

# Gigabit and Carrier-Grade Fiber Pigeons



## Overview

Two experiments conducted in 2009 with the pigeon Winston and in 2023 with the pigeon Grey would suggest that, for short distances and limited amounts of data, racing pigeons are surprisingly competitive and can transport data faster than an internet connection with. Two experiments conducted in 2009 with the pigeon Winston and in 2023 with the pigeon Grey would suggest that, for short distances and limited amounts of data, racing pigeons are surprisingly competitive and can transport data faster than an internet connection with. Personally, I've been enjoying Gigabit internet speeds for a few years now, a far cry from the 33.6Kbps internet connection I started out on in the late '90s. Yet, there's one infamous test that I think even our fast modern internet can't beat—strapping storage to a carrier pigeon. It all happened. In 2009, a company in South Africa proved a homing pigeon was faster than an ADSL connection, flying a 4 GB USB flash drive to prove it. Besides IEEE's speculative work, nobody's actually re-run the 'bird vs. Now that I have gigabit fiber, I thought I'd give it a. Technology YouTuber Jeff Geerling has conducted an experiment to see which can transfer data quicker: a pigeon, or gigabit fiber. In the video, US-based Geerling geared up the pigeon with 3TB of microSD cards, and commenced the race.

## Article Content

Can a carrier pigeon carry data faster than fiber optics? Let's clarify

According to calculations made by the r, a Gigabit connection would begin to outperform a pigeon only beyond 900 kilometers, and over extremely long distances – over 8000 ...

A pigeon can deliver data faster than gigabit fiber Internet

Technology r Jeff Geerling has conducted an experiment to see which can transfer data quicker: a pigeon, or gigabit fiber. The Columbiformes have come out on top. In the ...

The Great Data Transfer Race: Pigeons, Planes, and the Internet

In a surprising turn of events, recent experiments have shown that carrier pigeons, an ancient mode of communication, can in some situations transmit data over short distances faster ...

Bad news – your superfast gigabit fiber network is no match for... a ...

Although we stopped using carrier pigeons close to 100 years ago, one r has found these birds are faster at transferring 3TB of data – at distances of up to 500 miles – than today's...

Pigeons vs. gigabit fiber: Why the bird still wins in 2026

Yet, there's one infamous test that I think even our fast modern internet can't beat—strapping storage to a carrier pigeon. It all happened in my home country of South Africa. For many years,...

Yes, a Pigeon is Faster for Data Transfer than Gigabit Fiber Internet

Popular TechTuber Jeff Geerling has delivered an updated take on the old chestnut about the relative merits of pigeon-based vs internet data transfers. With the proliferation of super ...

Is A Pigeon Faster Than The Internet?

He decided to see if the conclusions from a 2009 in South Africa study still hold true today — that using carrier pigeons to send files can be faster than the internet.

Pigeons vs. Gigabit fiber: Why the bird still wins in 2026

Personally, I've been enjoying Gigabit internet speeds for a few years now, a far cry from the 33.6Kbps internet connection I started out on in the late '90s. Yet, there's one infamous test that I ...

A Pigeon is still faster than the Internet

In 2009, a company in South Africa proved a homing pigeon was faster than an ADSL connection, flying a 4 GB USB flash drive to prove it. Besides IEEE's speculative work, nobody's ...

Homing pigeons can theoretically transfer data faster than gigabit ...

A recent test postulates that, across relatively short distances, pigeons can transmit information faster than gigabit internet. The process highlights the importance of differentiating ...

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