

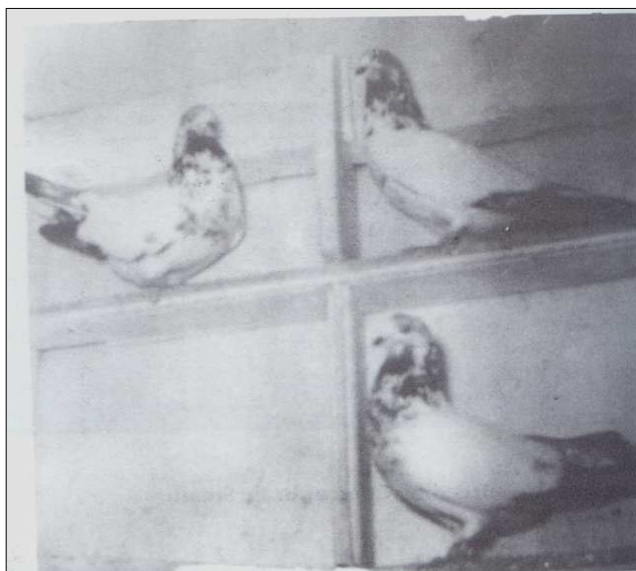
Kemo Basic

Canadian Old Bird Record 2001

Here is Kemo's report the day he set the new OB Canadian Record in 2001 previously held by George Vertolli since 1966.

Toronto: June 25, 2001

Thirty-five years ago, in 1966, George Vertolli of Toronto established the new Canadian Old Bird record with a time of 17 hrs 29 min.



Old cock team consisting of #'s 407, 582, and 707 flown by George Vertolli of Toronto, Canada for a time of 17 hours 29 minutes on June 19, 1966 to set the North American Old Bird Record bettering Bill Adams' time of 17:25 flown on June 18, 1950.

Over the years, breaking this record was difficult due to the great fluctuations in temperature, high humidity, haze and pollution that we experience here. Another hindering factor is our short twilight time (dark at 9:13). If there are no clouds 1 hour before sunrise, it is too dark to release the birds and we must wait. Also, 1 hour after sunset without clouds in the sky, we cannot see the birds and we are forced to turn the lights on.

On the dark morning of the Long Day fly of this year, my timer Mladen Stojanovic (Canadian National Tippler Union member) arrived at my place at 4:30 am (sunrise 5:38 am). We checked the bands and waited to release the three old blue bar cocks until 4:48 am. The birds went together to the North and the first time we saw them again was an hour later. From then on, the kit was easy to time because they were flying sluggish.

At 5:20 am I was surprised to see Oskar and his timer Danny Kinnear. Unfortunately, Oskar was disqualified because his birds had been attacked by a hawk after their release. Later, Oskar and Walter Weichec came back around noon and stayed for a couple of hours. As soon as they left, the birds started flying better and going on a rumble. At 3 pm Mladen was replaced by Branko

Trinic (another *CNTU* member). He enjoyed how my birds were flying high and strong at this point. At 9:45 pm Mladen came back with his wife and was happy to see the birds were still up. At this time they were above the coop every 3-5 minutes and could be seen with ease, as there were light clouds in the sky. Throughout the day, they never "looked" until I turned on the lights at 10:19 pm (sunset 9:03 pm). While I was trying to drop the birds, Oskar came back with Danny Kinnear. They waited patiently until the birds came down and were trapped. The first bird dropped after 6 minutes and the two others after 18 minutes. They did not appear to be tired.

The kit flew 17 hrs 31 min, the new Canadian Old Bird record. These three birds were #611, 631, 552. #611 was bred by Harry Shannon. #552 was given to me last year by Tom Rankin. I bred #631 from Harry Shannon's blue cock and Ross Morden's grizzle hen (given to me by Harry Smith).

I am overwhelmed by the Irish Delights performance and very happy. I would like to thank my timers Mladen and Branko for their effort. Thanks also to Walter Weichec, Danny Kinnear, Nino Bugeja (current Canadian Young Bird record holder), Oskar Zovic, Bobby Dunseith, Harry Shannon, Tom Rankin, Ross Morden, David Dean, Harry Smith, Jerry O'Rourke and Tim Kvidera for their support and for being a part of the new Canadian Old Bird record.

Smail Kemo Basic



Kemo's kit of 3 blue cocks that broke the 35-year-old record previously held by George Vertolli.