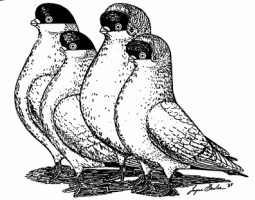


Helmet Happenings



Sept/Oct 2006

Nov. 1, 2006

From the President

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Enclosed:
Show reports from the National Young Bird Show, Reading, PA show and the EHPC Fall Show, PA

Wishing you all the best in the shows!

I just sent off my elections ballot today and was reminded of all the effort that goes into making a club successful. I would like to give my thanks to all those who do the work to make sure we have a fun time together as a club. Thanks to those who line up the shows, arrange for judges, do the judging, arrange for awards, do the record keeping, report the results, keep us informed, encourage the new breeders, raise funds for awards, just generally see that everything runs smoothly and that all can have a good time. Thanks to the officers who have served and thanks to those who have stepped up to serve in the new term.

This past week I have been trying to go through my birds to see what I've got to work with. It would be nice if they were all finished molting, but they are not. I would like to remind everyone to not be too hasty in getting rid of young birds. It has been my experience that you really need to wait until they have gone through a molt to be able to really see what the bird is. I was reminded of this Wednesday when I stopped at Todd Farnsworth's house. He has a black hen that I sold to him a few years ago as a squeaker for five dollars. She had been severely pecked as a baby and her crest is funny, but now what a crest she has. It is still funny, but it has a wealth of feather and Todd has done a good job of raising some great blacks out of her. He also has a terribly mismarked red young cock that he wanted from me to play with. Now that he has molted, that red cock has the biggest crest and probably the most powerful head of any bird in the Farnsworth loft. Although it is mismarked and has one very weak rosette, it will be a wonderful bird to play with in the breeding pen. We'll all have to watch out even more for Todd and Cathy at the shows. I do have the nest mate to this red cock. She is a beautiful yellow, but she doesn't have the power of her brother.

I commented for years that I built my stud of helmets from Steve Mitchell's culls. That's where I began, then I introduced a bird here or there from other lofts that had traits that I needed and from a piece here and a piece there built my family of helmets. It's the challenge of putting all the pieces together to create the perfect helmet that makes the hobby interesting. When going through your birds this fall, be very critical of what your helmets have and what they lack in. Be sure you keep the pieces you need, get rid of the things you shouldn't have, and see if you can pick up the pieces you do need when you attend the shows this fall. If you've got a surplus bird, try to find someone who would benefit from it and pass it along.

Good luck to you in the shows. I hope to see you at some of them.

James Jensen

News from District 7

by Bob Bollinger

The show season started off great in Districts 7 and 14. This year a number of us decided to try to have a young bird meet at the Reading Young Bird Show in Reading PA. We had 57 young birds shown in MFC, MFC and SFC. Victor Cline took champion in MFC. Bob Bollinger won MFP and Steve Brockett had champion SFC. There were great quality birds shown in all classes. In MFC 3 of the top 4 birds were shown by different people.

District 14 continued its fine tradition of holding a point show at the EHPC fall show. There were 78 birds shown by breeders in 3 districts and 4 states! Raul Delgado won the MFC class with Victor Cline also placing 2 birds in the top 4. Bob Bollinger took champion MFP. The most noteworthy showing was 10 SFC by Steve Brocket. Steve has been working to build a stud of SFC and he brought them to bear at this show. It's good to see such a breadth of varieties being shown.

Beyond the fact that we had nice shows to start the season, I am more impressed by the club members and their collaboration. The EHPC is a wonderful outdoor show in a park. It is off the beaten path but people traveled for hundreds of miles to attend. This is due, in no small part, to Victor Cline's work in calling people and promoting the show. The Reading Young Bird show is held in early October so it has always been hard to get enough young birds in good enough shape to hold a points meet. Again, people calling around and working together made it possible to have plenty of nice birds shown. We had folks show birds who couldn't be present at either show. To support the club they sent pigeons with other members. I am convinced that this type of camaraderie and co-operation is what the club needs to help promote more point shows across the county!

Upcoming Shows—

January 11-14, 2007
Reading Winter Show
Lancaster, PA District 7 Meet
Contact: Bob Bollinger
RSBollin@aol.com

Reading, PA Young Bird Show

Submitted by Bob Bollinger



Victor Cline
Champion Medium Face Crested



Steve Brockett
Champion Short Face Crested



Bob Bollinger
Champion & Reserve MF Plain Head

The Parenting Debate

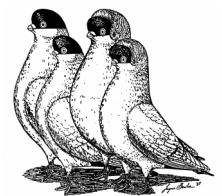
by Tony Patti

It's a horribly windy and rainy afternoon here in Connecticut. The shop is closed and I'm caught up on orders so I thought I would comment on some articles I've read.

Our Medium Faced Helmets' ability or willingness to feed has more to do with genetics than beak size. There are a few exceptions but most people keep birds based on visible characteristics that may lead them to a championship. We keep birds (or should keep birds) that display not only desired characteristics but even those in extreme (a crest so high it's not uniform with the rest of the bird, a beak that actually tips up, a tail that's shorter than the flights, etc.). We don't consider the extent of a bird's instinct to care for young when picking our breeding team. If a bird that we decide to breed from happens to possess a strong parental instinct, fine but that's not what we are breeding for. If, for example, you were to make the feeding instinct your primary prerequisite for keeping a bird, in a very short time you would have an incredibly prolific flock of "junk". This is not at all unique to our pigeons. Many varieties of birds and animals become deficient in some way. We are the culprits! When man starts to manipulate a species to conform to his whims, natural instincts and behavior begin to diminish. We have dogs that can't have pups without man's assistance, cats that would literally starve if they were required to hunt, gold fish that can just barely swim, etc.

As we continue to attempt to propagate Helmets that look like our Standard of "Perfection" we ignore all else. If the AHA were to come up with a Standard for a Long Faced Helmet, eventually, the same thing would happen. No one is happy with the present situation. We often lose young and have to keep many more pigeons (as foster parents) than we want to. We have had to learn how to hand feed when our day is already over loaded with responsibility. You could say that the challenge has gotten greater as the birds have gotten "better".

Our options are few. Undertake a project of trying to produce high quality show Helmets with a good instinct to feed, GOOD LUCK! Deal with the difficulties as best we can and continue to meet the challenge or switch to a breed in which appearance means nothing.



Judges
2006 National Show

- Medium Face Crested—Tony Patti
- Medium Face Plainhead—Charles Dwight
- Short Face Crested—Charles Dwight
- Short Face Plainhead—Tony Patti
- Muffed—Bob Dunlap
- Member of the Year—Charles Dwight

No points for Breeder of the Year have been turned in at this time.

Treasurer's Report

No Change

by Charles Dwight

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.

- District 2 Gary Lien
- District 3 Donna Johnston
Wes Siebe
Nathan Strsich
Lew Wescott
- District 4 Mike Geis
Gerald Butler
- District 5 Howard Kleinberg
& Family
Ron Davis
- District 6 Bob Dunlap
Gary Wendholt
- District 7 Joe T. Powers
- District 8 Keith Edwards
- District 12 Roger Gravel
- District 14 Daniel Sexton

Secretary's Report

by Charles Dwight

After a great response from the nomination ballot, with a lot of nominations for some offices, very few were willing to run for the offices. The elections was very disappointing. Only 21 ballots were returned. We also had some who had agreed to run who withdrew. There were some write-in votes to fill those positions.

I was at the National Young Bird show in Louisville, KY last week. A great show as usual, over 6000 birds, and old friends. One high point of the show, Paul McRae has volunteered to take over the job of bulletin editor beginning 2007.

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

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The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is December 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

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