

line on fore side of thigh to hock, slightly concave on the opposite side, and straight from hock to foot.

3.—Generally lengthy, both thigh and shank long, and in proportion feathered closely and evenly, presenting a stocking-like appearance.

TOES.—Well feathered to tip and well spread.

COLOR.—Blue, black, red, yellow (standard pids), and whites.

MARKINGS.—The above colors cover the bird with the exception (1) of a white crescent on crop, the horns of which reach to about one-half inch from each eye, (2) of a few white feathers, about a dozen, on the shoulders (in the shape of a rose) and white primary flights, (3) of white on all the body behind a line encircling the centre of the waist. In case of blacks and blues, color of the tail same as body color, and blues must have black bars on the wings. In yellows and reds a colored tail is preferred, if of as good color as the body. Whites have no marking.

COLOR OF EYE.—In pied birds, red or orange, and in whites a bull eye.

COLOR OF BEAK.—In blacks and blues black, and in other colors flesh colored.

FLEW 500 MILES.

J. M. SKILES'S BLACK JIM COMES HOME IN A DAY—THE HILLEBRECHT AND DRESSLER BIRDS CLOSE SECONDS.

The Pittsburg Homing Club established another record for long distance flying. Six of the 25 birds its agent A. L. Kirk, of Vandalia, Ill., liberated at that place at 8, returning to their several lofts in and near Pittsburg. In the long existence of the club, its has never before brought a bird from this, its 500 mile station, on the same day on which it has been liberated. The first bird to arrive was Black Jim, belonging to J. M. Skiles, of Pigeon Hill, East end. W. H. Hillebrecht, Jr.'s, red chequer bird and Dressler's dun bird, both of which reached their respective lofts at the same time, were close seconds. The details of this remarkable flight follow :

	Distance.	Arrived in Loft.	Yards per Min.
J. M. Skiles, 25.....	499 4-10	7.28	1,274 $\frac{3}{4}$
William Hellebrecht, 7225.....	497 2-10	7.30	1,268 $\frac{1}{4}$
B. Dressler, 15,382.....	495 3-10	7.30	1,263 $\frac{1}{4}$
Geo. Matz, 856.....	495	7.32	1,257 $\frac{1}{2}$
S. Stouppe, 235.....	499 8-10	7.45	1,165
R. Stratton, 4.....	500	7.45	1,166

J. C. DAVIES, Secretary.

RAILTO'S NOTES.

Editor Pigeon Fancier.

AM glad this band question is causing such wide-spread interest among our fanciers. It is truly an important one and deserves the attention of every breeder. Undoubtedly a nicely enamelled band is what is wanted so that a different color may be had for each breed, for each year, but the fanciers on this side of the water have not as yet succeeded in producing such a band as our English cousins use. Why is it? Some breeders claim that a plain seamless band will answer so long as it is stamped with the year and a letter or sign to indicate that it is the size intended for the breed it ornaments, but with such I cannot agree because at some of our larger shows it would take so much of the judge's time to carefully examine the band of each specimen on exhibition as to render the task a very disagreeable one. However, let every fancier air his views on this subject and we shall learn.

Would it not be a very good plan for each specialty club in America to appoint one of its numbers to visit manufacturers of novelties, etc., explain what is needed in enamelled bands, procure samples, prices, etc., and later on meet at one of our big shows, New York, for instance, form an association for the purpose of attending to the procuring and distribution of the accepted ring as well as settling all disputes and attending to all other business connected with the same. At this meeting samples with particulars pertaining to the same should be submitted. Furthermore I think all the leading pigeon judges should be members of this association and have a voice in the acceptance of a band.

Come brothers wake up and let us hear from you so that we may have a universal band for next season.

Some of our breeders here in the "Bay State" are complaining of losing most of their young birds as the old birds refuse to feed while the weather is so hot. Mr. T. Willetts, of Lowell, Mass., is losing dozens of young on account of the hot weather.

Mr. Robert Stowell, Lowell's stalwart police officer, is erecting a beautiful new residence, and I guarantee his Owls and Homers will soon find themselves in new quarters of which they will feel proud if pigeons are capable of such feelings.

RAILTO,