

Tidbits for the Modena Game

Part 2

By: Dave Cooke

Well here we are at the tail end of the breeding season. By now, the loft is getting overcrowded and the feathers are starting to fly. This is also the time one has to watch out for feather lice. The older young ones are getting their new feathers in right now. I like to use a product called Tempo. A pyrethrum insect spray that is safe on our birds and us. I will spray all the perches, walls and floor and will even spray the birds if they are in the way.

This is the time where we usually have summer activities that keep us away from the loft. However, we have to remember that this is a critical time for the youngsters. I always like to grab some every day and handle them. This is when I will trim toenails and inspect them. I always like to have the toes trimmed all the time. It keeps them short and the birds get used to it. It also is teaching the young about handling.

When the little guys are about two months old I start coop training. What I use in the show coops is a piece of 2x6x5 inches. I put this in the middle of each coop. This will get your birds to keep station in the middle of the coop when it comes to the fall shows.

Another problem is when that good bird wants to crouch in the show pen. If that happens, then take a plastic 13"x13" cake pan about two inches high and put it in the coop. Then fill it with sand and take ice cold water and pour over the sand. Put the bird in the coop and leave him there. After a few times of doing this he will understand when he is put in the coop he will station right up their like the others.

What I like to do each day before I do my chores is that I will put 6-8 birds in the show coops. This way they get used to the handling for the shows. I use two four-hole show coops set up in the aisle of the loft. When I put them up, I will usually mix them up different days as to who I put on the top coop and who is on the bottom. I just like to expose them to both the bottom and top coops. In addition, remember not to have anything lying on the top coops, as this will also get them to crouch. I'm not saying your birds will be on the bottom coops but I get them ready for all the elements of a show. This is about all I have for this time so kick back and spend a few minutes each day with your birds and you will not believe how they respond. In addition, who knows you may be prepping the next IMC Champion Modena.