

# Modena Tidbits

By: Dave Cooke

The breeding season is now finished and the fruits of this year's crop are starting to change with each day that passes. I get excited when I see one that just stands out from the rest thinking man if only I could have a loft full of that kind.

Well the summer has gone by fast and Donna and I sure enjoyed ourselves in June when we went up to see Tim and Terry Taylor. They wanted us to come up and go to an event called back to the fifties. It is where there were over 11000 hotrods and old cars from 1964 and back. I'm not a car buff but boy that was an impressive sight. We had a great time with Tim, Terry and a couple of there friends that came to this event from New Zealand. We had good time and really enjoyed ourselves that weekend. This is just another part of this hobby is meeting friends that you can enjoy other interest in.

In July Donna and I had the pleasure of having Dennis and Rosemary Weyrauch along with there two granddaughters stop in on there way back home. Dennis and I spent most of the time in the loft as I was showing him my setup and looking over the birds. I even let him in on a couple of secrets that I do with my birds.

Many of you have been on the IMC discussion group this summer. We set record numbers and that is great to see. Tim and I really love the job we do even though we get delayed sometimes with yahoo. The talk has been a lot about the poor fertility in our birds. We have seen many things it could or couldn't be that has produced this problem. Dennis and I also talked about his and I still think the biggest problem is the cocks not getting a good grip on how to breed. I spend a lot of time with mine just watching them. And you will see some cocks have no clue on what to do. They will hit the side or head more times then we think. One thing that helps this is mating them up to a homer as the homer will be the ones to train the cocks what to do. We all have to realize too that all mates are not compatible. I watch mine and if they aren't matching up I make the switch.

The one thing I use is what I call a "Love Board". I use a 2"x8"x18" or 24" pine board that I put right in the middle of my breeding cage. I use all individual pens and it works great. The birds just love to get up on that board and breed away. If you are using an open loft just put this board in your nesting compartment if it is big enough. The cock bird's love it has by nature they want to be bigger then they really are.

Well the show season is upon us and I wish everyone good luck at the shows and take the time to enjoy the fellowship. Until next time start cutting some "Love Boards" for next season.