*A SIMPLE METHOD OF OBTAINING A SCATTER
DISTRIBUTION OF OFF-KEY PIGEON PECKING*

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There are occasions, such as in shaping and in preference studies (with two keys and a space between them), when it may be of value to have a scatter distribution of the location of pigeon pecks not on the key. The key pecks will be recorded automatically, but off-key pecks will not. A simple and inexpensive method for recording such a scatter distribution is to use a Ditto master (such as a "Dittmark" master) through which a hole is cut for the key. The Ditto master, cut down, is taped to the key wall of the experimental box and the hole for the key is strengthened from the rear with Scotch tape to minimize tearing from pecks. Each peck, in a fashion similar to a typed strike, appears clearly on the Ditto master. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of off-key pecking in a White Carneau over a period of 1 min.

Fig. 1. A photo of a record on a Ditto master, of the distribution of off-key pecking by a White Carneau pigeon over a period of 1 min.