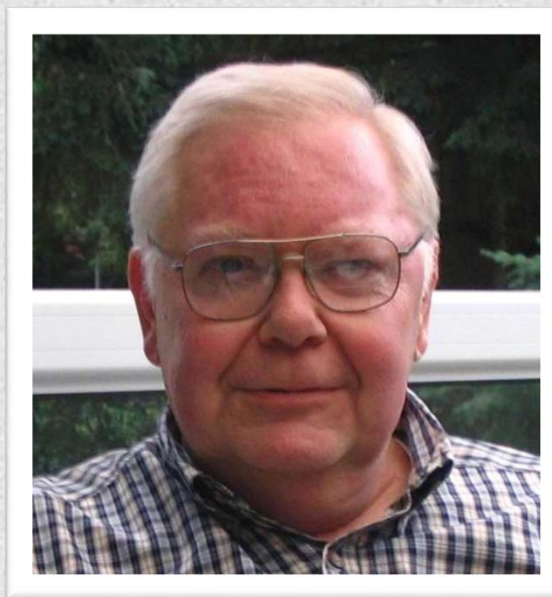


BUILDING A LOFT

as presented by Herb Cartmell at the February
2012 Fly-In 4-H event.



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American Racing Pigeon Union
Oklahoma City, OK

Building a Loft for

The Athletes' of the Sky.

Keys to Success:

1. 1/3 Set up
2. 1/3 Birds
3. 1/3 The Fancier.



Loft Set up

Recommendations in placement of your loft.

- Always face south if possible.
- Put on blocks above ground
- Set away from buildings and trees, if possible.
- Build for control of your birds
- Aviaries. Make Large enough for bathing
- Keep it simple
- Learn by doing it yourself.

Build for Health

Lofts should have these essentials:

- Good Ventilation
- Dryness
- Safe from Predators
- Cleanliness
- Don't Overcrowd
- Sun light



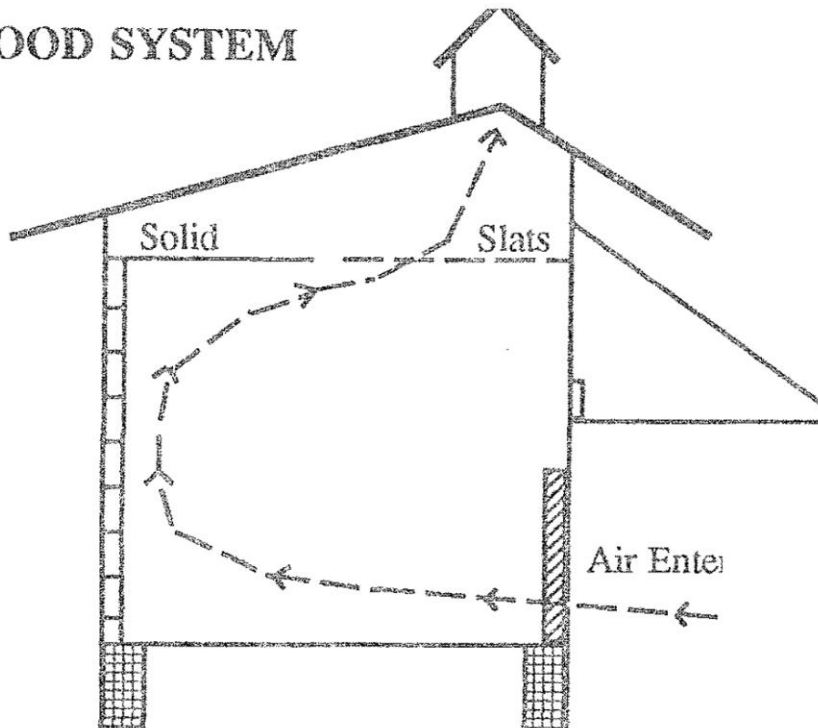
Ventilation

You can't have too much fresh air.

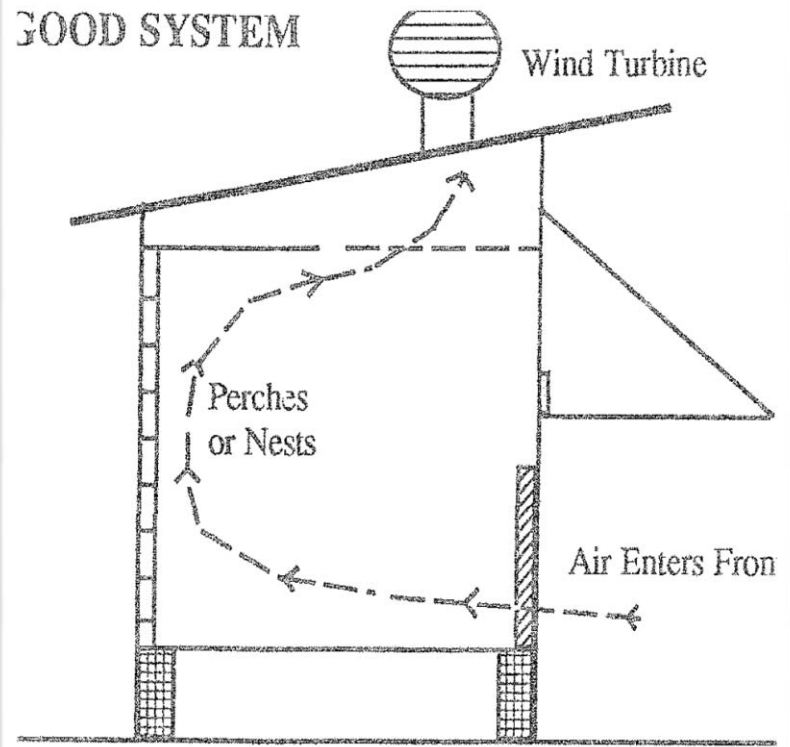
Fresh air enters along bottom, Front, exits at top.

Avoid drafts.

GOOD SYSTEM



GOOD SYSTEM



Lou Bishop Loft, Fairbanks, AK


E



March 2009, 4 degrees below 0

Keep Moisture out.

Moisture: The # 1 Killer to Good Health!

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- A photograph of a pigeon loft. The floor is covered in a thick layer of brown and orange bird droppings and feed. In the center, there is a small, weathered wooden nesting box with a slatted front. Several pigeons are visible: one white pigeon is standing near the box, and several grey pigeons are perched on the walls and floor. The walls are made of light-colored wood or concrete.
- Spawn bacteria, mold, fungus, etc.
 - Weather
 - Loose Droppings
 - Liquid Spills
 - Makes a mess of your shoes...!

Grated Loft Floors

Everything drops through

- **Best Ventilation**
- **Need ability to clean out under (or have chickens)**
- **Floor grates stay very dry**



Scraped Loft Floors

- Monitor droppings for health
- Scrape at least once a day.
- More work.

- Floor usually is never 100% dry

"Deep Litter" Loft Floors

One of The Driest methods

- No Smell
- Kitty Litter, Shavings, Straw, Wood Pellets, Sand.
- Compost

- Rake or change weekly, take out m



Example of a good litter system

Most Important tools
in the loft.

- Scraper
- Rake or broom
- Dustpan

No Scrape Perches

Here is an example of the No-Scrape Perch

Perches are 5.5" 2x3

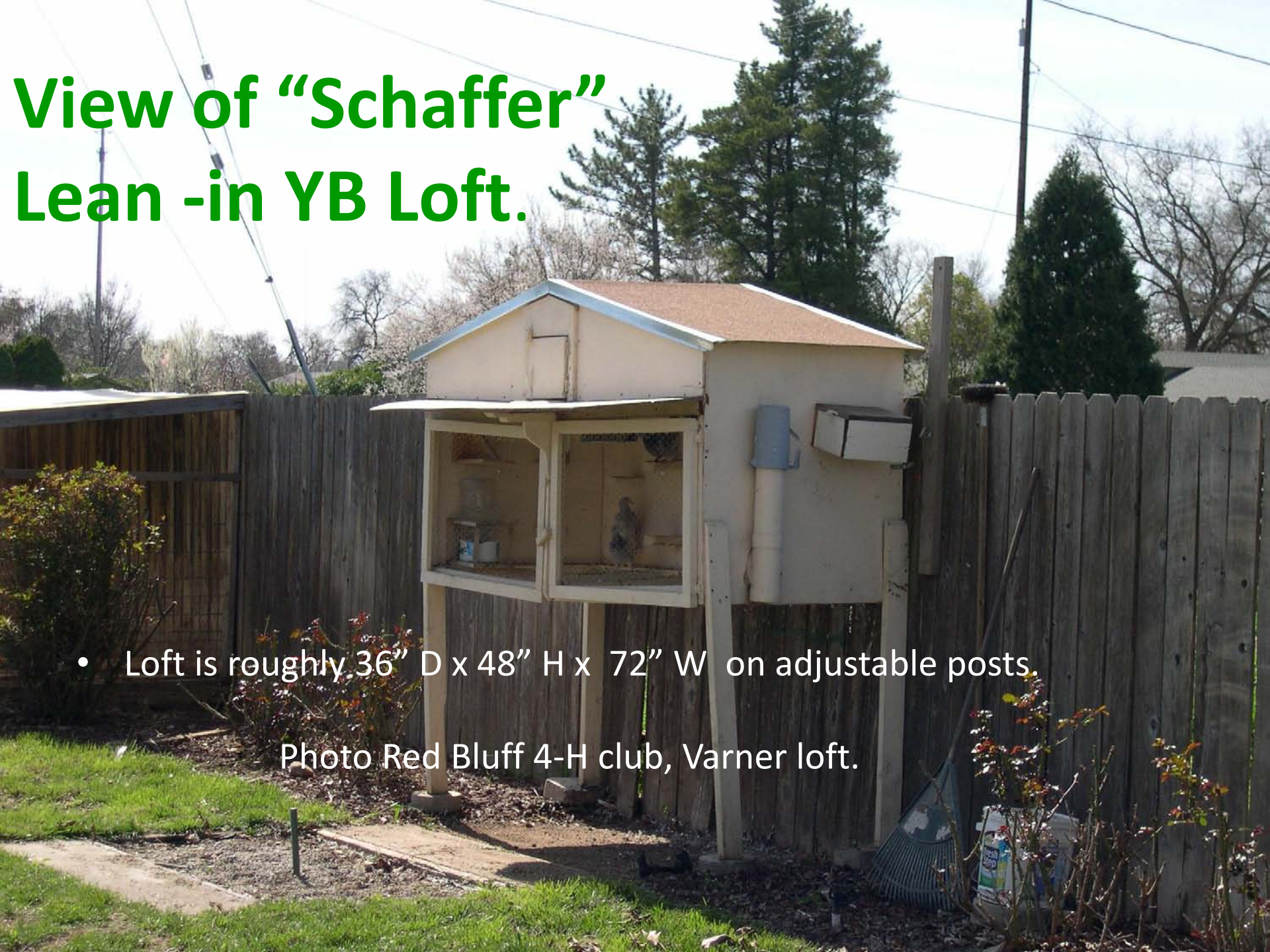
Photo Red Bluff 4-H lean in loft.



View of “Schaffer” Lean -in YB Loft.

- Loft is roughly 36” D x 48” H x 72” W on adjustable posts.

Photo Red Bluff 4-H club, Varner loft.



Another Lean-in loft.





**‘No Scrape’
Perches.**
wire floor with
clean-out door.

2x4 x 6” perches*

Red Bluff 4-H Pigeon club.

2 x 2 x 5-3/8" work the best in my loft.



Build a Safe Loft



From Predators, pets, weather, and for the birds!

Look for possible things that could harm your birds.

Never Overcrowd!



Easy to prevent, only build enough perches for the number of birds you plan for. + extras.

Example of Simple Box Perch



Box perches, Use 1x4 or wider boards. 12"x12"

Some build with wire bottoms.

Chuck Hendrickson Left Morton WA

Trapping, Controlling Flight

Bobs ● Stall Trap ● Sputnik ● Drop holes



Loft with Sputnik style trap.

Plastic panel lifts up to open drop holes.



AU loft Certification program

Recommended for all Racing Lofts

- Easy to apply for.
- Protects your birds
- Lets your neighbors know you Value your birds and their health. (as well as theirs!)
- Complies with current AWA regulations.
- National AU support with legal issues.
- **It's Free!**

Environmental Controls in Place

No Visitors Allowed
Without Owner
Present.

Please Sign In.



CERTIFIED LOFT

Be a Good neighbor!

- Keep your loft looking nice.
- Fit into the neighborhood.
- Don't become a nuisance.
- Take Pride in your Loft.

Adopt. Adapt. Innovate...



Work safe.

Have Fun



...Any Questions?

