



President's Message

Chris Auer

I hope this bulletin finds all of you healthy and safe. 2020 is certainly turning out to be an adventure and a challenge.

Besides the obvious health concerns that we all face day to day due to Covid-19 the 2020 show schedule is certainly taking a hit. Several prominent shows such as the NYBS in Louisville have been cancelled but there are a few shows still planning to be held, most notable for the USC are the Central District Meet in Des Moines and the Annual meet being held in conjunction with the NPA National in Louisville this coming January. Additionally, I believe the Southern Pigeon Club in Louisiana would like to hold a district meet in November if there is any interest (contact Brad or Rachel Stuckey if you are interested). Although I will not be attending I plan on entering a couple of birds and let them be put in the SPC auction. Maybe the Eastern District members can get together and hold a District meet in January at the show in Reading, PA - come on "guys".

I have talked to several club members and as most years some are seeing good production and others are not having great success. But a common theme to those conversations is that everyone seems to be excited about a few youngsters that they can't wait to see come through the molt. It only takes THAT one!!!

In this bulletin you will see that Rob Teti has volunteered to

take over the member spotlight feature that George De la Nuez had started earlier this year. Thanks to both Rob and George for their support of the USC!!

Although no one has volunteered to lead the effort to develop a "Guide to Swallow Breeding" booklet I have had members say that they think it would be a good idea. I have also heard that sometime in the past the USC had something similar that included a pictorial explanation of our standard. If anyone has a copy of this pamphlet please let me know, I would like to see and read it. If you would like to take on this endeavor please let me know, I think it would be interesting to work on and a great tool for the club.

Last but not least, assuming that the Annual Meet will still be held in January 2021 at the NPA National we need someone to take on the role of putting together and holding the USC auction.

Please let Perry Mueller or myself know if you are willing to take on this role.

On a different note, since many USC members are breeders of Color Pigeons (besides Swallows and Wing Pigeons) I would like to relay that the Purebred Pigeon magazine's September/October 2021 issue will be a Color Pigeon Special. Please think about placing an Ad and/or sending in an article for that issue.

Good luck to all, stay healthy and safe!!



Black White barred Saxon Swallow from Chris Auer



Blue white barred Silesian Swallow (plainheaded wing pigeon) from Chris Auer

From Nate Wayne

Last January, at the United Swallow Club meeting in Amarillo a motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to honor the Anniversaries of the SV Sächsische Flügel, Schwalben and Schildtauben (100 yrs) and The SV Sächsische Farbentauben (125) clubs of Germany. Myself, Bill Griebel and Gary Romig volunteered to be on a committee to prepare some type of artwork gift for each club to honor their celebration. These gifts, their cost and content were subject to final approval by the Executive Committee of the United Swallow Club. As background these two clubs combine each year in early January to sponsor a show (limited to about 1500 entries) that in generic terms I would call a "Saxon Color Pigeon Show" in a small city in southern Germany called Zwonitz. Once every 5 years they temporarily move this show to a larger facility in Zwonitz to be able to include Saxon Color Pigeon Breeders from as many

countries as possible. This coming January is the once every 5 year show, combined with the anniversary celebration of the two clubs. Several members of these two clubs have assisted current and former members of The United Swallow Club in the promotion, development, and breeding of the Swallow Pigeon and other Color pigeons in this country. I would like to thank Gary for all his work on the project. He is not only an asset to the hobby but the Swallow Club especially. Also thank you to Bill Griebel for his time and expertise on this project. The gifts were sent to the respective presidents of each club, received, and acknowledged. Each club was instructed to determine for itself what to do with the gifts. Pictures of the two gifts are included in this bulletin. On a personal note I took a great deal of pleasure as a club member to participate in this project.



From the Central Distict Director Perry Mueller

Reminding the members in the club that we are planning to have the nationals in January and as of now we are planning to go to Des Moines and have a central district meet up there also.



Blue/silver, barless, bar, & check, Silesian swallows (plainheaded wing pigeons) From Jim Grober, Muskego, WI

From the Canadian Distict Director

Jim Richards

FROM THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

Weather has been hotter than normal for our part of the country this summer but it didn't have an impact on my birds breeding. I did have 2 complaints though. I did have a lot of singles born and haven't a clue why, also I had something taking eggs in a certain part of the loft. I first suspected a snake but couldn't find how it could get in so my second guess was a mouse or chipmunk. I did find one egg partially eaten. For the last 3 weeks I have had a glue trap with a bit of peanut butter in the middle and as yet nothing. To keep the birds from getting in it I set the trap inside a wire rabbit carrier on the floor. All it seems to catch are feathers. As far as I know I'm the only swallow breeder in Ontario and there is a good interest in people procuring birds.

Keeping water in front of the birds during the winter can be a problem unless you water twice a day. This is a box I built and has worked great for the last 8 years. I made a box out of plywood 30 inches long, 14 wide by 14 high. I cut 2 holes in the top slightly smaller than a bullet waterer. Inside I installed a bulb receptacle and inserted a duplex bulb holder. I made an extension cord out of 14/2 wire long enough to reach my power plug in. The reason for the duplex is the 100 watt light bulbs don't throw the heat the old bulbs did. The bullets sit over the holes and the heat from the 2 bulbs keep them from freezing to at least minus 30. The 2 bullets supply enough water for up to 100 birds for a day.



Blue Spangle Silesian Swallow and a baby black white bar Fairy Swallow (crested Saxon wing pigeon) from Jim Richards Canada

USC Member Profile

Featured breeder Dave Gazaway

By Roberto Teti



Dave Gazaway Wood work on display with a couple pairs of blue white bar fairies

At the end of the day, under a serene pastel colored Utah sunset, Dave Gazaway sits 5000' above sea level in his Herriman backyard contemplating his swallow pigeons. Or perhaps he's contemplating his next yellow Labrador Retriever litter. . .or maybe his wife's phobia of birds....or maybe even which bottle of Crown Royal to pack alongside his bear spray for his next trip to Yosemite.

Utah has given us many notables: from the Osmond family to Butch Cassidy, but none so pigeon savvy as The United



Golden Retriever pup sleeping in Crown Royal

Swallow Club's Dave Gazaway. In complete transparency, Dave moved from California to Utah at the age of two, and became a student of the outdoors in the years that followed, having Nature as his teacher since his family was not terribly

interested in the outdoors. His fascination with pigeons began rather innocently when he went to the house of a 5th grade classmate to be introduced to his friend's rollers.

Through the years Dave experienced helmets, American

fantails, Racing homers, and classic oriental frills before immersing himself in the muffs of the Swallows. During the course of his evolution in the world of pigeons, he learned two important facts: that he loved white bars on birds and that pigeon show people were much more fun than pigeon racing people. One of his two lofty aspirations in life is to become recognized as a master breeder of Swallows. Another of his goals is to make it to Alaska to hunt caribou.

When Dave is not in his loft admiring muffs and white bars, he can be found building something for his pigeons. Wood working showcases Dave's crafty, creative, artistic side. And



Dave Gazaway & Country



Some of Dave Gazaway's Friends (Grizzly Bears)

when he's not focused on his pigeons or wood working, he can be found immersed in one of a multitude of his other passion projects.

Dave began his own personal backpacking tour service, Gazaway Guide Service, leading friends and couples, on searches through breath taking and heart stopping mountain scenery in search of clear fishing waterways, awe-inspiring panoramas, or elusive bears. Black bears are nice, but the grizzlies hold Dave's heart (along with his police-officer-wife, Andrea). With just a little gentle encouragement, Dave warmly recalls many a bear encounter....encounters that would leave the rest of us mortals shaken and experiencing PTSD at the mere sight of Smokey the Bear in a television commercial....Dave recounts moments spent observing

mother bears nursing their young, or the massive male grizzly who walked out from the among the willows while Dave was fly-fishing 30' away. Again, while most of us in that moment would have been at a loss for words, Dave casually says, "Hey, bear" and takes another sip of Crown Royal.

If you ever find yourself in need of pigeon advice, or a trail running partner, or a new duck hunting Labrador retriever puppy; or you'd like to hike the Midwest mountains, pitch a tent at the best fly-fishing spot in the valley, or search for bear scat, chances are great that Dave Gazaway is your go-to for that, and so much more.

Naturalist John Muir wrote that "Going to the mountains is like going home." If that is indeed the case, then USC member Dave Gazaway is always at home.

USC Promotions

Brad Stuckey

As a budding collector of any pigeon related memorabilia, I am always excited to find something to put in my show case. Having been to other breeders homes and seeing their collections, I get even more excited about the next find! Having talked with Chris and others about possibilities for our Club, we have started checking into some options.

What we came up with was an idea for creating enamel painted die struck lapel pins. Their dimensions are 1.5 inches. We could start by having 4 variations of Swallow types done in quantities of 50 to 100 each type. It would be simple to order 4 more of different types after the Club sells out of the first batch. This would create an incentive for collecting each set. We should be able to easily get them done for a reasonable price in nice quality and sell them for under \$5 each with the Club making a small profit. The main objective would be to promote the hobby, and specifically our Club and breeds, at shows and elsewhere.

It takes about 45 days from sending in the artwork to them arriving, based on my experience with other productions like this. If you all like the idea and the board confirms the expenditure, we can have them available by Des Moines or the Grand National for distribution. They would be made

available to Club members first and any extras could be made available at shows thereafter.

Please contact myself or Chris Auer if you have any questions or if you are interested in pre-ordering so we can gage the interest level.



Selecting Young Birds By Ron DeClement

In an article for the swallow special I wrote there were two determining factors in the advancement of the swallow towards the goal of producing quality birds on a consistent basis. The first, of course was selecting which birds to breed and the second was how the birds are paired. At this point swallow breeders have young birds which they will select for future breeders and for shows. Most of the breeders have young birds that are finishing the molt and the breeder can begin to see how the bird will finish.

The first rule with young birds is to not cull too quickly. Unless the bird has obvious faults in miss-marking or certain major feather faults in crest or muff it is wise to let the young bird molt before making any judgement. There are certain features that do not change significantly but there are others that change dramatically. Most breeders know the juvenile color is different from the adult color and waiting to see adult feathers is important. For example, there are red and yellow swallows (a difficult color) which will have faded flight and muff feathers yet when they molt the adult color is dark red and rich orange yellow. Blue swallows tend to have a gray shade in their juvenile feathers which turns to a more bluish shade after the molt. Ash red and cream usually molt with a lighter tint than the juvenile feathers. Black of course turns darker. It is a good idea to see the adult feathers before making any judgement.

Spangle, check and bar markings usually change with the molt both in pattern and color. I refer to blue swallows here which might have a tinge of orange in their juvenile feathers which in turn molt to clean white as an adult. Getting a clean white in a red swallow can be difficult and the adult feathers are the color to judge. Red white bars and spangles are oftentimes faded in the nest and do not show a distinct bar and will oftentimes have a trace of spangle pattern and molt in cleaner white bars and spangle markings as an adult. Unless obvious, a swallow should be selected on adult color only.

Crests and muff change considerably after the molt and it is probably wise never to judge juvenile crest or muff until after the molt. Some faults to look for in crest are a crest that caps, does not end in two rosettes, or has the appearance of a peak crest. A critical component of an attractive crest is having a wide back skull to support a full crest. In the muff we try to eliminate muff too short or long and muff without sickle, that is a curve to the feathers. The muff also needs to have wide feathers and be layered with three distinct layers of muff. Splits in the muff usually do not improve in adult birds.

A critical aspect of the swallow is of course type and even after the molt a young swallow can not be judged on type until they have had time to develop which often might take a full year. If the young bird is marked properly and the crest and muff are good it is usually a wise idea to keep the bird through the winter to see how it will finish in type. We all love a lot of

pigeons and keeping promising young birds extra time to see how they finally finish gives us more pigeons to enjoy.

Regarding medications, some breeders put their young birds on a preventative medication schedule whether they need it or not. This may work for some breeders but I have never done this and seldom lose a bird under 15 years old. One may ask why I have 15 year old birds and here is the reason. If a pigeon was an unusually good bird with the traits we look for in the swallow and produces offspring that are good, they can be assured of retirement in my loft. We do not get many of those birds so why not let them have a happy full life? I currently have a brother and sister that are 16 years old and they are here till they move onto swallow heaven. Back to the subject, all healthy birds may carry pathogens and not present with the disease due to their immune system and introducing medication where not needed may allow the pathogen to develop a new resistance. Then the pathogen may be resistant to future treatments if needed as an adult. Healthy pigeons develop resistance to the common pathogens in all flocks and not introducing medications when not needed allows the natural immune system to function without interference. If an occasional bird in a healthy flock develops a disease it could be a culling factor along with the other traits we do not want.

Hopefully we produced a few birds that were better than or equal to the parents. It can be frustrating when we do not, especially if this occurs over a few years. But with the swallow, think how rewarding it is when we do get that beautiful swallow.

A quick Look 4 young red white bar fairy swallows By Gary Romig

I want to augment Ron DeClement's article on selecting young swallows. He discusses red white bar swallows and how their bars can improve after the first molt. These photos reveal that characteristic.

I have photographed 4 young red white bar swallows all siblings, 2 clutches, from the same parents.

Photo 1. Below is from the first clutch and is approximately 6 months old. You can see it has some nice bars, is still molting with 2 or 3 primary feathers to go. You can see the difference in color of the newly molted feathers and the faded flight tips. It is a pretty nice bird but it has no spot! (That is another discussion)





Photo 2. Nest mate to #1, similar molt stage with fair bars. #1 and #2 looked like #3 and #4 when they were younger



Photo 3. About 2 months old and shows obscured bars, faded flights, uneven color. I would not worry, the bars will show after a complete molt and the color will improve.



Photo 4. Same age as #3. Bars are even more obscured but they too will molt in. There are young birds that show no trace of bars (a solid wing shield) and still molt in with good bars

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