

Oskar Zovich's Old Bird Team
Canadian Champions
Flown 17 hrs. 47min.
June 20, 2004

Once again I had the pleasure of visiting the Zovich loft only a few days after the big news of Oskar's record breaking fly. Yes, Oskar had established yet another Canadian record and set one more all too familiar long fly.

This time my brother Srecko came as well and stood there with his eyes fixed and ears in tune as Oskar recited the breed lines, times, families and feeds to him. I on the other hand was taking pictures as best as I could with little help from either; both were too busy gabbing about Tipplers to notice my struggle.

Oskar set a new Canadian record with a team of three birds that you see here. The print cock on the top left was not in the kit for the record but had a great fly in the Summer 1 competition. The two Indigo brothers (top right and bottom left) flew with their Check sister (bottom right) for

the record. A family affair you could say.

In the Summer 1 fly Oskar nearly broke the NA old bird record with Michael Beat timing but could not drop the kit in time to secure the 18:27 clocking. Two brothers trapped after the hour limit, print never did.

The first Indigo came down finally at 19:29 and the second at 19:31. The print was still seen on the wing and never did trap that night.

But perseverance did pay off on the next fly (Long Day). Because the print stayed out overnight the previous fly Oskar pulled him out at the last second before liberating the kit at 4:36am. He actually fed up 5 birds but made a split second decision and went with his instinct to fly the three siblings. Good move!

The day was perfect as far as weather conditions but very windy, gusting to almost 50km. His timer Nino took the first shift and was replaced in the afternoon by Tom Rankin. Walter Waichec also showed up, as did Branko Trninic, Mladen Stojanovich and Nino came back for the conclusion. Lots of eyes needed for night flying



to be sure.

Well the night was approaching and the kit was flying superb. However, because it was so clear and not a cloud in the sky the conditions were less than ideal, darkness was going to be a problem. To add to the challenge the wind that had subsided in the evening now picked up once again in the night.

Reluctantly Oskar threw for the kit at 10:23pm because of the conditions just mentioned. He had to work hard to pull the still strong kit onto the roof. The last member dropped to the loft 27 long minutes after the signal. All down... all in...a new Canadian record. Congratulations Oskar!

A few words from Oskar's timer Nino about the day, the kit and the flyer:

Oskar and his birds are very deserving indeed of this great fly of 17:47hrs to better his own Canadian Record that's for sure.

It was also the Longest Day I have ever spent when timing a kit of birds. My day started out at 3:00am Sunday morning and ended back where it started around 1:AM Monday morning.

I must say I would have never missed this opportunity, not just to time for a member, but for me a first to witness a Master at dark flying. We all know that Oskar can breed and fly Tipplers with the best anywhere, but to be a part of the process and see what many, including myself have never even attempted was truly a sight to see. When he signaled the birds with the droppers, and to see the control over the birds, just circling around the loft in a tough circumstance to land them was very impressive. The kit knew where home was, but there was a strong wind at the time and they were having trouble hitting the loft, but slowly they came down, one after the other while the Oskar worked his droppers. The other factor was they were still strong and resisted the inducement at first. Their training was the key in the end and they did what was expected of them, it was great.

Oskar started with Tipplers in 1974 but decided in 1981 to start his own family according to his ideal. Oskar's birds go back to two cocks: #720 Grizzle and original import Bartholomew black #4265. Over the years he has developed his line but still looked for an outcross hen that would compliment the family. He tried Hughes, Lovatts and finally hit with Shannon hens. He is also quick to mention that none of this would be possible without his buddy from Buffalo Walter Waichec. Walter is and was instrumental in the development of the Zovich type Tippler. -

Luka



Check Hen – 03 FTA 2197



Indigo white tail cock – 03 CNTU 177



Indigo white flight cock – 03 CNTU 178