

UNITED Swallow Club



Spring 2017 Newsletter • www.unitedswallowclub.com • Since 1969

Frank Bailey Wins Best Swallow in Vancouver



2017 NPA Grand National Held in Vancouver, WA On January 12,13 & 14,

The Pacific NW Color Pigeon Club hosted a "Swallow Meet" on the behalf of the United Swallow Club. The judge was Mike Cobb of Lakewood California.

There were a total of three exhibitors, Steve Dreitz of Pueblo, CO, Frank Bailey of Snohomish, WA and David Holloway of Hillsboro, OR.

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President's Message

Mike Swanson

Our United Swallow Club show season was a huge success and now I suspect all of you either have your birds together and are raising babies or are in the midst of getting your birds together. The weather here in Colorado is warming up and we are busily getting things ready for the new breeding season. I hope all of you have a great breeding season! I want to encourage all of you to participate in the voting. Your voice is an important part of what makes the United Swallow Club, the great organization that it is! As a club, we look ahead to the new show season now so everyone can make plans, arrange their schedules and be part of what lies ahead. Our shows provide opportunities to renew friendships, get feedback about the outcomes of our current breeding season and let us set new goals as a club and as breeders of Swallows.

Now is the time to look at your calendar and make plans to

attend USC District Shows and our USC Annual Show. Also, contact your USC district director about arranging a district show in your area. Our shows create opportunities for new members and new breeders of Swallows. Shows generate opportunities to showcase our birds! Now is the time to organize those shows. So reach out to club officers if you need help or guidance. All of our officers are eager to support you and provide you with the guidance and information you need for hosting a USC district show.

Another important topic is our upcoming United Club Swallow special in the Purebred Magazine. Plan now so you can prepare your ads and articles for our special. Our special comes out in the Purebred Magazine September/October 2017 issue. Ron DeClement is the contact person for our club. His contact information is declementr@verizon.net and his phone number

Club Officers for 2016 & 2017 (See more officers on page 3)

President: Swanson, Mike 4800 Road 23 Ft. Lupton, CO 80621 303-857-0985 cathybighorn@yahoo.com	Vice President: Gary Romig PO Box 152, 58 Sonoita Dr. Patagonia, AZ 85624 520-394-2174 gromig@unitedswallowclub.com	Secretary/Treasurer: Elliot Yeske 21649 State Hwy 108 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 ejy@loretel.net	Western Dist. Director: Griebel, Bill Sr. 12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy. El Monte, CA 91732 626-448-8565 griebel@att.net	Central Dist. Director: Dave Averbeck 9432 Tiber Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 314-260-9326 averbeck1979@gmail.com	Eastern Dist. Director: Ron DeClement 11179 Old Princess Anne Rd. Princess Anne, MD 21853 410-651-0256 declementr@verizon.net	Canada Dist. Director: Bernd Licht 54149 Range Rd. 205A Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada T8L 3Z2 780-998-4876 alterkeiler@mcsnet.ca
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President's Message continued

Mike Swanson

is 1-410-651-0256. The Purebred Pigeon can be contacted directly as well. Their contact information is: advertising@purebredpigeon.com and their phone number is 1-615-851-9674. Doratha E. Connally, Editor & Publisher is very easy to work with and equally supportive. She and her husband publish a quality magazine that supports our hobby! I'm excited about this unique opportunity the Purebred Magazine is affording us to showcase Swallows. Your contributions, articles, and ads are crucial to the success of our Swallow special. Articles can be from multiple perspectives and about multiple topics related to Swallows. Your perspectives, memories, insights, experiences, and wisdom about Swallows are needed and will be important resources for Purebred readers! Also needed are your photographs! Pictures provide visual interest to your articles and ads. Your photos will add an important dimension to the uniqueness of our Swallow special. So get those fingers flying across your keyboard or get that pencil flying across your paper with your special contributions to make our Swallow special outstanding! Our collective efforts will result in a remarkable and memorable issue!

In other club news and business I want to express my appreciation to Mike Cobb for judging at the NPA National in Vancouver. I want to congratulate the winners as well: Frank Bailey for his Champion Swallow with a Red Spangle Fairy OC HS-96; Steve Dreitz for his Reserve Champion Swallow with a Blue Check Fairy YH, HS-96; Frank Bailey for his Best Saxon Fullhead Red White Barred OH S-95; Steve Dreitz for his Best Silesian Blue Check OC S-95; David Holloway for Best Thuringer Wing Blue Barless OH S-95; and David Holloway also secured Best Thuringer Swallow with a Blue Spangle OC G-91. Congratulations to these winners and again thank you Mike Cobb for your service as judge.

Additionally, committees are the energy and workhorse for reaching club goals. One of my goals and focus as USC President is the revision and updating of our Swallow Standard. Nate Wayne is the chairman of this committee and has been working with Gary Romig, Ron DeClement and Bill Griebel as well. Seek these four people out with your perspective, ideas and feedback. The USC Judging Program Chairman, Bill Griebel has been working on our USC Judging Program with updates, areas of focus and refinements. USC member Gloria Weisgram has been working with Bill on this as well. Again our collective energy and perspectives bring refinement to our Swallows and our judging program, two essential elements working together. Refining our breed is our ultimate goal and refining the process in which we evaluate those birds at our shows is equally important. These two key elements go hand-in-hand and deserve our time, energy and focus to propel our club and breed to the highest levels. So reach out to these committee chairmen and committee members with your feedback.

Certainly, our Swallows are our priority and coming together at our district and annual shows is equally important for the improvement of our breed however, our membership is the connecting thread that sustains our club and our breed. Cathy and I have been fortunate this past year to renew friendships with our membership at our USC Annual Meet and with the many visitors we've had visit our home the last year and a half. We've truly enjoyed our fellowship with Tim Starr, Elliot Yeske, Phil Gonzales and Bill Griebel. You can sum it up as friendship through feathers! We always learn from one another, laugh and smile when we're united through our Swallows!

Have a great year with your birds and BE SURE TO VOTE!!

Secretary/Treasurer Message

Elliot Yeske

Well it looks like spring may come early here in Minnesota. I have a few birds on eggs and have banded 5 so far, I hope the weather holds and I can get a good start to the breeding season. Hope all of you are having good weather also so you can get the birds going. The USC has sold out of the 11 mm bands for the muffed birds I do still have 75 of the 8 mm bands left for sale they 50 cents and \$4 for postage and the mailer we use. I have included the current financial report in this news letter. Remember we have an up coming Swallow special in the Purebred Pigeon Magazine. The people that run the magazine have told me on more than one occasion that the swallow special we did a few years ago was the best special they have done so far. It would be great if we could get even more of our members to support this next special and make it even better than our last one.

Have a great breeding season.

More USC Officers for 2016-2017

Publicity Director: Election Commissioner:

Frank Bailey 21506 E. Lost Lake Rd. Snohomish, WA 98296 360-668-1371 franklbailey@icloud.com	Chris Auer, 2603 Prairie Hollow Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 314-412-0308 auer23@aol.com
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United Swallow Club Financial Report 11/18/16-2/28/17

Beginning balance:	\$4317.20
Deposits: <i>bands, dues, Des Moines auction, donations, Grand Nat. rebate of \$61</i>	\$2988.50
Expenses:	
Purebred Pigeon (front cover special)	\$375.00
Perry Mueller (best fullhead & Blk spangle fairy awards)	\$75.00
Bill Griebel (best Blk white bar fairy award)	\$25.00
Gloria Wiesgram (Pizza lunch)	\$17.40
Barry Jennings (Band & postage refund)	\$29.00
Purebred Pigeon (1/4 page Ad)	\$459.00
Ending checking balance:	\$6325.30

Official 2017 United Swallow Club Ballot Election of Officers and Annual Meet location and Judge

Election of Officers:

Place an "X" in the box next to the candidate that you are voting for or write in a candidate's name

write in candidates

President	<input type="checkbox"/> David Averbeck	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Romig	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Secretary/Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Elliot Yeske	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
District Directors:		
Eastern	no candidate nominated	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Central	<input type="checkbox"/> Perry Mueller	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Western	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Griebel	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Canadian	no candidate nominated	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Annual Show sites and judges:

Place an "X" in the box to the left of the site which you are voting for
Then select a judge from the list of available judges below that site

Annual meet Site:

<input type="checkbox"/> ISPA - Des Moines, IA <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 8-9, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cert. Judges available for Des Moines</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choose 1 from below</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Perry Mueller <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Ripper <input type="checkbox"/> Leon Stephens <input type="checkbox"/> Nate Wayne <input type="checkbox"/> Gloria Weisgram	<input type="checkbox"/> NPA National-Amarillo, TX <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 18-20, 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cert. Judges available for NPA National</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choose 1 from below</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Ripper <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Romig <input type="checkbox"/> Leon Stephens <input type="checkbox"/> Gloria Weisgram	<input type="checkbox"/> Pageant of Pigeons <p style="text-align: center;">Nov 17-18, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cert. Judges available for Pageant of Pigeons</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choose 1 from below</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Leo Kunath (European) <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Ripper
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Send Ballot to Election Commissioner:
Chris Auer
2603 Prairie Hollow Rd
Imperial, Mo 63052

Email: auercg23@aol.com
Phone or text: 314-412-0308
Voting will close on April 26, 2017

NPA Grand National...USC Western District Meet

By: Mike Cobb

The 2017 Vancouver National Show in Ridgefield, Washington had over 3100 birds shown and was a good meet for many breeds. The United Swallow Club held a district meet at this show. There were sixty swallows entered from three exhibitors and fifty swallows showed up for the show. These swallow varieties included twenty-four Thuringer Wings, one Thuringer Swallow, thirteen Fairy Swallows, ten Silesian Swallows and two Saxon Fullhead Swallows.

There were good quality birds shown in the Thuringers, Saxon Wings and Saxon Swallows. It was very enjoyable to evaluate and write the cards for the fifty swallows. After all the birds were rated, the champion was a Red Spangle Fairy Swallow OC bred and shown by Frank Bailey from Washington State and rated 96 points. The reserve champion was a Blue Check Fairy Swallow YH bred and shown by Steve Dreitz of Colorado and rated 96 points. The best Thuringer was a Blue Barless Wing OH bred and shown by Dave Holloway of Oregon and rated 95 points. The best Saxon Fullhead Swallow was a Red White Bar OH bred and shown by Frank Bailey from Washington State and rated 95 points. The Best Silesian Swallow was a Blue Check OC bred and shown by Steve Dreitz of Colorado and rated 95 points. There was a fine group

of swallows on display at the 2017 National for all the exhibitors and visitors to see. It is always important to have a good group of swallows on display at the National. This show is a showcase for any club who wants to have their breed seen and admired by a vast number of fanciers.

The weather at the show was record cold and snow for the Portland, Oregon area. Many exhibitors have some very interesting stories about their travel experience to the show. I had planned to stay with Dave Holloway during show, but with the snow and ice I decided it would be safer to stay at a hotel near the show. Dave ended up staying at the hotel, too. I would like to thank the United Swallow Club, the Northwest Color Pigeon Club and the American Frillback Club for inviting me to judge their birds at the 2017 Vancouver National.

A BIG THANKS to Frank Bailey, Dave Holloway, Darrell Martin and Rose Arrington who helped in the judging area and all pitched in to score the judging sheets and steward the birds to and from the judging area. Several others also helped steward their birds to the judging area. This was a big help and kept the show moving. Thanks again guys! I look forward to attending the 2018 Amarillo Texas National and seeing all of you there! Have a great breeding season! Best Regards! Mike Cobb

50 Birds Shown -10 Birds ABS-60 Birds Entered

Champion Swallow & Best Fairy

HS-96 Red Spangle Fairy #1388 OC Frank Bailey

Reserve Champion

HS-96 Blue Check Fairy #1196 YH Steve Dreitz

Best Saxon Fullhead

S-95 Red White Barred Saxon Fullhead Swallow Frank Bailey

Best Silesian

S-95 Blue Check Silesian #2900 OC Steve Dreitz

Best Thuringer Wing

S-95 Blue Barless Thuringer #658 OH David Holloway

Best Thuringer Swallow

G-91 Blue White Check #750 OC David Holloway

FAIRY SWALLOWS (13)

Blue Check (2)

HS-96 YH #1196 Steve Dreitz

S-94 OC #1188 Steve Dreitz

Blue White Bar (2)

S-93 OH #4290 Steve Dreitz

G-92 OC #2190 Steve Dreitz

Red Spangle (9)

HS-96 OC #1388 Frank Bailey

S-94 YH #1632 Frank Bailey

S-94 OC #1606 Frank Bailey

S-94 OH #1395 Frank Bailey

S-93(1st) YH #1628 Frank Bailey

S-93(2nd) YH #1606 Frank Bailey

S-93 OH #1537 Frank Bailey

S-93 (1st) OC #1539 Frank Bailey

S-93 (2nd) OC #1368 Frank Bailey

FULLHEAD SWALLOWS (2)

Red White Bar (2)

S-95 (1st) OH #1180 Frank Bailey

S-95 (2nd) OC #1147 Frank Bailey

SILESIA SWALLOWS (10)

Black Barless (2)

S-94 OH # 341 Steve Dreitz

S-93 OH #5124 Steve Dreitz

Blue Check (3)

S-95 OC #2900 Steve Dreitz

S-94 (1st) OC #2274 Steve Dreitz

S-94 (2nd) YH #1191 Steve Dreitz

Red Spangle (4)

S-95 OC #1379 Frank Bailey

S-93 (1st) OH #1545 Frank Bailey

S-93 (2nd) OH #1363 Frank Bailey

S-92 YH #1635 Frank Bailey

Red White Bar (1)

S-93 OH #1424 Frank Bailey

THURINGER WING PIGEONS (Clean leg Spot Swallows) (25)

Ash Red White Check (2)

S-95 YH # 99 Dave Holloway

S-93 YC # 97 Dave Holloway

Blue Barless (9)

G-92 (1st) YH # 20 Dave Holloway

G-92 (2nd) YH # 55 Dave Holloway

S-94 (1st) YH # 21 Dave Holloway

S-94 (2nd) YH # 155 Dave Holloway

G-92 OH #4471 Dave Holloway

G-91 OH # 287 Dave Holloway

S-95 OH # 658 Dave Holloway

G-92 OH # 761 Dave Holloway

S-93 OH # 489 Dave Holloway

Black Spangle (1)

G-91 YH # 115 Dave Holloway

Red Check (3)

G-92 YC # 52 Dave Holloway

S-93 OH # 44 Dave Holloway

S-94 OH # 54 Dave Holloway

Red White Bar (1)

S-94 OC # 483 Dave Holloway

Silver Spangle (5)

S-94 OC # 587 Dave Holloway

S-93 (1st) YH # 5 Dave Holloway

S-93 (2nd) YH # 529 Dave Holloway

G-92 YC # 144 Dave Holloway

G-91 YC # 141 Dave Holloway

Cream Check (2)

S-93 (1st) YH # 129 Dave Holloway

S-93 (2nd) YH # 89 Dave Holloway

Yellow Check (1)

G-92 OH #1571 Dave Holloway

THURINGER SWALLOWS (1)

Blue White Check - Thuringer Swallow (1)

G-91 OC # 750 Dave Holloway



NPA National, Best Fullhead, Red White Bar, OH #1180 Frank Bailey



NPA National, Best CL Wing Pigeon Blue Barless OH #658 Dave Hollaway



NPA National, Best CL Swallow OC #750 Dave Hollaway



NPA National, Best Silesian Swallow, OC #2900, Steve Dreitz



"Standard Revision Update"

Nate Wayne

Based on how long it has taken me to do my part of this project there is no member who will be able to say they did not have a chance for input. In spite of that, I am requesting one more time if there are any concerns you have please get in touch with me, Gary, Ron or Bill preferably by email. Thank you for your attention to this request.

nwayne@dsb-cpa.com

gromig@unitedswallowclub.com

griebel@att.net

declementr@verizon.net

George de la Nuez georgedlmuez@att.net
Blue W/B Fairy Hens For Sale
909-224-5449



All birds Vaccinated for PMV

Photos from the Grand National, Vancouver, WA Jan. 2017



YH #1196 Blue Check Fairy Swallow was the Reserve Champion Swallow rated HS-96... owned by: Steve Dreitz of Pueblo, Colorado (Photo taken by: Tom Moss)



OC #1388 Red Spangle Fairy Swallow was the Champion Swallow rated HS-96... owned by Frank Bailey of Snohomish, WA (Photo taken by: Frank Bailey)



Awards presentation was organized and distributed by David Holloway of Hillsboro, Oregon (Photo taken by: Darrell Martin)

Photos from the Grand National, Vancouver, WA Jan. 2017



Judge Mike Cobb, judging the final four (Photo taken by: Frank Bailey)



Judge Mike Cobb judging Blue Barless Thuringer's (Photo taken by: Frank Bailey)

THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

By Mike & Cathy Swanson

We were in college back in the mid-seventies, it was Spring break and we headed to California in our orange Volkswagen bug. We headed south from Denver and first stopped in Tucson for a quick visit with Mike's older sister. Then we were off to Los Angeles eager to visit as many pigeon breeders as we could in our short week off from school. Prior to heading west, we sold the bottle of Kahlua we had bought during a quick trip south to Nogales, Mexico, back to Mike's sister for gas money. Our VW bug could go very far on a little amount of gas with its 10-gallon gas tank!

Once in Los Angeles we visited numerous breeders and had a roaring time. We met Tom McCaig, Leon Stephens, Bill Griebel, Cy Harper, and Bill Hawkinson. Then we headed north to San Francisco to the little town of Sebastopol and met another color pigeon breeder, Phil Gonzales. What we didn't realize was how very far San Francisco is from L.A. We were in awe of northern California! It was so lush and visually interesting. And so our friendships with color pigeon breeders Bill Griebel and Phil Gonzales began forty-five years ago!

Fast forward to 2017. Bill Griebel contacted us about the possibilities of visiting us in late February. February is when we launch our breeding season. So the birds still have their muffs, they're not breeding and not in the moult as so often they are when we've had visitors in the past. Bill flew to Denver for a three-day stay. The weather cooperated and Bill brought southern California temperatures with him. The first two days it was perfect weather for being in the loft, seventy degrees, very uncharacteristic of Colorado in February.

Bill and I thoroughly enjoyed the first two days of going through my birds. We focused on the blue white bar Fairies first and then moved onto the Saxon Whitetails. Last, we devoted our time to all of the others: Ice pigeons, red Saxon Whitetails, blue and silver check Silesians and the silver barless Silesians as well.

It was enjoyable having another color pigeon breeder knowledgeable about the finer points of all of the birds in my loft. We had an amazing year raising birds, so we had a lot of birds to look at and consider in what ways to use them. It was also great just to talk about what makes a great color pigeon. We have these conversations at our shows but usually I'm too busy with other aspects of the show to devote my time to those conversations with the focus they deserve.

Those first two days we spent long hours devoting our attention to the blue white bar Fairies and the black Saxon Whitetails. Bill and I both realized we agreed on most all points and it was fun to listen to what Bill likes and dislikes. Considering another person's

perspective always broadens my perspective. Probably the biggest difference between Bill and I, is the speed in which we go through the birds. I suspect I was driving Bill a bit crazy in that I take so much time to sort out birds. I have this same habit when judging as well yet; I always get the job done in time! I guess the two of us are a little bit like the Tortoise and the Hare!

Last year I banded over 250 young birds along with the two imports we brought in from Germany after our trip to Zwonitz. So, we have a lot to pick from which is a great thing, yet parting with some of these birds will be the hard part. Cathy and I know how very difficult it can be to get back a lost resource. Consequently, we part with those valuable resources after much deliberation!

On the last day the temperatures went from the low seventies to snow, so very Colorado. We have an expression here in Colorado if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute! So with the snow and cold temperatures, we headed to Arvada a town about forty-five minutes from Fort Lupton to visit fellow Swallow breeder Phil Gonzales. Bill had indicated visiting his long time friend Phil Gonzales was something he wanted to be sure to do while in Colorado. Both Phil and Bill go back to their southern California LAPC heydays! Phil loves all pigeons and is very knowledgeable in all aspects of our pigeon hobby, and is an NPA Master Judge.

We spent most of the day at Phil's talking about birds, reminiscing about our friendships and looking at Phil's amazing collection of pigeon memorabilia. Phil has created a memorabilia sanctuary in his garage and it spills over into two rooms in his house! We were in awe over his extensive collection of books, postcards dating back to the turn of the 20th Century, stamps from all over the world and even pigeon whistles! Everywhere we looked there was something that captured our attention. The art, the magazines, artifacts from World War II, it was captivating and a visual delight! There was so much to see and process! Phil took us to lunch, creating more opportunities to savor conversations about birds over great Mexican food! We enjoyed our long morning and afternoon at Phil's. The time evaporated quickly. We zoomed back to Ft. Lupton and Bill packed in a flash and we were off to the airport.

As we drove home, the two of us realized the ways in which pigeons have enriched our lives through experiences, shows, friendships and travel to places we never would have gone! Both Cathy and I are eager for the new breeding season. The next week brings LOTS of hard work, vaccinations, decisions about birds based on decades of breeding records and the anticipation for the outcomes from hard work and dedication to our pigeon hobby.



Bill Griebel with Cathy Swanson during a recent visit to Colorado



Bill Griebel with Phil Gonzales in Phil's memorabilia collection

Western District News

By Bill Griebel

The Western District was busy this last show season with 2 shows. The first, The Pageant of Pigeons was held the first weekend in December due to a facility scheduling problem. We will be back to our regular schedule on the weekend before Thanksgiving this year. Gary Romig was our judge and George de la Nuez won champion with a very nice Blue W/B Fairy Swallow. Thank you Gary! Results should be in this bulletin.

Our second show was held in conjunction with the NPA National in Vancouver, Washington this past January. Mike Cobb was the judge and USC member Frank Bailey had Champion with a wonderful red spangle Fairy. There were 50 swallows at this show. Congratulations Frank. Steve Drietz also showed a good team of swallows and did very well in the overall placings. Check out the results in this bulletin.

Looking forward, the breeders here in Southern California have decided to throw our hat in the ring and nominate the Pageant of Pigeons for the 2017 USC Annual Meet. Additionally, we have decided to bring in Leo Kunath of Germany to judge this show. He is a certified judge in Germany and a specialist in German Trumpeters and Color Pigeons. Leo has been contacted and has accepted our request.

On the breeding season front I've heard from Leon Stephens and George de la Nuez and they say they have birds mated and look forward to a good breeding season. I have my birds breeding now with some young ones in the weaning pen at this time. Good luck everyone with your breeding season, I'll see you at the shows.

The term "spangle"

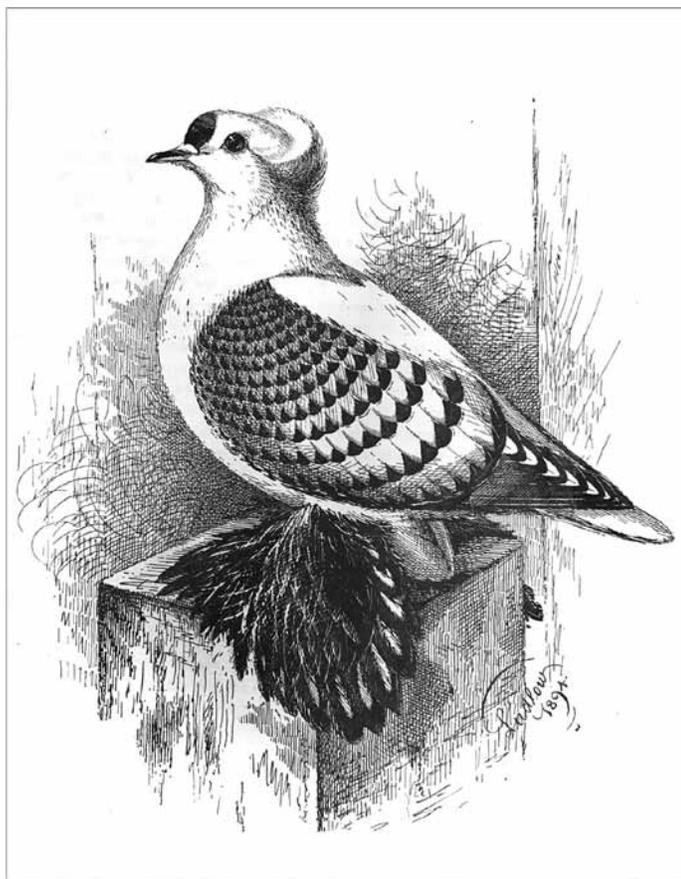
Bill Griebel

At the last NPA National in Washington the term spangle was crossed off some of the color pigeon coop cards and the term white checker was written in. The NPA president, John DeCarlo was confronted about using the term spangle. John explained that as far as he knew that was the term that the swallow and color pigeon breeders used and that term is in the data base when he makes coop cards and judging sheets.

Fast forward to a couple weeks ago, John was at my house and brought up this subject and asked if we had changed the term spangle. I said no, why? And John went on to tell me the encounter he had at the show. I told John that as far as I knew there had been no change but that I would look into it.

Throughout our American Swallow history we have used the term spangle. Doing a little research, I looked back through some of my collection to find a page copied out of the 1925 American Pigeon Journal with an article titled, "The American Swallow Club's Proposed Standard" and in it was a discussion about "spangles". In a February 1927 American Pigeon Keeper issue there was an article titled, "Swallows at Rochester, New York" written by M. Frank Cook. At this show there were 182 swallows entered and Mr. Cook talked about spangles in that show. And as you know we've been using that term ever since. Then I went to the English books in my book collection and the first book I looked, Fulton's Book of Pigeons published in 1895 with a passage and a print of a "spangled" swallow. Even in the book by Tegetmeier, Pigeons, published in 1868 the term spangle is discussed in connection with the color pigeon (Toy Pigeon) section.

Leon Stephens and I have often discussed the terms we use today with our swallows and where they came from. One could only guess at this point, but imagine, the English Pigeon books



SPANGLED SPOT SWALLOW.

being sent to the Americas in the mid to late 1800's is where a lot of the terms could have been, and most likely were, adopted, spangle being one of them.

Then I looked up the German word for spangle, "geschuppt" and it translated out as scales. Thinking my English/German dictionary was a cheap one I contacted Thomas Hellmann who said, "your translation for gesuppt was accurate. He went on to say, "The scales of a fish are called "Schuppen" in German and I guess the breeders of old likened the look of fish scales to what they were aiming for in breeding colour pigeons". Leon and I have talked about the problem with this translation also. As I was reminded many times, sometimes there is no accurate translation from one language to another on certain words.

I then turned my attention to Mike Swanson and Leon Stephens and explained the scenario at the Washington National presented to me by John DeCarlo. Mike is the President of the United Swallow

Club and Leon is the President of the So. Calif. Color Pigeon Club. Both Mike and Leon agreed that we will continue to use the term "spangle".

I guess the moral of the story is that we've used the term "spangle" probably for over 150 years and it still works well for us. There has always been some confusion by the general pigeon hobby with our swallow terms so it might not be a good idea to add to that confusion and the translation problem compounds that thought. Lastly, it would probably be a better idea to talk about an issue at a meeting or in the bulletin rather than in the middle of the showroom with someone that is not invested in our program. As for now, the term "spangle" will stay in place until it is democratically dealt with.

The Judge's Corner

Bill Griebel

As the Judging Commissioner I thought this would be a good time to discuss some aspects of the judging program you may not be aware of. Whether you are a member, a trainee judge or a USC Certified Judge these items should be of interest to you. Some of you may not agree totally with all the items discussed but I think you'll find them interesting. All I ask is that you keep an open mind. These items are: Color Pigeon Type, Balance, Degree of Difficulty, Acceptable Range and the term Elegant. You will see my personal comments in Italics below each item.

Color Pigeon Type. For this discussion I will talk about Saxon or the muffed Color Pigeon Type (often called field pigeon type). These include our muffed swallows, shields, priests, etc. Color Pigeon Type is difficult sometimes to describe but if you are aware of it and see it, you know it, if that makes sense. When I think of Color Pigeon Type I think of three words: medium, medium, medium. Medium head, medium neck, medium body, medium station, medium muff. Describing Color Pigeon Type starting with the head, on Silesians the head should be of medium size, there can be some frontal, roughly egg-shaped with no flat spots and in proportion to the rest of the bird. In Fairys and Fullheads there can be a gentle frontal and then it runs as flat as possible into the crest. For rosette placement you should be able to run a straight line from the center of the beak through the bottom of the eye to the center of the rosette. A rounded head on a crested bird usually gives the impression that the crest is low-set on the head. Between the head and the neck, the throat should be well carved out. The neck should be medium in length, narrower at the head tapering wider to the shoulders. This gives the bird an "elegant" look. The body should be medium in size, wide at the shoulders tapering to a tail that is 1-1/2 feathers wide, no broom tail. The chest should be round with the wing butts well covered. A body too long or too short throws the bird out of type. The underbody from the top of the chest down to the legs is extremely important. From a side view you should be able to see the chest protrude forward beyond the wing line. Station, very critical, should be medium in height, alert and forward leaning. The tail should be roughly an inch to two inches off the ground. Leg placement and leg length are important keys to Color Pigeon Type. Muffs should be medium in length, in proportion to the bird, laying flat and round in shape. Our current standard reads in part "heavily muffed" which is not correct, it should read heavily layered muff. *Heads in Silesians with a prominent frontal and a prominent backskull, overly large crests that are high and wide in the Fairys and a really low station are not hallmarks of good Color Pigeon Type. If you are into power as a judge or breeder of swallows and color pigeons, you may be on the wrong track.*

Balance. Balance means all of the parts of a good Color Pigeon are working in harmony. It was explained to me in this way; when you see one feature before you see the rest of the bird you've lost balance. If a Color Pigeon judge is a power hunter, they may have trouble with balance. Balance is an important part of Color Pigeon Type. *I remember a small show where the person who was judging was down to three birds: a black W/B Silesian, a black W/B Fairy and a blue W/B Fairy. The black Silesian had good bars, color and station but it had scissor wings (crossing primaries), the blue Fairy had a weaker but acceptable crest and good station, good bars and muff and the black Fairy had a big powerful crest but it sat on its rump. Which bird was the best balanced of the group. The judge selected the black Fairy that sat on its rump with the powerful crest, unfortunately of the three, the black was out of "Color Pigeon Type". The Silesian had a major fault with scissor wings and the blue W/B was probably the best "balanced" bird at that show. The judge seemed to lose his awareness of balance because he was overly focused on the crest power of the black.*

Degree of Difficulty. This is an interesting and important aspect of our judging program. The first group, checkers or spangles, are the most difficult to breed followed by the black barred or white barred birds and then the barless groups which have less to worry about. The first group gets the more leniency in the pattern, muff and flight area. Barred birds get some leniency but nowhere near that of the checker or spangle markings and barless birds are held to the highest standard of the three patterns for the flight and muff area. As far as the groups go the Fullheads are the most difficult to breed followed by the Fairies and then the Silesians. And last, the color groups from strongest to weakest are: blacks, blues, reds, yellows and silvers fall somewhere around the reds and yellows. Understanding Degree of Difficulty is an important part of understanding Color Pigeon Type. *I have seen judges back themselves into a bad corner by giving birds of a weaker group or color a really high rating and then have to re-adjust their rating system for the other groups leaving the show top heavy in the ratings. This is why the "walk around" is so important for a judge to do before the actual judging starts. When the judge does a walk around they can evaluate the overall quality of the birds in the show and the quality in each group. Then they can reward some of the weaker colors and groups but with the proper rating without compromising the overall rating system. There should be a range of ratings from the "G" all the way up to the "E" rating, if that "E" rating can be justified. Most of our show birds will fall in the "S" categories and depending on the numbers of birds entered and the quality in the show, several "HS" ratings and some "E" ratings can be awarded. And remember judges, if you are harsh and give low ratings on a difficult Group and/or color you may end up discouraging breeders and may end up not seeing those birds at future shows. Do not use the rating system as a "weapon", these are difficult creatures to breed and show!*

Acceptable Range. This is just stating that, say a crest could be a little smaller or bigger than medium and still look good on that color pigeon and still be in balance. Of course cocks can carry a little larger "medium" than hens. It's the acceptable range for that particular bird be it a cock or a hen. *At a show in the past there were three blue W/B Fairies that had wider bars, all with larger bodies. These birds all had the same width of bar from top to bottom in the front with good edging and all with long back bars, the same width as the front bar. It was an incredible sight. Usually wide barred birds tend to touch at the top of the bar but these three birds had the proper spacing. The judge felt the bars were too wide. My point here is that I felt these bars were within "acceptable range" for the size of the bird. Bar clarity, evenness, length and separation are the priorities. Also, a narrower bar that's somewhat jagged does not have priority over a bar that's a little wider.*

The term Elegant. This is a hard one to explain but in our swallows it usually describes where the head, neck and body connect with each other. Elegant is where the bird has a medium neck in length, well carved out at the throat and tapering into the body. We see sometimes a swallow has a thick, short stubby neck. The thick, short stubby look is more of a power look rather than an "elegant" look. In addition, a bird that is too short and compact or too long in body and even too tall in leg could be considered not "elegant". The "Elegant" look is a very important aspect of "Color Pigeon Type". *The dictionary defines the word "elegance" as "refined grace". Further it defines the word "elegant" as "a high grade or quality". It's a misunderstanding made by some to equate a bird that is "elegant" as that of one being weak, spindly or small.* I encourage more discussion on these items by the membership whether privately at griebel@att.net or in a public forum such as our USC Bulletin.

A visual study of "Color Pigeon Type"

Bill Griebel

In my article on page 10 I said, "Color Pigeon Type is difficult sometimes to describe but if you are aware of it and see it, you know it, if that makes sense." Here I want to show the visual side of "Color Pigeon Type". The birds I am using are not "perfect" but then what bird is! Even our points system only goes up to 97 points knowing there are no perfect birds. Thanks goes to George de la Nuez for the use of his photos from the 2016 Zwonitz World Show.



Photo: Bill Griebel

1st. photo is a study of the front of our color pigeons. Note the round fronts with the wing butts well covered. Yes the station is not correct but that's not why I took the photo. Of special note, look at how the wings follow the contour of the body. Many times the bottom of the wings will flare out a little and not be covered.



Photo: George de la Nuez

3rd. photo, a black W/B Fairy (Saxon Wing Pigeon, crested), shows the same "type" as the Fullhead but with better muffs. The muffs are round and full, in proportion to the bird - balance. Remember, you can have a range in muff depending on the size of the bird.



Photo: George de la Nuez

2nd. photo shows a black W/B Fullhead (Saxon Swallow). Notice how well everything "fits" together; round front, good station, tail off the ground with the Elegant look. Everything fits well together from the round front tapering to a 1-1/2 feather wide tail. A wish would be a little better in the muff.



Photo: George de la Nuez

4th. photo, a red spangle Silesian Swallow (Saxon Wing Pigeon, non-crested), has the same type as the birds above. This bird, because of the color and pattern "degree of difficulty", should get extra attention because of the good red color and clear spangling.

Once you have "Color Pigeon Type" in your head, mating your birds, selecting them for show or judging them becomes a simpler and clearer task.

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