



United Swallow Club

Supporting Swallow Pigeons World Wide Since 1969 • Newsletter No. 1, 2020



The top swallow at the United Swallow Club 50th year celebration and annual meet. A blue check Silesian swallow (plainheaded Saxon wing pigeon). Bred and owned by Mike & Cathy Swanson of Fort Lupton Colorado. Rated Excellent (E-97) by Judge Bill Griebel of Southern California. After the swallow judging was completed this bird went on to win Grand Champion of the NPA National Show in Amarillo, TX

President's Message Chris Auer

The 2019 exhibition season is now in the rear view mirror but before we move on to the 2020 breeding season I would like to congratulate Mike and Cathy Swanson for having the Champion Swallow at the National in Amarillo. That same bird went on to win Grand Champion of the whole show (over 5500 birds). All I can say is great bird, great time and great publicity for the USC!!!

Later in this bulletin or in the next David Auerbeck will be submitting the minutes of the Annual Meeting but I would like to highlight a couple of subjects that were discussed.

1. I mentioned that I am in the USC and raise swallows for 3 reasons: 1) breeding birds that get closer and closer to the standard. 2) for the friendships and comradery. 3) exhibiting the birds that represent where I stand with #1. I then asked that everyone remember that this is hobby to be enjoyed and to not get the above priorities out of balance and ruin the experience for others.

2. We are close to having a "completed" breeder's matrix. If you have not sent me the types of swallows that you have please do. I will add your information to what I already have gathered. Shortly Gary will post the matrix on the USC website

3. A club member (Jim Grober) suggested to me some time ago that we should have a brochure introducing people to the USC and swallows in general. The members in attendance liked the idea and Gary volunteered to work on that brochure so we can have it available for distribution at district and annual meets.

4. It was agreed upon that we would try and develop a new

member program and packet. If you would like to lead this endeavor please let me know.

5. As you can see my focus for the next couple of years is going to be on growing the club and increasing communications (much more to come on this in the future). Please send me your ideas and let me know if you are willing to help out.

6. If you have an email address please send it to Elliot and Gary, if you have facebook account please join the United Swallow Club FB group.

The Auction in Amarillo was a great success, we raised over \$1000 for the club and a lot of items went home with new owners, thanks to those that donated items and to those that purchased them. Also, a thanks to Gary Romig for handing out prints of his anniversary artwork to the USC members in attendance Friday and Saturday.

By this time all of the members in good standing should have gotten their 50th Anniversary patch, thank you and congratulations to all. If anyone wants to buy additional patches there are a few left for \$6 each, just contact Elliot Yeske.

Last but not least this bulletin marks the opening of nominations for the location of the 2020 Annual Meet and the judge (certified) for that show. Please send your nominations to Rachel Stuckey, her contact information can be found elsewhere in this bulletin. Nominations will be open for 30 days.

That is it for now, I will follow up with more information on membership, publicity and need for club growth in the next couple of bulletins.

Be sure to send in your nomination for your preferred location for our next United Swallow Club Annual Meet and for your preference for the Judge of the meet. Please send by mail, phone, email, text message to: Rachel Stuckey 13550 Hwy 28 E. Deville, LA 71328 318-792-8693 rachellasyone@yahoo.com Voting Ballots will be sent in the next short bulletin

United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Show Held in Conjunction with the National Pigeon Association's 100th Anniversary Show

by Bill Griebel USC Certified Judge and Chairman of the USC Certified Judging Program

The United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Show was, by our standards, well supported and a great success. Several breeders from all over the United States were able to attend and enjoy this milestone event. To give one some idea, it takes two to three days to travel from one side of our country to the other so one could imagine the effort it takes us to travel to our shows. You can understand and appreciate the extra effort our exhibitors made to attend this historic event. Know that climates vary throughout the United States from subarctic to subtropical. As a result, preparing birds to be in condition is very challenging especially for one specific date, our annual show.

The National Pigeon Association's 100th Anniversary Show had 5,530 entries. Coinciding with this show and a part of this historic show was The United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary Show. The United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary Show had almost 100 entries, definitely a strong entry for United States Swallow and Wing Pigeon Shows. As you compare these entries to those at the Zwonitz Swallow, Wing Pigeon and Color Pigeon Show, which receives around 1400 entries a year and every five years at the World Show these numbers may double; certainly the quantities are much different. However, realize our United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary included a wide variety of swallows and a large representation of breeders from throughout our country. Definitely, an array of swallows and wing pigeons and a variety of exhibitors is a clear indicator of our club's success over time and our collective commitment to swallows and wing pigeons.

This year, I had the honor to be selected as the judge of this landmark show. Here, we judge in front of the breeders at the show. Birds are brought up by the exhibitors and displayed in large show coops for the judge to review and provide comments to the gallery of exhibitors. Our judging process includes talking to the exhibitors about the rating of each bird. Our intention for this process is to inform breeders of the judge's decision and heighten their awareness of what is seen in their birds by the elected judge. (In Germany, I believe a similar process and discussion takes place at the summer meeting). Additionally, as in European shows, we write the judge's comments on the coop cards: the rating, good points, wishes and faults. As the judge, it is my opportunity to inform those in attendance what I see in their birds. When a bird is

rated 97, if we don't have a European judge doing the judging, we have a second United Swallow Club Certified Judge confirm the bird as a 97 deserving of the E (V) rating.

Also, realize at the National Pigeon Association's 100th Anniversary a Grand Champion of all 5,530 birds entered is selected as well. The champions of all the breeds are brought together for a "Parade of Champions". A panel of three judges from the National Pigeon Association reviews the champions and together the panel of three judges selects a Grand Champion of the National, a Reserve Champion and a Second Reserve Champion. This year's NPA judges were: Orrie Moore, Longbranch, Washington; Fred Maenpa, Orange, California; and Bill Henderson, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Certainly, it is an honor to bestow the Champion out of 5,530 birds! This year's Grand Champion was a Blue Check Swallow owned by Mike and Cathy Swanson, the Champion Swallow, I selected for the United Swallow Club's 50th Anniversary and rated as 97 deserving of the E (V) designation. Nate Wayne, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, our second United Swallow Club Certified Judge, also confirmed the bird as a 97 deserving the E(V) rating. Definitely, the coinciding of NPA Grand Champion for their 100th and Champion for the United Swallow Club's 50th providing a pleasant coincidence!

Know that the United Swallow Club has a Certified Judges Program, not as sophisticated as the European system, however, it serves us well for the size of our country. Our Certified judge and show location are voted upon early in the year. The judge selected gets the opportunity to judge our annual show and airfare and hotel expenses are paid for by our organization.

Mike and Cathy Swanson received the highest honor of the best Swallow or Wing Pigeon at this show. Perry Mueller and Chris Auer, pictured, also showed top birds at this event. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the German Swallow, Wing Pigeon and Shield Club for donating three wonderful bands to our special annual show. Prior to the judging, it was determined these special bands would be shared by three different individuals. Know that by our judging system, one breeder could win all three. However, it was determined to limit one per exhibitor thus, three people could go home very happy. These are the three recipients of the banners and their winning birds:

Secretaries Message Elliot Yeske

I hope all of you are well. Here in the frozen North things are fine just wishing that spring would arrive and we could get rid of our cold temps. My birds are getting more active everyday but it is just too cold to even start to think about the breeding season here. I made it to a few shows this year the Des Monies show and the National. Both shows were a lot of fun and it was good to see many of our members there. The National was nice as it gave me a chance to get out of the cold if even only for a few days. It was good to see Bill Griebel judge again as I had seen him judge in a while. The birds entered at the National were of very good quality of many types and colors.

Membership it is once again that time of year to send in your dues. If you see that behind your name that is has 01/20 it means that your membership has expired please send in your dues soon as members not paid by March 15th will have to be dropped. Dues are still \$10 per year. Bands we are almost sold out of bands, at this time I have very few of the 11 mm bands left to sell. The bands are 50 cents each with \$5 for postage if you need some please check with me for how many I have available. the 8 mm are sold out for this year.

I hope you all have great year with your swallows this year.



At the USC Annual Meet Jan. 2020 Amarillo Texas
Left to right, back row: Nate Wayne, Chris Auer, Elliot Yeske,
Mid: Ron Smith, Cathy Swanson, Mike Swanson, Dave Averbeck, John Navant,
Seated : Gary Romig, Steve Drietz, Bill Griebel, Perry Mueller

Western District Report

George de la Nuez - Corona, California

Greetings from the west! Happy New Years to all of our members near and far. Our 50th club anniversary marks a great milestone in the history of the United Swallow Club. The annual meet took place at the NPA Grand National Show in Amarillo, Texas. This great event brought together many breeders from across the country. Congratulations to all the winners and participants! It was great to see the Swanson's not only win Champion Swallow, but also Overall Champion of the show.

ELECTIONS

Thank you to all of our members who took part in the election and voted to elect me as Western Director. I have been part of this organization since the early 1990's but have not been involved in an elected position until now. I decided to get involved in hopes of helping our club and breed prosper. I look forward to working together with the newly elected officers and members.

FUTURE

The United Swallow Club has been a viable and very productive organization since its beginnings. One of the reasons why I decided to breed Swallows was the fact that there was an established club in existence. Today there are many choices when it comes to breeds and clubs to choose from. How are we going to stand out? With a new decade ahead of us and changing times, how will we stay progressive? Do we need to be more interactive? How do we build new membership? How do we create a forum that encourages open discussion? The club is in the process of developing brochures, new member packet and updating our website. I encourage you to visit our website at www.unitedswallowclub.com In the future we will be posting information about various aspects of the breed. Members are encouraged to share their ideas and provide input for the betterment and overall improvement of our club by contacting their district director, president or myself.

NEWCASTLE VIRUS

For the past approximately two years, we have been under quarantine for the Newcastle Virus. It has affected parts of Southern California, specifically three counties, Riverside,

San Bernardino and Los Angeles. Strict guidelines have been set resulting in poultry shows being cancelled as well as the Fresno National. This is one of many examples of how this unpredictable virus is affecting our hobby. The task force has been continuously testing and when results are positive they euthanize any poultry within a one mile radius from the infected area. At one point, the task force and killings reached as close as two miles from our lofts. It is difficult to put into words how stressful this has been on many breeders, not knowing if their birds will be spared or euthanized. As of 2-21-2020, it has been reported that more cases were found in San Bernardino County. As to when we will see an end to the virus and when things will return to normal, your guess is as good as mine?

NEW BREEDER PROFILES

As you have noticed in this issue of our newsletter, we have started to include a member profile questionnaire which will help us get to know our members a bit more intimately. Our first featured member is Mr. Jim Grober. We hope you enjoy it.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

I wanted to share some ideas on the subject of education and training for our members and future judges. The suggestion has been made to hold educational clinics at major shows, such as our annual meet and other shows where a large group of members attend. Clinics should be led by qualified judges and will help educate our members on the details and overall comprehension of our breed as this is vital to the future of our club, breed and members. The clinic would also include a time of interactive discussions and questions. I hope that this concept becomes a common occurrence at our club gatherings. I have discussed the concept with President Chris Auer and Certified Judge Stephen Ripper and both are receptive to the idea.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

My breeding season is under way with eleven pairs made up of mainly yearlings with three young birds and a few two year olds. The hens are starting to lay and I look forward to the new crop of young. My best wishes to all of our members and may you all have a great and productive breeding season.

Judge Bill Griebel presents the German Band Awards to the winners



Mike and Cathy Sawnsen



Chris Auer



Perry Mueller

Results of the USC Annual Meet January 25-27, 2020, Amarillo Texas

Silesian Swallow

(Non-Crested Saxon Wing Pigeon) (39)

Blue Black Bar - Young Hen

S95 198 Mike Swanson

Blue Barless - Young Hen

HS96 *** 947 Perry Mueller

S94 906 Perry Mueller

Blue Barless - Young Cock

S94 936 Perry Mueller

Blue Barless - Old Hen

HS96 351 Perry Mueller

Blue Barless - Old Cock

E97 258 Perry Mueller

S94 356 Perry Mueller

Blue Check - Young Hen

S94 208 Mike Swanson

Blue Check - Young Cock

S93 132 Mike Swanson

G92 1263 Rachel Stuckey

Blue Check - Old Hen

E97 **** 216 Mike Swanson

HS96 74 Mike Swanson

Blue Check - Old Cock

E97** 158 Mike Swanson

S94 234 Mike Swanson

S93 1191 Steve Dreitz

Silver Check - Young Hen

S95 204 Mike Swanson

S94 230 Mike Swanson

S93 1260 Rachel Stuckey

S93 1261 Rachel Stuckey

Silver Check - Young Cock

S93 1264 Rachel Stuckey

Silver Check - Old Hen

HS96 47 Mike Swanson

S95 174 Mike Swanson

S94 470 Mike Swanson

S94 456 Mike Swanson

G92 659 Rachel Stuckey

Silver Check - Old Cock

S95 76 Mike Swanson

S94 425 Mike Swanson

Silver Barless - Young Hen

S95 53 Mike Swanson

S94 92 Mike Swanson

S93 160 Mike Swanson

Silver Barless - Young Cock

S95 51 Mike Swanson

S94 60 Mike Swanson

S94 66 Mike Swanson

Silver Barless - Old Hen

S95 398 Mike Swanson

S95 338 Mike Swanson

S95 433 Mike Swanson

Silver Barless - Old Cock

S95 86 Mike Swanson

Black Barless - Old Hen

S94 2272 Steve Dreitz

Black Barless - Old Cock

S95 2443 Steve Dreitz

Fairy Swallow

(Crested Saxon Wing Pigeon) (29)

Silver Spangle - Old Hen

S95 2918 Steve Dreitz

Silver Spangle - Old Cock

S94 2911 Steve Dreitz

Blue Spangle - Old Cock

S95 2920 Steve Dreitz

S95 2436 Steve Dreitz

S94 2919 Steve Dreitz

Black Spangle - Young Hen

HS96 959 Perry Mueller

S95 903 Perry Mueller

Black Spangle - Young Cock

S94 967 Perry Mueller

S94 934 Perry Mueller

Black White Bar - Old Hen

S93 1321 David Averbeck Jr

S93 1508 David Averbeck Jr

Black White Bar - Old Cock

S94 1125 David Averbeck Jr

Blue Check - Old Hen

S95 2424 Steve Dreitz

S94 2279 Steve Dreitz

Blue White Bar - Young Hen

HS96 64 Mike Swanson

S95 362 Chris Auer

S94 3 Mike Swanson

S94 108 Mike Swanson

S94 179 Mike Swanson

Blue White Bar - Young Cock

S95 372 Chris Auer

S95 351 Chris Auer

S94 381 Chris Auer

S94 187 Mike Swanson

S94 168 Mike Swanson

Blue White Bar - Old Hen

HS96-1 450 Mike Swanson

HS96-2 9 Mike Swanson

S95 304 Mike Swanson

Blue White Bar - Old Cock

E97 * 124 Mike Swanson

S94 57 Mike Swanson

Fullhead Swallow

(Saxon Swallow) (7)

Blue White Bar - Young Hen

S95 928 Perry Mueller

S95 969 Perry Mueller

Blue White Bar - Young Cock

HS96 * 964 Perry Mueller

S94 970 Perry Mueller

Black White Bar - Young Cock

HS96 394 Chris Auer

S94 355 Chris Auer

Black White Bar - Old Cock

S95 1125 Chris Auer

Clean Leg Fullhead Swallow

(Thuringer Swallow) (6)

Silver Dun Bar - Old Hen

S95 167 Brad Stuckey

S94 166 Brad Stuckey

G92 414 Brad Stuckey

Silver Dun Bar - Old Cock

HS96 * 429 Brad Stuckey

S95 433 Brad Stuckey

Blue Barless - Old Hen

S95 379 Brad Stuckey

Clean Leg Spot Swallow

(Thuringer Wing Pigeon) (13)

Blue Barless - Young Hen

S94 520 Ron Smith

S94 519 Ron Smith

Blue Barless - Old Hen

S95 1167 Ron Smith

S94 588 Ron Smith

S94 337 Ron Smith

Blue Barless - Old Cock

HS96 * 559 Ron Smith

S95 557 Ron Smith

Blue Black Bar - Young Hen

S93 547 Ron Smith

Blue Black Bar - Old Hen

S93 325 Ron Smith

Blue Black Bar - Old Cock

S95 277 Ron Smith

Blue Check - Old Hen

S94 824 Ron Smith

Silver Dun Bar - Old Hen

S94 351 Ron Smith

Silver Check - Old Cock

S93 1181 Ron Smith



* Best Thuringer Wing Pigeon

Blue Barless, OC 559 HS-96, Ron Smith

Photos of Top Swallows at the USC Annual Meet by Layne Gardner



***** Best Young Swallow**
Blue Barless, YH 19-947 HS-96, Perry Mueller



**** Reserve Champion**
Blue Check, OC 158 E-97, Mike Swanson



*** Best Fairy Swallow**
Blue White Bar, OC 124 *E97, Mike Swanson



*** Best Saxon Fullhead Swallow**
Blue White Bar, YC 19-964 HS-96, Perry Mueller



Saxon Fullhead Swallow Black White Bar YC 894 Chris Auer



*** Best Thuringer Swallow,**
Silver Dun Bar, OC 429 HS-96, Brad Stuckey

USC MEMBER PROFILE

Featured breeder **Jim Grober** By George de la Nuez

We are honored to have our first interview with Mr. Jim Grober from the lovely State of Wisconsin. We felt it was appropriate and timely to have Mr. Grober as the featured member, especially following his recent win at the 2019 USC meet in Des Moines, Iowa.

We hope that through these interviews we are able to get to know our members more intimately and learn a few things about them and their pigeons. Please enjoy.....

When were you born? March 12, 1951.

Where do you live? USA, in the State of Wisconsin, the city of Muskego (about 17 miles southeast of Milwaukee) I have lived here my whole life. My wife and I built a home 40 years ago on 5 acres that was part of my grandfather and father's farm.

Do you have any other hobbies besides pigeons? I enjoy vegetable and perennial gardening. I also enjoy landscaping and building. I just finished a 10' x12' storage shed for my brother in law.

For 25 years I raised and exhibited Belgian d'Uccle bantams. This breed has foot feathering and vulture hocks. When I retired 4 years ago, I decided that bantams, especially during January in Wisconsin, heat lamps, frozen water, etc., tied us down if we wanted to travel, even overnight. Prior to selling my bantams, I attended a local pigeon club meeting, the seed was planted and I was hooked. I sold and shipped all my bantams and started searching the internet for breeds.

What attracted you to Swallows? The first Swallows I saw were on the United Swallow Club's website. They reminded me of the d'Uccles with foot feathering and hocks, but also the special color patterns.

Who got you started in Swallows? My first pair of Swallows were from a gentleman in Michigan I happened to meet at the NYBS. The USC was also there and I bought four birds from Chris Auer. All of these birds were blue black bar Silesians.

How did you find out about the United Swallow Club? I primarily learned that the USC existed because of my web searches, but meeting the "club" at the NYBS that first year was pivotal. Chris Auer suggested that I join the club if I was starting with Swallows. I have never regretted that move.

What is your least favorite part of the hobby? As with any animal, keeping the space clean.

Do you have any suggestions on how to improve our club?

A. I have spoken to Chris about this, but a trifold brochure (with application in brochure) could be handed out by members at large and local shows.

B. List of club members and type of Swallows they raise. Could be used as a guide for interested parties.

C. Keep the newsletters coming on a timely basis. Don't miss a quarter, even if it's a small newsletter.

Do you feel there is enough information available out there to help breeders succeed? If not, what would help? Two things have helped me in the past 4 years. **A.** Going to major shows.

NYBS and Des Moines for me. I have learned so much from my fellow breeders. They give advice freely and honestly. **B.** Phone conversations with Chris Auer, Steve Ripper and Brad Stuckey . Others like Nate Wayne and Elliot Yeske who I see at the regional shows and have been very helpful. Bill Griebel has been my main source of blue black bars and Dave Averbeck was my source for black white bars. Each have given me help.

How long have you been in the pigeon hobby? 4 years.

Do you keep other breeds besides Swallows? I just started with a few pair of Gold Collar Lucernes.

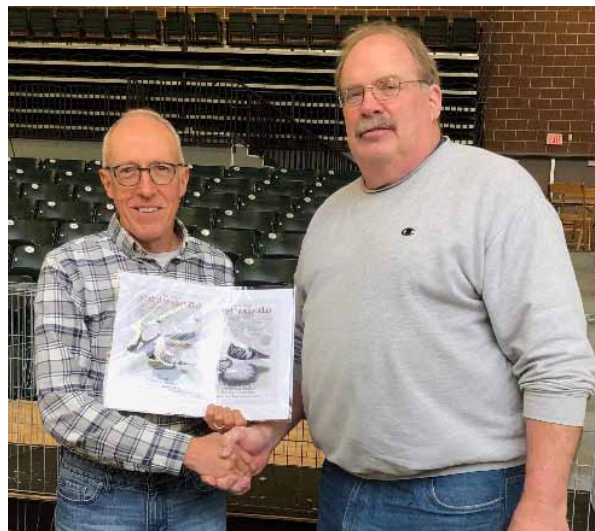
Do you have a health program for your birds? I am a "only the strong survive" kind of person. I was that way with my bantams and have the same philosophy with my pigeons. They do get probiotics in their water on a daily basis and not the same

one every day. Two years ago I lost 2 birds after the NYBS. No amount of medication or probiotics would not have saved them.

What is your feed preference? I feed Des Moines Breeder Ration, but add a small amount of 18% Des Moines Pigeon Pellet. Also add a small amount of safflower meats.

How many birds do you keep? Presently I have 15 pairs of Silesian Swallows. Less than half are black white bar and the balance are blue black bar. I expect to breed 12 pair. You'll see in the photos why I breed 12 pair. Last year I raised about 45 young and I would expect about the same this year.

Is there anything you would like to share that has not been covered? I would like to share that the United Swallow Club has been a real help to me. I'm learning new things every day and the club and its members have been invaluable.



Chris Auer, USC President & Jim Grober with recent awards



Jim Grober Summer landscaping



Jim Grober Breeding Loft



Jim Grober Condition pens



Jim Grober Winter Loft



Gold Collar new loft



Jim Grober Swallow Loft birds feeding



Jim Grober House

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United Swallow Club Financial Report 9/1/19 - 12/31/19

Beginning balance: 7172.81

Deposits:
NYB show rebate 76.00
Des Moines show rebate..... 26.00
Bands, dues and patches 910.50

Expenses:
NPA club dues 20.00
Gary Romig, Awards for & patch design..... 217.75
Chris Auer, patches 261.00
Chris Auer, banner 163.81
NPA, 2nd 1/2 of bands..... 402.50

Ending checking balance 7120.25

United Swallow Club Officers for 2020-2022

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Secretary/Treasurer:
Elliot Yeske
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