

UNITED Swallow Club



Fall 2015 Newsletter • www.unitedswallowclub.com • Since 1969

Nate Wayne to Judge 2015 USC Annual Meet at the Pageant of Pigeons



Nate Wayne, left, with Cal Breadhof and wife at the Breadhof home and Buck Creek lofts many years ago.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Fall 2015

Mike Swanson

The summer flew by way too fast. I've been busy trimming trees, keeping things up around our property and getting prepared for the upcoming hunting seasons!

Since the summer bulletin, I've been very busy collaborating with Bill Griebel on the USC Certified Judging Program. Bill did a tremendous amount of work updating and revising the wording and guidelines. Additionally, requirements were amended as a pathway for recruiting more judges to enhance judge options and also as an aid for a second judge, if needed, to award an "E". Since the inception of the judging program, only one person has been added to the certified list, Gloria Weisgram. Gloria went through a considerable amount of time, effort and travel expense to fulfill the judging requirements. Also, since the inception of the USC

Certified Judging Program, we have lost judges who have passed away or no longer have Swallows due to health reasons. The cost for prospective judges to attend shows to meet the requirements is extremely expensive. As you know, pigeon shows here in the United States are spread out by thousands of miles. So to travel to these, for some individuals, the time away from work, family and travel expenses can be prohibitive.

At the beginning of August, the USC Certified Judging Program Committee approved the revisions. Later in August, Bill Griebel received Nate Wayne's application to become a USC Certified Judge. Nate's application was then forwarded to all USC Certified Judges to vote on his inclusion as a new judge. Nate Wayne was voted in as a new USC Certified judge. Congratulations Nate! Bill has a

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Mike Swanson

list of about ten other club members who were nominated or encouraged to submit their application to the USC Certified Judging Committee. So if you are considering applying, please do so and start the process now! Submit your application to Bill Griebel as he is the chairman for USC Certified Judging Committee.

On August 31, 2015 I sent a ballot to the USC Executive Committee to vote on the USC Annual Meet judge at the Pageant of Pigeons. The USC Executive Committee voted to have Nate Wayne be the USC Annual Meet judge at the Pageant.

Bill Griebel is the member in charge for the USC Annual Meet. Please support him and the USC by donating swallows for the auction and any other swallow related

items that could be included in the auction. Should you have swallows to contribute send them early to Bill. The annual meet auction provides a unique opportunity to generate funds to support the USC. Also if you have any awards you would like to donate, contact Bill Griebel with the details. Some of Judine Nelson's black white bar and black spangle Fairy Swallows will be in the auction as well. Keep in mind, our annual USC meeting will be held at the Pageant during a break in our annual show. The annual meeting provides opportunities to think together about our common goals and next steps.

Lastly, anyone wishing to have a USC District Meet should contact their District Director to make arrangements.

I hope all of you have had a great breeding season with your birds!

Shades of Blue in Swallow Pigeons

By Ron DeClement

There are several breeders of the blue spangled and blue white barred Fairy and Silesian Swallows in the United States. The blue swallow with toy stencil factor is well established throughout the country and was the favorite color of the great swallow breeder Dr. Hummel.

There has always been discussion about the ground color of the blue, whether the color should be a darker shade or lighter tint. Some breeders have selected birds with a slightly darker ground color recently on the premise that the darker color appears to have a more bluish tint.

Gary Romig wrote an excellent article discussing blue, in which he pointed out that some birds appeared gray, while others had more blue in their ground color, and the color should be selected to be as blue as possible. The article reflects the observation of an artist, and breeders should definitely pay attention to these comments, simply because we are working with a living art form.

This color difference is evident in wild pigeons, some of which appear quite gray while others will appear to look more blue.

There are three primary pigments in pigeons, red, brown and black; the pigment involved in the blue color is black. Researchers at the University of Utah found mutations of three major genes that produce the color variation we see in all the different breeds. Various forms of a gene named *Tyrp1* make pigeons either blue-black (the grayish color of common city pigeons), red or brown. Mutations of a second gene, named *Sox10*, makes pigeons red no matter what the first gene does. And, different forms of a third gene, named *Slc45a2*, make the pigeons' colors either intense or washed out. Every cross we make involves all these factors working together.

According to Hollander, the color appears blue when the pigments are clumped together in the feathers, and appears black when spread and it is the arrangement of the pigment that produces the color. To someone

unfamiliar with pigeons they consider the color gray and never refer to the color as blue. In actuality, this color is truly gray and will never offer the brilliant blue color of a Blue Jay, Stellar's Jay or Scrub Jay which has a refractory blue, resulting from the way the box cells reflect light. When sunlight strikes a Blue Jay feather, the beam passes through the transparent outer layer to the air-filled cavities that scatter the blue light and the underlying melanin of the cell absorbs the longer red wavelengths producing the brilliant blue we find attractive. But, the Blue Jay and other Jay feathers also contains the black pigment that shows gray feathers similar to the pigeon and is a good specimen for study and comparison to the swallow.

In the blue swallow we have for many years strived for the lightest shade of blue. More recently, some breeders consider a darker shade of blue on the premise that deepening the ground color of the shield adds more bluish cast. Breeders sometimes say the lighter blue appears to have a more silver cast and does not appear as blue. Based on pigmentation, it is arrangement of the pigments that produces the hue and either lighter or darker ground color can appear more blue or gray. Similarly, when we observe shades of silver they appear close because it is the same pigment in different arrangements. Some breeders will not cross silver into their blue pigeons to avoid transferring the pigment arrangement characteristics of silver into the blue wing and give the blue a more silver cast and this may quite possibly be true. The lighter blue color definitely appears more pleasing to people unfamiliar with pigeons. It should certainly be the ideal we are striving for, and light blue color can be achieved by selection.

I compared feathers of the Blue Jay which offers the crossover from gray pigment feather to refractory blue feather, and by holding the wings side by side one can see which are more blue. Thus the light blue wing is possible



with less gray, because we are dealing with selection of pigment arrangement and not depth of color. Therefore it may not be necessary that the color be darker to appear more blue.

Bill Griebel in an excellent article said he felt the regression to a darker blue contradicts hundreds of years of breeding for the lighter shade of blue which is the highest perfection of the breeder's art. Gary Romig in a detailed discussion of blue white barred swallows said the dominant opal factor may be significant in producing a ground color with more blue, and this statement supports the theory that hue may not be related to depth, because dominant opal may indeed influence the pigment arrangement, which then influences what we call the tint or shade of the color, and causes the ground color to appear more blue.

We are then concerned with selection and this is best done by comparison. I used Blue Jay feathers and compare the ground color to both the gray pigment in the Blue Jay and the refractory blue feather. Western breeders can use the Stellar's Jay or Scrub Jay.

Breeders should often compare wings when culling to make the selection for breeding stock. Merle Starr has bred blue white barred shields for many years, and these birds are light with a distinct blue color. They support the theory that light blue can be achieved by selection and blue can be attained without appearing gray. We all observe dark blue birds that still appear quite gray, especially in wild pigeons throughout the cities of the world.

The comparison to feathers to a Jay may seem extreme, but as we continue the development of the swallow, we

must continually look for the techniques which will bring us to the ideal we are striving for in color. The Jay offers a distinct color crossover from gray produced by the black pigment arrangement to refractory blue, and swallow wings can be compared to these colors to find wings which have the most blue that can be possibly attained working within the limitations of the pigments in the bird.

In closing however, I remember a blue spangled fullhead hen at Dr. Hummel's in his outside loft up on the hill and this bird was a darker blue, typical of hens anyway, but still darker than his other hens. This bird was spectacular. Deep blue against clear white spangling! Doc called that bird a "real dream" and it was darker blue than all his other blue fullheads, silesians or fairy swallows. The bird stood out among 50 other pigeons in that loft like a comet in the night sky! There are times when to be wrong is right and that pigeon was the perfect example.

Thuringer Swallows & Whitetails for Sale

Brian Goodwin

PO Box 5172

Hobbs, NM 88241

bgoodwin1478@gmail.com



The Judges Corner

By Bill Griebel

Two significant changes have now been made in our Certified Judging Program. Our USC President Mike Swanson asked me as the Certified Judging Program Chairman to look into possible changes to update our judging program, siteing that we have added only one judge, Gloria Weisgram, in 25 years.

So this brings us to our first change. Working with Mike and Gloria, who both submitted proposed changes to our program, we came to an agreement on the changes to our judging program. This would streamline the testing process making it simpler for our new candidates. Then, I submitted these new changes to the entire Certified Judging Board who voted and passed the updates presented to them. Additional reasons sited were (1) the size of the U.S. and lack of shows available to train the candidates, (2) the difficulty and expense for the candidates to get to the shows and (3) a possible larger bank of "second" judges at each show to help with the "E" ratings.

Now to our second change. Let's congratulate our good friend and long time member Nate Wayne who has now joined the ranks of our Certified Judges. Nate submitted his judging program resume to me, it was then submitted to the Certified Judging Board for a vote, and the rest is history. Nate's resume was impressive with judging assignments in Des Moines, the NYBS, co-judging the Utah National with Steve Ball and judging 5 times at the Pageant of Pigeons. Welcome, Nate, to our group!

We now turn our attention to two areas, our new candidates and a discussion of the fine points of the standard. I talked to Gary Romig and he has agreed to help with drawings to support our discussions, most of which exist already in our standard. It's important that we create USC meets where USC Certified Judges can work with candidates on various phases of their program. An updated list of candidates are as follows:

Chris Auer, Tim Starr, Dave Averbeck, George de la Nuez, Mike Cobb, John Navant, Phil Gonzales, Jesse Espinosa and Arnold Chaney. Two candidates have been taken off the list, Judd Nelson who passed away recently and Nate Wayne who is now on the Certified Judges list. Any questions candidates don't hesitate to call. You also can pick a mentor among the Certified Judges' group.



Gloria Weisgram & Mike Swanson at the USC annual meet in Des Moines Dec 2012



Nate Wayne in Germany at the Jan. 2011 Zwönitz Saxon Pigeon Show

Western District News

By Bill Griebel

After resting for a few months following the wonderful Ontario Grand National we are now ready for our 2016 show season. The Ontario show no doubt created many records for numbers of swallows, color pigeons and German trumpeters. There were 220 swallows of all types entered but with absences we had at the show at about 200. A modern day record I would say.

In talking with Mike Swanson there will be no USC Western District Meet in Colorado this year due to scheduling problems with the host club. Hopefully, they will put something together for next year. USC district shows like Colorado and the Pageant are great for training our new candidate judges.

We were going to have the USC Western District meet at the Pageant of Pigeons but it has now turned into the USC Annual Meet. Des Moines was scheduled for the Annual Meet but the Bird Flu cut that short. Nate Wayne will be our judge for this event. We will put our newly elected Certified Judge's feet to the fire. I will be the member-in-charge for this show and will run the silent auction. The silent auction runs itself . . . but . . . it's only as successful as the donors make it. Money for "swallow" items will be split 50-50 between USC and

SCCPC. "Color Pigeon" money will go to SCCPC. If you want, you can elect to donate all funds to one club or the other. Just let us know so we can put it on the silent auction sheet. USC members everywhere, we need your help with this auction! You can send me birds or bird items and I will make sure they get in the auction. This effort supports our future Annual Meets, helping pay the judges expenses. We will hold the USC Annual Meeting on noon Friday of the show and Gary Romig, USC VP, will run the meeting with an agenda supplied by our President. Finally, the judges expenses, hotel and flight, will be split evenly between the two clubs.

As far as future shows go in our Western District, Frank Bailey is getting ready for the National Show in the state of Washington next year. He will not be showing birds at this years' Pageant so he can breed his birds late to get ready for the show in Washington. We look forward to that show.

On another note, Frank is our USC Publicity Director for the Purebred Pigeon and we look forward to some articles on our swallows in future issues of that great magazine. If you have read his articles in our bulletins, you know what a great job he would also do in the Purebred.

Hope you all had a great breeding season and let's all get out to the shows with some birds.

National Young Bird Show

October 24, 2015

Pavilion - Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center
Louisville, Kentucky

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Mail all entries to:
NATIONAL YOUNG BIRD SHOW
P.O. Box 21
Milton, KY 40045

Make checks and money orders payable to:
NATIONAL YOUNG BIRD SHOW

Canadian entries: US money orders only
No Canadian postal money orders

Entries must be postmarked by Post Office on or before: October 7, 2015 No postage Meters.

	BREED	Color Number	Hen Band Number	Cock Band Number
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

see booklet for color number – use number for color

USE ANOTHER PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRIES

Please group your birds by sex or color number order.

Please use blue or black ink - no pencil.

Exhibitor number (sec. use only)

Email: _____

Clubs: _____

Name: _____ Junior Exhibitor

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please print - used for next year's mailing list

Quantity	Cost
_____ Entries @ \$5.00 each	\$ _____
_____ Sales coop @ \$20.00 each (limit 3 coops - 8 bird limit)	\$ _____ paid in advance only
_____ Parking Pass @ \$9.00 each include self-addressed <u>STAMPED</u> envelope	\$ _____
	\$ _____ TOTAL

From the Central District Director

David Averbek

Ladies and gentlemen, greetings from the Midwest. It's that time of the year where we are now starting to get our show team ready and wrapping up the breeding season.

For some reason or another my breeding season was not so good. I hope that all of yours was better. I know that some of you out there are a little bummed about this year's showing season with all of the bird flu that went on and canceling of shows. Good news that I have been hearing is that more and more states have been lifting their state wide bans against out of state birds.

Also, good news is the NATIONAL YOUNG BIRD SHOW in Louisville, KY on October 24th, 2015 is going on as planned. Entry form for the show will also be with this

bulletin and entry forms must be postmarked by October 7th, 2015.

For us in Missouri and Illinois, we thought that we would have to take a detour to get there because of the ban in Indiana, but now Indiana has lifted their travel ban and we can now travel through Indiana.

I hope that we have a great turn out for the NYBS this year, as last year we had about 40 birds. I am hoping for the same amount or better. If you are unable to come and want to try and ship me some birds, I would be able to take care of the birds for you and ship them back to you.

Again, I hope that we all have a great show season this year.

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Frank Bailey

It is nearly October 1st, 2015 and time to begin evaluating our breeding season. For me here NE of Seattle, Washington I am very pleased with what I see. For the second year in a row I have been truly blessed with high numbers and the quality I rate as "very productive". I have banded approximately 135 young birds. The fact that we had no measurable precipitation for 97 straight days was a big boost to my birds health and conditioning.

My season really began coming away from the 2015 NPA Grand National in Ontario, CA where I was truly impressed with the high level of competition and it left me extremely motivated. George de la Nuez set the bar very high for the rest of us. Taking the title of Grand Champion Swallow with an exceptional Blue White Barred Saxon Fairy. It was a beautiful sight for those of us that stood by and watched and then listened to the announcement. There was absolutely no doubt in the minds of the audience which bird was most deserving. Many of you know that I maintain an open dialog with several Wing Pigeon and Swallow breeders in Europe. The breeders in Europe were very impressed with the choice made by Hans Schipper of the Netherlands. Congrats to George! His performance made all of us look good.

For me, I excepted the challenge of bringing the Red Wing Pigeons and the Red Saxon Swallows up to a more respectable level. A level in which that we might see them in the parade of champions one day. The Blues and Blacks are so refined and the number of outstanding breeders

continue to raise that bar by pure numbers alone.

My journey's throughout Europe as well as here in the USA supports the fact that "REDS" are a bit behind other colors. Five years ago I elected to specialize in "Reds" - Red White Barred Silesian's, Fairy's and Saxon Fullhead Swallow's and the same in Red Spangles. This offers me six show classes. At the end of my first season I began questioning my decision. Now here in year five, I couldn't be happier. My original purchases were obtained from the most successful breeders and showmen in the world. I was fortunate to acquire exceptional red color and white-white toy stencil. Because color is paramount in the breeding of "Color Pigeons", I have never lost sight or been willing to sacrifice the brilliance of color for other features or attributes. I must admit, this has slowed down my progress, but the patients and perseverance has paid off.

I have selected six birds that are still molting in different stages to share with you. Please keep in mind that we're talking about "Reds" here. All of the birds are young and have not been trimmed. At this stage, my evaluation of these birds have them being considered as breeders in 2016. They're being shared in hopes of having others find them as attractive and as beautiful as I have.

I wish all of you a successful show season,
Your friend in the Swallow Fancy,
Frank Bailey - Snohomish, Washington

More USC Officers for 2014-2015

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Red spangle Saxon wing pigeon without crest or Silesian swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.



Red spangle Saxon wing pigeon, crested or fairy swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.



Red spangle Saxon wing pigeon, crested or fairy swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.



Red white barred Saxon swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.



Red white barred Saxon swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.



Red spangle Saxon wing pigeon, crested or fairy swallow. Bred, owned and photo by Frank Bailey.

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