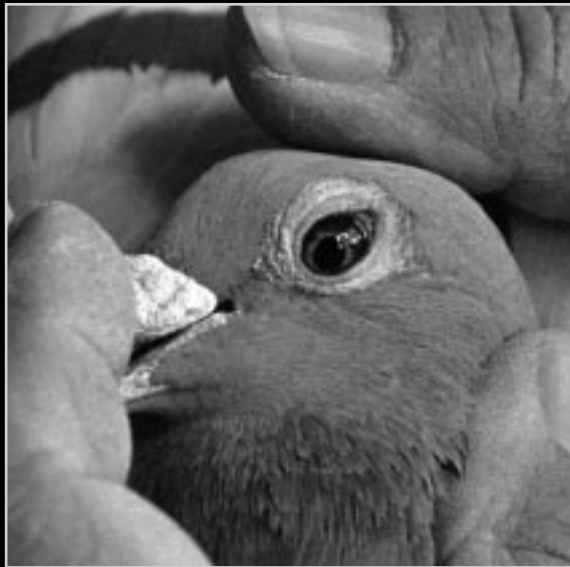


# **The Eye and Orientation:**

## ***A Pigeon Racer's Guide***



**BRADLEY LA VERNE**

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**BRADLEY LA VERNE**

# About the Author

**B**radley La Verne is known worldwide as an expert on the subject of homing pigeons. Active in the sport for over 60 years, he has been a member of the Hayward Homing Pigeon Club in California since 1939.

Mr. La Verne considers it an honor to have served as:

- President, American Racing Pigeon Union (ARPU)
- President, Hayward Homing Pigeon Club
- President, California State Racing Pigeon Organization (CSRPO)
- Vice President, ARPU
- Vice President, Central California Center of the ARPU
- Truck Committee Chairman, Bay Cities Combine
- Race Secretary, Bay Cities Combine
- Secretary, Hayward Homing Pigeon Club
- Vice President, CSRPO
- Chairman and Judge, American Olympiad team, Tokyo, Japan, 1981



- Certified Judge for 28 years, CSRPO
- Chairman of the Walt Disney Awards, CSRPO
- Chairman of the Hall of Fame Awards, CSRPO
- Judges Committee, CSRPO
- Many other committees at the State, Combine and Club levels.

Mr. La Verne has been distinguished as the recipient of the following service awards:

- ARPU, Member Hall of Fame, "B" Award for outstanding service to the sport and the ARPU, 1983.
- ARPU, Man of the Year, 1982 and 1996.



*The author with awards won in 1986—his best year ever.*

- CSRPO, Will Waterhouse Achievement Award for outstanding service to the sport and the CSRPO, 1980.
- International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers, Resolution recognizing Mr. La Verne as one of the leaders in “our great sport.”
- California State Hall of Fame (more than 101 lofts), outstanding individual bird performance, Class A, nine-time winner.
- 16 AU Champions
- Walt Disney Award, State of California (more than 101 lofts). Four-time first and three-time second winner. Best record for flying in State both old and young birds.
- Overall Concourse or Combine Average Speeds (100–600 miles), 18 times first.
- Combine Hall of Fame or Concourse Individual Bird Performance, 8 times first.
- Best Overall Old-Bird and Young-Bird Average Speed Awards (100-600 miles) with several wins in young and old Oakland and Hayward Clubs, 20 awards.
- 8 All-American Awards
- First-Day Bird, 500-mile East Course, 1953
- 14 Club “Bird-of-the-Year” Awards

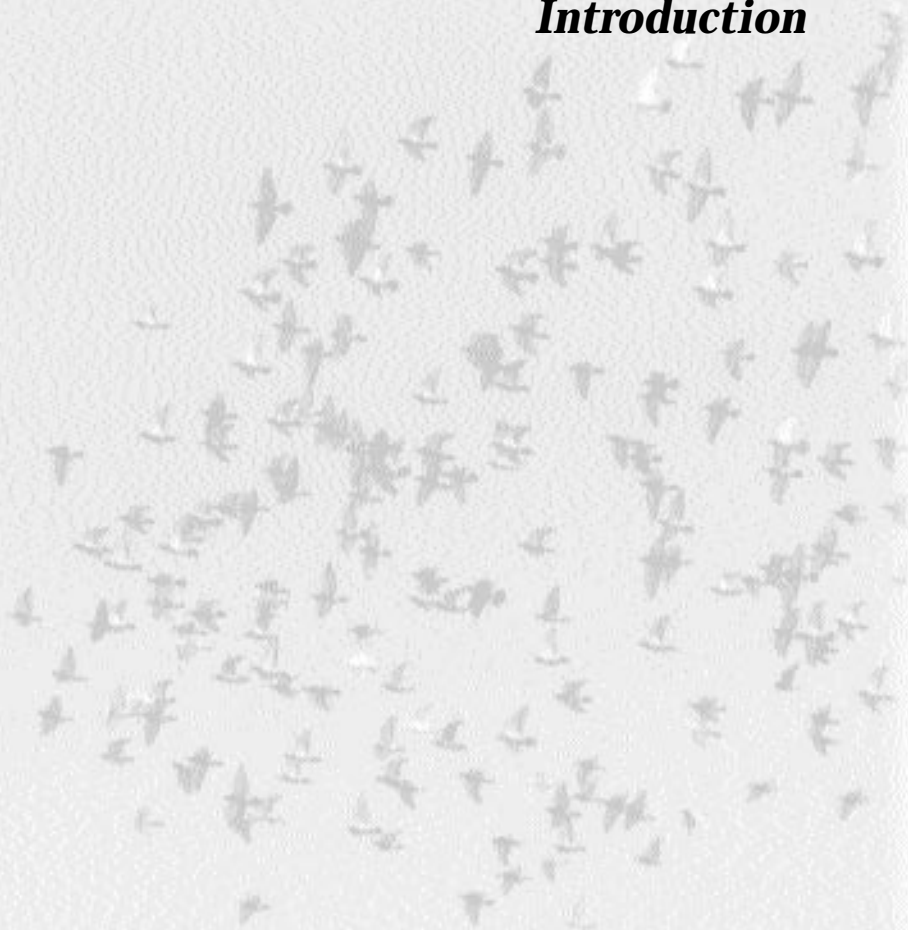
- Six World Olympiad Gold Medals, Sport and Standard Classes, 1979 and 1981
- Several memorial race winners such as the Al Cambra Memorial (three times first): Al Boccone (first overall, one bird entry); 500-mile Silver Memorial (three winners); and many others, such as the Johnson, Sid Smith, Fitzmores and Sy Mellor Memorials.
- 1986: One of the largest clubs in California with 45 birds in the prizes in young bird races: 11 trophies. Three trophies in old birds consisting of (first overall) Federation average; Breeder of the Year Award; Champion Loft Overall: Young-Bird average speed; Young-Bird Championship Loft (first at the 600, first at the 500, second at the 500); several Young- Bird firsts, including one race where he won the first five positions (8 of the top 10) and won Federation Average. This was Mr. La Verne's best year with a total of 32 awards in both old and young awards.
- Concourse Average Speed, 1987
- Combine Average, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992. Second in 1993 and first in 1994.
- President's Cup, 1993-1994.
- Several Hall of Fame Awards, State and National.
- Grand All-American and many All-American Awards

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# **Chapter One**

## ***Introduction***



On August 28, 1983, while working with the pigeons at Hapyco Lofts in Fresno, California, I came upon a discovery which, over the past 17 years, has proven to be a major breakthrough in the grading of homing pigeons. After 45 years of owning and flying pigeons, I suddenly saw something new—an added dimension which had, for all those years, eluded me. It was as if a curtain had suddenly been lifted and I was able to see what had previously been hidden.

Imagine having a favorite painting on the wall of your home for 45 years, and looking at it admiringly on an almost daily basis. Then suddenly, after all those years, you noticed a figure or an object in the painting that you had never seen before. No doubt you would be surprised, and would wonder how all that time could have elapsed without your noticing it. Such was the case with my discovery.

The more I studied this new factor, the more it became apparent that it was common to our top performers, and the more excited I became—so I could not sleep that night.

I have spent most of my time, since that memorable August day in 1983, conducting extensive studies on my findings. I have graded more than several thousands of pigeons, from all parts of the U.S.

and many other countries, with an unbelievable accuracy rate of 98 to 100 percent. The results have been nothing short of amazing—to me, as well as to the owners of these birds. During this time I have personally conducted a number of experiments; again, the results have been phenomenal.

Let me hasten to say, if I had been told years ago it was possible for someone to determine exactly what level of performance could be expected from a bird, with close to 100 percent accuracy rate, I would have been a total disbeliever. And, in fact, I often treated my discovery from the standpoint of a skeptic, setting out time and time again to disprove my experiments and results. But each and every time these attempts came full circle and provided further proof of the accuracy of my findings.

Most recently, in January 2001 the accuracy of my grading method was again confirmed by VegasRace.com. A Hapyco Lofts bird that I selected as a champion at the tender age of 4½ weeks, was one of the first-place winners in this nationally known race.

Since that day in 1983, I have continued to test my accuracy and have read every scientific paper available related to the homing instincts of pigeons and have worked with several scientific authorities. Although many theories have been proffered with

which I do not concur, I have found several recent scientific studies which strongly support my findings. I truly believe this discovery will revolutionize the manner in which racing pigeons are graded.

At this writing I have owned homing pigeons for more than 60 years. My love of the sport has been a major driving force in my life. Over the years I have been for-

tunate to have developed many valued friendships. Particularly in recent years, during my bouts with ill health, many fellow flyers have been very thoughtful and considerate. It is to them that I dedicate this book, and with every person who loves the sport of racing pigeons, that I wish to share my work and findings.