

Pigeon Notes

By
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Pigeon Goes To Sea

Lost pigeons are reported found by interested people scattered all over the countryside each racing season, and a few reports of birds landing on ships at sea are not uncommon.

The latest report of the seafaring type concerns 400 CWHC 64, which stowed away on the "Iron Warrior" when the boat was 15 to 20 miles between Kingston and Cape Jaffa on November 13.

The pigeon, carrying race rubber R606, is not a South Australian, and its metal ring identification, CWHC, is not registered here.

The report of the bird comes from Mrs. Isabelle Tompson, of 13 Glanville Street, Ethelton, who writes at a friend on the "Iron Warrior" is now taking care of the truant.

Mrs. Tompson says that both the skipper of the boat and her friend are very interested to know the name and address of the owner and particulars of the race in which the pigeon was being part.

The bird, which shows no sign of injury, will be cared for until the ship returns to Port Adelaide.

If any reader can supply Mrs. Tompson with information leading to the bird's owner, it will be appreciated.

Sometimes pigeons which seek refuge on boat travel around the world before they return to their home lofts.

One such globetrotter, an emigrant in an Oodnadatta to Adelaide race, landed on a boat en route to South Africa when it was 50 miles at sea in the Bight of the WA coast.

After calling at most of the world's seaports, the boat returned to Port Adelaide about two years later. The bird was in its loft within 30 minutes of the ship's arrival. The fish pigeons which have been reported to return from races held in other parts of Europe, and in this England itself, have been reported at sea hundreds of times in their destination. Birds, likewise, have

taken up temporary residence on boats in the shipping lanes of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

In most cases they are adopted and cared for by members of the crew.

Most of them are given the freedom of the boat and are content to remain in their mobile abode until the familiar landmarks of home appear.

Apparently, the inherited love for their birth place then asserts itself and the ship is deserted for the home loft.

No doubt some of the long flights by pigeons across the seas in other parts of the world have been made with the aid of a free passage.

Reports of pigeons returning home after they have been exported to other countries have been made in the past.

Some of these flights have been made over vast areas of ocean.

It is likely that these birds, after making their escape from their new homes, have attempted the long flight home and have fallen exhausted on to ships which, more by accident than design, have been sailing in the right direction.

Novel Ideas

The systems devised by racing pigeon owners to get their birds out of the air without loss of time on race days are novel and numerous.

There is no doubt that the pigeon can be taught to re-act to anything at all, noisy or otherwise.

Some rattle peas in a tin, others use "call" birds, or droppers as they are sometimes called, which fly straight to the loft when tossed into the air, and so act as a lure to the racer.

Being creatures of habit, racing pigeons will answer the call provided they have been properly educated.

The important aim is to make the bird leave the batch of racers immediately. It is within sight or hearing of home.

Here are three means to the end which have been devised by enthusiastic Sydney owners.

(1) A large pebble placed in an empty gallon can which is

rattled vigorously immediately a batch appears in the sky.

(2) The use of a policeman's whistle (or umpire's whistle) which is blown furiously at the appropriate moment.

(3) The ringing of a large hand bell which can also be heard from a great distance.

While these successful methods provide sweet music for the owners and the birds, the nerves of adjacent residents must suffer considerably when the silence of a peaceful afternoon is shattered by the rattle, whistle and the clang of the pigeon club's band.

Aggregate

C. Mills scooped the pool when he won all four aggregate trophies in the East Suburban club this year.

His total of 83 points in the main aggregate for all races was 31 better than M. Marchant & Son (52), and 42 more than C. Hawke who finished in third race.

Mr. Mills performance was a most consistent one from start to finish.

Here are the details of the other three trophies:—Ten club races, C. Mills 37, M. Marchant & Son 30, H. Appenzeller 20. Twelve Association races, C. Mills 46, M. Harshegyi 25, A. Anderson 23.

Six long-distance races, C. Mills 25, A. Anderson 18, L. A. Wallace 14 points.

Injured Bird

Grizzle cock 86 SF 64 was found injured at Echunga some time ago.

Interested children nursed the bird back to good health by hand feeding and watering, and it has now become one of the family.

The owner can obtain all particulars of his bird's present place of abode by ringing Mr. L. Henderson (Echunga 301).

Acknowledgement

Master Chris. Petersen, Box 35, Tumbay Bay, SA, advises finding a fawn and white pigeon (probably a fancy variety) dead after a storm.

The bird carried the show society ring 1454 ACS 65.