



Message from the Editor

Gary Romig

Happy Spring to all. My breeding season seems to be starting off well. The birds are healthy and the young birds are doing well.

I attended the birthday and tribute party for Tom McCaig (Mr. Frillback) on March 10th. Tom is a great guy and it was a very good turn out. Tom has been an important player in our Swallows, especially in Southern California where he has been judging Swallows for many years. Bill Griebel, Cortus Koehler and George De La Nuez are to be commended for putting this party together along with many others including Tom's wife of many years, Jeannine.

Now to the important business of deciding who will be our officers for 2008 and 2009.

We need your nominations for:

President,
Vice President,
Sec./Treas.,
Western district director,
Eastern district director,
Central district director
Canadian district director

Eligible judges :

Gloria Weisgram
Mike Swanson
Leon Stephens
Perry Mueller
Dave Harris
Bill Griebel
Steve Ball
Howard Angevine

Plus, we must decide **where** to have our Annual Meet and the **Judge** for 2007 (pick judge from list above) .

Send all nominations by **May 30** to Tim Starr:

E-mail: timstarr@comcast.net

Phone: 717-328-9751 or mail him at
8804 Ft. Loudon Rd. Mercersburg, PA 17236

In this bulletin you will find many articles by one of our members in Canada, Ross Dobson. Thank you to Ross for these interesting contributions to the bulletin. I am sure a lot of work went into this. At times it is difficult to fill the bulletin with interesting material.

Also, you will find the results and photos from the Pageant of Pigeons; Swallows, from last November. Thanks to Bill Griebel for these results and Layne Gardner for the photos.



Jay Beals champion Swallow from the most recent Pageant of Pigeons. Rated E (97). Photo by Layne Gardner.



Tom McCaig receives a beautiful framed piece with fine calligraphy, poem, and old German lithographic print of Frillbacks. It was put together by Bill Griebel, George Del Nuez, Cortus Koehler and other members of the LAPC. Photo Paul Gamino.

2006 PAGEANT SHOW RESULTS

Ratings starting with best
 E97 = Excellent
 HS96 = Highly Superior
 S95 = Superior
 S94 = Superior
 S93 = Superior
 G92 = Good
 G91 = Good
 I90 = Inferior

Swallows

Champion & Best Thuringer

Black Barless OC #1504 Jay Beals

Best Fairy Black W/B OC #182 Bill Griebel Sr.

Best Silesian Blue Black Bar OC #156 Bill Griebel Sr.

Best Fullhead Blue Spangle OC #79 Leon Stephens

Best Young Black Barless Fullhead YC #424 Bill Griebel Sr.

Silesian Swallows

Silver Spangle YC

S93 117 Dave Holloway

Blue Black Bar OC

HS96 156 Bill Griebel Sr.

HS96 475 Bill Griebel Sr.

OH

S93 523 Bill Griebel Sr.

G92 479 Bill Griebel Sr.

YC

HS96 410 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 555 Bill Griebel Sr.

YH

S95 432 Bill Griebel Sr.

S95 415 Bill Griebel Sr.

Blue Barless OC

S95 379 Leon Stephens



Best Young Swallow at the 2006 Pageant. Black young cock bred by Bill Griebel Sr. Photo by Layne Gardner.

Fairy Swallows

Black W/B OC

E97 182 Bill Griebel Sr.

S95 998 Leon Stephens

S95 820 Leon Stephens

OH

S95 436 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 928 Leon Stephens

S94 697 Leon Stephens

S93 948 Leon Stephens

YC

S93 472 Bill Griebel Sr.

YH

S93 518 Bill Griebel Sr.

Blue Barless OC

S94 509 Bill Griebel Sr.

OH

S93 772 Leon Stephens

YC

S95 457 Bill Griebel Sr.

Blue Spangle OH

G92 726 Dave Holloway

Blue W/B OC

S94 301 George de la Nuez

OH

S95 302 George de la Nuez

YC

S95 510 George de la Nuez

YH

S93 541 George de la Nuez

G92 2336 John DeCarlo

Red W/B OH

HS96 10 Leon Stephens

Yellow W/B OH

S95 158 Leon Stephens

Fullhead Swallows

Blue Spangle OC

HS96 79 Leon Stephens

Black W/B YH

G92 504 Bill Griebel Sr.

Black Barless OC

S95 524 Bill Griebel Sr.

OH

S95 314 Bill Griebel Sr.

S95 267 Bill Griebel Sr.

G92 529 Bill Griebel Sr.

YC

HS96 424 Bill Griebel Sr.

S95 498 Bill Griebel Sr.

YH

HS96 444 Bill Griebel Sr.

S94 425 Bill Griebel Sr.

Thuringer Swallow

Black Barless OC

E97 1504 Jay Beals

OH

HS96 633 Jay Beals

YC

S95 1184 Jay Beals

YH

S95 1193 Jay Beals

Ash Red Bar OC

S93 390 Dave Holloway

Ash Red Check OC

S94 841 Dave Holloway

Blue Barless YH

S95 588 Carl Rodegerdts

Blue Bar YC

S95 577 Carl Rodegerdts

S95 584 Carl Rodegerdts

S93 587 Carl Rodegerdts

Silver YH

S94 570 Carl Rodegerdts

S94 582 Carl Rodegerdts

Blue Spangle

G92 388 Dave Holloway

Blue W/B

S95 867 Dave Holloway

Ash Yellow Bar OH

S93 624 Dave Holloway

Ash Yellow Check OH

G92 834 Dave Holloway

Silver Spangle YH

S94 1709 Dave Holloway

Silver W/B OC

S94 515 Dave Holloway

Yellow YC

S93 246 Jorge Amezlug

YH

G92 885 Jorge Amezlug



Fairy Swallows by C. F. Tunnicliffe R.A.



Best Silesian at the 2006 Pageant. Blue black bar old cock bred by Bill Griebel Sr. Photo by Layne Gardner.



Best Fairy Swallow at the 2006 Pageant. Black white bar old cock bred by Bill Griebel Sr. Photo by Layne Gardner.

Report on the 2006 Annual Meet

Bob Benson District Director United Swallow Club

The Iowa State Pigeon Club was host to the great event, The National Pigeon Show. The number of birds was a sight to behold, 7400 caged. This may be a record for the Des Moines show.

This was the Swallow Club's annual show which had an entry of 125 birds. I think this was the most swallows of any show in which I have participated. The quality and condition of the swallows was above average, and a good variety was entered.

There was time for pigeon talk before the judging began; most of which was true. Four ladies were in attendance to cheer on their favorite; Mrs. Lindbom, Mrs. Swanson, Mrs. Kress, and Patti Besan, a new club member from New Hampshire (welcome and best of luck with your swallows).

The swallow auction was held again, and what an auction it was. Three hundred ninety-five dollars was bid for five pair. Bill Griebel donated a pair of black barless fullheads that sold for well over one hundred dollars. Thank you Bill! Club members were sorry you couldn't attend; hopefully we'll see you next year. Also donating birds were; Perry Mueller - two pair, Gerry Kress - one pair, Bob Jakubowski - one pair. Thanks to you people because obviously, you donated good birds.

The show judge was Gary Romig; a fine artist as well as a great fancier of color pigeons. Gary labored long and hard to determine which bird merited the championship. That honor went

to a beautiful blue white bar fairy, shown by Mike Swanson. Congratulations Mike! The other winners were: Reserve Champion - Bob Benson, blue check silesian Best Fullhead - Chris Lindbom, black barless Best Thuringer Fullhead - Elliot Yeske, blue white bar Best Thuringer Wing Pigeon - Perry Mueller, yellow barless Best Young Bird - Perry Mueller, silver check silesian

Well to the winners, and to Norm House and Bob Jakubowski, winners of one hundred dollars for displaying their aviary.

It's the middle of January and my thoughts are turning to mating my birds, at least on paper. My target is February 1st for mating. This winter has been mild, feels like March (so far). Until next year, have fun with pigeons.



Gary Romig Judging Swallows at the USC Annual Meet during the NPA National. Photo by Bob Benson

Bird Flu Update.....the MOVIE!

This "made for TV" movie is due to air on ABC networks MAY 9, 2007....



well it had to happen.....

- 1. the Hollywood movie has arrived... before any possible avian flu pandemic, and**
- 2. the pre-release DVD rental has arrived now, before this "made for TV" movie is aired on the networks for wider public consumption (due for TV release on May 9)**

The movie's title says it all. " FATAL CONTACT: BIRD FLU IN AMERICA"

I rented this movie from Blockbuster Video here in Cornwall Ontario Canada on March 13, 2007, and noticed the rental versions were not exactly flying off the shelf...given the predictable title that says all you ever wanted to know about the movie plot/storyline. I just HAD to check this movie out, as it actually shows (=implicates?) some pigeons along with a few other species on the movie cover page.

The movie itself is basically a "worst case scenario" of what could happen if the H5N1 flu virus mutates into a strain which enables human to human transmission..with predictable global results. It does have some good points, such as the need to have good planning in place for such widespread public health crises. It also clearly explains the reason why no effective vaccine exists now "on the shelf" for such emergencies.

It depicts very clearly how such viruses could easily and rapidly spread from person to person (handshakes, sneezes, sharing drinks, hands on escalator railing, etc.). And since handling and watching this video I have noticed I am more diligent with hand washing, so it may encourage people to do more frequent and thorough hand washing...it makes you think of it at least!

Things like gloves and masks are rightly depicted as having uncertain effectiveness in such situations and may simply be placebos.

Essential services such as public health workers, police, firemen, etc. are shown in this movie to have a critical role and having highest priority for any vaccine.

Some scenes in this movie are very graphic and bloody, however brief..mass burials/graves reminiscent of Rwanda for example.

The scenario of empty grocery shelves and food rationing and panic, riots etc. are quite realistic and transportation systems etc. would be non-functioning.

The key message by the movie's end seems to be that solutions to dealing with such huge emergencies may best be solved at the local community scale; neighborhoods and families working together. Having lived through a major Ice Storm crisis here in Eastern Ontario in January 1998, when we were without telephone and electrical lines (and house heat) for 3 or 4 days, I can appreciate such depictions as support systems become very localized beginning with your own capacity for self-reliance and coping, adapting to uncertainty for meeting your daily living needs.

Yes this movie is "scary", but as one of the web sites below states, remember that it is a MOVIE, not a DOCUMENTARY.

reviewed by Ross Dobson, March/07

FOR MORE INFORMATION: on-line Sources:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/birdfluinamerica.html>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory?id=1902688>

<http://abc.go.com/movies/birdflu.html>

Swallow content on-line around the world “the Obscure and the Obvious”

PART 1 of 2- DID YOU KNOW?

- That almost 65% of United Swallow Club members now have an E-mail address?
- That U.S.C. has a web site with swallow standards which has been on-line since 1996?
- That there are photos of champion swallows around the world available on-line?
- That you can buy great swallow “collector” items such as art work and T-shirts on-line?
- That our club Bulletin is partially distributed via computer to save postage costs?
- That you can create your own desktop background using a swallow image or picture?
- That (besides the U.S.C. web site) there are a few other web sites that focus on swallow pigeons and related “Color pigeon” breeds?

SO NOW YOU DO KNOW! (I didn't until I started to research this article and for example finally, after about a month of research, stumbled across the excellent German Swallow Club web site (see below) plus others after lots of surfing hours). Maybe you already are aware of such information and how to access it, however if not...These articles introduce some internet/web-based sources, communications, viewpoints and resources specific to the international swallow world. This introduction is to stimulate additions, corrections and updates by other swallow fanciers around the globe from your desktop or even wireless laptop computer!

Originally I included more discussion of the existing U.S.C. web site, its need for renewal and more active management, and future content ideas, however great minds (and Gary's initiative) have already overtaken us with the new web site now on-line, so I have edited such comments out of this version 2.

Ross Dobson
Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
E-mail rsmjldob@aol.com

A. swallow Web sites (see Directory in PART 2)

A.1 Of most interest to swallow fanciers, whether USC members or possible future members, may be the “official” United Swallow Club web site. You can find the site (after connecting to the Internet) by typing in the following:
<http://personal.riverusers.com/~swallowclub>

A.2 OUR WEB HISTORY

The previous USC website has been around for a few years now (see brief history snapshot below), and included such key items as the USC-approved swallow breed standards of perfection, list of club Directors, a small picture album, an

excellent article by Bill Griebel (Sr) and Mike Lerp about the Individual Merit System of Judging, and a list (out of date) of on-line members for contact. A club website has an important value for breed promotion, education and club marketing etc for current and future swallow fanciers around the world, and has lots of potential to showcase us and this breed to a wider audience.

A SHORT (unofficial) HISTORY of the official U.S.C. WEB SITE (with advance apologies for any key omissions of individuals)

In 1996, Alex Lacy (Oregon) and Mike Lerp (Maryland) developed the first USC homepage and linked it to the NPA website. Some ideas and initial content inputs were contributed by a small “loose” committee appointed by then President Bill Griebel; Alex Lacy, Ross Dobson, Mike Lerp and Gary Romig. Since then there have been a few updates and additions such as the Merit judging article, however no significant redesigns were actioned, which made this website 10 YEARS OLD which is cause for celebration! (And ancient in “web-years”).

The new website, as developed and launched by Gary Romig as our second generation effort, was borne in Fall 2006! (See PART 2).

A. 2 web sites usually have useful pigeon LINKS, and a few cross reference the USC web site for those readers who wish to know more about the breed. A basic directory or guide of such web sites, regardless of geographic origin around the world, follows at the end of this article (as PART 2 of 2) .

B. E-mail communications

I have always been impressed with the high percentage of USC members who have access to a computer and have an E-mail address....What other pigeon club has close to 65% of its members with E-mail access?!!

COMPARE this trend with some historical information gleaned from past Bulletins:

In 1997, our newly launched web site and club Bulletin listed only 8 members with E-mail addresses (out of 68 members; about 10%)

In 1998, 14 out of 71 members had an E-mail address (about 20%)

In December 2005, 47 out of 89 members had E-mail (about 53%)

In our January 2007 Bulletin, 49 out of our 75 members listed have E-Mail which is about 65% of members!

So we've grown from 10% to 20% to the current (2007) level of about 65% of members with E-mail access which is an important fact for membership communications and future networking.

C. A few web surfing suggestions and observations

C.1 Protecting yourself: Just like the need to ensure healthy pigeons, a strong cautionary note before beginning such on-line “research” or using E-mail communications is that many such random sources could have viruses, Trojan horses, etc.

and cause your home (or work) computer to have operating problems IF you don't have up to date protection for your computer and its contents (firewalls, virus scanners etc etc such as Norton and others to protect your system whenever you go on-line)...this is a constantly changing situation and some pigeon web sites and E-mail sources around the world ARE infected....so be careful out there (just like with your pigeons, the health of your computer system needs preventive medicine and constant vigilance)!

C.2 Copyright, ownership etc.

Legal issues surrounding (intellectual) copyright etc for on-line material is complex and ever changing, plus complicated by the international aspects. For your personal use only, you can usually use information and photos etc. from on-line sources ("in the public realm") although it is prudent to acknowledge sources or authors just like when you write something using a specific reference/source (i.e. the plagiarism issue). Some web sites have copyright statements on them which prohibit copying, and some photographs or images are encrypted so you can't download them for other uses such as redistribution to others or on other web sites or products, etc.. Educational and "not for profit" use is normally allowed, with some basic need to acknowledge sources or artistic ("intellectual property") ownership, such as drawings/images etc.

C.3 Desktop Display: One simple technique to dress up your home (or office if policies allow that..) computer display with a swallow image (picture or painting etc.) is to LEFT CLICK your MOUSE on a web image and save it as your DESKTOP or WALLPAPER image...so you can see high quality swallow pigeons each time you open your computer monitor screen!

C.4 the growing DIGITAL DIVIDE

Although this electronic/computer-based age of communications technology is still growing exponentially around the world, we always need to remember that access to such tools and information is not universal, nor are we all techno-wiz's or experts in using such tools. However computer-based forms of communication can still be useful, such as by sharing basic U.S.C. club information, contacts, and breed standards relatively cheaply and facilitating widespread, quick and cheap communications to many people. If you do not have access to a computer with Internet access/connections, try your public libraries, schools or other institutions. If all else fails, drop in on a neighbor or fellow fancier who has such Internet access, or even try a Cyber-Café if such a facility is located in your area.

C.5 The FUTURE of the USC website!

To keep the club website product in perspective, we need to stress that its objective is simply to be one communication tool for the club and its membership, in support of and complementary to the club BULLETIN which in my view anyways will most likely remain as the primary vehicle for members who are so widely dispersed across the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, etc.. The website's main purpose and value goes well beyond being a communication tool for members

reaching the wider global pigeon fancier audience, and so supporting the awareness and promotion of the swallow breed itself, and providing a relatively inexpensive means to reach existing plus potential swallow fanciers.

PART 2 of 2- DIRECTORY OF SWALLOW WEB SOURCES

A. SWALLOW SPECIALTY CLUBS

1. United Swallow Club

<http://personal.riverusers.com/~swallowclub/>

By now, most if not all of you have checked out our new web site, as developed and launched in Fall 2006 by Gary Romig. This web site has a great front page with its swallow images, and also the very detailed and illustrated official swallow standards. The membership list is on, plus current club Executive contacts. Two sample bulletins from last year give potential members a glimpse of club benefits. One of Gary's new LINKS posted on this web site is of his graphic art products for sale..including along with his bird portfolio his wonderful pigeon and swallow pigeon art using digital mix of photography and digital/computer graphics.....maybe too late for Christmas gifts this year but it's on my wish list for 2007 Christmas for sure!

2. German Club for Saxon Swallows and Saxon Shield Pigeons

<http://www.taubenperlen-aus-sachsen.de/frameset-englisch.htm>

There are German and English language editions of this web site (thanks) And the above web address is the English language version. Club President (and webmaster) was Andreas Meyer, until his unfortunate passing. The current membership of this German swallow club is 142.

"Sonderverein der Züchter Sächsischer Flügel-, Schwalben- und Schildtauben von 1920" was established on the 8. February 1920 in Geyer a small town in the Erz Mountains on the occasion of a poultry show. In the beginning only breeders of Saxon Fairy and Silesian Swallows have been member in the club. In the year 1924 also the breeders of Saxon Fullhead Swallows became membership. The breeder of Saxon Shield Pigeons became the membership in the year 1931 after several starts."

This web site includes some excellent photographs of champion swallows from recent shows (photo gallery), plus written breed and variety standards complete with art work showing illustrating (stylized) examples of the breed standard.. NOTE that this website includes the USC website in its LINKS page which is great news (we need to reciprocate in our new website now being developed).

The multi-language requirement brings up the issue of swallow terminology (again), which has been discussed numerous times in USC Bulletins by such experts as Bill Griebel (Sr.) And others. To surf the internet on these international web sites you sometimes need to know the current language equivalent of our swallow breed and its many varieties, a task I leave to others more qualified than myself to share with us language-challenged members. For example in our 1997 Bulletin, the Saxon Fairy Swallow

(or Crested Wing Pigeon) was translated as "Flugeltaube mit kappe" in German..is this still the correct terminology anyone? This seems like another great subject for a future Bulletin article..volunteers?

3.The British Swallow Club;

This club is listed on the Great Britain web site (see below) but I am unsure of this club's status and am assuming at this point that they do not (yet) have an active web site. Can any members clarify this club's status?

4 any other Swallow Speciality Clubs you are aware of in any language or anywhere in the world?

B. Other Specialty, all-breed or Multi-Breed Pigeon Associations; some global and regional examples with swallow content

1.Australian National Pigeon Association- their web site includes nice photo of a Black white bar Fairy swallow of Darren Rafton's. You can also find that there are three (Fairy swallow) swallow breeders listed in the Breeders Directory with this organization: Mal O'Keefe, Glen Welstead, and Michael Spadoni.

<http://www.anpa.com.au/>

2. German National Pigeon Association

-not sure about their URL due to my being "language-challenged"..can someone check this out? I think that this association was established in 1895?

3. National Pigeon Association (U.S.A.)

<http://npausa.com/> -with links to USC web site and others

4. Canadian Pigeon Fanciers Association (C.P.F.A.)- (Canada)

<http://www.pigeonfanciers.ca/>

- a few swallow pictures were found here in a section illustrating the various breeds, such as a Black White bar Fairy swallow owned by Clement Page and shown at the Montreal show (photo by Robert Raymond)- another photo is of a Thuringian Wing Pigeon (photo by George De La Nuez of California, who is the "official photographer of the Pageant of Pigeons"(Los Angeles Pigeon Club)

5. National Pigeon Association (Great Britain)

<http://www.zyworld.com/NPA/index.htm>

-mentions the British Swallow Club (see above), but no address or contacts identified.

6. South African Pigeon Association

<http://www.mjvn.co.za/safpa/> -has a picture of a Champion Fairy Swallow, owned by Lo Ann Boerdery

7. France National Pigeon Association

<http://www.pigeons-france.com/> - this web site lists a link to a French Specialty Club which includes swallow varieties Club Francais des Pigeons de Couleur ("French Color Pigeons Club"), and within this website is a list of all the breeds they support, including a "Group 4" which incorporates

"Hirondelles" (swallows)...such as Hirondelle de Saxe, Hirondelle de Nuremberg, Hirondelle de Thuringe. With some searching and more familiarity with the language than I have, you may be able to find a few swallow images etc.

Here is their Color Pigeons Club website check it out..

[Http://perso.wanadoo.fr/](http://perso.wanadoo.fr/)

8. Denmark Show Pigeon Association

- I am not familiar with these languages, so maybe somebody who is could check these ones out and clarify their scope and status regarding any swallow pigeon content?

<http://www.raceduen.dk/>, and/or

[Http://kleurduiven.sierduif.nl/](http://kleurduiven.sierduif.nl/) Their association logo includes a nice Saxon Fairy Swallow image, and a photo gallery (by Dick Hamer) has a number of nice swallow images including a Tiger swallow (not downloadable). Does "saksischevleugelduif" translate to "swallow pigeon" or "Saxon fairy swallow"? (just a wild guess on my part!)

9. German Club for Saxon Color Pigeons

This related web site can be accessed from the German Club for Saxon Swallows etc (above #2).

10.Arizona Pigeon Club

<http://www.azpigeons.org> -Includes some swallow breed standards and photos.

11. Rare Breeds Pigeon Club (RBPC)

<http://members.aol.com/fancyclub/rbpc.html>
<http://rbpc.bravehost.com/>

This is another excellent web site (Alex Lacy is webmaster), with perhaps the best LINKS pages I have seen for our pigeon world.They also have listed a number of swallow varieties within their list of "rare breeds", such as SFS (Saxon Fairy Swallow), SFHS (Full head Swallow), and SIS (Silesian Swallow),THSW (Thuringian Swallow) .

C. INDIVIDUAL SWALLOW FANCIERS WEB SITES

- Very few (swallow) fanciers seem to have their own web sites (yet), however there are some who showcase their birds with swallow images etc. along with other breeds they raise or show. Here are three fanciers who have swallow pigeon "content" on their web sites;

1. Bay City Lofts: Michael Spadoni's Australian web site, with his Fairy Swallows and a Photo Gallery with some very nice photos of his swallows (Blue white-bar, silver spangle, blue spangle all Fairy swallows)-you can LINK to Michael's recently updated website through the Australian Pigeon Association's website (above)..he has recently added a few swallow pictures to his gallery..

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/spud1/baycitylofts/index.htm>

2. Mick Bassett has his own web site which includes a photo gallery of his Thuringian swallows. Check out his four pages of swallow photos at: http://bassett_swallows.tripod.com/, or via his main website which is <http://www.geocities.com/pigeonsights/bassett/>

-It appears that Mick now lives in Germany, having moved

from England with his pigeons etc.

3. Mike Lerp

<http://members.tripod.com/~NPA2/npa.html>

Mike includes one of Gary Romig's art work of swallows in his web site, with links to USC , NPA etc.

D. Other miscellaneous web-based sources with "swallow content"

1. January, 1926 National Geographic article on pigeons-online

<http://members.aol.com/duiven/articles/natgeo/natgeo.htm>

The entire article (all on-line) is entitled "Man's Feathered Friends of Longest Standing. BY ELISHA HANSON, with illustrations in color from paintings by Hashime Murayama"

Note that this article includes a nice (circa 1926) painting of two swallows, assumed to be by the above noted artist.

2. Show Reports...a couple of examples only...there are many such available and some include swallow judging results where shown; sometimes helpful to locate swallow fanciers in regional/local locations.

Iowa State Fair

<http://www.iowastatefair.org/cgi-bin/displayresults/>

Includes some show results with a few swallow entries , such as from their August 2005

State Fair where there were three swallows shown (CL) by a Dennis Streeter of Carroll , Iowa.

Vancouver Poultry and Fancy Pigeon Association (show report from Nov.17-20, 2005)

This active pigeon club (established in 1898) had a large show last winter (2005/06) including some last minute visitors from Alberta including our Canadian USC Director John Taupert with his batch of high quality swallows.

<http://www.vancouverfancypigeon.ca/WinterShowReport2005.htm>

Out of 493 Fancy pigeons entered, the Reserve Grand Champion award went to a Fairy Swallow..congratulations to John Taupert! The Champion Rare Pigeon (out of 176 entries) also was awarded to a Thuringer Wing Pigeon, another bird shown by John Taupert. Pictures of both (plus John..) are on this website.

Also noticed that one of the Vancouver club's members (Buddy Smart of Richmond, B.C.) lists Fairy Swallows as one of his breeds.

3. Diane Jacky's web site

<http://www.cafepress.com/jackynet>

<http://www.cafepress.com/jackynet/1023494>

The Diane Jacky Gift Shop has an amazing product line illustrated with your choice of swallow drawings, such as a pair of Saxon Fairy Swallows, or a Fullhead swallow pigeon. Everything from ball caps to T-shirts to coffee or beer mugs can be ordered with your favorite swallow variety picture on display...I had no idea of the wide selection available! (But I

don't get out much I guess..).The second web address above gets you directly to her saxon fairy swallow product line for those who favor and want to celebrate this variety.

4. German Pigeon Museum

<http://www.taubmuseum.de/index.html>

This web site, also in both English and German version, has some great art work on display, including for example six works by Frank Cook (Rochester, N.Y.), with his swallows of course. (I can count at least 40 swallows in one of these amazing paintings!)

Other "Gallery" items include some amazing pigeon artwork on products such a stamps, postcards and posters.This website is a "must see" for those of us who love "taubens" (pigeons in German)!

5 "Feather site"

<http://www.feathersite.com>

This is an "older" general web site, and has a photo of a Tiger swallow courtesy of Merle Starr.

6. Swallow pictures, images and videos

A big growth area on the internet has been the use of it for posting and sharing pictures and videos for all to see. This includes swallow pigeons! Recently I discovered a large number of swallow images posted by a yet to be named person with a webname of "Imcoydog" ...maybe even a "USC member from the midwest??.as "coydogs" are crosses between domestic dogs and wild coyotes. Whomever he (or she) is, they posted overphotos of swallows on this site from the recent NPA National Show

E. SEARCHING and SURFING; Using your Search engines and programs such as "GOOGLE" or "Yahoo" and others.

- a recent Yahoo search using the word "swallows" yielded 323,000 "hits" or sources, including some good ones but also lots of junk such as sites about the wild bird swallow type not the pigeon one. A Google search for "swallow pigeons" also yielded 13,200 results or "hits" for this phrase.

Text content is one aspect, and you can also search for IMAGES using the same process of using key words such as swallows or swallow pigeons.The best and quickest method to find the most useful web site information is to use the LINKS pages identified on the above web sites, which will lead you to others if relevant content. Unless you have loads of spare time (I am retired...and enjoy such research...) the above Directory of key swallow web sites should provide you with most of the available on-line "swallow content" without extensive searching.

Good luck and have fun!

Please send any updates, comments, or corrections to Ross Dobson

E-mail rsmjldob@aol.com

VERSION 2.0 FEBRUARY 2007 (RBD)



VIRTUAL PIGEON EXPLOSION!

10 More internet “fun stuff” for swallow fanciers

NOTE; any on-line products, sources or ideas below are not necessarily recommended by the author but simply listed as ideas you may or may not wish to explore further. Have fun exploring these sources and others!

RECOMMENDATIONS= after each items I have included my personal rating (opinion only) of “degree of interest or value” these may be to swallow fanciers, within a scale of 0 to 5 (5 being the most value). This is a general guide only.

Compiled by Ross Dobson, rsmjjdob@aol.com

February 2007

1. GOOGLE SEARCH pigeons!

<http://www.google.com/technology/pigeonrank.html>

This one is good for a laugh, as it was posted on April Fools Day (2002) to explain Google’s technology using pigeons...lots of fun and wit!

Here is an excerpt.....“Our Technology;“ PigeonRank” The technology behind Google’s great results. As a Google user, you’re familiar with the speed and accuracy of a Google search. How exactly does Google manage to find the right results for every query as quickly as it does? The heart of Google’s search technology is PigeonRank™, a system for ranking web pages developed by Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin at Stanford University. Building upon the breakthrough work of B. F. Skinner, Page and Brin reasoned that low cost pigeon clusters (PCs) could be used to compute the relative value of web pages faster than human editors or machine-based algorithms. And while Google has dozens of engineers working to improve every aspect of our service on a daily basis, PigeonRank continues to provide the basis for all of our web search tools.” How was PigeonRank developed? The ease of training pigeons was documented early in the annals of science and fully explored by noted psychologist B.F. Skinner, who demonstrated that with only minor incentives, pigeons could be trained to execute complex tasks such as playing ping pong, piloting bombs or revising the Abatements, Credits and Refunds section of the national tax code. Brin and Page were the first to recognize that this adaptability could be harnessed through massively parallel pecking to solve complex problems, such as ordering large datasets or ordering pizza for large groups of engineers.”... RECOMMENDATION= 4 pigeons.

2. DIGITAL PIGEON PICTURES....swallows too!..in this age where the world is snapping digital pictures on their cell phones and sending them around the world, we are swamped with even pictures of pigeons of all sorts and

places. A number of sources exist but to get you started here is one “public “ website which includes some great swallow images by at least one swallow fancier.

<http://www.webshots.com/>

I did a search for pigeons on this website and it gave me over 58000 pigeon related images...some junk but also many great pigeon images of all types, including a few swallow pigeon images by a contributor who goes by the screen name of “Inhcoydog”. Fairy Swallow Pigeons pictures published by 1nhcoydog.

<http://pets.webshots.com/album/554969943ftdfEE>

<http://community.webshots.com/user/1nhcoydog>

(fairy swallows) 2007 NPA Grand National Iowa// swallows!..many swallow entries are now on-line from the recent December 2006 NPA Grand National Show, as posted by the same fancier as above. Maybe even a USC member?

<http://pets.webshots.com/album/556341240Ytcusd>

RECOMMENDATION= 5 pigeons

3. PIGEON COLLECTIBLES..books, art work, magazines, sculptures, etc. For those of you who are into collecting “stuff”, perhaps the best web site to start with may be “E-Bay” where all sorts of stuff is sold, bought or traded daily around the world...including pigeon memorabilia. Check it out at: <http://www.ebay.com> and then do a SEARCH for “pigeons”; for example on March 14, 2007 I found about 123 items listed for “pigeons”. This included even a few items with swallow content, such as:- a 1904 set of cigarette picture cards of “Fowls, pigeons and dogs” which includes one card of a swallow of that era. (Ogden cigarettes). Other eclectic items included pigeon decals (“my pigeons are smarter than your honor student”).

Magazines such as the issues of National Geographic featuring pigeon articles (Jan., 1926, and Sept. 1949).., an 1886 Reprint of a book by E.S.Starr called “Breeding Fancy Pigeons”, a print of Picasso’s “Les pigeons” (1962), etc.

RECOMMENDATION= 4 pigeons

4. PIGEON SCREEN SAVERS- you can always find “free” SCREEN SAVERS by searching GOOGLE etc ..but as we all know ...nothing is really “FREE!”it may appear free but sponsors want things from you in the form of “survey” information about you....sounds like telemarketers, looks like telemarketers, probably then IS telemarketers...so whats the solution? Simple..make your very own customized screen saver for free, using your own “MY PICTURES” or other Windows software program which most computers have as part of their basic packages.....go to “DISPLAY” under “MY COMPUTER” and change your screen saver settings to a FOLDER under your “pictures” program which you can identify and build with pigeon or even swallow pigeon images only. If your system needs a free screen saver program, just get one from www.sreensavers.com, but be careful. RECOMMENDATION= 3 pigeons

5. CURSORS

That little pointer on your computer screen can be changed to a wide variety of shapes, sizes or images, including even a pigeon! If you wish to experiment Search Google for “free cursors” and a number of sources pop up...as usual just be careful in accessing anything specific as much of such stuff is simply a tool to get you to buy something. I actually have a “pigeon” cursor on my desktop now and it works fine (for free..I think..so far..) . One such web site is: www.cursormania.com
RECOMMENDATION=2 pigeons

6 BLOGS and BLOGGING

Dan Gilmour gives us this definition in the [draft version of his book](#), Making the News : So what is a weblog, anyway? Generally speaking, it’s an online journal comprised of links and postings in reverse chronological order, meaning the most recent posting appears at the top of the page. As Meg Hourihan, co-founder of Pyra Labs, the blogging software company acquired by Google in February 2003, has noted, weblogs are “post-centric” – the posting is the key unit – rather than “page-centric,” as with more traditional websites. Weblogs typically link to other websites and blog postings, and many allow readers to comment on the original post, thereby allowing audience discussions. So far, I am unaware of any pigeon or swallow pigeon bloggers, but these may be a few “out there”!
RECOMMENDATION=0 pigeons

7. PIGEON VIDEOS- this is a fast growing communication tool for the global community..with subject matter as wide as the world.....including videos of pigeons of all types!

YouTube...<http://www.youtube.com/community>
If you want to watch a great video about the global human relationship to pigeons through history and today..check out the following (caution if you only have dial up service like I do this will take a while to load but it is worth it. 3 minutes, 44 seconds long)...so here is “ONE BIRD, ONE WISH” ...pigeons a symbols of peace and love around the world.Thanks to the Vancouver Poultry and Pigeon Association newsletter for this specific source:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AopIsWYPwtI>
Other pigeon videos abound, including some educational videos such as “hand feeding a pigeon or dove”, “ common symptoms of PMV or paramyxovirus”, etc so lots of potential here especially for new fanciers.
RECOMMENDATION= 4 pigeons

8. BREEDING RECORDS SOFTWARE

For most of us, manual breeding records or cards would probably be adequate, better, or just as easy to maintain as computer-based systems. For a sample of a simple yet effective manual form, see the USC Bulletin article by Perry Mueller called “Keeping Records” (Winter issue,

2005) For one example of a computerized system, see: <http://www.zooeasy.com/en/pedigreesoftware/breedingfancypigeons/> To quote this product’s website, “Get a clear overview of your fancy pigeons and their index data such as color, parents and blood relationship. With a single mouse click you can select, sort and create reports. Record all master data including titles, breeder and owner. Precise inbreeding calculations. Fantastic search facility for selecting pigeon data.”
RECOMMENDATION= 1 pigeon

9. PIGEON NEWS TV on your computer

<http://www.pigeonnews.tv/>
This one is not too inspiring but again may be of interest to new fanciers. For example on March 13 the TV “news” featured a short film called “banding baby pigeons”; not really news...
RECOMMENDATION= 0 pigeons

10. PIGEON RADIO

<http://www.pigeonradio.com/pr/>
another new item..seems to be primarily aimed at the racing pigeon community, and the ARPU. In particular but approach (radio on computer) may expand in future who knows....certainly the communication business is pushing “Satellite Radio” as the next best thing! Users will need to download Windows Media Player 9 if not already on your system.Another glitch for those us to have AOL browsers is that many of these media programs are not compatible with AOL systems so you have to open up another such as Explorer etc...more trouble than it was worth at this point.
RECOMMENDATION=0 pigeons

Conclusion...as more and more media converge , there are some good opportunities to share our collective expertise and passion for swallow pigeons around the globe. In addition to the above media, there are also a number of mail lists, pigeon “web rings”, etc. if you have the time and interest, however much of such content is too generic to be of real value to swallow fanciers. As new sources of relevance are discovered or updated, please send a short note to either Ross or the USC Bulletin editor.
Compiled March 2007

