



Presidents Message

Gloria Weisgram

Our USC Annual Meet is fast approaching. Mike Swanson will be driving in from Ft. Lupton to do the honors and I hope we can provide him with some nice swallows to judge. Awards for the show are as follows: Champion and Reserve swallow, Best Silesian, Best Fullhead, Best Fairy, Best Thuringer spot and Fullhead, and Best Young Bird. If there are entries by a junior there will be a Best Junior Bird.

Pairs of auction birds have already been donated by Bob Benson, Nate Wayne and Perry Mueller. If you would like to donate contact Bob Benson or myself. Please be aware that the Des Moines Show is being held a week later than in past years and in a different location. This years show date is December 12 and 13. I hope to see you all there. Please try and attend if you can.

Results of the voting for officers and standard are complete and I want to congratulate Bill Jr. and his crew for the acceptance of the new Thuringer standard that they put together. I had only one member who felt there were some issues that could have been addressed a little better. I think the response to the new standard is very good. We now have a great tool to use as we breed our Thuringers. We can expect continued improvements with these birds.

We have some new additions to our officer line up for 2004. I think they are positive changes that will take us forward and help build our membership base. Merle Starr will lead this new team. He was chosen as president and is eager to be involved. I think he will do a nice job and he did a wonderful job as Eastern Director. Congratulations Merle! Perry Mueller is the new vice president and it is nice to have him back on board as an officer. Perry was the Central District Director for many years and he is a very active member. Elliot Yeske was elected to remain the secretary and he has done a wonderful job keeping track of money and band orders. By the way, don't forget to renew your membership and order your bands in Des Moines. John Taupert remains the director of the Canadian district, Dave Holloway is the new Director for the west, Bob Benson remains the Central District Director, and we had a volunteer for the position in the east. Alan Smith, who runs the Rochester Show was a write in and received votes. Congratulations to our new group! I know the club is in good hands.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the officers and members I worked with the past two years. Dick Baker, our publicity director did so much for our club in the way of articles and support. Thank you Dick for all your time and help. Elliot is

just the best secretary a club can hope to have. His books are always in order and messages accompanied all of his statements for the bulletins. I would like to thank directors Bob, John, Leon, and Merle for all of their help in their respective districts. Your articles, correspondence and calls helped our club run smoother. Usually Vice presidents are not too active but Bill Jr. took charge of putting together our new standard. Thank you Bill. Tim Starr volunteered to be our election commissioner and tabulated all of our voting. Your help was appreciated Tim. Mike Swanson was elected by his peers to head up the judging program and he has a good start to getting this back on track. Thank you Mike! A special thank you to Gary Romig, our club artist and bulletin editor. I feel we really have something special every time I receive a bulletin. I know how much work goes into this process and I want you to know Gary, that I appreciate it very much!

Have a good Holiday and Best of Luck to you, your families and your birds in 2004!

Secretaries Message

Elliot Yeske

Hello all enclosed is a membership list please look at your due dates and mail your renewals to me soon. Some members have let their memberships lapse by several months this will be their last newsletter. Be sure to check your date. Show season is here and we should have a real nice show in Des Moines this year. It will be nice to see Mike Swanson judge again. There should be some types of birds there that he has not judged before.

I want to thank Gloria Weisgram our out going president for all she did for the club. She made my job easier and was always there to help me with any trouble I ran into.

The new club bands should be coming soon as I mailed our last payment to the NPA today. Bands are still 25 cents each and \$3.00 for postage and the mailer. Clean leg breeders please try and buy all of your bands from the USC this year as we had to order 1,000 bands this year and if the club can't sell most or all of them we may not be able to offer clean leg bands anymore. Club dues are still \$10. I know I will see alot of you at Des Moines and many members renew at the show and also order their bands. Muffed bands again this year we have 2,000 and they sell out fast so get your orders in soon to me.

I hope to see many of you at Des Monies and good luck to all at the shows you attend.

Eastern Districts Shows

Merle Starr

The United Swallow Club had its first show in the Rochester N.Y area. As some of the older swallow members know that Rochester was one of the top swallow breeding areas of the states back in the early 1900,s thru the early 1960,s This is also where M. Frank Cook lived when he painted his famous swallow paintings along with many other pigeon breeds.

I want to congratulate Dick Baker and Alan Smith of the Rochester Pigeon club for all their efforts to make their first show the success that it was . Sixty swallows entered and I



Champion at the Rochester Show: Silver Barless Silesian OH owned by Bob Fragoman.

for writing all the comments I gave for each individual. All cards were completely filled on the back side with all the good points as well as the bad points. I do not know how she went through five hours of judging

When it was all over we had two HS awarded birds. The best swallow was a silver barless silesian hen owned by Bob Fragoman. Reserve champion went to Dick Baker with a silver check Silesian hen. I want to congratulate both of these gentlemen on their fine looking swallows.

We will be having our Eastern District in conjunction with the Reading/Lancaster Pigeon clubs in January 8th thru the 11th at the Lancaster Host Resort. As I understand it, there will be a 50% rebate. This should help all the clubs that are showing with Reading/Lancaster pigeon clubs.

I have asked Tim Starr to judge . He and i will not show under these circumstances. I have talked with most eastern club members and they are planning on showing.

I want to thank all the members that voted for me to be the next president of our fine club . We have a proud history to keep going . All the past officers have done very commendable jobs in their tenures in office . I only hope that I can fill their shoes. This will not be an easy task for me.. I have talked with most directors, and will contact the others soon.



Red White Bar Thuringer Wing Pigeons Owned by Perry Mueller

A Visit to the Pageant of Pigeon

by Nate Wayne

I received an invitation from my good friend Bill Lawson to accompany him to the Pageant this year. It was a surprise for a couple of reasons. Not that I had a friend or even that someone would invite me. No one was sure the quarantine would be lifted and then most of the cages owned by the LAPC were destroyed by the terrible fires they recently had in Southern California.

The LAPC was able to overcome both of those obstacles and host a fine show. Bill and I arrived as usual late on Wed., as the show set up was finishing. I did not enter any birds but Bill did so we cooped his birds and left for the evening. On

Thursday birds have to be in by noon so there is a great deal of activity. I was disappointed some friends were not at the show this year but pleasantly surprised others were.

Thursday night we were invited to a small gathering at Bill Griebel's house. Bill has made several nice changes to his lofts.

(Rebuilding, painting, cement work and landscaping.)

On Friday, the judging of the Color Pigeons was done by Steve Ball assisted by George De La Nuez. Of course I paid particular attention to the Swallows. There was a nice group of Thuringer Spots entered by Jay Beals, Bill Griebel Sr. and Dave Holloway. The Silesians were mostly blue black bar entered by Bill Griebel Sr. There was only one Fullhead entered. The Fairy classes were the most interesting with black white bar, red and yellow white bar, blue white bar and spangles. Steve and George did a good job judging and it was particularly nice to see Steve again although on a limited basis.

I did have two observations regarding the Swallow entry. The black white bars appeared to me to be the strongest class. They had very good color, type, crest and muff. The hearts and bars could be improved. Secondly, I have noticed in recent shows that show winners (including my own) appear not to have "medium to low station" and instead are more upright.

Friday night was the traditional banquet and it was very well attended this year. Saturday was spent trying to catch up with old friends and seeing which items for sale I couldn't live without. All birds were released at five pm and we left for home.

I always enjoy going to the Pageant. After all, in late November a few days in San Bernardino are much better than a few days in Minnesota. I appreciate it is a difficult time of year for some of you to attend or in some cases have birds in show condition. If you have never attended I encourage you to do so. Every year the LAPC members and others work hard to make this a great show.

Thanks again to all my friends for making this an enjoyable time.



Black W/B Fairy: Bill Griebel Sr.

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USC Officers for 2004-2006

President Merle Starr
Vice President Perry Mueller
Secretary Elliot Yeske
Canadian District Director John Taupert
Eastern District Director Alan Smith
Central District Director Bob Benson
Western District Director Dave Holloway

Results of the 2003 USC Annual Meet

Congratulations to Perry Mueller for winning the USC Annual Meet in Des Moines, IA.

Results of the meet are listed below. 92 birds were entered and most were shown.

Champion Swallow & Best Silesian -
Blue Barless Silesian OH bred by Perry Mueller
Reserve Champion -
Blue Barless Silesian OC bred by Perry Mueller
Best Young Bird - Blue Check Silesian YH bred by Bob Benson
Best Fairy - Blue Spangle YH bred by Bob Benson
Best Fullhead - Black W/B bred by Bob Jakubowski
Best Thuringer Spot - Red Barless bred by John Taupert
Best Thuringer Fullhead - Blue Barless YH bred by Elliot Yeske



Swallow and Color Pigeon Fanciers at the 2003 Pageant left to right top: George DeLaNuez, Bill Lawson, Tom McCaig, Bill Griebel Sr., Leon Stephens, Steve Ball. Bottom: Nate Wayne, Bill Hawkinson, Gary Romig, Darrell Martin, Mike Cobb.

Swallow Club Treasure's Report

Fourth Quarter 2003

Previous Balance	1,808.64
Income:	
Dues and Bands	92.00
Expenses:	
Checking Service Charge (Sept., Oct., and Nov.)	9.00
Nat'l Pigeon Assn' (Book Ad.)	90.00
Nat'l Pigeon Assn' (Club Dues)	20.00
Current Checking Balance	1,781.64

DREAM COME TRUE

by Dick Baker

As most of you know, we have been working on bringing Swallows back to the Rochester New York area. It has finally happened. The Pigeon Fanciers Association of Rochester held their annual show on November 16, 2003. There were 59 Swallows shown out of the 900 birds there.

Most of the Swallows were the Silesian variety in red, yellow, black, silver and blue barless, blue and silver checks, blue black bars, red spangles, and cream bar. In the Fairy section we had red white bars, black white bars and one young cream bar. There also were a couple full heads. So you can see there was a nice variety of color and patterns.

It sure got the interest of the other exhibitors, as the Swallow section was the first thing you saw when you walked in the door. The Rochester Club supplied our area with a gazebo type cage which Merle Starr volunteered to fill with some of the breeds that he raises that we normally do not see in our area. This brought a lot of attention to our area all day. Bob Fragoman's silver barless took Best of Show. Dick Baker got Reserve with a silver check hen. A full show report will be sent in at a later date.

Merle Starr, the Eastern Director graciously volunteered to be our judge as he is as interested in seeing Swallows return to the east as we are. He did a wonderful job judging and taught us all a lot about showing Swallows. He explained how he was going to judge the Swallows with the rating system and took the time to comment on every bird. He had his comments recorded on the back of every card so we could review his comments later. This was really helpful as we are all new Swallow breeders and this information will be extremely helpful. Several times Merle commented "there are some great birds here, but they need to be put in show condition". After the judging was over, he showed us how that pulling a feather or two or trimming a crest sometimes could raise the rating a whole point.

Everyone was well pleased with the job that he did. His comment was "if you guys are going to put this much effort into promoting Swallows, I will be glad to come back next year to judge your show again". This made all of us very pleased as we know how hard it is to get a qualified judge.

The whole area where the Swallows were shown was decorated with three large tables filled with all kinds of Swallow information for which we received a \$15 award. We had USC membership blanks, proposed standard, and several past Bulletins. We also had some articles that were taken from early American Pigeon Journals. Some were on the early days of Swallow breeding in the Rochester area and the starting of the first Swallow Club. These items were what were displayed on our information table. On the decoration tables we displayed two original M. Frank Cook paintings, a painting done by Gloria Weisgram, two prints by Gary Romig, several reprints of Cook paintings and a 1926 National Geographic that had a very large article in it on pigeons, with one section



Display of Swallow Art at the Rochester Show. Photo by Dick Baker

of it on Swallows. There were several other Swallow related items. We also had two wonderful cobalt blue plates that had Swallows etched on them, made by Penny Smith. They had to be seen to be appreciated, she made three of them. One she gave to Merle Starr, one to me and the other was donated to the Swallow Club raffle and was won by Robin Fragoman. Merle donated a nice pair of red barless clean leg Swallows, won by Herbie Baker. The Baker family donated a pair of blue checker muff spots, a copy of an M. Frank Cook painting, won by Allen Bitters and a gallon of natural apple cider vinegar, won by Bob Fragoman. This made for a successful raffle taking in \$76. The best part of it was, Larry Morrison won the pair of muff Swallows and came right over and signed up to be a member of the United Swallow Club. There were four more people who wanted to become members and will as soon as they come and get birds. I have promised to give each one of them two pair of Swallows to get started. That will make five new members from this show for the Central New York area.

The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle sent a reporter to our show and he did a nice article. I have gotten at least one call everyday since with questions about pigeons. People are interested but do not know where to get answers and help.

Now I have kept the best part for last, I would like to thank all the Swallow people that made this possible, without them it would have not happened. Penny and Al Smith, Scott and Ann Coapman, Bob Fragoman, Allen Bitters, Joe Albrecht, Dorothy Baker, and Herbie Baker for showing their birds. Two other Swallow members, Bob Fish and Maylou Cook who came to show their support, promised to try to have Swallows to show next year. A very special thanks goes to Merle Starr, our Eastern Director for all the time and extra effort he put forth to help make this a successful show. Also a thanks to the Swallow Club members who have supplied us with all the birds to get started. So you can see, a dream can come true if enough people get behind it. Swallows are once again being shown in Rochester New York.

National Young Bird Show

Perry Mueller

I had a great time at the Young Bird Show this year. The weather was nice with the trees starting to turn colors. Its always good to see everyone again. There were 37 birds shown, most of them being Silesians. There were a lot Cleanlegs in Spot and Fullhead markings.

As usual Bob Benson put in a nice entry of Blue & Silver Checks and won the show with a Silver. I could not fault the Louisville, KY

Judge: Perry Mueller,

Saxon Fullhead Swallows (2)

Merle Starr	YC1318	S
Merle Starr	YH1481	G

Thuringer Fullhead Swallows (5)

Howard Angevine	YC212	HS Best Fullhead
Tim Star	YC285	S
Howard Angevine	YH216	HS
Howard Angevine	YH236	G
Tim Star	YH367	S

Saxon Fairy Swallows (4)

Bob Benson	YC701	G
George Krystina	YH1859	G
George Krystina	YH1849	HS1
Bob Benson	YH735	HS2

Silesian Swallows (15)

Bob Benson	YC706	E Champion
Bob Benson	YC710	HS
Bob Benson	YC537	S
Dale Jett	YC537	G
Dale Jett	YC543	G



Champion at the NYBS
owner : Bob Benson
Rated E



Best CL Spot at the NYBS
owner : Tim Starr
Rated E

bird. So, I gave it a "E" rating. Howard Angevine and Merle Starr looked the bird over and concurred. I thought the quality was up this year.

Tim Starr showed a nice Red Barless Clean Leg Spot. I gave that bird and "E" also. The Reds overall seem to be improving.

Next year we need to promote the show a little more. It truly is a fall extravaganza.

Silesian Swallows (cont.)

Bob Benson	YH727	HS3
Bob Benson	YH715	HS1 Best Opp
Bob Benson	YH728	G
Bob Benson	YH702	S3
Greg Volzke	YH1047	S2
Dale Jett	YH539	S1
Dale Jet	YH547	G
Dale Jet	YH536	G
Bob Benson	YH717	HS2
Bob Benson	YH738	S4

Thuringer Spot (11)

Gerald Kress	YC151	G
Howard Angevine	YC237	S
Howard Angevine	YC200	HS3
Tim Starr	YC301	HS1
Tim Starr	YC376	E Best Spot CL
Tim Starr	YC379	HS2
Gerald Kress	YH160	S
Gerald Kress	YH161	G
Gerald Kress	YH166	G
Howard Angevine	YH246	G
Tim Starr	YC391	G

Bob Benson



My Trip Down Under *By Bill Griebel Sr.*

I was invited by the Australian Color Pigeon Group to judge swallows and Color Pigeons at the 2003 Australian National Show in Melbourne last July. I turned down an invitation in July 2002 due to the birth of my first granddaughter and recommended Hans Schipper who did the honors that year. Keith and Joan Fitzgerald whom I stayed with for the duration of the show met me at the Melbourne airport.

I was excited to make the trip for several reasons. It gave me a chance to see old friends who visited the States and stayed with me. Gave me a chance to see their large and wonderful country, most of which was traveled by auto. Gave me a chance to stay with families to see how they live and, of course, gave me a chance to see the swallows and color pigeons of Australia.

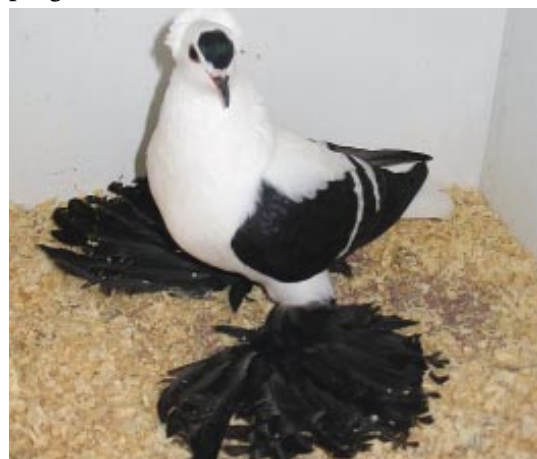
There were more than 100 swallows in most colors and markings except fullheads. This was a typical swallow show in that some color groups were more highly developed than others were as we see here in North America and in Europe. The champion swallow of the show was a wonderful Black W/B Fairy Old Hen. This bird had super type, style, color and muffs and the bar shape was great. The second best bird of the show was an exceptional blue W/B Silesian hen. Breeding import fairy blood with Australian silesian blood created this bird.

The blue W/B fairy classes were the most impressive with the most exhibitors involved. There were especially two young cocks that impressed me and found out later that they were related to the silesian hen mentioned above. One concern I had with this class was that there were far too many birds with over-sized rosettes and recommended these birds be eliminated from their programs as time allowed.

The Color Pigeon group was a friendly bunch of blokes. Darren Rafton had many good birds in several varieties and colors. Darren imported birds several years ago and has made the most of it. One thing I requested of Darren when I sent the birds was that he make birds available to other Aussie fanciers and I can say he's done a great job of that. Ron Wilton didn't show much in the Color Pigeon section but when I visited his home he had several groups of color pigeons that would have done well. I visited Richie Darling and his father Terry at their home and they have some great pigeons. Richie is the color pigeon breeder and is doing a great job. He is also a genetics student and showed me some neat andalusian and ash red W/B's that were impressive. Garry Jaques showed tremendous enthusiasm, working as the recording secretary for color pigeons and asked a



Aussie Color Pigeon Group (L-R) Darren Rafton, Bill Vost, Ron Wilton, Garry Jaques, Richie Darling, Bruce Pengelly



Champion Swallow, Black W/B OH bred by Darren Rafton



Best Silesian Swallow, Blue W/B YH bred by Darren Rafton



Best Blue W/B Fairy bred by Darren Rafton



Ash Red Check Silesian bred by Darren Rafton



Best Clean Leg Swallow bred by Darren Rafton

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million questions as we judged. Garry has blue W/B fairies and has purchased a few blacks from Darren. Bill Vost showed Schmalkaldners in black, which were of good quality and in great condition. And Bruce Pengelly showed Nuremberg Larks along with 3 other breeders and had champion Clean Leg Color Pigeon with one of his Larks. One of my biggest challenges was to judge 75 larks in three markings; bar, barless and checker.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those warm and wonderful Aussies who made my trip down under possible and to those who put me up



*Red White Bar Saxon Fairy Swallow
bred by Darren Rafton*



*Black Spangle
Saxon Fairy Swallow
bred by Darren Rafton*



*Blue Check Silesian Swallow
bred by Darren Rafton*