



Patrick Motley

MOTLEY LOFT
DANVILLE, VA

First Champion Loft 5-25 Lofts



By Paul Walsh

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Patrick Motley. I live in Ringgold, Virginia. I'm married with two children.

Did your family have birds?

My father flew pigeons while I was growing up. He has had birds for 37 years. My mother started flying a team of birds a few years ago. Mike, my brother, flew birds for a few years. Due to family commitments he had to give them up for a while, but plans on getting back into the sport in the next few years. We all work together, so we have lots of fun ribbing each other about who won the previous week. I also had two great uncles, two uncles and two cousins who flew birds, so yes; pigeon flyers are in my background.

When did you first start with pigeons?

I was raised around pigeons all of my life. I got my own birds and started flying in 1993.

Where do you fly today?

I fly with the Danville Racing Pigeon Club in Danville, Virginia and the North Carolina Combine.

What championships have you won in the club, combine or nationally?

I have won Average Speed awards at the club and combine level and now have two champion birds listed with the IF. I also won the 1000 mile Midwest Classic in 2003.

Do you think your position is a good one as far as races are concerned?

I don't concern myself with my position. If you've got a good bird or birds, they will fly for you and do well for you no matter where you live.

Can you give us a little history on your champion birds?

I have two champion birds. One is a Houben/Cowood and the other is a Houben/Cowood/Janssen.

Story on parents, brothers or sisters that breed good for you or flew well for you?

The parents of both birds were stock birds. They were never flown.



Do you race imports?

I do race Houbens from Mr. Houben in Belgium and birds from John Sampson.

Describe your loft.

My Old Bird loft is 8 X 16 with two sections. One section has nest boxes for the cocks and the hen's side has perches only for the hen. The Young Bird loft is 8 X 8. It has only perches.

Describe how you feed.

I feed once a day. I feed Kaytee wild seed and add corn, safflower and sunflower chips.

How do you train your birds?

I flock train and loft fly. I don't ever single toss my birds.

Do you have any regular training schedule?

I do work so I train as time allows. I do try to get the young birds down the road at least 4 times a week.

Is there any kind of health program you follow regularly?

I treat for the usual things.....cocci, worms, respiratory. I also vaccinate my bird for PMV and POX. I don't treat for anything if there doesn't appear to be a problem.

How often do you race your champion birds? How about the rest of the team?

I fly my champions and all of my birds to every race that I feel they are in shape to fly.

Do you believe in bird entry limits? How about clocking limits?

I do think there has to be shipping limits, but clocking limits skew the race results and can make some birds appear to do better than they actually do.

Is there a flyer, breeder or book that has helped you become a better pigeon flyer?

I give a lot of credit to my Father. I also credit David Saunders, a previous flyer in our club for many years. He gave me good birds to start with.

If you had the opportunity to change something in the pigeon game, what would it be?

The bickering that goes on sometimes. I'm very happy to say that none of that goes on in our club. If you don't have something good to say, then just don't say anything.

If you have a list of good books or video tapes, please list them.

I highly recommend "The Flying Vet's Pigeon Health Management" by Dr. Colin Walker. This is an excellent book that should be in every flyers library.

Is there anything else that you would like to say?

I would like to thank the IF for this award and for giving pigeon flyers the opportunity to give their BIRDS the recognition they deserve.

I would also like to mention some things about my club and combine. Let's face it, without your club and club members, you won't accomplish much. We have a great bunch of flyers, men and women. We don't argue or fight. We just love our birds and have a good time with them. We do have in place rules and regulations and they are adhered to strictly. Our club also has the best race secretary I've seen in all of my years flying birds. Our race secretaries are the backbone of a club many times, and we have the best as far as I'm concerned. Our club is what it is because of the members and their true enjoyment of the sport. I wouldn't trade them for a BIG club with the bickering and fighting for anything.

Our combine is deep rather than wide and all members were very agreeable this past year on changing up the race schedule to make the races fairer for everyone, long and short flyers. Our combine members get along great and I enjoy flying with them.

I am always willing to help out the new flyers if I can. If anyone needs any help or information on our club or combine, they are welcome to call me at anytime. I can be reached at 434-822-8650.

