

Pigeon Notes

By
Vin Blanden

Breeding Poses A Problem

How many youngsters can be bred from each pair of breeding birds in the one season? This question has been asked by several novices during the past fortnight.

Now that the breeding season is nearing its end some of these new fanciers are concerned because they have not the number of youngsters to meet their requirements.

Four pairs can be bred from each mating, providing the breeders are paired at the right time and they are given the proper care and attention.

Allowing for the odd broken and infertile egg here and there, the young fancier can expect to gain seven youngsters, on the average, from each four pairs of eggs laid.

Therefore, if he desires to breed 70 youngsters in the one season he should mate 10 pairs, and if these breeders are put together in August or September there is no reason why he should not have a healthy batch of 70 young birds in plenty of time for the racing season.

Healthy and strong producers, fed properly, can breed four pairs of youngsters without distress. Pigeons which are unable to stand up to these needs under proper conditions are weak and should not be used as breeders in any case.

Records disclose that on several occasions the fourth pair hatched have been the best of the eight youngsters produced — one such pair won four races, two each, and all hard events.

GOOD BIRD

The dam was a good long-distance performer, which homed from the long ones as fit as a fiddle. She was able to pump the food into her babies over a long breeding season and still finish "full of pep."

Hens such as this one, providing her mate does his fair share of the feeding, are capable of producing strong youngsters from start to finish.

Another good Alice Springs performer was mated regularly within seven days of her return from the long race, bred fine youngsters each season, and came up to race the "Alice" during the following year.

She flew Alice Springs three years straight and during her career produced other good Alice birds, including the winner of the hard 1954 race.

The newcomer can be assured that he can breed eight from each pair in the one season, but it is essential that the management is right and that his hens are strong and sound in every way.

It is most important that if any weakness exists in a breeding pair, it is not in the hen.

RESIGNATION

Readers will be sorry to learn that because of age and health reasons, Mr. Tom Horsfall has resigned from the committee of SAHPA trustees.

An original member of the trustees, Mr. Horsfall has served the Association for almost forty years, and has contributed much to laying the foundations on which the present prosperity of the SAHPA has been built.

All members of the Association are indebted to Mr. Horsfall for his untiring efforts on their behalf during his long period of service.

the Association to Mr. Doug. Green.

Other appointments are: — Publicity officer, V. Blanden; advisory committee Messrs D. Green, J. Lewis, A. Burnell, O. Nielsen, V. Blanden and one of the five trustees to be appointed by the trustees; railway representatives Messrs. D. Green, C. Nielsen, C. Handerson; release officer, C. Nielsen.

The Association has granted honorary social membership to Mr. Fred Williams, of the Victorian Homing Association, and Mr. Harry Parkinson of the Victorian Racing Pigeon Union.

This is the first time the grant has been made to Interstate fanciers.

APPOINTMENTS

Messrs. G. Barker and L. Dix were appointed SAHPA conveyors for this year at a meeting of the Association last week.

Both carried out the conveying duties last year, when record numbers of pigeons were given the proper attention prior to release at the various race-points.

The condition of the birds

upon arrival home was a credit to the work of Messrs. Barker and Dix.

The Association's sports day, held at Bahndorf Oval last Monday week, attracted its usual large attendance.

The ladies' sprint was won for the third year in succession by Mrs. Fourer and the tug o' war event was won by the Hammstead team from Henley and Grange.

Results — men's sprint, M. Hunter; old buffers, W. Stern; rolling pin throw, Miss Halliday (40 yds.); ladies' 3-legged, Mrs. and Miss Kakoschke; men's 3-legged, G. Markham and S. Ozfanos; hammer and nail, Mrs. Champion; ladies' sack race, Mrs. Hendry; men's sack race, W. Verco; under-six girls, Dianne Neate; under-six boys, Steven Archibald; under-nine girls, Julie Gough; under-nine boys, Alan Saust; under-14 girls, Penny Verco; under-14 boys, Basil Kakoschke.

The Glynde and East Suburban clubs will hold a joint presentation fixture at Payneham Oval tomorrow night, when trophies won during last year will be presented.

RACING IN SYDNEY

Pigeon racing in Sydney is much stronger than in Adelaide. Two of its five federations are comparable in size with the SA Homing Pigeon Association.

The Central Cumberland Federation is probably the strongest with a membership of about 400, while the National Racing Pigeon Association is about 360 strong.

The three other bodies in the Sydney area are the Southern Federation (160), Federated Racing Pigeon (140), and the Western Federation which has about 100 owners competing.

This makes a total of about 1,200 owners racing to the Sydney area against Adelaide's 700, which also includes juniors.

Two other large groups also operate outside of the Sydney boundary, one at Newcastle which is some 48 air-miles away, and the other, the South Coast Federation with its headquarters at Wollongong, about 36 air-miles from Sydney.

About 200 owners race into Newcastle and 120 to Wollongong.

The secretary-treasurer of the Cumberland group (Mr. E. A. Stevens) said that his federation held 25 races this year. Six early events were conducted at the end of April and were followed by another programme of 19, of which six were major Federation events.

The Cumberland Federation consists of twelve clubs grouped inside of a radius of about 10 miles, and its longest race this year was flown from Murray Bridge, 680 miles.

The total of 487 birds, representing 97 owners, competed from Murray Bridge for 15 birds in race-time.

Released at 6 a.m. on the Saturday the winner was clocked at 9.44 a.m. on Sunday. The South Coast Federation had 300 birds released with the Cumberland entry at Murray Bridge and the winner was clocked at Wollongong at 8.6 a.m. second day.

The Newcastle body flew its longest race from Rockhampton (700), and homed three in the day, 6.57 p.m., 7.30 and 8.40 p.m., and all places were filled by 9 a.m. second day.

After the six early races were completed the Cumberland schedule was made of two events from Maraulan (80 miles), two from 114 miles, two from Yass Junction (156), two from Cootamundra (180), three from Narrandera (246), three from Carrathool (320), three from Hay (360), one from Mildura (520) and one from Murray Bridge (680 miles).

The Cumberland programme does not cater for as many long races as the SAHPA schedule. Its 19-race series covered about 5,040 miles in all while the SAHPA programme of 23 races this year covered about 8,200 miles.

The SAHPA's East-West route scheduled 12 races including Kalgoorlie, amounted to 4,990 miles, and the South-East programme of 11 races covered 3,235 miles.

Cumberland's six major races, when its 12 clubs combine together as SAHPA events, comprise of three open and three limit races.

The three open races consisted of one from 114 miles, one from Mildura, 520 miles, and one from Murray Bridge, 680 miles.

The three limit races are one 5-bird young bird derby, one 5-bird old bird derby, and one 2-bird in which both birds must be clocked.

Pigeons for three of the big events are hampered in Granville Showgrounds.

The South Coast Federation at Wollongong held an interesting race this year when 500 birds were air-freighted to Launceston (Tas.) on the Friday for a Saturday release.

The distance is 530 miles with the first 200 miles over water.

Because of bad weather conditions the birds were held over until Wednesday when 58 of the 500 made home in the day. Latest report was that at least 400 of the contestants returned to give the most successful result of about 80 p.c. home.

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lot of its races, in which the contestants are carried to the release point by road.

The Cumberland Federation, using the old-style cane baskets, uses rail transport for all of its races.

Mr. Stevens said that the falcon presents no problems, and pointed out that one well-known ornithologist in Sydney knows of only three Peregrine nests in the whole of the county of Cumberland area.

Mr. Stevens believes that the falcon menace is more prevalent along the Murray Valley, and considers that Sydney pigeons meet with little interference on the Sydney side of the Blue Mountains.

While a few may frequent the Katoomba, Gouburn and Cootamundra areas, also Narrandera, he considers the falcon is far more numerous nearer SA.

Although the Cumberland Federation is as large as the SAHPA, it does not own its own headquarters as does the SA Association.

Quite a few of its meetings are held in the Merrylands Clubroom (about the size of the average clubroom here), but in future it is likely that a room will be hired for meeting purposes in Granville showgrounds.

Continental Club

The Vitesse Racing Pigeon club, founded on the Dutch system, was formed recently.

The secretary of the new body which has no boundaries, is Mr. L. Duit.

Owners interested in the continental idea are invited to attend the next meeting on November 26, 7.30 p.m. at 6 Dundas avenue, Hillcrest.

Solomontown

The Solomontown club will hold its first meeting on