

that separate from the flock are "caught" by another flyer's kit. They are then his birds. Seldom, if ever, are they returned. It happens to be the rule of the game.

When Schwartz introduces the heroine of her book, a young lady by the name of Louise, the reader discovers the intensity and indescribable thrill of pigeon flying.

Louise dares to be different. While her older brother and his friends forsake their casual interest in birding for the traumas and delights of puberty, "Louie" quickly attaches herself to Casey, a seasoned rooftop flyer. Defying the all-male tradition of the game, she becomes his "chaser" or apprentice. Casey immediately teaches her, and the reader, the secret of the sport: "To be good, you have to lose."

Everytime Louise loses, the reader gains. For Schwartz' knowledge of pigeons, and her wonderful feel for their importance to pigeon people triumphs again and again. The terminology is correct. The bond between apprentice and tutor is touching. But the hallmark of this book is the way Schwartz captures the passion of the pigeon-flying sport. To those who have only raised the fancy breeds, it is a particularly enlightening manuscript. For those who opt for exotic cagebirds, it opens the mysterious door into the world of rooftops, where intense dramas are performed against a backdrop of limitless sky.

And, to everyone who has pondered their own miraculous induction into the avian hobby, it provides an answer. Louise states it simply: "Only a year before I would have thought the sky was empty....Now I searched the skies for it, knowing that any minute the microscopic figure of a bird would appear, winging its way out of the distance, either lost or heading for home."

The miracle of bird flight was never so poignantly portrayed, reminding us that "even when the bird walks, we see that it has wings!"*

Caught, by Jane Schwartz, was published in 1985 by Available Press (a division of Ballantine Books), New York. It sells for \$5.95 (paperback).

*quote by Antoine-Marin Lemierre, French author

A Note About Flights

The Domestic Flight is a high-flying pigeon which was traditionally flown from city rooftop lofts (most notably in New York City). The sport, which was once immensely popular, declined substantially with the urban growth experienced over the past thirty to forty years. ●



Dan and Iva Walton with their U.S. First Breeding Avy Award for breeding the Java bill mynah (hatched 5/6/84).

Photos by Linda Sun, Riverside, CA

Avy Award Winners for 1985

We are honored to award the following persons and institutions on their accomplishments in the field of Aviculture.

1985 Gold Avy Award

David West for outstanding contributions to the field of Aviculture.

U.S. 1st Breeding Avy Awards

1. Grosbeak Starling
(Hatched February 17, 1984)
Metrozoo, Miami, Florida
2. Toucan Barbet
(Hatched October 15, 1984)
Audubon Zoological Park
3. Black Parrot/Lesser Vasa Parrot
(Hatched July 29, 1985)
Richard Reely
4. Common Trumpeter
(Hatched May 25, 1984)
Woodland Park Zoological Gardens
5. Java Hill Mynah
(Hatched May 6, 1984)
Dan & Iva Walton

1985 Watchbird Avy Awards

1. Steven H. Amos
Captive Management of Gray-necked Wood-rails
2. Fred and Lyrae Perry
Introduction to the Psittacula Family

Avy Appreciation Awards

1. Linda S. Rubin for outstanding service given to the National Cockatiel Society
2. Dr. Al Decoteau for outstanding service given to the New Hampshire Avicultural Society ●



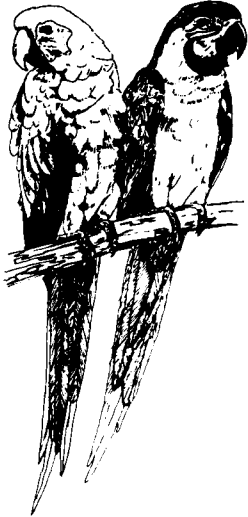
Terry Carr of the Audubon Zoological Park receiving U.S. First Breeding Avy Award from Dale R. Thompson for breeding the toucan barbet (hatched 10/15/84).



June Halfron receiving the U.S. First Breeding Avy Award, on behalf of Walter English of Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, from Dale Thompson for breeding the common trumpeter (hatched 5/25/84).

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