayne: Yellow White Bar Fairy OH was Reserve Champion Swallow, Rated 96-Highly Superior



Elliot Yeske: Blue Black Bar YC, Best Thuringer Swallow and Best Young Swallow, Rated 96-Highly Superior

## United Swallow Club Meet at the NYBS in Louisville KY. Oct. 2011 Judge: Perry Mueller



Out of 13 Swallows, Dave Averbeck's, Black White Bar Silesian No. 593 was Champion Swallow, Rated 96-Highly Superior



Reserve Champion: Yellow White Bar Thuringer Spot Swallow No. 200 by Gerald Kress Rated 96-HS



Perry Mueller present Award for Reserve Champion Swallow to Gerald Kress at the 2011 NYBS.



Best Fairy Swallow: Black White Bar No. 595 by Dave Averbeck Rated 96-HS



Dave Averbeck, USC's new Central District Director Behind is, Robert Jakubowski.



## A message from Vice President

Frank Bailey

I was approached by a new member of our USC, that makes his home in North Dakota, his name is David Wolfer. He has good friend that is in need of some work in order to keep him busy. The man does custom leather work and what you are seeing here was his first attempt of doing "pigeons" in his leather work. Per my request, he provided me with a couple of samples of the kind of work he is capable of doing for us. (his work is unique, priced right and his quality of the image will improve with more practice)

- •The all leather custom made, hand sewed check book with your choice of show bird on the cover is offered to anyone interested for the price of \$40.00. This includes the check book, the packaging and the shipping cost to you.
- •If you desire the same in a all leather hand sewed wallet the price is \$40.00
- •The all leather custom made belt with our clubs name in the middle with two birds of your choice (one on each end) is offered at the price of \$40.00. This includes the belt with (no buckle) the packaging and the shipping cost to you.

You will need to choose the bird and color you wish him to use and the size of belt that you are looking for. Custom orders can be taken by contacting:

David Wolfer,6733 Apple Creek Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504-3112 • davewolfer@gmail.com



Hans Schipper and Leon Stephens with Leon's Champion Swallow at the 2011 USC Annual Meet.



A Photo of John Navant and Frank Walsh at the San Diego National Jan. 2011. They shared some of the Swallow judging duties. Photo by Dave Holloway



Cor Van der Post and Frank Bailey admire Swallows at the USC Annual Meet Nov. 2011. Photo Gary Romig

### USC FINANCIAL REPORT Dec. 10, 2010- Dec. 31, 2011

Beginning Balance: Income:	2299.89 2293.50 4593.39
Expenses:	
Checking fee for 1/11/11-12/9/11	36.00
Dave Averbeck (change made at show)	3.50
USPS (to mail bands and patches)	33.63
NPA (Bands and club dues)	1280.00
Richard Albrecht ( refund for bands and post.)	20.00
Joe Pool (refund for bands and post.)	13.50
Bert Ericksen (refund for bands and post.)	8.75
Jesse Espinosa ( Refund for bands and post.)	30.00
Kaylee Skitimas (refund for bands and post.)	11.75
NYBS (show Ad )	50.00
Gary Romig (Awards for CA., Louisville & Des Moine	es) 230.00
Nate Wayne (Annual Judge cost for Hans Schipper)	<u>500.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2217.13</u>

2376.26

**Ending checking balance:**