

twenty-four birds participating, of which 7 were of my loft, 9 of Mr. Oscar Donner's, 5 of Mr. Joseph Husson's, and 3 of Mr. Waefelaer's. They were tossed at 9:15, with fine weather, but unfavorable wind, and arrived in the following order: 4 of mine at 12:35, 5 of Donner's at 12:36, 1 of Husson's at 12:47, 3 of mine at 12:47, 1 of Waefelaer's at 12:53, one of same at 12:57; Mr. Husson's were all home shortly after 1, and Mr. Donner's were all home at 2 o'clock. We did not lose a single bird in this race.

A singular fact, which I will mention on account that so many fanciers believe in tossing their birds several times from a place before they fly in the race, is that Mr. Waefelaer's three birds had flown from Hamburg about a week before, and although they seem to have made good time the first time tossed there, they were almost the last of all to come home the second time. I had the same experience several years ago, while yet living in Antwerp.

Much has been written and said to the effect that the Homing bird flies by sight; others say that it flies by instinct, and although we must believe and admit that pigeons have an exceedingly sharp vision, I believe, through many years of study and particular attention that I have paid to this subject, that it is more by instinct than eyesight that a bird is directed to its loft. My theory and supposition is that when a bird is trained generally in the same direction, say from the west, that it knows almost as soon as it is tossed that it has to fly towards the east to find its home. This theory is based on actual daily experience, as, without hardly any exceptions, as soon as the birds are liberated, and after circling for a few minutes only, they go right in the direction of their home, and it is in this direction that they remain seeking until they find the right way to their loft.

My birds flew to-day, (May 20th,) from Millersburg, Pa., 155 miles, air-line, from New York. The weather has been so cloudy and rainy for the last eight days that they were kept in a large basket for five days before it was safe to liberate them. They flew with contrary wind and hazy weather, and the first birds that arrived required nearly four hours and forty minutes to reach their loft. I had seven birds flying, and six were home inside of five hours; the seventh, an imported cock of this spring, not coming home the same day.

JOHN VAN OPSTAL.

New York, May 20th, 1879.

During the month of April, 47,600 pigeons were sent from Belgium to be loosed. Of these, 41,760 were sent by a special train of 45 cars, April 26th, to be loosed the following Sunday.

Arrival of Celebrities.

Editor Review,

DEAR SIR,—I have lately received, per steamer "Daniel Steinmann," from Antwerp, one pair of long-distance prize Flying Antwerps, with all the diplomas of their long-distance flights, of which the following is a copy:

1874—	from Morceus,	-	cock, prize.
"	"	"	hen, "
1875—	" Montauban	-	cock, "
"	"	"	hen, "
1876—	" Lectoure	-	cock, "
"	"	"	hen, "
1877—	" Mont De Marsan,	-	cock, "
"	"	"	het, "

The above concourses were the longest flown in Belgium during these seasons. The cock is a dark blue checker, with superior power of endurance, and is named "Bismarck."

The hen, a silver-dun, is named "Queen," and she is well entitled to that name, as she is certainly the handsomest bird which has, I believe, ever been imported in this country. She won the 1st prize, with 596 competitors, at the last exhibition of the *Société la Colombe, of Joyense*, Brussels, the diploma of which is in my possession.

Respectfully yours,

LOUIS WAEFELAER.

Hoboken, N. J., May 23rd, 1879.

THE New York Continental Homing Club flew their birds on the 28th of May from Huntingdon, Pa., 208 miles air-line; they were liberated by K. M. King, Agt. Adams Ex. Co., at 9 a. m. Waefelaer had 21 entries, Van Opstal 10, Donner 9, Husson 6. The birds arrived in the following order:—three of Waefelaer's at 2:53; five of Donner's at 3:15; one of Van Opstal's at 3:20; two of Husson's at 6. Sixteen of Waefelaer's were home at 3:05; six of Donner's at 3:22; and ten of Van Opstal's at 3:30.

LOUIS WAEFELAER, President.

The 250 Miles Inter-State Race.

New York, June 9th, 1879.

MR. EDITOR,—When, in June of last year, Mr. Joel Willard, of Utica, N. Y., won the four first prizes, and Mr. Newton Adams, of the same place, the fifth and sixth prizes, they thought that certainly they had the best birds on this continent; and when I found out under what circumstances the birds had flown in the several localities in which they were set free, I showed to the public and the fanciers of the United States and Canada, through the *Fanciers' Journal*, that the reason of the success of the Utica birds had depended on the advantage they had in flying with the wind, while the New York and Philadelphia birds flew against it. The Utica birds had to fly from Albion, N. J., in which locality the wind was West, a favorable