

tion of Mr. Neal, the storekeeper, knowing that Nos. H1, H5 and H7 had been flown from Ship Harbour, there was no information as to the age, sex and distances and dates of training flights with respect to any of the birds; thus it happened that when I desired to send some birds out seaward I was reduced to taking them at hap-hazard, without regard to age or previous training.

While some of the unsatisfactory results may be due to absence of proper attention, I think it is mainly due to the circumstance that Mr. Downs—who is officially responsible, and alone receives remuneration in connection with the loft—with all his desire to make progress and his great experience and interest in all that concerns natural history, is not physically fitted, at his age, to do what is needed.

Storekeeper Neal is constantly present in the neighbourhood of the loft in discharge of his regular duties; he is active, attentive and assiduous, and has ample opportunity for looking after the birds and training them.

For these reasons I submit that it is desirable that Mr. Downs should be relieved of the charge of the loft and sole control transferred to Storekeeper Neal, to whose pay some addition—say \$1 a week—should be made.

Before leaving the subject of the stock book and training record I would note the objects they serve:

In the stock book are ready headed columns for loft number, the birds' individual distinguishing marks, their sex, colour, date of hatching, pedigree, source whence obtained, manner of disposal, by death, sale, gift, &c., cost, price, if sold, and remarks.

This book thus furnishes the means of checking the contents of the loft and of distinguishing individual birds to enable selections to be made of such as are best fitted for work in connection with the training records.

The training records are most simply formed by a number of vertical parallel columns, the first column being headed "loft number," the second "band number," the third "colour" and the rest left unheaded, to be filled in as required.

Under the headings of the first, second and third columns are successively entered the data given in the corresponding columns of the stock book.

In the fourth and subsequent columns, when a bird is sent out for training, a figure 1 is placed opposite its loft number and the column is headed with a note of the date, place and distance to which the bird has been sent.

All birds sent on the same date to the same distance and place for training flight are entered in the same column under the same heading.

I annex an illustrative form of a training sheet.

In training birds they are sent to successively greater distances from their loft for liberation. It is most desirable that special attention should be paid to this with regard to very young birds whose training is just being commenced.

The successive distances should be approximately in miles:

1	} Followed by increases of from 25 to 50 miles up to 200.
1	
3	
10	
20	
35	
50	
75	
100	

Without the record sheet and stock book, it is apparent no such system in training can be followed, for not only would there then be no means of knowing what flights any individual bird had taken previously, but it would be almost impossible for a loft-keeper to distinguish, with a few exceptions, individual birds.

Moreover, it is desirable to discard birds which prove themselves inefficient, both on account of their individual worthlessness and the risk of their propagating their bad qualities by breeding in the loft. But discarding cannot be intelligently acted on without the stock book and training record sheet data.