

North American Young Bird Record '05 16 hours 45 minutes Nino Bugeja

For three consecutive years now our President has broken the North American Young Bird record - truly unprecedented effort. This time Nino did it with an impressive 5-bird team. Here is how the day went and some nice photos of the young champions.

I woke up to a morning of light rain as the alarm went off at 3:45 am. It was Long Day to all the Tippler flyboys, the day we all wait for to try and see what our training and kit of birds will do. The coffee was hot and the weather had finally broken from the terrible high temperatures and even higher humidify that we had experienced for nine consecutive days.

What about the kit, were they ready for this one day? When I thought about what I had put them through I wasn't sure. At 10 weeks old all seven were DQ'ed first thing in the morning and went on to fly 15:53hrs. Two weeks later they flew through hours of rain and high temperatures with no wind to assist them and went 15:30hrs and came down totally beat to the point I wondered if they would ever come back into shape. Two were pulled out as I thought they would need more time to recuperate. Four days later I put them out for a work out and during the outing were hit by a freak thunderstorm. Two were washed down on my neighbors roof totally soaked, but yet three kept on going and came down at 9:05 pm. Had I ruined them I wondered, were they up for the task of the Long Day fly? I just wasn't sure.

The timer (Spero) showed up at 4:10am. The morning was dark with light rain falling - another poor day of flying was in my mind. I wanted a very early toss but it was too dark and this kit had been through a lot already so I chose to toss them a little later.

Up they went (4:51am) and the day was on. The rain quit and the wind picked up - they were doing just fine. Spero and Oskar were enjoying good discussions on Tiplers as well as passing on some chatter about everything you could come up with, they were having a great time. The weather was cool and cloudy all day and never changed much witch was fine by me and it seemed the kit of birds also. At the 12 hour mark we talked about how strong they looked rambling long and far - as they had been doing for most of the fly.

The grizzle, black and blue were all starting to molt and I wondered how much effect that would have on them as the hours went by. At the 15hr mark all was well, birds flying strong and easy. The wind had died down but this didn't seem to bother them.

Spero kept mentioning this red bird and how he loved her wing action and also how steady she was in the air, never changing her pace or style of flying. As it were,



she was the first one down after we called time (9:36pm) and put the lights on. This bird had always been the best to respond - not sure if she was that much smarter or just better trained.



It was dark now and the next bird down was the blue - three to go. Minutes kept going by as I worked the droppers. I wondered if I would get them down when the grizzle came fluttering from the dark -two to go.



I asked Spero, do you see the checker or the black? "YES - but they are not giving up yet" said Spero.



At 10:00pm the checker hit the loft - one to go, the solid black. We could see her going by back and forth over the loft but always too fast. These birds had never flown in total darkness and it was apparent this last bird was a bit nervous. At 10:10pm she hit the loft like she had done many times before - 17 hrs 21min. later.



We were excited for their accomplishment as they disserved it.

Thanks to Spero and Oskar and a big thanks to the **KIT OF FIVE** on

June 18, 2005

Nino

Congratulations Nino!