

Nino's Young Canadian Delights North American Champions Flown 16 hrs. 44 min. June 6, 2004

Nino Bugeja has done it again. He has bettered his North American Young Bird Record from 2003 with a new record time in 2004. I asked Nino once again to give us the scoop on the events of the day. Here is what he had to say:

As I awoke from my alarm at 3:30am my eyes were like two shot glasses, a result from the wedding I attended of a good friend's son the night before. I made my way down to the kitchen for that very needed cup of coffee. I thought of the day ahead. I asked myself what the hell I was doing dragging myself out from a warm bed, all in the name of "Tipplering". Out to the deck and down to the loft I went. The morning was clear and a good moon was shining and a sky filled with stars. It had called for thunderstorms all week and I was surprised to find these conditions.

Into the loft I went and switched the lights on, and there they were all sitting in my community box awaiting

their test to commence. As they awoke they flew down from their perches to the floor for a stretch and to loosen up their joints. As I handled each bird to make sure I had not missed anything I could see that they were in good shape, but not the best I have seen for a long tough day of flying. At any rate they were what they were and there was no more time to do anything about it.



Nino's Champion Kit

Around 4:10am my timer showed up (Spero Zaharopoulos) with a Tim Hortons coffee and a muffin, what a guy! He confirmed the bands and in the carry box they went, lights off and awaiting toss time. At 4:30am we both grabbed two birds each and at 4:35am they hit the dark sky and rounded some trees all going away into the dark.

The morning wore on and the clouds moved in and the weatherman talked about thunderstorms in the late afternoon. Around 8am my second timer arrived (Adolfo Bianchi) to relieve Spero, as he had a wedding to attend as well as other commitments. Adolfo is a well-known Homer man, (winner of almost everything when talking about the Homer game) which has been a member of the club for some years now.

The birds were flying in stride as their training had taught them to do, taking the weather for what it was and never looking back. In the late

afternoon

Bruce

Roseblade

showed up to

relieve

Adolfo for a

couple of

hours so he

could get a

couple of

chores done

and he

returned

around 5pm.

Bruce had

brought his

binoculars

along

expecting to

use them for

sighting the

birds, but the ybs were not flying high but were on the ramble instead.

Luka had called to see how they were doing and also to tell us how he was doing, needless to say we were both still on the wing. At some point the sky was getting darker and we thought there was a real good threat of a thunderstorm. Thankfully

we can say now that the evening just got better and the skies cleared up and the birds took it in stride.

Kemo called at some point to let me know how he was doing and we wished each other well and went on to our flying. Just after 9pm Oskar and Michael called to see if I got cold feet and had already thrown for them, but I told them that I was like steel and would wait it out! Steel my ass, as it got darker and darker they were still rambling and Adolfo and my greatest fan, my son Chris, began to get very nervous as they knew the birds were gone on a ramble and time was against us. I told them the next time they returned I would throw for them and call the time.

They returned over the loft, I called time and threw one dropper, at the same time my son was

turning on the lights and Adolfo was tossing the other droppers. The birds responded in a few minutes and hit the loft like they just had a workout, not tired at all and looking great. We called them in and felt them to find that they had not lost a thing in body weight. They quickly settled in for the night.

I would like to thank Spero Zaharoulos, Adolfo Bianchi and Bruce Roseblade for giving up their time so that these birds could be put to the task of doing what they are bred for "Endurance Flying", thank you guys. The birds were just 12 weeks old and are "all" that they should be - fantastic Canadian Delights.



Blue – 04 CNTU 105



Grizzle – 04 CNTU 106



Print – 04 CNTU 107



Mottle – 04 CNTU 113