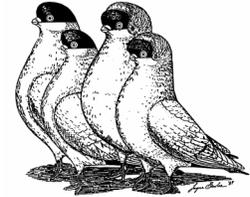


Helmet Happenings



May/June 2006

July 1, 2006

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New District
9 Director
Pavel
Lutsenko

From the President

Here it is, the middle of June. The breeding season is quickly running down. Hopefully you've got that special squeaker that gets your adrenaline flowing. I always enjoy this time of year when some of the earlier birds are starting to take shape.

District directors... it's time to set your show dates for the season and get them sent in to the bulletin. It's always nice to know well ahead of time what shows are coming up so that plans can be made. With the national being in December this year, it's more important than ever.

From the phone calls I have received, I believe we'll have a more interesting election this year. Please be sure to vote. Be a part of the club.

On June 6, I got myself a new hip, therefore I have been laid up. It is so frustrating to not be able to check on the birds this time of year. Thank goodness for Steve Mitchell and Todd Farnsworth who have kept an eye on me and on my birds, and thank goodness for my wife who not only looks after me, but feeds the birds each day. The other day Todd brought in a couple of squeakers that have promise for me to look at. It did my heart good.

As I reflect on the years in helmets, the most pleasing part of the hobby are the many friends I have met both close to home and across the country. I am grateful for these little birds that have enriched my life by bringing me friendships that I never would have had.

About a week ago I received a call from Lloyd Larghe. For you who are new to helmets, Lloyd was secretary of the AHA for many years. He held that position when I got back into helmets in 1981 and was a wealth of knowledge to me. He and his wife, Kay, raised and showed helmets together and are master breeders. It was surely good to hear from Lloyd. He tells me that he is 80 years old now and that he and Kay have sold their little acreage and moved into the city. He offered to send me some special trophies and awards from years gone by. I will refurbish them and see that they are made available to a few shows. It's nice to see that Lloyd still is thinking about the AHA.

As our baby helmets are going thru the molt now, it is time to do those things to assure that there are no pinhole surprises at the shows. Make sure you don't let your birds become overcrowded. I know that this is the time of year when diseases show up, so keep a close eye on the health of your birds and the cleanliness of your loft. Raise a champion.

See you at the shows.

James P. Jensen

Secretary's Report

by Chuck Dwight

First of all I want to apologize to all of you who have sent your dues in the last two months and to Todd and Cathy for being so late getting this information and mailing labels to them.

On May 9th I had a total knee replacement. All of my records are in an upstairs office and until now I have not been allowed to climb stairs. I will get caught up ASAP!

To make things worse, two days after I got out of the hospital we had a major wind storm that dropped a large tree limb on the house roof knocking several holes in it. It also tore about 1/4 of the roof off of one of my barns.

My loft is in the haymow of one of the barns. The wind tore pieces of the barn siding off of two of the pigeon pens. I did not have any birds get out, guess they were too scared to move.

We have now built a new loft in one of the smaller buildings and moved the birds so I don't have to climb stairs to care for them. This has completely ruined my breeding season. I have banded 3 helmets this season.

To make things worse, as I was getting ready to write this, (June 21—late already) we got hit by another major storm. Six inches of rain fell in 18 hours. A large tree limb fell on the electric and telephone lines, tearing them from the house. We were without power for 4 days. The wind also tore about another 15 feet off of the barn roof and blew most of one end out of the barn. We have to drive through our garden to go anywhere as there are still branches in the driveway. Well, enough of my troubles.

I guess that my birds like their new home. They are starting to lay, so I may have some very young ones to show at the National.

From those I have talked to, everyone seems to either be having a very good year or a very bad year.

Chuck

P.S. Due to my being so late I will not have a Treasurer's Report this time.

Thoughts on Feed for Helmets

By Bob Bollinger

Some people have asked what feed I give to my helmets. I try to find a high protein feed mix with no corn or pop corn for the flock. Modern helmets tend to have a short beak and sometimes have trouble with large grains, especially whole corn. This becomes especially apparent when they are trying to feed babies. The high protein puts weight on the birds and keeps them in top shape for breeding and showing.

News from District 3

by Jeff Butler

Todd, you said you wanted some articles for the bulletin so thought I'd write a little something about myself, seems that's where I have the most knowledge (rather than breeding tips on Helmets) so, here goes...

I am 42 years old and have had pigeons since I was 8 or 9. I can't really remember a time when I didn't. I started out with the wild pigeons I would catch at my uncles farm in the barn. We also have a local grain elevator where I would catch a few. I can remember risking life and limb to climb way too high for that special bird. Whites were highly prized. I had a few friends that flew them and we would fly them like they do from the roof tops out east trying to catch everyone else's birds. I got my first fancy pigeons when I was 12 or 13. My parents brought me some Lahores back from a vacation. I mixed these in with my barn pigeons and soon had way to many. I didn't have all the fancy medications and stuff back then and never had sick birds. I have had many different breeds over the years and also had several varieties of chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, pheasants, quail, and cage birds. If it had feathers, I wanted it. In 1986 I met my future wife and she introduced me to a guy that had pigeons. After talking with him I found out about the shows. Never knew they had shows for pigeons! I had Rollers back then and still have pretty much the same line as then. I use them as feeders and bred them for color, markings and parenting skills. The last couple years I have added some new colors and have found that many of my Chinese Owl friends want some and I have bred extras since then to make a little extra to put back into my hobby. I started with Chinese Owls in 1986. I did pretty well at the local shows and finally attended a show with several Chinese Owls and got a rude awakening. It was 1989 that we had a tornado hit our place and I lost nearly all of my birds. Only had about 10 rollers left. All the rest were gone. It was then that I decided if I was going to do this that I would do it right. I studied the Chinese Owl standard for months, talked with breeders and finally got a new loft built and bought some birds. The birds I started out with were great stock birds and by 1991 I had won the NYBS! I have always been told I have a good eye for quality when it comes to birds. We showed buff orpingtons in standard and bantam for a couple years and won several awards with them. Poultry shows are a bit boring so we decided to stick with the pigeons. We have shown our Chinese Owls at many shows here in the mid-west and a few times at the NYBS. I earned my Master Breeders award in Chinese Owls in 1999 and haven't looked back. We breed from a small stud of usually 12-14 pair in blue, ash red, white, baldhead. (I have always liked the baldhead pattern as that is what all my rollers are.) All my Chinese Owls are individual cage bred and have been for several years. I got my start in Helmets in Feb. 2005 from James Jensen. I have only made one show with them but plan on more in the future. We sold all my wife's Classic Old Frills this spring to make room for more Helmets this fall. I plan to get up to about 6-8 pair in the future. Maybe more if I get another loft built soon. Well, that about covers it.

Jeff Butler

News from District 7

by Bob Bollinger

The breeding season has finally picked up at my loft. I am FINALLY starting to get a bunch of babies....especially silvers and yellows. I am pleased. In talking to the other local guys, they are reporting that breeding is starting to pick up in their lofts too. All in all it looks like we will have some nice birds to see at the late shows. I'm afraid that we will not make too much of an impact at the NYBS with such late hatches.

Several of us have discussed having a young bird meet at the Reading young bird show in October. In past years we have all gone to the show and realized that if we had only brought a few more birds each, we would have had enough for points. While things have been slow in the breeding pen, many folks are heartily interested in the possibility of an early points show. At this time I suggest we all keep the Reading show in mind. As the time gets closer we can have more discussion. Even if the birds are young they would still make a nice showing for our breed!

Thoughts on Swapping Eggs and Foster Parents

By Bob Bollinger

I recently had some email correspondence with a person requesting information on swapping eggs and foster parents. I gave him the short story on email and decided that it was probably worthy to be published in the bulletin.... So here it is! :o)

If you have parents that don't feed babies simply switch their eggs under a pair of another breed! If you are real lucky you will find a pair that laid on the same day and you can simply swap the eggs ... Done!

Of course we would all like to plan our breeding program as opposed to relying on pure luck. When you start breeding try to put your helmets together and the proposed feeder pairs at the same time. Hopefully they will lay and hatch at the same time so everything in sync. In the real world things are often not perfect. You can typically swap eggs up to 2-3 days plus or minus of matching the other pairs. Good parents will normally tolerate this and you will do fine. Eggs can also be held at room temperature for several days. So if you have a pair that lays, pull the eggs out of the nest so they aren't incubated and you can wait several days (typically 3-5 is no problem) to find a pair to match.

I typically use small breeds like rollers or tumblers as feeders. They match size well and are very hearty. I typically try to avoid homers for egg swapping. Homers are much bigger than fresh hatch MFC helmets and they sometimes crush them. The best thing you can do with homers is have them 5 days or so behind the helmets and other feeders. After the homer babies are a day old they will match a 3-5 day old MFC and you can usually swap them at that point and the bigger MFC will get lots of milk from the homers.

There are lots of other theories and minor details. Just get started as above and master the basics, then you can worry about the finesse.

BACK IN TIME—41 YEARS THE YEAR 1965

This year (1965) at the N.P.A. National in Dallas, Texas, Robert A. Braswell, along with John McClannahan approached artist Mrs. Jerry Duke to ask if she would interpret the A.H.A. written standard in a drawing, she accepted. Later in the year, 95% of the membership approved the ideal drawing. Robert A. Braswell and Norman Lindsay were very instrumental in the preparation of the new ideal drawing.

This year we see three new club awards put into place. They will honor the outstanding breeder of the year, outstanding member of the year and hall of fame birds.

1965 starts the beginning of annual sectional meets, one east of the Mississippi River and one in the west.

C.E. Mann, along with members of various districts wrote the present composite A.H.A. show standard.

1965 was the year for the first 100 bird helmet meet east of the Mississippi River. The meet was the Eastern Sectional and it was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The show was won by Karl Cordes.

After meeting all requirements, Karl Cordes became the first A.H.A. master breeder.

A.H.A. bulletins are now being published on a regular monthly basis.

D.D. O'Keefe of Sydney, Australia and Frank H. Hollman of the United States are the latest A.H.A. honorary members.

Dennis Bray became the first A.H.A. member to receive the outstanding achievement award for a junior member. Dennis also became the first ever A.H.A. junior district director.

A.H.A. AWARDS

1964

1964 Member of the year—Bruce Scott

1964 Breeder of the year—Karl Cordes

1964 National Champion

Ashbury Park, N.J.

January 15019, 1964

Medium-Face Crested

Breeder—Harold Stengel

1965

1965 Member of the year—Fred Smith

1965 Breeder of the year—Russell Bray

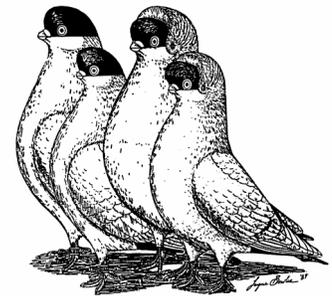
1965 National Champion

Dallas Texas

January 9-12, 1965

Medium-Face Crested

Karl Cordes



News from our Western Vice President

By Dennis Bray

Another bulletin and nothing written by the Vice President. I guess it takes two bulletins before I can get the guilty feeling about not supporting our bulletin. It is Memorial weekend and it's raining in the north-west. What better time to think about sitting down and writing an article for our club bulletin.

I have 62 Helmets banded. Raising three varieties of the Helmet; Medium-face, Short-face and Plain-head. I have 1 each to represent the varieties. ATTENTION Tony Patti—there is a real nice SF red cock in my loft that really has me excited. A couple yellow plain-heads...medium face red cock....a couple medium face duns — I am getting excited about the show season! I will continue breeding thru July. With the National being a month early I probably should break the pairs up in June. I don't believe anything after this date will be mature enough to show. I am very disappointed in the National show date change. We'll just have to wait and see how things fall into place for this years' National as to my support.

There sure is a lot of interest in the International Helmet page. I have yet to get on this site. It's too bad we can't get this interest toward the bulletin.

With the nomination form due in June, I am hoping that we will see good participation in nomination for club officers & judges for the national. Don't be disappointed in the outcome if you don't take the time to get involved and vote. I have enjoyed being the Western Vice President and working with James Jensen. Hope to see some interest from the others to run the A.H.A.

As for District 2 meets, the big event will be held in Dennis Mannings area. Medford Oregon will sponsor the Western Sectional. Watch for information on this show. I expect it to be a well supported meet for all Western Districts. (November 10th and 11th).

Our first helmet meet will be in August in Sunnyside, WA (Hank's area).

My thoughts on scissor trimming:

I would be against this change. I am sure there are some competitors doing scissor trimming now. If you are good at it, yes I agree it's much easier to prepare your show bird once and be done until they molt out. But how many poor examples are you going to see with scissoring the Plain-head? I feel it will take away the breeding skills of preparing or raising a champion. I just think you will see nice crested and plain-head. You won't have to pick them up to see they have been trimmed with the scissors. My vote is against it.

Big thanks to Curtis Oberhansly for writing the minutes of the annual meeting. I (who sat in for James, the President) asked for a volunteer to write the minutes and send them in to Chuck, so I hand picked Curtis. Charles, who normally attends these meetings and brings his tape recorder to help him get the minutes written correctly, was not attending this show. I understand we made a few errors during our National meeting. Those attending were appreciated for taking a part in the discussions. Good example when selecting your new officers. Pick officers who can attend the National events.

Until next time—make time and send an article into the club bulletin.

As ever,
Dennis Bray

In Regards to scissors trimming

By Myron Berger

I could go back and dig out old material on this problem of trimming, but it all boils down to:

Trimming is a big part of raising and showing Helmets and to be a successful fancier one has to learn to trim the crest area by hand and not by scissors which is the easy way.

It is not hard to learn to trim but it does take a little practice and effort on the fanciers part. One can practice on the same birds every couple of months, so you can over trim and also just take out a few feathers to see what the crest looks like.

An example of plucking being an advantage over scissors— At the last National, there was a bird that placed very high that had a very big spot, not visible, in front of the crest on one side by the rose. If this had been scissor cut the white feathers would have still been there in the head marking.

It has always been my personal opinion that scissors are wrong. When breeding season comes along I want to know exactly where my birds are marked, over, under, which side, etc. Did you know before the AHA many Helmets were shown natural—no trimming at all. When the first standards were proposed, trimming was a major concern and what should or should not be allowed. Many birds were disqualified for bald spots that the judge had to dig for to find a small spot. Therefore the change in the standard to “visible bald spot”. A large but not visible spot is still mis-marking and scissors will not help that area (usually found in the vent area) when judging.

From the Editors

by Todd Farnsworth

Cathy and I will be stepping down as the bulletin editors. We have held this position for just over three years and feel that it is time to allow one of the other members the opportunity to get involved.

Being the A.H.A. editors has given us the chance to get to know many of the members as well as learn many things about the club that we otherwise would not have known. We know there are many A.H.A. members that could do a great job with the bulletin and look forward to seeing some new ideas as well as new material.

Thanks to all who have supported us these past three years and good luck in the loft.

Todd

Shipping "lives"

Written by Kyle Christensen,
Utah Pigeon Association

I have some bad news to report. On July 1st Delta Airlines is dropping their Postal service contract for all mail including "lives". After that point we won't be able to ship pigeons by Postal Service out of Salt Lake City. Shipping with "air cargo" is still an option, but much more expensive.

We all need to swing into action and write our US Senator about Senate bill 2395. This bill, if passed would require anyone with a postal service contract to carry all mail including "lives". Please forward this message to all the people you know in Utah and encourage them to draft a simple letter to their Senator encouraging them to co-sponsor Senate bill 2395.

This is not a rumor, I have confirmed it with my Airport Postal Service Supervisor. Don't ask about the DHL thing, as it is not an option and never was a viable option.

This message is going out to all AHA members as an FYI—It may not be long before the carriers in your area do the same.

New District 9 Director

by Charles Dwight

On June 1, 2006 President James Jensen appointed Pavel Lutsenko as A.H.A. Director for District 9.

Pavel Lutsenko
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Change of Address

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Send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at:

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or e-mail us at loftsoffun@highstream.net



The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is August 20.

Issue	Deadline	Approx. mailing date
Jan/Feb	February 20	February 28
Mar/April	April 20	April 30
May/June	June 20	June 30
July/August	August 20	August 31
Sept/Oct	October 20	October 31
Nov/Dec	December 20	December 31

Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—If highlighted, your membership is due for renewal.

If you have paid your dues within the last 2 months please disregard (refer to Chuck's article on pg. 2 of this bulletin).

District 1
Stan Reynolds
District 2
Brian Nichols
District 6
Nelson Eylander
District 7
Phil DeCarlo
Victor Cardillo Family
District 8
Joshua Zilles
Brandon & Mindy Bingham
District 11
Mike Sweeny
District 12
Joseph Gardfola
Rafael Marrero
John Reda
District 14
Steve Brockett

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