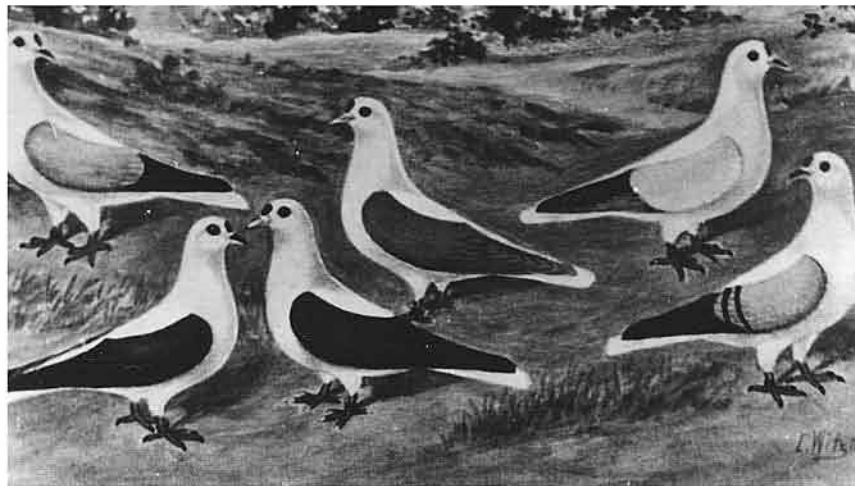


# United Swallow Club



A Group of Thüringer Fairy Swallows

\*Photo from Gunter Preusse

"To Advance and Encourage the Scientific Culture of Swallow Pigeons"

United Swallow Club Bulletin  
Winter 1973-74

This issue of the bulletin will be some what sparse as I wanted to get it out while I have a few days off from work around the Christmas and New Year Holidays. It seems that I never find time on week ends to get down to serious work on the bulletin. Just too many distractions so the extra time will be put to good use.

Some of the District shows are over but I do not have complete show reports as of yet. I will wait until the spring issue to print the results. Then the Central District show, held with the National Pigeon Ass'n in January, will be over and the show reports will be complete for the season.

As far as Club news, or the Secretary's report that too will be brief. It appears that these mid-winter months are the doldrums for club activity, with the show season over and not much going on in the lofts. I know my enthusiasm has dropped to all most nil.

We have had many renewal membership and a number of new Swallow fanciers joining the United Swallow Club. Our paid up members now number 35 members, with 6 members in arrears. These 6 members will be sent this issue of the bulletin and if I do not receive their dues, their names will be dropped from the roster. So check your cards or the membership list in the last bulletin and see if you are behind in your dues. The \$3.00 dues won't break you I'm sure and it don't even cover the cost of four issues of the bulletin sent per year. So you see, the price of a years membership in the U.S.C. is biggest bargain of our time. You actually get something worthwhile for next to nothing.

Our treasury is in pretty good shape. There are some rebate monies that is to come in from some of the district yet, so we will be well off for the next year. I dispersed \$80.00 to the four districts shows for awards. I hope that the amounts were adequate. In reality, I sort of came up with the figure of \$20.00 per district on my own. We have no guidelines to go by in setting up awards for the shows. I think it is important that we do. If any of you members have any ideas on this let our president Bill Greibel or I know. In the past we have let each District director take care of what the money was spent for. I suppose it has worked out OK as I had not heard anything to the contrary. It's your club fellows, Let's hear wether you want the money spent for trophies or cash specials or what ever, also, how much should be spent on each district show.

We have some real fine articles from the members this issue. My deep appreciation to you all. The bulletin would be pretty small without them.

The club is indebted to Gunter Pruesse and Bill Greibel for the cover of this bulletin. Gunter supplied the photos and Bill printed the cover page. It is by far the most attractive bulletin yet. We are also indebted to Mr. Frank Hallman and Dr. Lynn Hummel for their kind permission to use the article reprinted from the American Pigeon Journal of the 1950s.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Thuringer Clean Leg Swallow

Since our cover picture is of the rather rare Thuringer Flugeltanber or Wing pigeon, (better known as Clean leg Swallow), I thought I would write about a bit of my limited experience with them. I used the word rare in describing their numbers here in America only. They are quite numerous in Europe, often outnumbering the Muff varieties of Swallows at the shows. I believe it was at the Liepsig International Show a few years back there were 192 Clean legs and only around 60 Saxon Swallows. Why they have never been more popular in America is hard to understand although there are a few breeders of them around. Interest seems to be picking up of late.

My experience with the Thuringer Swallow started about 1969 when I purchased three pairs of blue checks from Alex Lacy, then president of the United Swallow Club. All six of these birds were very well marked, but their color ranged from a good light blue checking to almost spread-black. All had a common fault of excessive bronzing to the flights and some bronzing in the checking. At the time all seen healthy and went right to breeding for me.

I raised six youngsters out of two of the pairs but the other pair refused to lay. Of these six youngsters all but one had more of the rust in the wings than the parents. Not wanting to compound this serious fault by breeding it back into a stud of blue color pigeons, I sold the five birds to a little animal zoo near by to be put on display to show the public something unusual in pigeons. This, I came to realize of late was a mistake and set the breeding of clean-leg Swallows back a few years, as I never raised another clean leg out of those two breeding pairs. All of the birds sold to the zoo died in a short time later also.

All eggs from the two pairs for the rest of the season were fertile but the youngsters were so inbred and weak that they would die within a few weeks of hatching. They were susceptible to any and all sicknesses that plagues a loft from time to time and any youngster that would reach the floor, almost had to be fed by hand, as they didn't seem to have the intelligence to eat or drink by themselves.

In 1971, I disposed of the poorest birds and kept one good pair with the intention of using foster parents to raise the young. I got two fertile eggs in the nest early in the spring and both hatched. For some reason these birds took off like a shot, both being well fed and looked after by the old pair of Swallows. I was really happy when one of the young turned out to be a beautiful light blue barred bird. They were just about ready to leave the nest when I noticed neither bird appeared spry and had not been fed. On examination I discovered both had matted feathers around the vent and had some form of diarrhea. I tried treating them with Sulfa drugs but to no avail. These birds had such low vitality that they could not fight off any form of sickness and both died in a matter of a few hours.

Each summer I am very honored to have Dr. Lynn Hunnel visit me. These visits are full of "Swallow talk" naturally, and I brought up the subject of the weakness in these clean leg Swallows. To him this was unusual as he had been in Europe many times and visited many Swallow lofts. The clean leg variety in Europe were known to be vigorous and seem to lack any signs of the weakness that I had encountered with them.

Dr. Hummel remembered importing two pairs of the blue check clean legs in the late 1950s from Europe. He could not remember of anyone else importing this color and marking so it appears that I have the tail end of that stud of birds, that has been mated brother and sister and inbred to such a degree that they will no longer breed. I can think of no other reason since all pigeons, when given reasonable amount of care will reproduce with no such problems at all.

This last winter, the old cock bird died. Rather than mate the old hen on a ruffed bird I mated her to the most vigorous, healthy and robust pigeon I could find, a common. This was Dr. Hummel's suggestion and it seemed reasonable to me. Not many breeds of pigeons exist today, that have not been inbred to some degree of weakness so a "commie" was a good choice.

This pair was put in an individual breeding pen mainly because the commie cock was into every pair of birds in the loft. I had more half Swallows squabs to eat this last spring than I cared to clean. This proved the vigor of the old boy anyway.

This additional vigor proved a detriment however, as this cock would fight the hen to get on the nest and at least three round of eggs were broken. I did raise one youngster from the pair, which turned out to be a hen. She is a beautiful blue check, almost a self like her father. There is absolutely no presence of rust either in the flights or checkering and naturally has all the vigor that you could ask for in a pigeon. But, what am I going to do with another hen? I plan to mate her onto an extra blue barless Silesian cock and this should give me the Swallow markings back to some extent, a cock from this mating will go back onto the old clean leg hen and this will give youngsters with only one-eight common. This could be close enough to work with until something better comes along, possibly new imports ect.

I think such a project is worth while in my mind. These "Flugellauben" are really beautiful pigeons. Originally they were bred in the Thuringian alps and since they lacked the heavy foot feathering of the Saxon variety, they could fend for themselves. What a beautiful sight that must of been, to see large flocks of these colorful pigeons winging their way across open valleys and fields while searching for food.

They are bred in all the standard colors including the ash red series. They come both crested and smooth headed. Also one variety has the fullhead marking. Dr. Hummel had a pair of black barless fullhead marked clean legs at one time and they were really eye-catching. The color of these birds was outstanding. The Fullhead variety is known as the Thuringer Swallow while the spot or Fairies are the Thuringer Wing-pigeon. However we in America refer to both as clean leg Swallows.

I've included the 1954 German standard of the Thuringer-Wing pigeon. It was translated by H.P. Macklin and although it is not the latest standard, Mr. Macklin states there is practically no difference in the two standards.

It is possible, that if and when this variety of Swallow becomes more popular in America, we as the leading Swallow club might want to change the standard to our liking. But, until then I'm sure this old German standard will suffice.

This 1974 breeding season should be an interesting one as far as what will turn up in my out crossing. Feedcost and space doesn't allow me to pursue this project as vigorously as I want but, sometimes great surprises turn up in just a small stud of pigeons. All this bears in mind the article in the last bulletin by Dan Rodes concerning interest in the lesser known colors, markings and varieties of our "Quaint and Beautiful" Swallows. For those of us who can't import these rarer specimens of Swallows or lack funds to purchase them, I find these outcrossing projects to be most satisfying of all pigeon breeding activities. To come up with something rare and in large numbers, such as these clear leg Swallows would make me very proud, indeed. Better still, I can say I started from scratch and did it my way.

#### GERMAN STANDARD 1954

##### Thuringer Wing Pigeon.

**Origin:** Originally in a circle of the Sonneberg, many were domiciled, from which 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.

**Race Characteristics:** Head: Longish and narrow, medium high forehead, smooth headed, seldom crested.

Eyes: Dark, with narrow, smooth red cere.

Beak: Medium long, thin, the upper beak slightly rounded at tip. The black, blue, and blue checks overbeak black; silver and larked colored the tip of the upperbeak light horn colored, the wattle is light. Underbeak always a light wax color, as in general the reds and yellows and other light colored kinds, the whole beak is wax colored.

Neck: In relation to the muffed Wing pigeon long, from the head thin and nicely curved. Throat nicely rounded.

Breast: Somewhat wide, largely rounded.

Back: Long, slightly tapering downward.

Tail: Relatively long and narrow.

Legs: Somewhat short, clean legged.

Feathering: Long, not too soft and laying tightly.

**Color Kinds:** Black, red, yellow, blue, silver barred or barless, larked and checks, Further, as varieties; black, red and yellow white checkered, just as red, blue, and black with white bars, yellow-fawn and yellow checkered.

**Color & Design:** Color pure and intensive. Only the wings and the spot are colored, all else is white. The white heart on back between wings should be large as possible in order to make the colored wings look narrow and long. Blue and silver colored and such light colors must show darker flight feathers. The spot color must be thick at the wattle base but must not touch the beak corners or the eyes; it is pear shaped or similarly wide.

**Bad Faults:** Dark underbeaks. Light beak point in the darker colored birds; and dark beak points in the lighter colored birds. Grey flecked or dark ceres. Traces of Bars in the barless variety. Faded flights, colored feathers in white parts. Faded color, white undertail.

COLORED



### A Beautiful Red Silesian Fairy Swallow

"The best Swallow I have ever bred," writes Dr. N. T. Hannaford Schafer of Australia, owner of the bird "Defeated my Black White Bars, which is most unusual occurrence for a Red" concludes Dr. Schafer. -- Photo from L.E. Hummel, Missouri

## The Swallow Family

By L.E. Hummel, President: American Swallow Club

### The Spangled Fairy Swallow

Loveliness at its best is found in the Spangled Fairy Swallows. The term "fairy" completely fits these beautiful birds since in no place except fairyland could one expect to find such enchanting specimens of doveland.

The Blue Spangled Fairy is a bird that seems to come direct from the court of King Oberon and Queen Titana. The colored sky blue wing has each blue feather marked with a white dart which is outlined in black. The two white bars have a scalloped edging of black and the flights are a deep blue black. The muffs should be a sky blue ending in a deep blue black and the upper mandible is black while the lower is white. A dark blue spot about the size of a finger nail appears above the upper mandible, and the crested fairies have a crown of white feathers on their head.

The Black Spangle is another beautiful bird with each black feather ending in a white dart. This color has a white dot at the end of each flight feather. The muffs in all spangles are a solid

### Note by Editor

We are pleased to present this series of articles on "The Swallow Family" written by L. E. Hummel, President of the American Swallow Club, and a well-known authority on Swallows.

The third installment in this issue discusses the Spangled Fairy Swallow, with other installments to follow on the Tiger Swallow and the various other varieties of Swallows. — Frank H. Hollmann, Editor.

color and should not show lacing, although this does not disqualify a bird in the show room, or make it unfit for breeding.

The Red Spangle is another rare and lovely bird. It is very difficult to find and almost impossible to find in good color. It is a thing of ravishing beauty, however, when it is found in good quality.

There is a reason why the Spangled

Swallow in spite of its extreme beauty is not to be found in large numbers. All Swallows are good breeders and parents, but in spite of this it is hard to produce a good bird. There are many points to breed for in the Swallow, and it is almost impossible to get all of these in one bird.

To produce the best Spangles one must mate a Spangle to a White Bar. I always try to use a White Bar with a clear white narrow bar and with a good color. The reason for this is that the white tends to be dominant in the spangle markings and unless they are crossed on white bars their color tends to fade out and we get laced birds with laced muffs. These are often lovely birds and birds worthy to be bred, but a laced bird and a Spangled bird are two different things, although bred from the same type of birds. (Spangles bred to Spangles over several generations tend to produce laced birds.)

In the Spangled birds what is wanted is a colored wing feather with a white dart. What one usually gets is a muddy white wing feather with a colored dart in all colors except blue. I do not know now to get this colored feather with white dart except by breeding to White Bars, and even when one generally gets the reverse of what he wishes. Constant breeding from birds that show only a little spangle should turn the trick, however, and is doing so in my own loft. I have my fingers crossed.

Since the best Spangles are produced from Spangle White Bar crosses the offspring of these crosses will be half white bar, and half spangle. These White Bars are not safe to use to breed White Bars from because they tend to throw a third bar on the White Bars. They may, however, be safely bred to Spangles. Of the half of the offspring that will be Spangles few will be good in all respects which means that if one gets one good Spangle a year out of several pair he will be doing well. This year I produced three good Spangles: one Blue, one Red, and one Black. I thought that I produced a bumper crop.

Spangles came in all colors, but the light colors are not much in favor because they do not show up well against the white markings. The laced birds are beautiful, and when I have conquered the spangle problem to my satisfaction I am going to turn my attention to laces.

### Trend of the Times

By R. J. KIERNAN

Having had pigeons as my hobby for over forty years and being particularly interested in pigeon shows, it is with considerable interest that I reviewed the Marked Catalog of the recent Los Angeles Pigeon Club Championship Show held last December in Glendale, California.

Horace Greely said "Go West Young Man", and it seems the younger and more ambitious of the pigeon fraternity have taken this advice. Coming out of the West in recent years we have seen some of the country's finest shows. Time was when Boston, New York, Chicago held these fine pigeon shows, but today Los Angeles seems to be the mecca for the inveterate fancier, for not only can he see large numbers of pi-

The following is an article written by one of our new members, Bob Austin of Miami, Fla. Bob is breeding Blue white bar and Black barless fullhead Swallows. He is one of the most enthused fanciers that I've come across in a long time and I'm sure he will do much to promote Swallows down Florida way. While reading this fine article just picture in your mind, what a beautiful way to breed Swallows. Many thanks Bob for this fine piece of writing. Be sure to let us know your experiences with your Swallows some time in the near future.

As a new member of United Swallow Club I asked Calif there was any contribution I could make to the club. He suggested that he was in need of articles for the bulletin. In our correspondence Cal had learned that my housing for pigeons was somewhat different from the average loft, and suggested that I might write about this.

I must say at the outset that the hot sunny climate is the main reason in housing birds the way I do. For twenty three years I lived in the cold and snow and I don't miss it at all. I keep both pigeons and foreign doves and having beautiful weather and tropical surroundings year round, I used these factors in the design of my housing. I have three cages the largest being 36' long 8' high & 8' wide. I also use my screened in patio for doves. It is planted with trees and bushes in the corners. The birds spend most of their time and nest in the planted areas so there is no clean up problem. They get their water from a waterfall fountain that flows into a small fish pond and I use a large wild bird feeder for food which only has to be filled about every two weeks. My idea was to eliminate as much maintenance as possible and give the birds a natural surrounding. The birds also seem to enjoy this.

My housing for the Swallows and other pigeons and doves are all built onto the house. I use the wall of the house for one side of the cage. This has many advantages. One is that it saves on building materials which aren't cheap anymore. I'm also able to incorporate the bushes and grass along the house and give the birds a feeling of being outside while being caged. To me a Swallow laying in the grass sunning himself is a most beautiful sight. I'm also able to watch the birds and feed them without walking out of the house. I just open the window and fill the feeder which is mounted directly under the window. I can sit in air conditioned comfort and watch the birds. It is most enjoyable to be able to hear the birds cooing from inside the house and be able to observe the coop. I use large tree branches for perches and find the Swallows adapt to them quite well. They are large enough to give good footing and the nuffs stay clean and don't get broken. I use  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mesh wire on front sides and part of the top. This allows the birds to get both sun and rain and keeps the bushes and grass in good shape. The birds seem to enjoy the rain even though they bathe and will put their wings up in the air and lay on their sides to let the rain get to their underwing area. All cages have concrete foundations which prevents anything from getting in. Snakes are my biggest problem and I lost a number of canaries on my patio before I found out where they were going. I also had a friend tell me that he had snakes get in and kill squabs even though they were too big for the snake to eat. The  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch screen concrete foundation and caulking the tiniest cracks have eliminated all such problems. I built small concrete pools and fountains in all cages and these provide clean water and saves on cleaning and filling a water dish every day. They are also quite decorative and the sound of running water is very pleasant. The only real maintenance I have is a weekly raking to remove feathers and droppings which haven't been absorbed into the ground. Another thing I do is to paint the screen with flat black paint which almost makes the

wire disappear. Standing eight feet back from the cage it looks like there is no wire.

I also breed canaries and Button quail. For one that has never seen Button quail, they are about as big as a tennis ball and very peaceful. Both Canaries and Button quail share the cages with the Pigeons and get along even though the vast difference in size. The button quail live on the ground and keep the floor free of insects. To see a Swallow and a canary sitting on the same perch is quite a sight. The canaries breed in the same cage and make their nests in the bushes like a wild bird. People who come over are always amazed to see a canary in the same cage with pigeons. The Canaries stay out all year and even at forty degrees which is about as cold as it ever gets here survive just fine. They of course have to be put out in the summer to acclamate

I would also like to pass on a tip that I received from Cal. I was attempting to hatch pigeon eggs in a incubator and raise them to maturity. They would hatch fine, live about three days and die. I was feeding baby pablum mixed with water and the babies seemed to dehydrate on this. Cal suggested that I use Soybean baby formula and this did the trick. From hatching to six or seven days I use only the baby formula, then a combination formula and pablum to two weeks and then a combination of this and pigeon pellets moistened till it eats on his own. There might be something better but this works for me. You never know, that deserted egg or baby might just be that perfect bird! The incubator temperature I used was 102. I hatched six out of eight eggs at this temp. Once I had one egg in and had the incubator get out of whack (my fault) and go to 110 overnight. I figured it had cooked for sure but got the temp back to 102 and the darn thing hatched. The Button quail eggs that were in at the same time and were good were killed. I don't know what the incubation temp of a pigeon is but 102 works. I've also hatched a canary egg at this temperature. I also turn the eggs once or twice a day.

To keep the baby warm after hatching I put him in a bowl with paper toweling for nesting material. I use a goose neck lamp with a 25 watt red bulb about 6 to 8 inches away from the bird. After a week I transfer them to a box with the light over it and if they get too hot they can move by themselves in and out of the heat of the lamp as they want. Everyone has told me I can't raise a pigeon from hatching without pigeon milk and this is not true. You also end up with a very tame pigeon and its not all that much work,

If any of you are in the Miami area YOU ALL stop by.

Bob Austin

The following, artical is letter from Mrs. Marie Gray, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. I found it so interesting I would like to print it in this bulletin.

Dear Cal,

Thank you very much for enclosing the back issues. I find them very enjoyable and I am interested in hearing how other people are doing

Two weeks ago I plucked the ruffs of my swallows that will be going into our Edmonton show Nov. 17 & 18. Ed Beineking is flying in to judge the fancy pigeon. Ed is from Superior, Montana. Art Poile from Calgary, Alberta is judging the racing homers. We Exprct to get around 800 birds in the show. I am secretary for the Edmonton Fancy Pigeon Assoc. so have quite a bit of work coming. Last week I got all the entries out.

My husband Jerry and myself have the following breeds, Pensoni



Page 7

Rollers, White and blue fantails, frillbacks, Oriental Frills (Blonds), Racing homers, Modenas and Saxon Fairy Swallows. My breeds are the Swallows and Modenas.

In the swallows I have the Blue, Blk, silver white bar spot swallows. I also have blue spangleds and a pair of red spangleds. I am going out of the reds spangled so Gunter is buying the German (red spangled) cocks and the hen is out on loan to a friend in Sask,

We mate up all our fancies in Dec. after the shows and breed them up till June. We have a forced air furnace in our loft so we have it warm when we mate up about 70 degrees. The floor we have sand with deactivated lime to keep it dry. This makes cleaning the floor easy as we just have to use a rake. In June is the racing pigeon season so we devote most of our time with them. Having the heated loft means a person has something happening year round with the birds.

I keep six pairs of swallow for breeding. I raised a good number of young ones but unfortunately they were all hens. I guess the ones I culled out because of their poor quality will have been cocks. There was the odd young hen that was fairly good so I kept them and killed the rest. I am hoping for a better year next year as I am keeping main stock not show birds.

My main problem in the blacks is they are getting a perfect spot but too narrow a bar or vice versa. Hoping that combining the two this year I will get some good show birds.

Will cbse for now and I hope you have a good year coming up.

Yours in the Fancy  
Marie Gray

\* \* \* \* \*

The next issue of the U.S.C. Bulletin will be combined with the Saxon Color Pigeon Club. Lynn Hummel will start on it right away so any member that would like to write a little bit for the bulletin should get their material to me as soon as possible. I will assemble the bulletin as usual and send it to Lynn to be combined with the material on the Saxon Color Pigeons. He will print it up and mail it out at the S.C.P.C. expense as we had done with the last combined issue. This of course, makes a large, very interesting package of reading material of interest to us all, as most of us breed other Saxon Color Pigeons as well as our Swallows.

There will be the reports of the Swallow shows in that issue, provided that the show results are in on time. District directors take note.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all the members of the United Swallow Club, a very happy and prosperous 1974. May you all breed many Champion Swallows in this coming season.

Cal Breadhoff  
Sec-Treasurer  
United Swallow Club