

Tuesday, June 06, 2006

Subject: Connie to the rescue.

She saved 704

Last year through emails I met some pigeon fanciers in New York. One of my birds ended up in the States and some fanciers in New York totally amazed me with their help to get my bird to Fort Erie from where he found his way home. This time I met a lady from Mallorytown Ontario by the name of Connie Steacy.

She contacted me after my pigeon 2005 CU TF 704 had strayed in her loft.

This bird participated in our Matheson race and when he got lost he was tired and wet.

He picked probably the best loft to enter when a bird needs help. In my first note to her I asked her if she had any "pigeon experience"?

Does she ever. Read her notes and let us be thankful there are fanciers who care as much as she does. Thanks a lot Connie.

Tom Brouwer

June 5

Hi Tom,

I believe I have a stray that came in yesterday. TonyD believes it may belong to you...

CU 05 TOR FED 704. It was pretty tired on arrival but looks a lot better after a drink and a meal. The shine is coming back already and it is getting some pep back.

Please advise what you would like done with this bird.

Thank You,

Connie Steacy

Mallorytown, ON

June 5

Hi Connie,

Thanks for reporting # 704. He flew in a race from Matheson approx. 500 km from my loft. They hit terrible rains on Saturday and anybody living on the long end had a hard time getting his birds home. This checker white flight cock is a rather tame bird and is quite capable of finding his home, after some rest. I do not know if you have any "pigeon" experience but if you will let the bird rest till Friday, he should find his way home. A toss approx. 5 km away from your home would greatly help. Thanks again for reporting and who is TonyD? Friendly greetings from Tom Brouwer

Hi Tom,

Wow, Matheson is 572.121 to me here. My hubby Chris and I fly in the Ottawa Valley Combine. Our Saturday races sound a lot like yours with heavy rains and high winds. We released at Temagami and Marten River this past Saturday. It started raining at 3Am here and did not let up once until 4Pm for about half an hour. We started clocking at 2:03pm and were still missing FOURTEEN birds at dark. That is more than double what I've lost in my 2 1/2 years of flying so far. Then on Sunday the rest started drifting in throughout the day. We are still missing 2 birds out of the 43 we sent.

But I guess we were still the lucky ones even though the short end flyers were clocking at noon. One club member had 2 back out of 37, another had 6 back out of 40, 7 out of 37, etc. Very heavy losses were reported at strike off Saturday night. Whatever the birds came through, they were spooked badly and still jumpy on arrival. If they had not been soaking wet, they would have been shadows, they were so light. Of the 18 we clocked and the next 11 not clocked, (limits on clocking) there were not 2 birds that didn't look like they had just flown a Pickle Lake 800 mile race.

Tony De Cesare from Toronto is a man on a pigeon website where I list any birds (getting a lead to the owners) that stray into our lofts. I always check the CU yearbook first and if I can't find the band/ owner, then I post the band #s for help. Then if I have still found no owner, I call the CU Office.

What would you like me to feed your bird? Do you give 2 meals of barley, wheat, lemon juice and Br. Yeast after each race? His droppings have firmed up but still a little on the green side today. I have the #1 race mix from Elizabeth's he can build up on. Do you want him to have a couple spanish peanuts as a reward? Would you like him to have a bath if he wants one? My hubby started calling this place Pigeon Hotel after all the strays from last year. So if you want anything special for him, that he is used to, just let me know. I even have Vita King eye drops and baby tear eye drops here now for strays' whose owners use them.

He will still have quite a trip just to get home, as we live about 350km from Toronto. I will watch the weather network for Thursday and Friday. I will let you know when he is headed home. I have him in a stock box, in the stock loft where he can not see outside. He has plenty of room though as the boxes were built with a perch for the mate not on the nest and plenty of exercising room to flutter their wings.

Thanks,
Connie

Hi Connie,

Thanks to you and your husband for looking after my bird so well. If I was a pigeon and my number was 704 I would never leave!! What a lucky bird to stray in your loft. My exact distance from Matheson is 534.044 and our shipping limit is 20 birds to each station. The other station we flew was Estaire.(306 km)From Matheson the birds were released at 7.00 A.M. with nice dry weather but when they were on their way home they hit rain sometimes quite heavy. I think they flew through the rain for approx. 150 km. In Pickering it rained all day, it never stopped. Our club had shipped only 57 birds and 22 of them made it home on the day. Of course the ones showing up the next day will need a 3 week recovery time. We are just starting the long distance races. This coming week-end Hearst. I am not going to tell you what to feed my bird. In your care he is getting the best and I am sure he enjoys it. Connie I have a web page www.pigeonracing.org

I would love to write an article using your letter. Will you give me permission for this. Please read some of the other articles on my page and I hope you will enjoy them. Greetings from Tom Brouwer.

Connie did give permission to print her emails. It is amazing how closely her experiences with the birds on Saturday are like the ones with the long end flyers in the UNC. I hope the Ottawa Combine will hit nothing but nice weather for the balance of the season..

Connie thanks for your emails, reading them made me feel a lot better. Tom