

PIGEONS.

THE PRIZES OF HONOR.

The George W. Childs Cup, for the greatest distance in the day in the season of 1888 previous to Aug. 4, is awarded to the following:

May 27, Philadelphia Club, 323 miles. June 8, Quaker City Club, 365 miles.

The Sporting Life Cup, offered for the best average speed from 1200 miles or over previous to July 1, in the season of 1888.

By the conditions governing the competition for The Sporting Life Cup, the last journey was flown June 10. The entry was larger than was anticipated and would have been larger still but for the heavy losses at the beginning of the season and the bad weather which kept the birds at home or detained them at the liberating station on time, thus lessening the number of trials in the enforced illness, while waiting for the skies to clear. The best average speed in the several competitions where the time of return has been certified, is as follows:

Table with columns: Owner, Date, Miles, Speed, Yards. Lists various pigeon owners and their performance statistics.

All of the above journeys, except by the birds of the Messrs. Bowers and Barrett, were in club competition when the speed was the best for certified time. Other birds flown in competition were those of Mr. A. Shone from both Indianapolis and St. Louis, the Buffalo Federation from Warren, New Philadelphia and Circleville, the Patasco from Clover and High Point, the birds from Jameson and Greer's post, the Hub Club from Corning, the Quaker City from Gordonsville and Charlotte, the Keystone from Salisbury, the Bedford from Washington, Orange and Liberty, the Volunteer from Washington, Orange and Danville. In these journeys the first returns were either reported by postal or were not until the next day.

The journey in which the best speed given was made was from Gordonsville, Va. The entry was James Hackman 2, George Hornberger 6, Henry Hunt 2, John Blood 3, Herman Dienelt 4, Wm. Hunter, Jr. 6. The start was at 7:01 A. M., June 6. The returns certified were:

Table with columns: Miles, Speed, Yards. Lists return statistics for the James Hackman journey.

Other returns reported were Wm. Hunter's 1,009 at 12:22 P. M., and George Hornberger's 7:15 at 12:55. The birds of the Volunteer Association, in their journey from Orange, Va., would undoubtedly have won the cup had their owners been in as great haste to get home as they were. The lofts were not visited until one o'clock, when all of the entry but one was found at home and had apparently been there for some time. The best speed, counting from time of starting, is 1,332 yards per minute.

THE JOURNEYS FOR RECORD.

The Last Trials for "The Sporting Life" Cup Do Not Advance the Speed—Saranac Still Leads for the Childs Cup—Journeys for Distance a Success.

The birds of the Cresson Club, of this city, made their last trial for The Sporting Life Cup, June 30, from Danville, Va. The entry was—H. Dienelt, 5; Harry D. Hackman, 2; Henry Heintz, 4; George Hornberger, 5; John Blood, 4; William Hunter, Jr., 4. The start was at 6:14 A. M. Eastern time. The returns reported were:

Table with columns: Distance, Miles, Speed, Yards. Lists return statistics for the Cresson Club journey.

Hornberger's 715 at 3:38 P. M. Blood's X 10 at 4:05 P. M. Hackman's "No. 1" at 4:27 P. M. The journey was also for three valuable club prizes—a silver tea urn, a creamer and sugar bowl and a castor. The time of arrival of the first bird is not known, it and two others having been found in the loft at the time claimed. The one caught first was presented to Mr. Hornberger by Mr. Dienelt last year. The returns to the Hunter loft were one each on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Dienelt had no returns as late as the Fourth.

The second start, the morning of the 30th, was the birds of the Paterson, Club, from Washington, D. C. The entry was—John J. Byron, 5; Edward B. Johnson, 15; W. Munson, 1; Morton Clark, 3. The start was at 8 o'clock. The only return with certified time was Bolton's B 306, in loft at 12:45 P. M. The distance, 205.7 miles, gave an average speed of 1,270 yards per minute. Mr. Clark, president of the club, writes:—"Bolton and Munson's birds arrived at 12:45 P. M., Byron's two birds were in at 12:50 P. M. and my little Bill was at home at 1 o'clock. If the birds could have been let go at 5 o'clock or half-past, they would have flown into the low-hanging clouds which enveloped Philadelphia and lower New Jersey until quite late in the morning. [Ed.] have escaped the heavy northwest wind that sprang up at 10 o'clock. We are perfectly satisfied with the result. Our birds do not win the cup, but they made a plucky fly for it. Our net fly will be from Lynchburg, 350 miles, for the president's badge."

The three birds of Mr. Fred Bowers, Fall River, liberated at 12:01 P. M., from the office of The Sporting Life, were found in the home loft at 6:05 P. M. The telegram of the start read:—"Birds left Philadelphia, etc." By this Mr. Bowers understood that birds were sent at that time by express to another station and, instead of watching for their return, was giving all his attention to his garden, when one of his neighbors sent word that the birds were at home. In the excitement of the event Mr. Bowers forgot the overalls and slugs boots in which he was arrayed until fairly under way for the telegraph office, 27 1/2 miles distant, when the expected amazement of the people called him to himself, and he lost six minutes in retracing his steps and in donning his store clothes. The next journey for the birds will be from Washington, D. C., next week.

The journeys of Sunday were, with the exception of the Barrett birds from Herkimer, for the George W. Childs Cup. The Barrett news was started from Herkimer at noon in unfavorable weather. Seven birds were home at evening, "Lumps" coming in next day with the skin of his neck badly torn, "as if a hawk had got hold of him," one, "Romeo," is not yet reported.

The birds of the Hub Club were not let go until 9:30 A. M. of Monday, the weather having been unfavorable earlier. Mr. John Hicks, the secretary, vouches for the return of Mr. Gould's 307 at evening, no other being reported until the Fourth, when an account of stock was taken and the majority were found to be at home.

The birds of the Volunteer Association, Brooklyn, second to be sent for record from 500 miles this season, were liberated in Concord, N. C., early Sunday morning, but none were home at evening. The entry was Charles Ritchie and G. W. Pangborn each 1, Charles R. Doane 3. The returns reported were Doane's 5275 and Pangborn's Captain Hal, found at home Monday evening. The air line distance is about 510 miles.

The birds of Mr. A. Shone, East Liverpool, O., that lately made the journey from Indianapolis, Ind., were liberated on Sunday morning, the first to return was not reported until the morning of the 5th. The distance, air line, is about 525 miles. This journey was the fourth fly for the birds and their second for record, and is the best for the distance as yet made to a Western loft.

The second race of the second series from the Philadelphia Club's basket was from High Point, N. C. The entry was George S. Fell, 4; Charles Adams, 2; William Wolf, 2; R. L. Hayes, 4; A. Gordon, 3. The start was early Sunday morning, but there were no returns at evening. The first to be reported was Hayes' Three Spot at 6:15 A. M. Monday; Fell's Chiefain arriving at 8:20 A. M. Later returns are Fell's Eclipse and Victor, and Hayes' Whiskers.

The birds of the Bedford Club that made the journey the previous week from Orange, C. H., Va., were liberated early Sunday morning in Liberty, Va. The entry was George B. Edwards, 18; T. F. Read, 4. There were no returns the same day, but fifteen Edwards and one Read are ready to fly next week from Morgantown, N. C., 525 miles.

The fourth venture for record from 500 miles was by four birds owned by James McGahey, of this city, and three by Theodore P. Green, of Woodbury. The start was from Greenville, S. C., the morning of the 4th, after a wait there of four days for fair weather. The first to be reported was McGahey's Volunteer, the morning of the 5th; time claimed 8:15 A. M., the countermarks being verified that the office of

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THE SPORTING LIFE at 8:35 A. M., standard time; the air-line distance covered is 526 1/2 miles. Mr. Green's bird Theo Rang the bell in the store at 9 o'clock, but found Mr. Green alone—his assistants not having returned from the Fourth—and customers waiting. There was but slight delay, however, as the marks were verified at 9:20 A. M. Other returns the same day were Green's Watkins, at noon, and McGahey's Arab and Wanderer later. The distance to the McGahey loft is the greatest covered this year, and the record, while the best yet made for the distance, is the best from 500 miles this season. The air-line distance to the Green loft is about 515 miles and is second only to the McGahey return. All of the Green entry and McGahey's Volunteer have made the journey twice from over 500 miles within a fortnight, making the sum total of air-line distance covered by each in this season's flying over 1,950 miles. All are considered to have done their part and are to be congratulated.

The last trial for distance and the Childs cup was by the birds of George S. Fell, John R. Hunsberger and R. L. Hayes. The start was from Greer's Depot the morning of the 5th. The returns reported the evening of the 6th were Hayes' Hustler and Turk. The air-line distance is about 517 miles.

Thus, in spite of many trials, the 365 miles covered by Saranac, of John R. Hunsberger, June 8, remains as the greatest distance in the day for the season to date. But we are reminded by many bird owners that the season is not done and "Saranac must either try again or get left."

Nothing illustrates the difference between proven and claimed records better than the journey of this year. Those who associated over a year ago for more liberal rules, more generous distances and "a broader and more gentlemanly platform," claim 1,501 yards per minute, made from over 300 miles against a strong wind, and 526 1/2 miles covered in a day when the atmosphere over a great part of the course was hazy and so oppressive that birds ready to be started in other journeys were not let go, and, miracle of miracles, all this by the none-other-so-much-to-be-despised Kettledrum stock!

"And why," the question is asked, "with such possibilities in the rules and such an owner, is not the claim better?" Because it is sufficient to cover all and is the fulfillment of our prophecy of a year ago that the last will be the best.

Caught or Shot. [Have your birds registered and mark each one. "If Caught or Shot report this number to THE SPORTING LIFE, PHILADELPHIA. We will at once let the owner's name and the number reported to us, but we will not correspond with Anders except in case of birds entered in a journey for record.]

Mr. Amos Dunham, Fairfax Station, Va., reports the shooting of T. F. R. 10. The bird was culled by T. E. Read, Brooklyn, in the Bedford Club's race from Liberty, Va., flown the 1st inst.

Mr. J. K. Harton, Washington, D. C., reports the loss of the larva of J. H. Baker by Mr. T. R. Johnson, Aberdeen, Md.

Mr. George Schumler, 518 Sixth Ann street, Baltimore, reports a pigeon marked 618 on wing sad 230 on leg.

Mr. H. Douglas, 121 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., reports V 18.

B 80, marked also Bermuda, is reported by Mr. John W. Dubbs, 214 Mather street, Philadelphia.

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