AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL



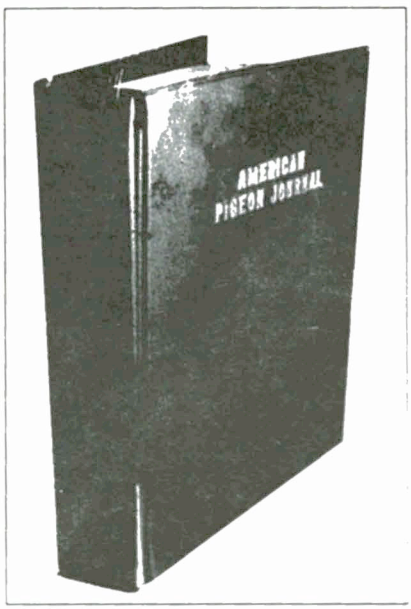
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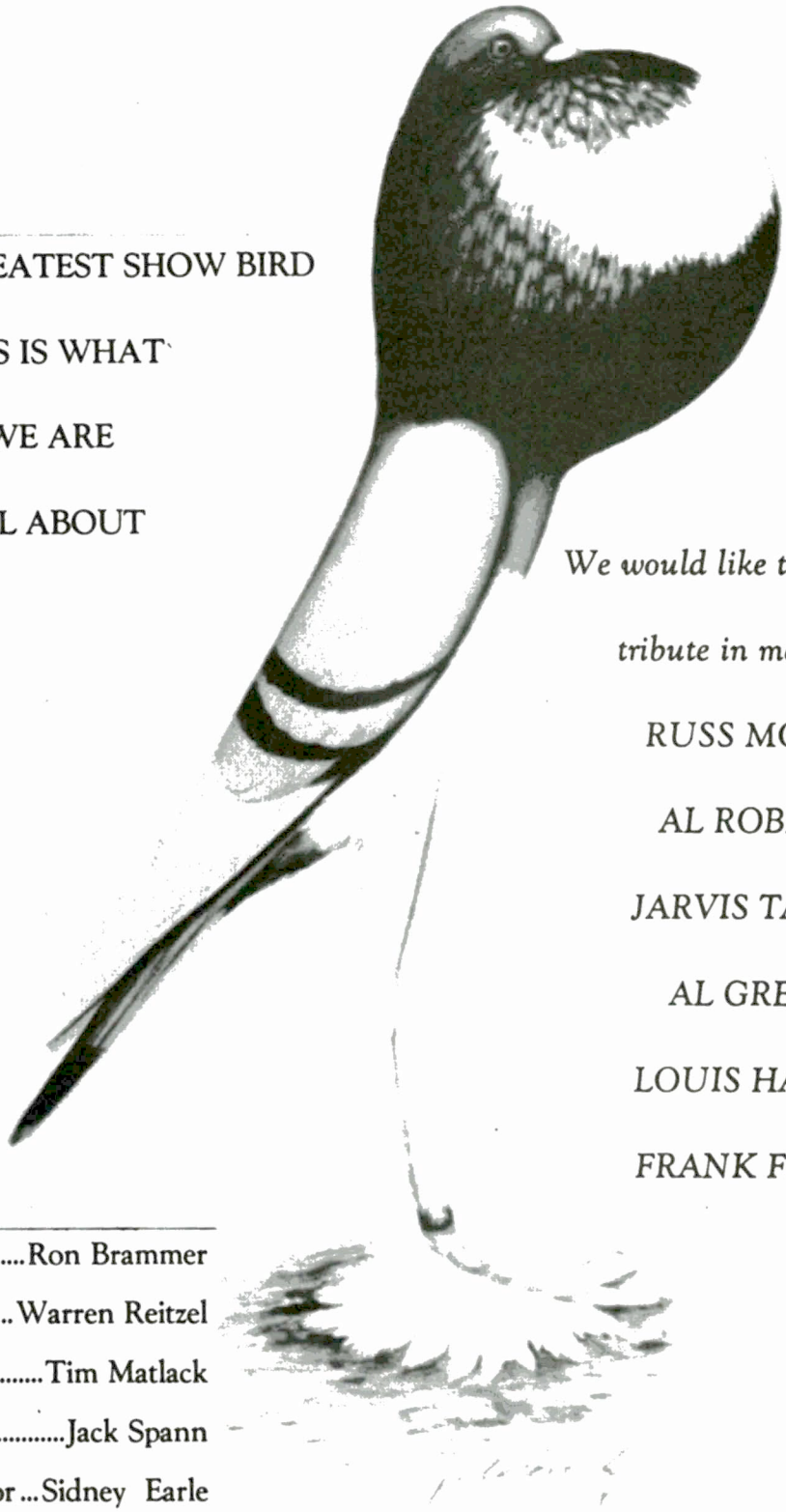
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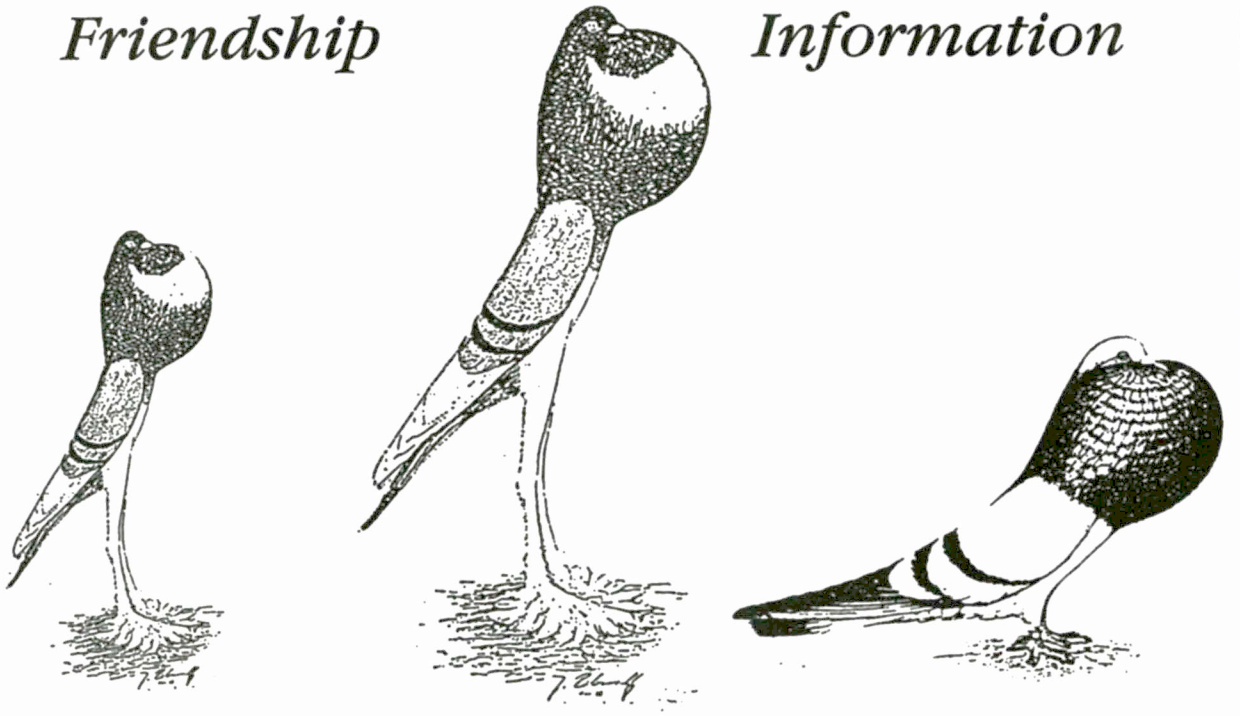
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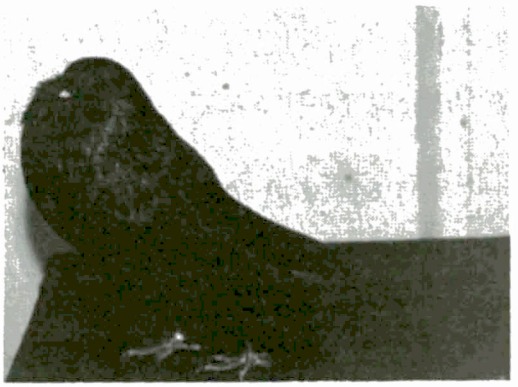
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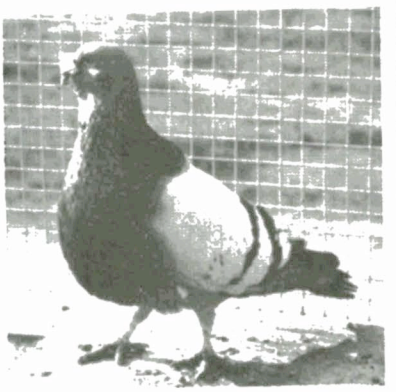


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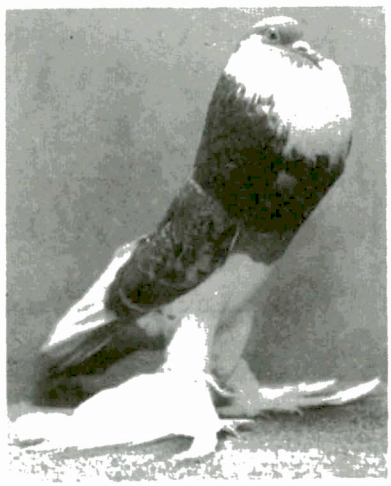
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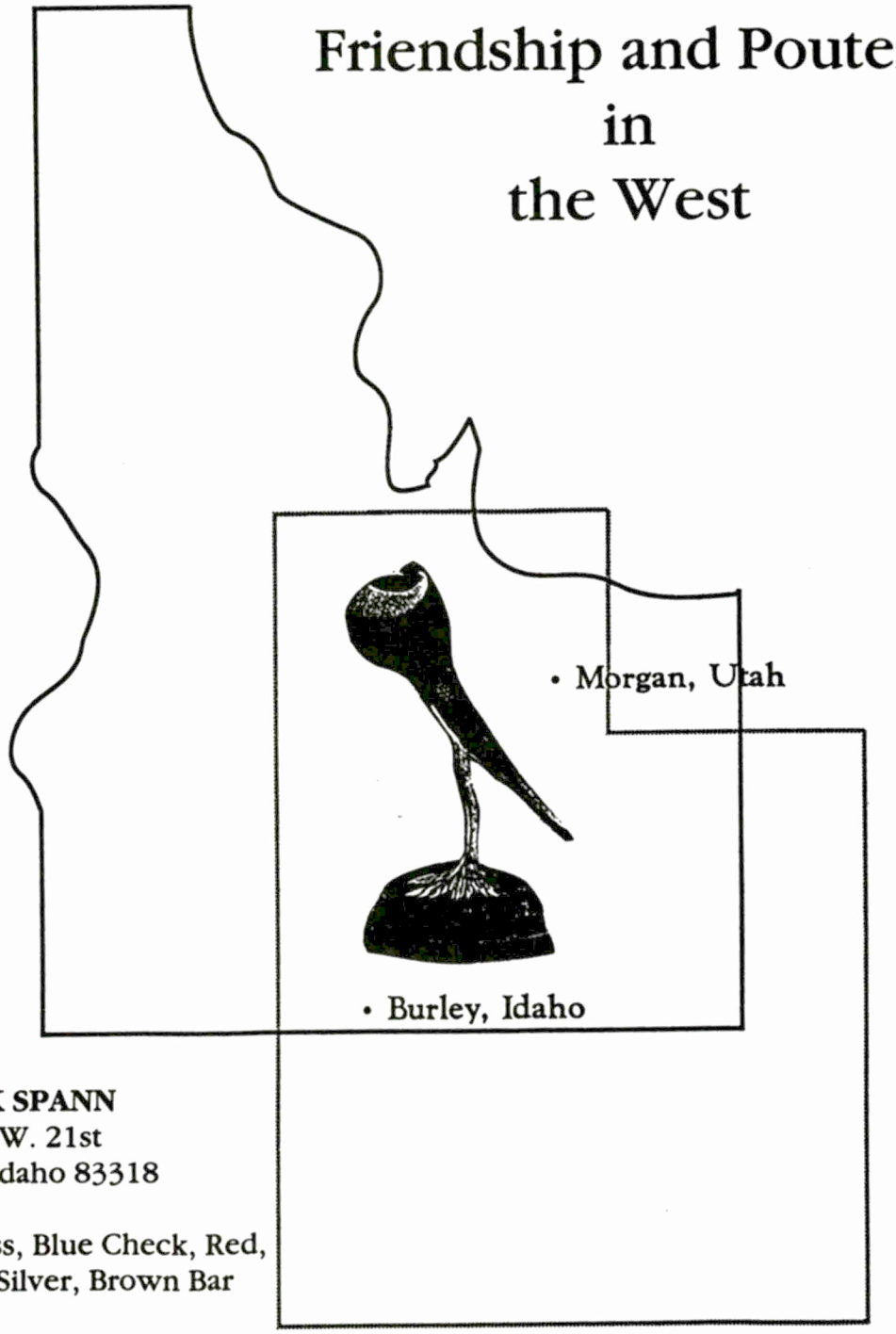
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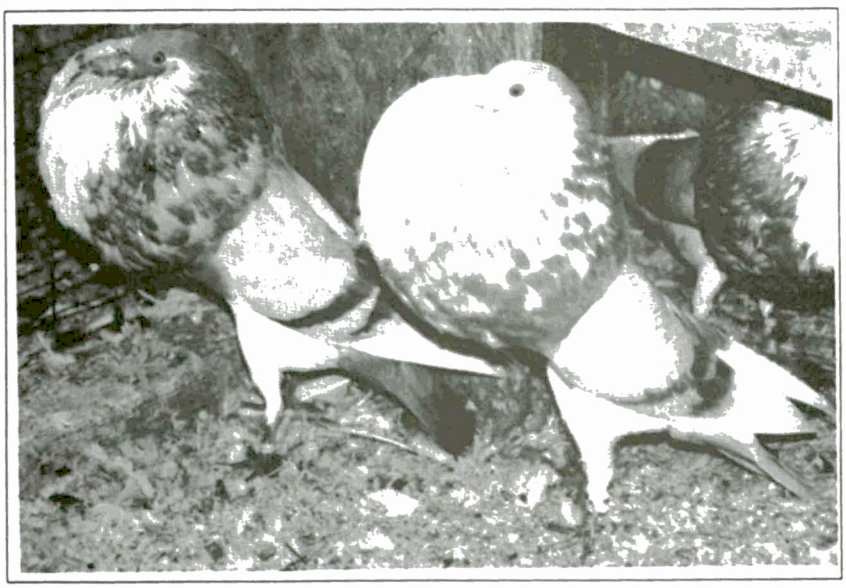
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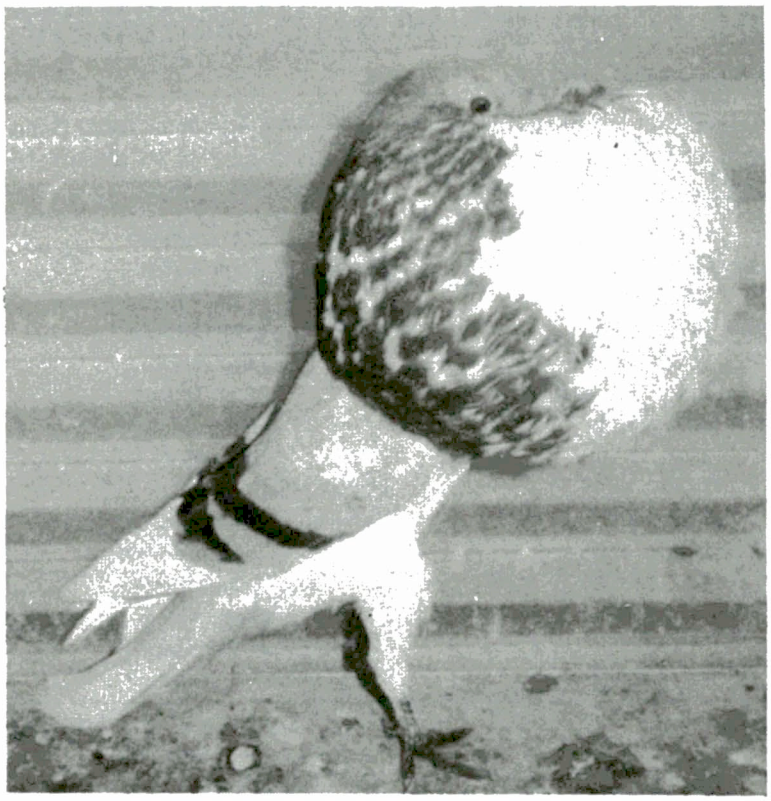
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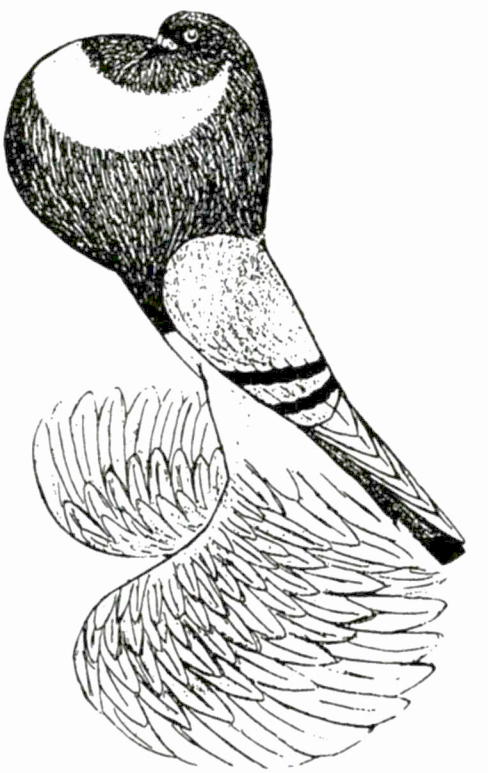
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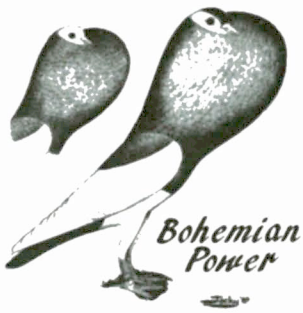


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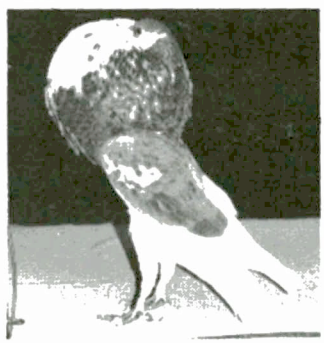
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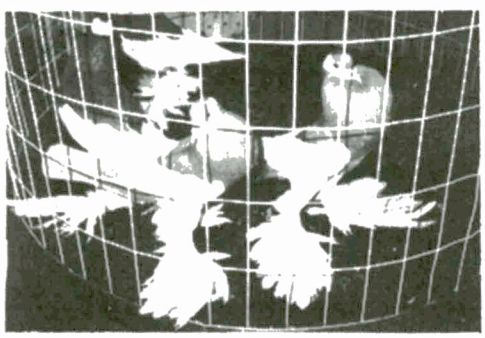






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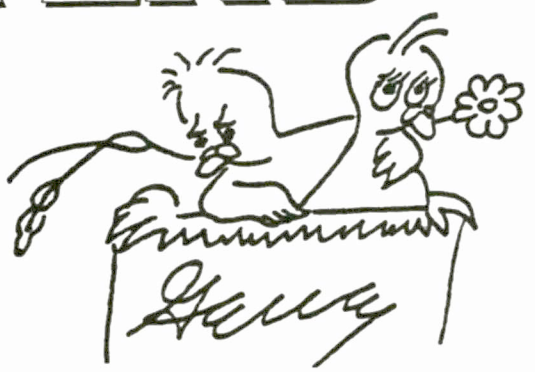
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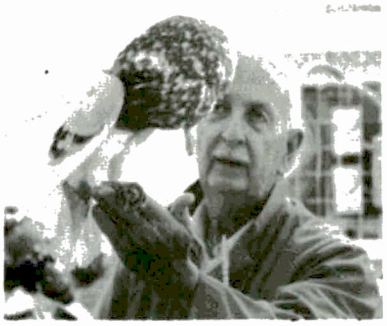
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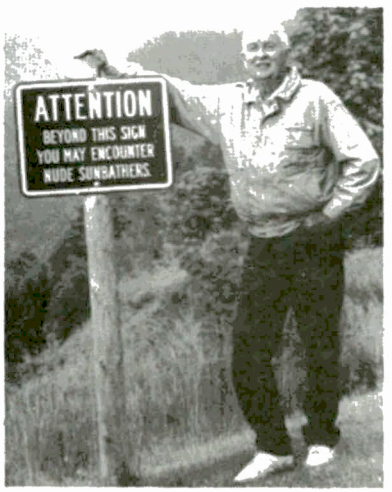


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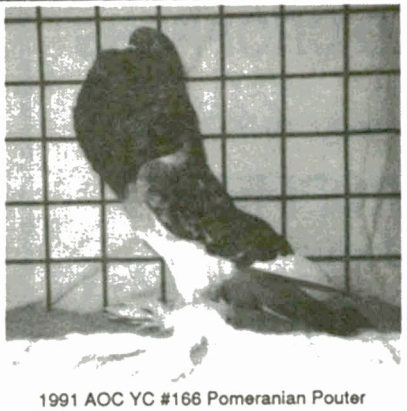
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Subscription Price Increase

Due to the increased postal rates this past February, which severely affected our magazine (22%), and the ever-increasing cost of production, we are forced to increase our subscription price, as much as we regret doing so.

The new rates will be $18.00 per year; two years $34.00; three years $48.00. This new subscription rate will be effective January 1, 1992.

Please note that the group subscription rate is still available. The discount is 25% for groups of 10 or more one year subscriptions. This is $4.50 off the one year price of $18.00; making the cost of $13.50.

Advertising rates will also increase January 1. The rate will be $8.00 per single column inch.

Pigeon Health And Disease

A new book, "Pigeon Health and Disease", is now available to the pigeon fancy. Here for the first time in a single source, pigeon fanciers, squab producers, veterinarians, ornithologists, diagnosticians and researches will find the information they need concerning pigeon diseases and breeding.

The author is David C. Tudor, DVM, retired from the faculty of Rutgers University where he served for 27 years as a research professor, teacher, advisor and director of the Poultry diagnostic Laboratory. In addition, since 1951 he has operated a small animal and bird practice from his home in Cranbury, N.J.

Pigeon anatomy is covered as well as a chapter on physiology presenting the facts needed to diagnose diseases. Each disease is discussed from 35 different aspects, including history and geography, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, prevention, control and treatment. A section on the nutritional aspects of disease covers feed formulation–enabling pigeon handlers to calculate feed ingredient ratios tailored to the needs of their birds.

Other subjects include genetic problems, crop milk, artificial insemination, brooding and hatching problems and pigeon breeders lung disease.

Some of the chapter names are: Pigeon Structure and Function; Infectious Diseases; Non-Infectious Diseases; Parasitic Diseases; Management and Health.

The book is 248 pages with 40 illustrations. It has a hardcover and 7x10 inches. The cost is $41.95 and can be ordered directly from the American Pigeon Journal. See our book ad to order.

JOYOUS NEW YEAR

May you enjoy a New Year filled with personal well being and success in every way!



A Note From The Coordinator

Pouters! The name Pouter conjures up an image of a unique kind of pigeon, a pigeon with a distinct and endearing personality.

From the beginning some one thousand years ago in Spain, these unique variations of Columbia Livia have always attracted the attention of many fanciers. The joining of Spain's royal family through the marriage of a daughter of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabel of Castile to the son of the Austria-Hungary Hapsburg family enabled the original pouters to find new homes throughout Europe. Crosses were made with these pouters to different breeds of pigeons in the Low Countries of Holland and Belgium, in France, in Germany, in Hungary, and in Czechoslovakia and this was how many of the pouter breeds which we know today began. Pouters from the Low Countries went to England when people migrated from there. They also went via trade long before the battle of the Spanish Armada. To truly understand the history of Pouters, one can not help but learn the history of Europe starting with the Arabic conquest of Spain during the Middle Ages.

Pouters are one of the most diverse families of pigeons. There are all kinds of body shapes, all kinds of crop shapes, all kinds of head shapes, numerous variations in leg length, numerous variations in leg feathering, variations in head ornamentation, variations in size, and even variations in tail formation. There are variations in the ways they fly, and the variation of color and marking offer every possible color and hue. And yet, one common thread holds this entire family of pigeons together–their unique and most likeable personalities. And I might add, they even vary in personality. Pouters truly have something to offer everyone!

This special marks my third one as coordinator and the fifth one that I've been involved with in a 22 year period. Looking back over the years, the Pouter fancy has changed from a three or four breed fancy in America to a multi-faceted fancy that likes and respects all kinds of Pouters. Many new (for America) varieties have been imported to these shores. A tremendous interchange of ideas with American fanciers and their counterparts in Europe and elsewhere has occurred over those years. Truly, the Pouter world has gotten smaller and better!

I'd like to thank all of the Pouter breeders who participated in this special. I would especially like to thank Joan and Mike Worley of the A.P.J. for all of their help and patience with this project.

I hope that you'll enjoy this issue, and perhaps if you don't have Pouters you might want to consider them. Personally, I think they are unbeatable, but then again, anyone who has been called, "the Pouter Partisan" would!

Best wishes, Frank Barrachina

A Pouter/Cropper Overview

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

Other articles in this special will deal with specific breeds of Pouters and Croppers, their good points and bad, their quirks and their foibles. I wrote one of those articles myself about my Marcheneros but I also thought it might be interesting to discuss the Pouters and Croppers as a group. Remember, there is no real distinction between the word Pouter or Cropper and throughout this article I use both words interchangeably to refer to those birds that are bred to inflate the air sacs over their crop more than normal.

Friendliness is probably the main reason Pouters have always found a number of breeders in all countries. Pouters and Croppers are the clowns of the pigeon world. Given any encouragement at all, they will dance and strut for their owner. Often they'll do this even if they are mated and feeding young.

Pouters come in enough sizes and shapes to satisfy almost everyone. The blowing breeds range in size from the Brunner, a good specimen of which should fit through the hole made by your thumb and forefinger, to the Old German, which has a wing span more than a meter and is more than a meter from tip of beak to tail. Some stand upright like the English Pouter, one of the tallest breeds in the world. Others like the Spanish Thief Pouters, a group of birds containing many different types and breeds, maintain the common pigeon stance.

Some like the Norwich are bred with ball shaped globes, others like many Central European types must have a pear shaped globe. Some have muffs to rival any Trumpeter while others are slippered or clean-legged.

Pouters come in all color patterns, the Belgians even have a Helmet marked version of the Ghent. Some Pouters are colored to rival any of the color pigeons. In fact, one man in Europe is right now working to create Archangel colored Pouters and he has some beautiful specimens already.

As funny as it might seem, evidence indicates that many Croppers and Runts share a common lineage. Those familiar only with birds like the Pigmy or Brunner might find this hard to believe but those who know such huge and ancient pigeons as the Old German Cropper and Old Hungarian can easily see the European style Runt in them. This makes even more sense when you remember that throughout most of the middle ages all but necessary breeding stock was often culled before the winter freeze to minimize the amount of feed needed to over-winter the stock. Culled animals were not tossed in the trash. They were eaten. This made lots of sense especially in a period when a person's death by starvation during the winter was an all too real possibility. Besides, if you were going to make a meal of something, it might as well be a big something. Pigmies were a product of the more food stable 19th century, not the 12th.

I'm also willing to bet that those ancient Arabic and Spanish pigeons text now being searched and translated in Spain and their evidence collated by Dr. Jose Antonin Cuatrecasas will show that most, if not all, European Pouters trace back to the Spanish breeds, or at least those breeds we now recognize as Spanish.

These birds have been bred and cared for both by Moors and Spanish for more than a thousand years. In fact, while Europe lay buried in its Dark Ages, Muslim Spain and North African enjoyed a cultural flowering that lasted for centuries. Germane to our purposes, this flowering also included careful attention to the breeding of pigeons. This attention spanned many centuries beginning from about the 6th.

Dr. Cuatrecasas already has evidence that the Dutch Slenker and Holle Cropper, birds which fly with their head held up rather than horizontally as do most birds, are descendants of the Spanish (alicantero) Pouters brought to the Netherlands by the Spanish in the 1500's. After a brutal occupation and war, the Dutch succeeded in driving the invaders out. Given the horror of that period, it's obvious they would have been in no mood to credit their enemy with anything good, not even a pigeon.

One fun thing about many Pouters, and something often overlooked in modern times, is their flight styles. It's unfortunate that because of zoning restrictions most of us never get to see what many of these birds were actually bred for. Most people have at least read of the Swing (Steiger and Steller) Pouter. This bird literally looks as if it's swinging through the air. Many of the Spanish birds fly in styles unknown to those of us in North America. Some fly like the Marchenero with their tail scooped under like a lobster's. Some fly with their head held down as if "searching for cigarette butts" as some Spanish breeders phrased it. One flies with its head up, its tail up, and rises from the ground sort of like a helicopter then shudders in the air as it hovers.

Over the years, I've personally flown Norwich, Thuringer, Voorburg and Marchenero Croppers. The Norwich fly with inflated globe and clap their wings so loudly they can be heard almost half a block away. Mine would soar up to a hundred feet or so and fly with a measured wing beat. The only time I even saw the Norwich release the air from their globe when in flight was when they were threatened by a hawk or one of the crows which nested near their loft. The crows, especially, seemed to have an intense hatred of the black Norwich and on one occasion drove them into the ground. The few Voorburgs I've flown had a flight style similar to the Norwich, one of their ancestors, but they never seemed to stay in the air as long or as high.



Frank Mosca, Montclair, Calif., Western Pouter and Cropper Club Publicity Director.

The Thuringers, an ancient German breed related to the Aachen Band Cropper, have a pear shaped globe. They used to fly with it partially inflated and would often stay with my race birds for 15 to 20 minutes. Since these birds were, until quite recently, expected to find their own food in the fields of Europe, it's only to be expected that they would be good flyers. A few years back, I got a call from a woman who'd captured a "funny" pigeon that had been living wild near her house for two years. I got there to find a red Thuringer cock which had vanished from my loft and which I'd assumed had been taken by one of my neighbor's cats.

The Marcheneros, as most know by now, are one of the spanish Thief Pouters - there are many types - and fly with the feathers on their backs roached and their tail tucked up under them like a lobster. They are not great distance flyers by any means and seem to have the homing instinct of a brick. Of course, I may be giving them a bum rap about that since while I flew my other Pouters out of my race loft, the Marcheneros have been only accidentally flown out of a show loft. Even if it's true though, they are one of the friendliest pigeons I've ever had.

At other breeders' houses, I've seen Pomeranians in the air and Old Germans strutting on the lawn. Pigmies pop and clap with the best of them while strutting on roofs as do English.

All in all, Pouters have something for everyone. Kids love them 'cause they're funny. Adults love them 'cause they're a challenge to breed and because they're funny. I love them 'cause unlike many show birds I've bred but like the race birds I had, each Pouter is an individual with its own personality and way of making you notice it. Beside, I think they're funny.

My Favorite Muffed Pouters

by FRANK BARRACHINA, Yucaipa, Calif.

While I do like all of the muffed Pouter breeds, the Reversewing, Saxon and Bavarian appeal to me the most. Their eye- catching markings and beautiful colors make them my favorites among the muffed Pouters.

To better acquaint you with each of these breeds, a brief history and explanation of each breed's characteristics follows.

The Reversewing Pouter

In the first book ever written solely about Pouters, "Die Kropfer" published in 1927, the author, Oswald Wittig, states that the Reversewing was developed in Germany and Bohemia (Czechoslovakia).

Originally, the Reversewing was a grouse legged, broad plump bird, with a white head. It was through crosses onto the French, English and Pomeranian Pouters that the Reversewing as we know it was created. The first breeder to undertake this task was G. Ludwig of Markranstadt, Germany. He worked with these crosses from 1904-1914, and while at first he claimed to have great success producing the more elegant upright stance with fuller muffs and hocks, it took him a considerable amount of time to breed back the unique markings and glossy deep color which the original birds had. Outcrossing was again done in the years after World War II to improve on the stock that was left, and again with careful determination the breed went forward in quality.

The present day Reversewing is a study in type, in color, and in markings. For a bird to be good, it cannot fail in any of these three categories.

When we speak of type we mean an elegant upright bird. The bird stands just shy of having its eye plumb to the ball of the foot. The body is strong yet not as thick as the Pomeranian nor as "V" shaped and slender as the English.

Another part of body type is the globe. The Reversewing has a rounded globe, well sprung from the waist and is wider at the top. A good globe has good back globe or fullness of globe in back of the neck.



REVERSEWING

Red Young Hen #841. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

Another very important aspect are the legs and boots. The truly great Reversewings have long legs. How wide apart should they be? Well, we don't want them next to each other as in the English and we don't want them set on the outside of the body in a bulldog fashion. If the body is correct in girth or circumference the legs will appear to be an inch to an inch and a half apart. Please keep in mind that we want straight legs.

The finishing touches for the long straight legs are large and profusely feathered muffs with well developed hock feathers.

The truly great muffs are rounded in appearance and are so well developed and full that each leg seems to end on a plate. Like other muffed pigeons, problems do occur in the quest for an ideal shape. Some will have long feathers growing forward from the front of the foot giving the impression of a butterfly's wings, this is undesirable. Others will have well shaped boots but with a big gap where they end at the back of the leg and where the hocks come down, again a fault. The ideal muffs start off with shorter feathers on the toes and then wrap backwards in an unbroken line to where join the hocks. The truly great muffs have layers of feathers.

The Reversewing is a magpie marked bird. That is to say, the wings with the exception of the shoulders, the belly, legs, and muffs, and a white band approximately an inch wide on the head surrounding the eyes, should be white. The rest of the bird is colored.

It is imperative that the markings be neat and even. The white band surrounding the eyes should only appear as a band and not be so large as to appear as a bib marking. The spot on the head should be well formed and even. Looking at the bird's back, the shoulder markings should be even and have a heart shaped appearance.

Last but not least is the waist marking. Some birds have the fault of the color on their waist ending at the juncture of the legs. Ideally the waist marking should be half way between the spot where the crop meets the body and the juncture of the legs. If it is a little higher than the halfway point, the waist seems longer and the legs do too and this is very desirable.

An undesirable fault that has been creeping up in black Reversewings in the U.S.A. are the white rumps, the entire back should be colored and the rump should never be white. I've seen the big shows in Germany where this breed is popular and at the last one in Nurnberg where almost 500 were on display there wasn't one bird entered with a white rump, or for that matter there weren't any birds that seriously deviated from the ideal marking or the next topic – color.

The color of the Reversewing sets it aside from most other Pouter breeds. There are four standard colors – black, red, yellow and blue and I say without any reservation, the color is astonishingly excellent.



CHAMPION REVERSEWING

Champion Reversewing at the 1989 Western Pouter and Cropper Meet at the Pageant, #354 Yellow Old Hen. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

The black is beetle black, the red is a super intense rich color, the yellow is a clear deep dark yellow, and the blue is a study in contrasts with the dark iridescent globe and the rest of the body a pastel shade. Beak color corresponds to body color: the blacks and blues have dark upper mandibles and light lower ones; the reds and yellows have clear flesh colored beaks.

While I can't help but admire the men who worked on the development of this pigeon, men who wouldn't compromise the high ideals in their quest to produce the perfect bird, I must also give a friend of mine credit for introducing Americans to really great Reversewings, and he is Guenter Wenzel of Grant Park, Ill. Guenter made a number of trips to his homeland, Germany, and brought back to these shores Reversewings from the best breeders in the world. Prior to that time Reversewings in the U.S.A. were mediocre at best. Guenter sold



CHAMPION REVERSEWING

Champion "V" rated red Reversewing young hen at the '89 Nurnberg, Germany, National. – Bred and owned by Karl Klink, Untermaxfeld, Germany.

great birds to everyone who wanted them and the quality skyrocketed overnight. Of course other importations have been made over the years since then, but Guenter was the man who taught us what great Reversewings should be!

The Saxon Pouter

The Saxon Pouter was developed in the German state of Saxony. Exactly when it was developed is somewhat of a mystery, but we may assume it was sometime in the late 1700's or early 1800's.

For a good many years, it was erroneously called the Hollander Pouter in Germany. It was, of course, a descendant of the Dutch Cropper and also some kind of color pigeon and Brunner Pouter. One of the first colored illustrations of Saxon Pouters is in Fulton's, "Book of Pigeons," and instead of the name Saxon, the birds are referred to as Isabels (which of course was only the color).

Despite the confusion in the name in the early years of the breed's history, there always was a plan or blueprint for the Saxon of how it should be built and how it should be marked and colored.

The Wittig book, which is an excellent treatise, explains the body type. It states, "It has much in common with the Pomeranian, in its whole appearance being a bit higher in standing of limbs, so that the upper shanks stand out and then also in strong leg plumage. It is only smaller and more refined than the Pomeranian. But of the Saxon we demand fine blowing . . . the crop should be not quite like a ball, but more an oval shape, with the strongest out-bulging towards the head. As the back is narrow and long and falling steeply towards the tail we can notice a slight crossing or at least touching of the long and thin wings . . . the whole impression of the Saxon Cropper in its form is pleasant and agreeable."

The desired body type hasn't changed in all those years. It is always a slim bird standing about as high as the Reversewing. I've noticed in a lot of old books that the Saxon and Reversewing are often in the same illustration, well body wise they have much in common, except that the Saxon gives the illusion of even being slimmer and having a straighter profile. Great emphasis is also placed on long legs with strong hock development. Muffs are usually smaller in the Saxon than the Reversewing. I would have to say that the best ones are more the size of a saucer when ideal, however usually not as full in shape.

The wings are held loosely against the body. They usually always cross which I think is strong evidence of the Brunner in their background.

Like the Reversewing, the Saxon is a breed that has been developed with great emphasis on color. The Saxon is a self colored bird and its only markings are white bars in all of its colors, black barred in blue, and checkered in blue and silver (lark colored).

The most well known color associated with this breed is the Isabel which is opal and yellow and in color approximating a soft apricot tone with white bars. It is a beautiful color and seldomly encountered in other breeds.

The colors that the Saxon are bred in are black, blue, red, yellow, larked, Isabel, and opal variations such as Isabel laced. The white bar factors are toy stencil for blacks and blues.

Saxons were first imported to the states by Melvin Ziehl of Minneapolis, Minn. About ten years ago, Mel decided that he wanted to get rid of his Saxons and sent them to Tally.

Tally did some outcrossing to bring in fresh blood and to bring the stance up. She out crossed onto the Pomeranian and for a number of years battled the thick bodies and long tails. The Germans will tell you that the Saxon must be short in the hindquarters. Anyway, she finally succeeded in breeding ideal type.

Also from the Pom cross came unique ash red opal white barred birds that are very attractive.

Tally has also imported top notch birds in Isabel, black and black white barred from two brothers in Germany who are top breeders, Dr. Hermann Koch and Dr. Wilfried Koch. Altogether, Saxons are bred in fine quality in the USA today.

The Saxon was slow at first in taking off in popularity, but that is usually the case with new breeds. It has since become more popular and has a small but devoted following. I think all that is needed is for more people to see the Saxon in person. It's an eye catcher and offers some beautiful colors that many breeds don't have. I also think that one of the great things that Saxons have going for them is that they breed well without feeders. I think they are a great alternative breed for someone who likes muffed Pouters but doesn't want giants like the Pom or Dutch, and for those who prefer a solid colored bird instead of the Reversewing for the next breed that I'll discuss.

The Bavarian Pouter

Newest of the Pouter breeds is the Bavarian. In 1956, Karl Zausinger of Oberhatzkofen (Bavaria), Germany, decided to create a medium sized Pouter with Strasser like markings.

In order to create this breed, Zausinger began the project by crossing Pomeranian and English Pouters onto the Bohmentauben (a Czechoslovakian style Strasser having a field pigeon type instead of the broader show type Strasser that has evolved into a separate breed in Germany).

Six years after Zausinger began his project, his new breed was recognized by the German National Pigeon Club. In 1963, Karl

(Continued On Next Page)



SAXON POUTER

A promising Isabel Young Cock #407/91. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif.



CHAMPION SAXON POUTER

This Ash Red White Bar Old Cock, #634, was Champion Saxon Pouter at the 1989 Western Pouter and Cropper Club Pageant meet. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yuciapa, Calif.



SAXON POUTER

Yellow Saxon Pouter. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif.



BAVARIAN POUTER

A lovely blue bar Bavarian Pouter, "V" rated German Champion Hen. – Bred and owned by the Zausingers.

Zausinger the creator of the Bavarian Pouter, and Heinrich Feuchter, the German pioneer breeder of the Hana Pouter, formed the Club of Bavarian and Hana Pouter Breeders.

From its inception, the Bavarian has proven to be a challenge to its persevering breeders. In the early years, there were problems with hens not having good globe development but this problem was corrected. Another problem that is still being worked out is the diversity of size and style in silver, red, yellow and cream barred birds.

An explanation of what's wanted in this breed is in order. First of all, it is an upright bird and is shorter in stature than the Reversewing. Actually, it is the smallest muffed Pouter, and the ideal size must always be just a little shorter than the Reversewing.

The body type is fairly slim. It should have a strong and straight back profile with no tendency to boating. It has a nicely well developed waist that enhances the slim appearance. The globe should be well blown and is pear shaped, that is wider at the top. It should have sufficient back globe to give the globe a rounded appearance.



BAVARIAN POUTER

Blue Bar Bavarian Pouter Old Cock. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

While the Bavarian is a muffed Pouter, the ideal calls for long legs with good hocks and small saucer shaped muffs. I must comment that most of the Bavarians have relatively small muffs.

Markings and color are the finishing touches of this breed. The head and the very top of the globe, the wing shield (but not the flights) and the tail are colored. The rest of the bird is white.

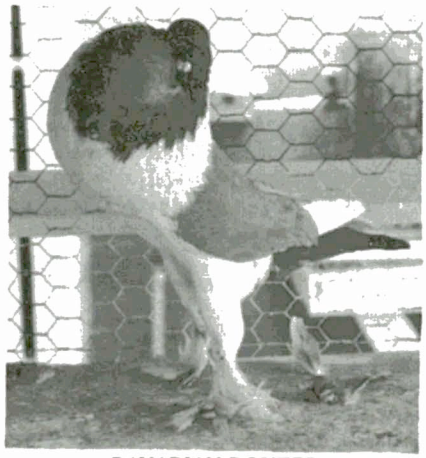
The Bavarian comes in a wide assortment of colors. The highest quality are the blues with black bars. There are excellent blacks, blue white bars, silvers, etc., but quality ones are not as frequent as the blues.

I've bred more different Pouter breeds than anyone I know of, and from my experiences with Bavarians I have to state that they present the biggest challenge of any breed. Why? It's a fact that 20% or less of all the Bavarians bred are worthy of keeping. I've heard German breeders say that 12% is a closer figure. The basic reason for this is the high incidence of mismarkings. In my lofts, I've bred young out of perfectly marked pairs that were solid colored, some were pied marked (I bred a perfect blue barless pied marked this year). Others had heavy bishop wings (white on the shields). Others had solid colored legs. But the reward comes when well marked youngsters grow up.

By now I can hear you ask, what is the difference between the Bavarian and Hana. Picture this: the Hana is a larger bird thicker in body favoring the Pomeranian which is its "grandfather" too. It has a completely colored wing, flights and all, and its legs and feet are colored; the Bavarian is slim, slightly smaller, and has white flights, white legs and feet. They are two "different" breeds!

The first person in the states to bring in Bavarians was Adam Kuhn of Illinois. He brought his in from breeders in Austria.

I imported mine in 1989 when I went to Germany with Tally and Sieglinde Tate, who also imported some with me. Through the courtesy of my friend Georg Gerhager we were able to visit Karl Zausinger Jr., and his mother at their lofts, in Oberhatzkofen. Unfortunately Karl Sr. had passed away earlier that year. It was a real treat to see their huge stud of this breed. The Bavarians in their lofts were absolutely stunning! The beauty of it all was that they even had some free flying. With the exception of the blacks, all of the birds were very uniform in color and markings which says that they cull a lot of young.



BAVARIAN POUTER

Blue barless Bavarian Pouter imported from the Zausingers by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

Anyway, I imported blue bar, blue white bar (opal), and blue barless. Sieglinde imported checker, blue white bar (opal) and cream and yellow. Since then Sieglinde Tate has sold her Bavarians to Mark Wright of So. Londonderry, VT. I've gotten three new breeders to take them up – Layne Gardner of Colton, CA, Bob Salwey of LaQuinta, CA, and Brent Schmutz of St. George, Utah. This is just the beginning, I think this breed will have a good following in time.

The Bavarian has an excellent personality and will show off like all of his other Pouter cousins. For those of you who hate the thought of using feeders, the Bavarian doesn't need them. They raise their young wonderfully!

But, if you are considering the Bavarian, keep in mind that the breed is still in its formulative stages. Bavarians aren't for those who give up easy or tend to be quitters when the going gets rough. They present a real challenge, but like I tell my friends, "it will be a great accomplishment to say years from now that we were diehards who didn't give up and who helped make the breed excellent!"

K.J. Teser

Breeder & Exhibitor of

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Pomeranian Pouter Club Of North America

by JOHN E. NELSON, Sec.-Treas., St. Joseph, Mich.

1991 was the formation year of this new specialty breed pigeon club. As of this writing we boast a membership of 38 senior members of which five are ladies. We also have four girls and two boys as our charter members. Members come from 15 states. One goal is to broaden the geographic location of the membership as well as increase our membership. Another goal is to popularize this majestic breed.

Our first official meet will be at the Milwaukee NPA Grand National. We will be having a special band Futurity Show for the young birds. The regular show will include all the Pomeranian Pouters at the National. We look forward to having the largest entry of Poms ever held in a show in North America. All the standard pied marked colors will be shown as well as dilutes, rare colors, and selfs. Several members of this club are working on new colors in the breed, and some of them will be exhibited. We will be working on a schedule of regional or district shows for 1992. There are several areas that have a concentration of membership where we will be able to have meets in conjunction with a larger all breeds pigeon show. We anticipate our membership growing at and after the Grand National in Milwaukee.

All are welcome to come by the Pouter and Cropper section and see our display of beautiful Pomeranian Pouters. There will be many members present at the show and any of them will be glad to show you his or her birds. Talk with the members to find out the finer points of this majestic breed. The Pouter and Cropper section will have 15 or more breeds of Pouters and Croppers exhibited. The Pigmy Pouter is quite popular, as well as the Norwich Cropper. We hope to be the third largest breed of Pouter in numbers if not second in number. Our goal is to have over 150 Pomeranian Pouters in 12 color classes. The Los Angeles Grand National had 41 Poms exhibited so this would certainly be an accomplishment. The National Young Bird Show in Louisville had 27 entries from nine exhibitors in 1991. Some key breeders did not make it to Louisville, so we hope they will all be showing a nice team each at Milwaukee. We look forward to having over 20 exhibitors showing Pomeranian Pouters at this great show from January 16-18, 1992.

When you come to the Grand National in Milwaukee make it a point to come by the Pom section and enjoy this wonderful breed as much as their breeders do. You will be glad you made the trip. We will be more than happy to have you join this growing specialty club. We welcome articles and letters to the fancy to be included in our club bulletins. Thank you and we will see you at the Grand National.



Brown Bar Pigmy Pouter O.C. #896. Champion Pigmy & Overall Grand Champion 1990 Pageant of Pigeons Show. Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto.

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The Norwich Cropper – An Ideal Exhibition Breed

by TIM BURKE, Iowa City, Iowa

The Norwich Cropper with its huge globe and friendly manner is always sure to attract the attention of both pigeon breeders and bystanders wherever it is shown.

The huge, round globe which is kept inflated at all times is the hallmark of the breed. The globe should be as round as possible breaking cleanly from the waist and shoulders and carried with ease by the bird. Overblowing of the globe causes the bird to rear its head back, shaking of the head and globe, and leaning on the tail, all faults to be avoided. We must remember that occasionally even the best birds will overblow. Birds that make a habit of doing this should be disposed of. As I mentioned before, the globe should be round whether viewed from the front, side, or back. This roundness is accented by a slim waist and narrow shoulders. Often overlooked is the fact that to create a round globe the bird must have adequate back globe. The back of the neck should curve to allow the ball like shape to be continuous from the beak around the front of the globe to the back of the head. Many Norwich lack adequate back globe and because of this appear to carry the globe in front of the body instead of on top of it. The globe should be positioned such that it appears to be on top of the body. The general impression should be one of a lollipop, not the number nine as is seen with many birds. Pear shaped globes are a fault and birds with this trait should not be bred from. While the globe is the first thing one notices on the Norwich, it should not by any means be the only point evaluated in the determination of the bird's quality.

There are many other points that are necessary to make a good Norwich. The standard states that the body should be wedge shaped. This has been misinterpreted as meaning wide at the shoulders and narrow at the tail. True, this body is wedge shaped, but it is not what is meant in the standard. The body should be narrow at the shoulders and taper towards the tail. The narrowness at the shoulder allows the globe to spring dramatically from the body and gives the illusion that the globe is larger than it actually is. A slim bird with a large globe is much more attractive than a "cobby" or thick bird with the same sized globe. The English and Dutch fanciers crossed the English Pouter into the Norwich to do two things: Lengthen the leg and slim the body. The evidence of these outcrosses can be seen by the occasional Norwich of import bloodlines with feathered legs.

The Europeans used the outcross with the English for a good reason. A bird with long legs is much more attractive and graceful than a short legged one. The legs should be approximately 4 inches long from the ball of the foot to the body. When viewed from the front the legs should be set close together - approximately one inch apart. When viewed from either the front or side the legs should appear straight with no evidence of hinging where they attach to the body.

Two other characteristics that help to make the ideal typed Norwich are the proper positioning of the wings and the length of tail. The wing flights should be of medium length and carried close to the body. They should be held high and be narrow at the shoulders. The tail should be short and should never drag on the ground. Long tails do not permit the bird to stand upright. The bird with a long tail will lean forward to prevent bending its tail on the floor. Length of tail and length of leg should compliment each other, i.e. short tail and long legs - NOT the other way around!

Proper color and markings finish off the ideal typed Norwich to make it a show winner. A clean crescent on the globe which ends behind the eye without intersecting the eye or extending behind the head is ideal. A rose on the wings that consists of a few white feathers is preferable to the large patches of white which extend to the front of the wings (bishoped wings). The flights should be white and the line at the waist between color and white should be as clear a demarcation as possible. Many birds will have a few colored feathers mixed in the white. These should be plucked before exhibiting the bird. "Therapeutic plucking" clears up the birds and presents a more pleasing appearance in the show pen.

Color, as with all breeds, should be as clear and intense as possible. Without a doubt good color is the "icing on the cake" when viewing a Norwich with proper markings and good type. We must remember that the red and yellow in Norwich, like many Pouter breeds, is actually ash red and ash yellow. While specimens are exhibited with rich color many birds will appear light and may show a checkered appearance. The tails on the ash red family birds are not white, but a clear gray. Birds should not be penalized for this.

The Norwich, while being an ideal fancier's breed, does have a few drawbacks. Maintaining the health of the birds during hot weather is a constant chore. Some birds will overindulge and drink what appears to be a quart of water at a time. This causes the crop to hang low and the bird will hit its crop with the toenails when walking. If the toenails are not clipped this will lead to tearing of the crop and may ultimately result in the bird's death. Walking into the loft to find pools of bright red blood leading to a near dead bird is no pleasant experience. To prevent this take great care in maintenance of the bird's toenails. If you find a bird with its crop hanging low, gently squeeze out the excess water. If the bird does this two days in a row, isolate the bird so you can control its food and water intake. Give the bird one Baytril tablet daily for three to five days and keep it individually caged until the urge to overindulge is passed (usually a few days). If you do come upon a bird that has torn its crop, I have found that super glue works better than a needle and thread at crop repair. Gently clean the crop with clear water, pat dry with a clean towel, and apply the super glue. Glue the crop lining together first taking care not to glue this to the skin. Allow to dry then gently pluck the feathers from the skin and glue the skin together. Again exercise care not to glue the skin to the crop wall. Keep in mind that super glue will bond skin instantly. The careless may end up with fingers glued together, glued to a bird, or glued to whatever part of his anatomy he decided to scratch at that moment.

Sour crop is another problem, but due to limited space, I will leave this problem to be discussed elsewhere in the Pouter Special.

Fanciers who once thought that the Norwich was too hard to maintain are now trying the breed. They are finding that while a close watch is needed, this breed is friendly, prolific and fun to have in the loft. All in all the Norwich is the ideal fancy pigeon. It offers a challenge to breed birds close to the standard and is an ideal bird in the loft. The appearance of the bird does not need to be altered by trimming during the breeding season and its vivacious personality make it a joy to the fancier year round.

Tim & Diana Matlack

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Bavarian Pouters

by LAYNE GARDNER, Colton, Calif.

This fairly recent creation of German Pouter breeder Karl Zausinger has really caught my eye. The type of the breed is similar to the Saxon Pouter, another of my favorites. One of the main differences between the Saxon and the Bavarian is the markings of the Bavarian. Whereas the Saxon is always self colored, the Bavarian is Gazzi marked with white flights. This marking is also found in Florentines and Bohemian Strassers.

When clearly marked the breed is especially attractive. Unfortunately one of the problems currently associated with the breed is a large number of mismarked youngsters. No doubt, one reason for the mismarkings is the continued breed crossing which has occurred. In order to improve the type, lengthen the legs, slim down the body, etc., Bavarians have often been crossed with English. Hence, the lack of consistency in offspring.

Bavarians are being bred in the U.S. in a number of colors but one color we don't have is black. This is the most striking color of Bavarian and a challenge to breed. I have used one of Frank Barrachina's black English to add black to our American Bavarians. Within the next few years this should be accomplished and black Bavarians will be shown.

The Bavarian is a beautiful Pouter that is a real challenge to breed. No doubt this breed will enjoy good popularity - especially among those who appreciate breeding challenges. As you attend shows in the next few years keep your eyes open for Bavarians.

In closing, I must publicly thank Frank Barrachina for his kindness and generosity in starting me out in Bavarians. Thanks, Frank!



BAVARIAN POUTER
A young Bavarian Pouter. – Bred and owned by Layne Gardner, Colton, Calif.

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Mealy Norwich OC
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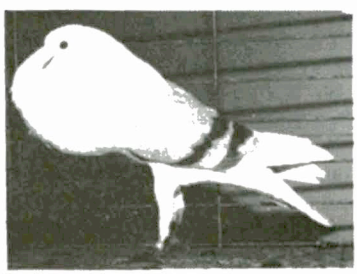
Red Norwich YH
Champion Norwich
Champion Pouter
WP&CC MW District
Yng./Yrlng. Show 1990



1991 Red Norwich

NORWICH CROPPERS
(10 Colors)

BRUNNER POUTERS
(5 Colors)



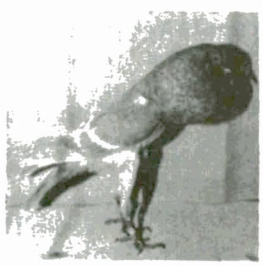
Brown Voorburg OC
Champion Voorburg - Champion Pouter
WP&CC MW District 1989

VOORBURG SHIELD CROPPERS
(10 Colors)

HOLLE CROPPERS
(2 Colors)



1990 Import
Black Holle Cock



Yellow WB Brunner OH
Champion Brunner at
2 WP&CC MW District Meets



Yellow Voorburg YH
Reserve Voorburg
WP&CC MW District 1990

TIM BURKE

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Why Breed Pouters?

by FRANK SOTO, Santa Ana, Calif.

When I first started breeding fancy pigeons, a number of breeds appealed to me. Naturally, I began to specialize in those varieties which I found the most attractive. Some, like the Bokhara Trumpeters, presented big challenges not only to breed the ideal bird, but even to breed a fair amount of young each year. Another one of my breeds are the Capuchines which I feel present a wonderful challenge to breed the ideal structure and feather ornamentation. But the Pouters, which also have a place in my heart, have offered all of the challenges and more.

Throughout this special, you'll notice the numerous articles which mention Pouters and their personalities. Believe it, Pouter breeds have endearing personalities. They'll cheer you up with their cooing and strutting when you're down and out, they'll add to your good days with this same kind of fun behavior. There is even more to this gladdening of the heart that Pouters bring.

One of the things that I've come to enjoy about Pouters are the folks who keep them. What a great group of people they are!

Here in Southern California we're lucky to have a wonderful club, the Western Pouter and Cropper Club. The club meetings, shows, and picnics are truly fun occasions. It's always interesting to talk to the various members, have group discussions about different breeds, and learn something new. Every breed counts equally, and everyone counts equally.

The single greatest factor for the success of our club is my dear friend, Frank Barrachina. He's the kind of guy who puts one hundred percent effort into every one of his efforts. Years ago, this club only catered to one breed of Pouter, but when the management changed hands and Frank became the secretary, he turned a dying organization into a world famous one. He contacted breeders throughout the U.S.A. and other parts of the world seeking information on every breed. On numerous occasions he imported super show birds from top European breeders, not only for himself but for anyone who wanted them. As a matter of fact, I don't know anybody who would travel to Germany and spend a good deal of his time there locating and buying a lot more birds for other people than he would for himself like Frank has, and not only Pouters.

Frank also researched every breed of Pouter. For this effort he had numerous books and articles translated from foreign languages into English and he corresponded with experts in those countries. As a matter of fact, he even videotaped shows overseas and breeders' lofts so that we could all see for ourselves what he was talking about. So he shared the knowledge and inspired others to breed better birds.

Our club has grown too, from a So. Calif., one to a club which is national in scope. And it is primarily due to Frank's super dedication. The best part is that he has not only made friends throughout the U.S.A., but around the world.

While Frank has lead the club, others have played a big part too. His Tally has also worked for the benefit of the Pouter hobby by doing art work and beautiful standard drawings. Other members in So. Calif., have kept the home base strong. Sieglinde Tate has become an expert in creating wonderful show areas for our club. If you were at the Pomona National, you saw the large aviary she put up in the show that was full of different Pouter breeds. It was an eye catcher and definitely the talk of the show.

A lot of others also help keep those wheels of progress turning. Frank Mosca has done a good job as publicity director. Other club members such as: Dan Johnson, Joan Taylor, Ron Johnson, Rod Davis, Layne Gardner, Bob Salwey, Fred Maenpa, Kit Snider, Carl Rodegerdts, Mark Harris, Joseph Ornelas, Rick Barker and many others are always there to be counted on. And then we have a lot of members in other states who help this club, such as: Doug DeNeen, Guenter Wenzel, Tim Bueb, Tim Burke, John Harrison, Ray Crumbie, Jim Brown, the Beers, Gene Nollan and many more. The Western Pouter and Cropper Club has become a happy family. And I want to thank everyone for making it a great organization to belong to.

So, why raise Pouters? It's obvious – the pigeons are great and so are their keepers. You don't have to get rid of your other birds to be a part of the Pouter family. No, just get some Pouters and round out your interests in pigeons. Pouters are a happy part of my life, and they could be a bright part of yours too!

The Southern Pouter & Cropper Club

by RICK DUCKETT, Sec.-Treas., Tulsa, Okla.

There have been many Pouter Clubs over the years here in America. But, some fell to the wayside. Others, like the Western Pouter and Cropper Club, have grown and prospered by serving the needs of its members and Pouter breeds throughout the country.

This is the purpose of the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club! To locally serve the South and all Pouter breeders throughout the country. To work in relationship with other Pouter clubs and promote the numerous varieties of Pouters and Croppers! To have qualified judges for Pouters and Croppers that understand the standards! To give the Southern Pouters the attention they deserved at local shows! The South has always been in dire need of a local Pouter Club to pull together and become a recognized force of the Pouter breeders!

So on January 1, 1991, the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club was formed by a few dedicated Pouter breeders. At first, it was slow going, but soon the ball was rolling, and at the time of this article (August 1991), the S.P.C.C. has grown to over 50 members! We decided since the club was so new to the Pouter world, that we needed plenty of promotion, so monthly bulletins have been sent out. Also, Sam Murphy (President), decided to keep the dues low ($10 membership) to help get more members and in this way more promotion! Frank Barrachina and many more W.P.C.C. members have helped by supporting the S.P.C.C. 100%. If you look at both club membership rosters, you will see the same names on both! Here is living proof that the S.P.C.C. and the W.P.C.C. are here to serve the Pouters and their fanciers. We are not competition against one another, but together, we are a working, promoting force for Pouters here in America!!

At this time I would like to THANK ALL, who made it possible for the growth of the S.P.C.C.! What better luck could a new Pouter Club have than a Pouter Special, in the A.P.J., the same year that the S.P.C.C. was formed! I would like to thank the A.P.J. for all their years of dedicated work to promote fancy pigeons and for this Pouter Special. I would like to thank the Members of the S.P.C.C. who helped make our first show ever, a GREAT ONE!

We had over $250 to be awarded and almost 20 breeds of Pouters represented at our first Young Bird Show. I would also like to thank Herb Berg, Bob Kosek and Merle Frank for helping me promote the great Bohemian Pouter at our Young Bird Show by sending very good birds down to be shown, then auctioned, with all proceeds going to the club. Also, Starwitzer Pouters sent by Bob Kosek. Beautiful Swing Pouters were shipped here, for the show, from Idaho, by Mike Harold! Tim Bueb is taking time off his busy show season to judge our Fall Show in Dec. 91. Karl Teser is helping us promote the beautiful English Pouter for our Fall Show. I could just keep going on and on, because many Pouter fanciers have helped in many ways for the S.P.C.C. success! So, the S.P.C.C. is here to serve and work to better the Pouter hobby.

Anyone interested in joining the S.P.C.C. contact: Rick Duckett, 6459 W. 77th St., Tulsa, OK 74131.

Pumpers For Pouters & Croppers

by CHET DAVIS, Westevro, NY

People who raise Pouters and Croppers know that sometimes we need help. So we use whatever we have – Rollers, Homers, etc. They set, hatch them, take good care of them for two to three weeks. Then the cock starts to drive the hen and they forget about the young they were taking care of.

Pouters and Croppers take longer to develop. So more than likely, the young are so weak they have to be hand fed or die.

What you need is some Pouters that are good feeders. I use Brunners to feed Pigmies and Swings to feed English. You need to use Pouters to get good results.

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✔ *To work in good relationship with other clubs.*
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The English Pouter loft of Karl Teser, Papillion, Nebr. The Dutch doors are open to let English fly free in yard.

Nutrition And The English Pouter

by KARL J. TESER, Papillion, Nebraska

Since this article is being written to be in the 1991 APJ Pouter Special, I'm going to use the opportunity to promote my favorite Pouter which is the English Pouter. Having had different varieties of Pouters throughout the years, each with their own special characteristics, I have chosen the English Pouter to be the mainstay in my loft. The choice is mainly because of the unique and friendly personality of the breed. This, combined with its tall slender beauty, has and continues to provide for me the ultimate pleasure with pigeons since having become addicted to the pigeon hobby some 45 years ago.

Throughout the years of raising and showing different breeds of pigeons, I have tried and used the ideas of others, and having learned through my own mistakes, have been able to implement a few feeding techniques that may be of some interest. Regardless of methods used, good or bad, one should keep in mind that one of the basic elements of success with any breed of pigeon relates to the proper feeding habits. The following techniques used in feeding my English Pouters has worked well for me and may work with some other breeds as well. To begin with, most large Pouters tend to be very poor parents when it comes to feeding their young. Consequently, foster feeders are required if one intends to raise many young English Pouters. Having tried different varieties of foster feeders, some better than others, I have gone back to racing homers. As any breed of pigeon needs a good start in life, it is very important that the young English Pouter be fed a high protein feed to insure proper leg, feather and body development. Since the beginning source of nourishment is coming from the parent or foster feeders, the diet being fed to them should be of high quality and supplemented with vitamins and minerals. In the early milk stage of the young pigeon's life, one would assume that these elements would be automatic and if the parent feeders are fed properly, the young will mature naturally. Simple enough if you're raising a breed that feeds its young to weaning age, but how does one get the young English Pouters fed when in fact, at about three weeks of age, they are already towering over the foster feeders who are expecting them, because of their size, to be starting to leave the nest and to be on their own. This is the point in the Pouter's life that I take over by hand feeding the young Pouters until they are six or seven weeks old. It may seem like a long time to hand feed a pigeon, but as mentioned earlier, the English Pouter has its own unique characteristics, unfortunately, one is that it is not one of the smarter breeds of pigeons when it comes to feeding or being fed. As the young Pouters near the three week old stage, I pay close attention to the amount of feed in their crops, generally checking each youngster toward dark after the birds have been fed and have had ample time to feed their young. If at this time the crop doesn't have enough feed in it, I hand feed the squab with a bulb type turkey baster. The feed used is high protein pigeon pellets ground to a powder in a blender. The powder is mixed with warm water and used as needed. It does take a little practice to become proficient, but once mastered, it only takes a few seconds to feed each squab. One should always be careful not to overfeed which can cause the squab to choke. It is better to underfeed than try to feed that little extra. If a squab is completely abandoned by the parent birds, an additional morning feeding is needed, and ideally a noon feeding if one has time, however, two feedings will usually be adequate.

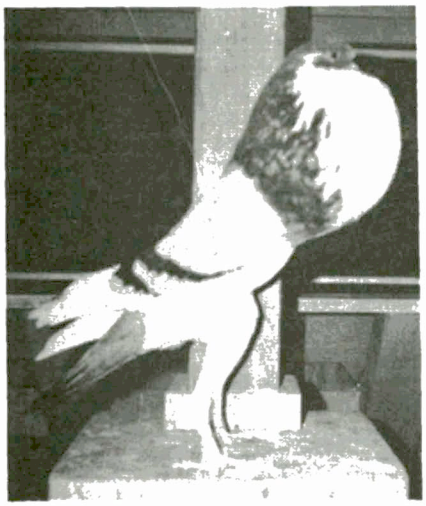
Once the young Pouter is completely on its own, I feed a high protein prepared diet sprinkled with a powdered combination of minerals and vitamins called "Min-Vites." I'm not pushing this product as there are several other products probably just as good, but this is the product that has worked best with my English Pouters. The thing that I like about the "Min-Vites" is that it is sprinkled on the feed rather than in the water helping eliminate the chance of a bacterial water buildup which can happen, especially in the warm months. When feeding, I check the hoppers for any leftover feed. If feed is still there from the previous feeding, I feed less; if empty, and the birds are hungry, slightly more. I usually feed at six in the morning and six at night. Ideally, there is very little feed left in the morning from the previous night and the birds should have the hopper about empty at about mid-afternoon before the six o'clock night feeding. Keep in mind I'm talking about feeding English Pouters and foster feeders. This system is not for all breeds; here again, this is what is working for my birds. An important fact is that with this feeding system there has not been a single case of crop bound or sour crop in my loft for at least five years. It is important that large Pouters and Croppers not be overly hungry and overeat causing crop problems, and I'm convinced that this feeding technique is the answer.

In addition to feed, I make sure that there is a readily available supply of grit, and would recommend that one use the best grit available and change it often. Also, it is



ENGLISH POUTER

#431-91 was a winner at the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club 1991 contest. – Bred and owned by Karl Teser, Papillion, Nebr..



CHAMPION ENGLISH POUTER
Blue YC English Pouter was Iowa State Pigeon Club Champion. – Bred and owned by Karl Teser, Papillion, Nebrr.

better to feed grit in plastic or wood containers as galvanized containers eventually corrode and rust from the salt in the grit. Both grit and containers are often overlooked when one is looking for a source of contamination when experiencing health problems in the loft. Often when a problem arises, the fancier will check and make sure the food hoppers and waterers are sanitized while forgetting the grit containers and grit. Grit has a tendency to absorb moisture, dust, etc., and it still looks okay to the eye, but may in fact, be the source of contamination causing the problem.

Of course, everyone knows that one needs to change the drinking water daily; however, one needs to do more than this if health problems are to be avoided. Water vessels need to be sanitized often and I sanitize them daily using this technique. My waterers are changed twice daily when I feed the birds. I have two waterers for each pen, using only one at a time. The other one, when emptied, is sanitized and dried. I use this one when the birds are again watered and repeat the process with the one removed. This allows fresh water in a sanitized vessel each time the water is changed. To sanitize the vessels, I rinse them out using a small amount of Clorox and let them dry out.

To summarize, I strongly believe that in order to get the maximum growth and leg development in English Pouters, a high protein diet supplemented with minerals and vitamins should be used for both the foster feeders and Pouters to insure that the young Pouter gets the proper nutrition. It has been my experience that supplemental hand feeding is also necessary if one is to realize the full potential of the tallest and most elegant of Pouters, the English Pouter.

Norwich Cropper - The Globe And Today's Bird

by CARL RODEGERDTS

I have been breeding Norwich for about 10 years and during this time I have seen considerable development of the globe in relation to the rest of the bird. It is the globe that distinguishes the Norwich from the other blowing breeds. None of the other puffers carry a globe as large as the Norwich in relation to its body size.

For many years the bird with the largest globe was the winner. In my early years of showing most of the winners were heavy bodied, short legged, large globe birds. Although the shape of the globe was basically round many birds did not have adequate back globe nor was the globe joining the breast at right angles.

About 10 years ago this began to change dramatically. Due to the importation of birds and the dedication of one breeder, in particular, the modern day Norwich began to emerge. Doug DeNeen of Edmond, Washington, has developed what I feel is our modern day Norwich. Doug has concentrated on developing the proper body style to go with a perfectly round globe. This body style consists basically of long, straight legs with a narrow body. This made the Norwich appear like a post with a round ball on top of it. The body of the bird should disappear into the center of the globe. The globe should meet the body at approximately right angles in all directions. Back globe is very important when it comes to giving this totally round look to the globe.

The total result of this new look is a bird that is much more stylish than the older style Norwich. Where it used to be that the largest globe bird would win no matter what the body looked like, the present day winner must have the proper body and style to go along with the nice globe.

There was a time when good body type birds stood out at the shows because there were not many of them. However due to such dedicated breeders as Doug DeNeen, Ron Johnson, Fred Maenpa and others, this style bird is what is now seen throughout the classes here on the West Coast.

Currently the status of the globe is still what makes the breed but just having a big globe is not enough. Today's Norwich must be a balanced bird. The body structure of the bird must be such that it provides the ideal setting for the globe. A perfectly round globe sitting on top of a tall, slender body represents the ideal Norwich.

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Clubs And Money

by GENE NOLLAN, Tacoma, Wash.

Recently I read an article in a computer magazine that I thought certainly applied to the pigeon fancy. Using the ideas of "The Club Room - Financial Planning" by John Nagy, I feel the following is good food for thought.

Do clubs go under because they go broke, or do they go broke because they are going under? And how important is money in operating a successful club? These questions are not as circular as they sound. Financial management can and does make or break clubs, and like in "real life," money in the bank may not buy happiness, but it can sure help satisfy members.

Dues

Some clubs try to keep their yearly dues very low in hopes of being attractive. Dues as low as $5 a year may sound good, but if they cripple the activities that the club can muster, the member may not even get what he pays for and will disappear anyway. Without sufficient income, it is very hard to put out a satisfactory newsletter, support the club activities or even buy books for the club library. It can be done, however, if the group is small and the newsletter can be run off for free at someone's business. Still, it may be hard to be taken seriously by members or potential members if the dues are trivial. People perform and expect performance in proportion to what they pay.

Clubs could have dues of $20, $25 or even more per year. While the high membership fee many indeed keep potential members scared off, some of these clubs could do quite well by providing services above and beyond the usual. An eye must be kept out for what the membership perceives as their return on their investment.

Most clubs today charge $10 to $15 a year, which provides adequate operating capital without being much of a dis-incentive.

When does your group charge dues? Some have an annual dues date, when every member pays for the entire year ahead. This may seem like a natural event at first, since all the founding members pay at the start of formal operation. Then, as more members are added, they pay pro-rated against the rest of the year, to catch up on the next annual dues date. This kind of dues structure can be catastrophic to a club! If costs go up or unforeseen expenses occur, even the most careful treasurer can't stretch the "bundled" income to make it to the next anniversary. Then, after perhaps several months without club publications or activities, many members may think it unwise to chance it on another year. So, the club goes quickly from out of money to out of members. Even if the money does last until the anniversary, the club's hands are tied if proposals for new projects arise. Finally, it creates a really strange attitude to tell a prospective member "dues are $8 this month, but if you join next month, it'll be $6.75."

A more stable approach is to charge the same amount no matter when a member joins and charge them again when they renew. After a year or two, the money starts coming in quite evenly through the year, making budgeting easier. Also, if a need arises to raise dues, it can be done at any time. It can even become an incentive: "Join before January and save $5!" The accounting and mem-

Update On Opal Pigmy Pouters

by TALLY MEZZANATTO, Yucaipa, Calif.

I have been working with the dominant opal coloration in Pigmy Pouters for a good six years and the improvements in type have been dramatic. They are now competitive in the show room. Opal is running through many of my Pigmies now.

The reason I like opal is because of the myriad of colors produced from the matings. No two are exactly alike. I have Pigmies with lace patterns as well as those with bars of various color shades. The opal factor over blue or brown produces some very eye appealing colors. It lightens the color and I especially like the blues and browns with pinkish colored bars outlined in black on the blues and in brown on the browns.

This past year I tried blue opals on red bars (mealies) and produced some beautiful pastel silver colored mealies with white bars edged in pinkish red. I want to get this color in the laced pattern next because I know it will be beautiful to look at as well.

This next year I plan to work with opal on the yellows and creams to produce Isabels. I have this delicate color in the Saxon Pouters so I know it will be a great color on the Pigmies. The Isabel color is a satiny pastel apricot color with white bars. It can also be produced in the laced pattern as well.

Dominant opal works well on most of your basic Pigmy colors and you can raise the regular colors as well as opals from your matings of opal x basic color.

It has been a fun project for me and my loft of Pigmies is truly enhanced by the variety of colors as I watch them dance and coo with each other.



PIGMY POUTER

1988 Brown Opal Bar Pigmy Pouter hen. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif.



PIGMY POUTER

1991 Blue Opal Bar Pigmy Pouter hen. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif.



PIGMY POUTER

1990 Blue Opal Bar Pigmy Pouter cock. – Bred and owned by Tally Mezzanatto, Yucaipa, Calif.

bership information is really not much different in either system, and the magazine - subscription style revolving membership creates a more stable club . . . . there is no logical annual "drop dead date."

Libraries

A major source of information for many club members can be their club libraries. Properly organized and used libraries can provide support for expanding membership services and even club subscriptions to magazines can be added to enhance it. The price for books can be expensive and the members can take advantage of the club library to learn about their own breed or other breeds that might interest them without having to buy the book.

Most clubs let members use the books free, but it does little to help the financial stability of the club or the growth of the library. A small charge should be made that will help pay for replacements and additions. Damage and loss soon reduce these libraries to less than a selling point for membership. To charge enough in dues to allow for these kinds of service may seriously disadvantage potential members who cannot or chose not to come to meetings . . . . but who wish to use the other services. Be sure your library supports itself . . . and more.

Publications

The first thing to go when money is tight in a club seems to be the newsletter. It is a natural choice, since it is a monthly expense of significant size. However, for members who are not in the mainstream of club activities, the newsletter is the main "product" that the club offers them each month. When reading the newsletter, a member may choose not to involve himself in particular meetings or shows, but knowing they are going on and that he could at any time take advantage of them may be all he needs to know that his membership is worthwhile. Take away the monthly information, and to half of your membership, it is just as though you closed the club altogether. Don't expect too many renewals if your club has a sporadic or "missing" newsletter! On the other hand, a really good newsletter can create and hold membership all by itself.

Size

How big does a club need to be to be stable? Well, that varies widely, but meetings are best when at least 20 people attend, and get better with more. That means a membership of about 60-100 will sustain good meetings. They will also provide sufficient capital to pay for the ongoing expenses of an active club and a satisfactory newsletter. Smaller groups may be able to find ways to economize. Larger groups may be able to take advantage of bulk mail rates (200 pieces per mailing) and reduce their postage costs to 1/5 the first class rate! This is a significant reason to consider "sharing" a larger newsletter with one or two other clubs.

Other Income

Clubs have opportunities to earn additional money. With more money in the treasury, a club can take advantage of special deals when they become available. Our club sponsors and cares for a display of pigeons at the local fair and earns money for this.

We also put on two shows a year (lawn and winter) that we try to keep self supporting and gain enough by super raffles to buy additional cooping and equipment. We do it all with about 60 members . . . most of whom will renew again and again because of the service we try to have available from their club.

While a club does not rotate around money, money can indeed keep things spinning. Take some time to plan your club's financial future, and it will be healthier for it!

The Wild, Wonderful Bohemian Pouter

by HOWARD KINSLEY JR., Bangor, Pa.

I started breeding the Bohemian Pouter in 1977. I first noticed the Bohemian at the Louisville National in 1976. I was very fortunate to obtain outstanding birds from Guenter Wenzel and Ron Schroeder in 1977. That was the year Guenter went out of the Bohemian to spend more time on his Reversewings and German Trumpeters. I was lucky to obtain half of his stock. The other half went to Willie Sousa from Bermuda.

In 1979, I had an opportunity to visit Willie in Bermuda. He was doing a very fine job raising beautiful Bohemians.

Breeding and showing the Bohemians has provided a challenge for me over the years. I breed from 10 pairs: 4 pairs Blue, 4 pairs Red and Yellow, 2 pairs Black Check (Blue T-Pattern).

I keep them in a loft by themselves. I usually raise about 35 young a year. I don't use feeders, because the Bohemians are wonderful parents. They do a very good job raising their own.

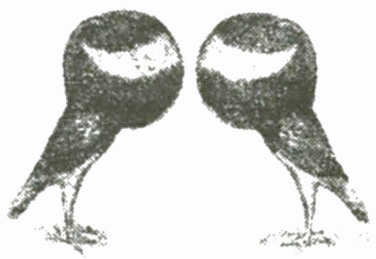
I like to handle the young a lot. This tames them. I also like to show the young in the early summer shows. This is a very good learning experiences for the young bird.

In the 90's the Bohemian Pouter is on the move. Herb Berg has done an excellent job promoting the Bohemian. The Bohemian breeders along with Herb and Frank Barrachina have redone the Standard. This has increased interest. There has been a larger turnout of Bohemians at Louisville and the Midwest shows.

I have been in contact with Herb Berg. The Milwaukee National in January should be the largest for Bohemians with Midwest powerhouses, Herb Berg, Bob Kosek, Frank Merle and an Almond specialist, Roger Steinbruckner.

There could be 50 Bohemians and what a wild wonderful site they would be to behold.

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Improving English And Pigmy Pouters

by FRANK BARRACHINA, Yucaipa, Calif.

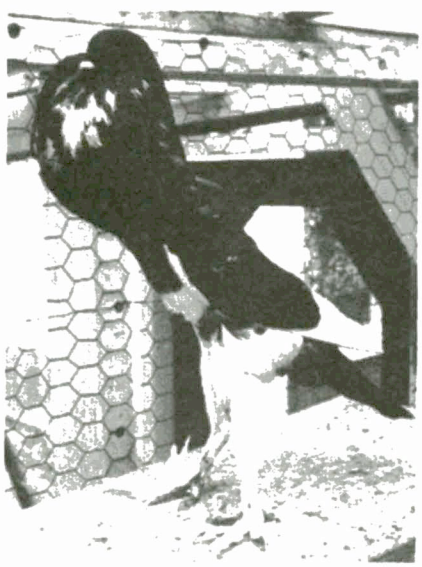
If you are like me, you're always trying to improve your birds. Sometimes we get so involved in this quest that we forget that the elusive perfect specimen is a bird of many facets which are harmoniously grouped together.

English and Pigmy Pouters are basically one in the same breed except for their size differences and so in this article I will direct my commentary to both breeds. Here are some thoughts on areas where there is always room for improvement:

STATION – Don't ever forget that the hallmark of both breeds is the bolt upright stance. This is enhanced when the back and tail form a straight sharply falling line. Keep in mind that birds that lean forward and carry their tails up take away from the desired look.

GLOBE – Sometimes I wonder if everyone knows what the word globe means. Look it up and you'll find out that it means round, spherical or ball shaped. Well this is what our English and Pigmy Pouters should have for crop development. A bird with a beautiful globe has one that is proportionately large and round with good back globe. Adding to that beauty is the fact that the globe should spring from the waist sharply and not fade into it.

WAIST – We are all conscious of our waists but are we as concerned about the kind of waists our birds have? Basically, the waist area is that of the breast bone. It should be slim, "V" shaped, and proportionately long. The natural tendency is for a rounded plump waist just like us, and just like us, the birds look their very best when the waist is slim. Don't forget the "V" shape and don't forget length.



ENGLISH POUTER
Black Cock, #26/1990. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

WINGS – I've come to the conclusion that most people do not pay enough attention to the wings. Good wings are narrow (and reveal a good portion of the waist) and they are held up high and tight to the body. A lot of birds have sloppy wide lose wings which just don't look good. Remember too, the wing tips should rest on the tail and not cross.

BACK – You say, "who looks at back?", and I wonder too when I see round backed or roached back birds at shows and in the finals. The look that we're after is a straight back that is concave or indented at the shoulders.

LEGS – There are no other breeds of pigeons with legs as exaggerated as those of the English or Pigmy. The legs are very long and should be strong enough to enable the bird to walk in an attractive manner and not waddle from side to side like a cripple. A lot of emphasis has been placed on maintaining the sweep or smooth unbroken line that flows from the waist area through the thighs. It does stand to reason that if we give up some muscle in the thighs to have this sweep that we're giving up strength, therefore I think that it's imperative that the birds have some musculature of the thighs, although not so pronounced that they appear as a frog's legs or hinged. Personally, I would rather give up a little of the sweep to have birds that weren't cripples. Another point about sweep, when you breed an excessively long waist you naturally select for birds whose legs are set far back on the body. Yes, you do get sweep but you've also sacrificed the upright station and leg strength.

The standards state that the legs should be close together until the knees and then spread. Well, if you're selecting from birds whose legs are so close together that they appear as one, you'll soon end up with cripples. You've got to balance matings of close legged birds with birds whose legs are set a little apart.

There are a lot of birds in both breeds with the fault of "A" shaped legs. They are close at the top but flare out in the shape of the letter A. This again is not a desirable characteristic.

I like to think of the breeders in England who used to say that the truly good birds "had the gate of a hackney pony." We want long well shaped legs but we also want the bird to look attractive by walking proudly!

TAIL – Here is a point worth mentioning. A good tail comes straight off the body (without wrying or veering) and is fairly narrow without a split. I've got to say that I'm glad that the idiotic practice of picking up a bird while judging and shaking it down-



ENGLISH POUTER
An outstanding hen, #3976. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.



ENGLISH POUTER
#5 Black Young Hen. – Bred by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.



ENGLISH POUTER
Black Hen, #603. – Bred and owned by Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, Calif.

ward to see if it had tail faults is a thing of the past. All it did was scare the bird and it proved nothing. When the bird walks, struts, and performs, it shows off the tail completely.

MARKINGS & COLOR – Good clean and neat markings and deep clear color really dress up these two breeds.

Most breeders have well marked birds, although we occasionally see birds with bishop wings (too much white instead of the rosettes) and foul colored legs (colored feathers on the thighs). Blacks are the most notorious for colored thighs, of course by breeding them and the other colors I can say that they are the toughest to perfect.

Colors in these breeds can always be better. The reds and yellows are ash red spread and not recessive red (as in the Reversewing) and so they aren't quite as rich in depth or tone. These ash reds also have coloring in the shafts of the feather and it is about impossible to breed pure white tails.

The biggest challenge is the black though. Most of the better black English Pouters in America can be traced back to Georg Gerhager's from Mamming, Germany. Besides being a master breeder of super English, Georg also is conscious of great color and so that factor has been stamped into our birds. The Pigmies, for the most part, lack the deep black coloring and so many are a dull smokey tone which isn't very attractive. Again, the ones that have some German blood in them, such as Tally Mezzanatto's, are beautiful black.

SIZE – What are the ideal sizes for these two breeds? For several hundred years, the standard of the English has stated that 16" is an ideal size. This height makes for a big pigeon, and I must say that the number of living birds that achieve it are few and far between. I am a mason contractor and I lay thousands of cement blocks every year. Standard size is 15 and 5/8 inches long - stand one up in your loft and see how many birds stand higher. We hear stories of seventeen and eighteen inch tall birds, and for the most part, that's all they are, tall stories! I have seen and bred some gigantic English, in fact I even showed a few at the last National English Pouter Club meet in Ft. Dodge a few years ago. Bill Pimiskern, who judged the birds there and who is well respected as an authority on the breed said that they were giants and about the maximum height an English could be without losing its elegance. Well, those two huge birds - Sterling stood 16-1/4 inches high and Andre, a gift from my friend Georg Gerhager stood 16-3/4 inches high - and they towered over the other birds. And I should say that they are the very RARE exception to the rule.

Pigmies have in their standard that 12" is the maximum height. So often the neophyte judge thinks that Pigmies should be Pigmy pigeons - well they aren't! They are dwarf versions of the English. In Europe they consider that a Pigmy should be 2/3 the height of an English.

So, I say, set your goals on breeding English as big as you can without losing the refined characteristics, and keep those Pigmies no taller than 12." Of course, if you try and breed a tiny Pigmy, you'll loose leg length, etc.

CONCLUSION – When breeding English and Pigmy Pouters always take into account that there are more to these breeds than one single feature. If you study your standard, and consider all of the features, you'll be a lot happier with your birds and they'll do better in the shows! Good Luck!

Starting In Pigmy Pouters

by RICHARD BOWMAN

Until I was 26, my idea of a fancy pigeon was a multi-colored Roller, a white wild bird or especially a chocolate one. I bought eight fancy colored Rollers as a young man and loved them. They ate out of my hand, fed young and strutted their stuff in front of me. Every free moment I spent in the old chicken coop with my birds.

One cold afternoon, I took my children to the library for a special program. While they listened, I sat down to read a book. My eye caught a magazine on the table. It was an A.P.J. I couldn't read enough. I never dreamed a bird could be beautiful in so many ways. I finally decided Pouters were my choice and found Tom Noek in Watertown who sold me three pair.

I was so excited to get them home. I had whites, blues and one true silver hen. The rest is history. I just came from the loft tonight. Several hens ate my lunch as I played with them. A pair of homer feeders just hatched my last birds for the season. Thanks Tom. Thanks Jack Spann and all the Mountain West Pouter Club members. It doesn't get any better for me.

Reversewing Pouters

by BOB SALWEY, LaQuinta, Calif.

I first had Reversewings when I was 15 years old. They were beautiful then and I'm sure those weren't the best around. But they have always been my favorite Pouters. (I also raise Voorburgs and Bavarians which, I enjoy just as much).

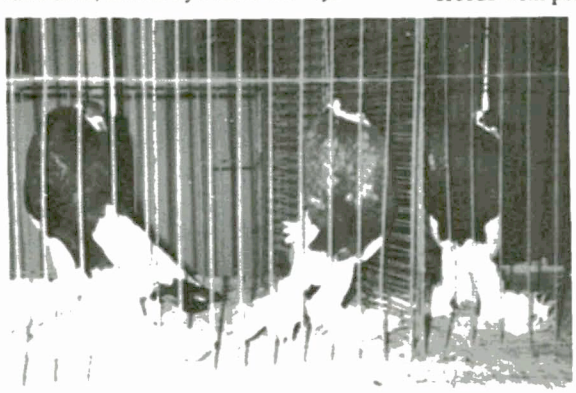
The Reversewing is a larger Pouter and I use ceramic bowls for nests with wood shavings in them. I have just recently gotten back into Reversewings with the help of Frank Soto and Frank Barrachina. So this year I have used feeders with them. The thing that surprised me is the great fertility they have. I think I have only had three bad eggs in 15 rounds. The Reversewings have their own personalities. They are docile and just like family life. They do not dominate the loft and they get along with smaller breeds. I have them with Voorburgs and Bavarians. They hold their own but they do not take up extra nest boxes like other breeds do. I have three pair of Bavarians and they are wonderful birds, but are my most aggressive Pouters.



Black Reversewing Pouter. – Bred by Frank Soto, owned by Joann Salwey.

The best thing about Reversewings is that my wife loves them too. She has blacks, while I have reds and yellows. The Reversewings have the deepest, richest colors you can ask for and the markings are striking.

Thank you again Frank Soto and Frank Barrachina for your time and support. And thanks to all those that support the Western Pouter and Cropper Club, a club for the breeds with personalities.



A group of Reversewing Pouters at the Pomona Grand National 1990. – Photo by Bob Salwey, LaQuinta, Calif.



The crowd waiting to purchase tickets for the show held at Nurnberg, Germany. The arrow is pointing to Fred Thoelke who was waiting to purchase tickets to see the 31,000 pigeons entered at the show.



This black Voorburg Shield Cropper was rated HV (excellent rating) at the Nurnberg, Germany show. – Photo by John Johnson, Park River, North Dakota.



Pigeon loft in third story of a house in Rothenburg, Germany. This photo was taken from top of a 20 foot high stone wall that surrounds the city. – Photo by John Johnson, Park River, North Dakota.

To Germany To See Pouters And Croppers

by JOHN JOHNSON,
Park River, North Dakota

One of the best times I ever had was going overseas to the Nurnburg, Germany, show in December 1989.

On exhibit were 31,000 pigeons – if you can imagine. Six thousand were Pouters and Croppers and of that there were 300 Voorburg Shield Croppers. Sixty-seven Blacks, 105 Reds, 20 Brown Bars, 25 Blue Bars and the rest were of the small color classes. Most all of these Voorburgs looked to be of outstanding quality. Not hardly a mismarked feather. Yet, in the German style of judging, such as V-Superior, H.V.-Excellent, S.G.-Very Good, G-Good, etc., only one was rated V-Superior. This was a Red Bar Hen.

In the reds, there were only four rated H.V.-Excellent, and the same in the blacks, only four H.V.

Pictured is one of the blacks rated H.V.

The pigeon shows in Germany are all judged without the exhibitors being present.

Fortunately for us, all of the out-of-the-country pigeon tourists were allowed to enjoy total freedom of the entire pigeon show during the judging time which was absolutely great for us. But after the judging was over, and the doors were locked, things changed. The next morning everyone was treated equal. No exceptions.

Here's a photo of my friend, Fred Thoelke getting our tickets and at the same time catching a fist full of German marks (thrown from about 20 feet out by Frank Barrachina, for his tickets). It was a sloppy throw. Frank hit Fred right in the hand. If he had missed, I know they never would have see the money again. As you see they don't believe in lines, and as Fred said, "It's who can push the hardest that not only gets the tickets, but also who's able to stay alive."

We did get our tickets and were able to enjoy the show for the next four more days, with a lot of public. That was a total of six days at this show, not enough to see that many pigeons, so I'm looking forward to going to another one some day.



CHAMPION PIGMY POUTER
Red Old Cock #89-204, 1989 and 1990 NPA National Champion Pigmy Pouter. – Bred and owned by Ray Crumbie, West Jordan, Utah.

Pigmy And English Pouters

by RAY CRUMBIE,
West Jordan, Utah

Breeding Pigmy and English Pouters is both enjoyable and rewarding. These two breeds of Pouters are so similar it just seems natural to have both of them. The challenges are great but so is the rewards when quality birds can be raised and shown. To me the first and most important step you must take when starting to raise Pouters is to start by purchasing good breeding stock. I got my breeding stock of Pigmy Pouters from Tally Mezzanatto and English Pouters from Frank Barrachina. I would recommend these people to anyone wanting to acquire Pouters.

The next step is the raising and showing of the young birds. This to me is the ultimate pleasure of raising Pouters. An attentive care program is essential to raise healthy youngsters. This involves both quality care and attention. Since both breeds have a winning personality, a little attention will produce a characteristic that no other breed of pigeon can match. They are always alert and ready to respond to attention.

If you want a breed of pigeon that has class and style then you should consider Pigmy and English Pouters. They come in a variety of colors that would please any breeder. Since the popularity of both breeds is on the increase it is time for you to give them a try.

A Bohemian Pouter Update

by HERB BERG

First, hats off to Frank Barrachina, Mike Worley and the whole American Pigeon Journal staff for another fantastic special. The work of coordinating the material and then putting it into a very enjoyable reading form is a job that's largely unappreciated. From all the puffer lovers, "Thank you."

Now for my little corner of the world, the Bohemian Pouter. Better make that the American Bohemian Pouter. In the bird's homelands, it is a marking variation of the Steller or Stavak Pouter. Here in the U.S. it has been treated as a separate breed for as long as I can remember. In 1989, the work of a dedicated group of active breeders and exhibitors of Bohemian Pouters was rewarded. Their joint effort on an American Standard of Perfection for the Bohemian Pouter was accepted as official by the Western Pouter and Cropper Club. It has since also been accepted by the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club and is in the hands of the National Pigeon Association to be included in the next printing of their Book of Standards. We have requested it be used at the Wisconsin National in January. It has been used for two years in the Midwest with great success. To those unfamiliar with the story some background is in order. To those that are, pretend it's a TV commercial and make a trip to the fridge.

In 1984, a reintroduction to the breed brought me into contact with two other Minnesota breeders, Bob Kosek and Merle Frank. It had become apparent to each of us that to continue to survive, the Bohemian needed help. Long a mainstay in the lofts of those of German or Czech heritage, it was disappearing as the old timers passed away. New breeders and exhibitors were and are needed. To succeed we had to get the bird out of the backyard lofts and into the showroom. Many of the previously mentioned old breeders never showed. If a new breeder never was exposed to Bohemians how on earth were they to survive? I started to correspond with Frank Barrachina. It was Frank that suggested that the active breeders put their heads together and formulate a standard to address problems we saw with the standards if any being used at the time. It was decided to go with his idea and through the pages of the APJ, a call for support was issued. The silence was deafening. We were able to enlist Howie Kinsley in our project. As he has a record of wins at the NYBS against all comers and regularly cleans up on the East Coast, he provided his expertise. From California the two Franks, Mosca and Barrachina, lent their help. While neither one raises Bohemians they are well versed in the various and assorted breeds of Pouters and Croppers. Their opinion was highly valuable as it gave us a totally unbiased view of what we were trying to accomplish. It removed any doubt that this was strictly a "Minnesota" project and did reflect ideas other than our own. We would have liked to have had input from more actual Bohemian breeders but for whatever reason they chose to remain outside the circle. A couple make their presence known with snide remarks but were ignored.

Actual description of points in the standard were just that, pretty standard. The allotting of points proved a bit more difficult. In its homeland the bird is noted for its intense color. We decided to honor this by awarding the most single points for color. The day may come when this will be a major factor but as all colors can use work it should all balance out for now. In spite of the color points the Pouter still has to be a Pouter to win. Good color alone won't cut it. Next in line was the term Elster Pouter. For years breeders of Bohemians had known their birds would on occasion throw a bird with no spot. In order to show them they had been entered as Elsters.

In the beginning it hadn't mattered. However, with the frequency now of importation, it wouldn't be possible to continue. The European Elster is now a large breed almost the size of the English Pouter. So the American standard was widened to include the Plainhead. The spot is preferred however. If large enough numbers were shown, the two should be split. The balance fell pretty much in place. Like all new standards it will need refinement but it's a start.

The APJ articles have generated interest in the breed from coast to coast. In 1990, all my surplus stock went south and southwest. There is interest in the surplus 1991 youngsters. So the future of the American Bohemian Pouter looks good. Since the last Special I have seen three children married and have become a grandpa. What will the next few years hold? Who knows? But I can hardly wait.

An immediate update. On July 25th, I was notified by the NPA secretary that he has forwarded the Standard for the American Bohemian Pouter to their standards committee to be included in their next Book of Standards. A few dedicated people can make a difference. If you have a dream go for it.

What's Hot? What's Not? In Pigmy Pouters

by MIKE POPE, Sec.-Treas. A.P.P.C.

As in almost every breed of pigeons one or more colors seem to be closer to the standard that any of the others. They in themselves become a standard for the other colors to try and attain. These colors consistently are the top winners in our shows year after year. This is not to say that another color that is generally considered of lesser quality cannot come along and win Champion but the key is doing it consistently, which means that color has finally reached the level of quality that in turn makes it a standard for the other colors to then breed by.

I thought it would be interesting to look back and check the records and see if we have the same thing holding true in Pigmy Pouters.

In going back to 1970 through the present (except for the years 1972 and 1988 of which I have no records) and just looking at Champion and Best Opposite Sex, I found that there are two colors that have dominated our shows over the past 20 years, Blues and Reds.

I was a little surprised to find that Reds actually have won more than Blues. I expected to find the Blue classes winning by a wide margin but that was not the case. It was close however with Reds edging out the Blues by only one win, 14 to 13.

There are seven standard colors recognized in the Pigmy Pouter standard: Blues, Brown Bars (Silver), Reds, Yellows, Blacks, White's and A.O.C.s (any other color). There are other colors that are recognized but generally are not shown in sufficient numbers to be classed by themselves and are shown in the A.O.C. class.

Even though Reds and Blues are the overall winners, other colors have been selected as Champion or Best Opposite Sex at least one time, which shows that an outstanding individual in any color can come along once in a while but not on a consistent basis. It is surprising to me that Yellows which are recessive to Red and Brown Bars which are recessive to Blues do not place as high in the shows. Yellows have never reached the top two places and brown bars have been there six times. Whites and A.O.C.s have been Champion and Best Opposite Sex one time each and Blacks have made it to Best Opposite Sex one time.

So why is it that some colors seem to dominate all of the others and why is it so difficult to breed certain colors to that same level? You would think that White would be the dominating color in virtually all breeds of pigeons since all that you have to deal with is type and body confirmation. But I assure you that is not the case, I breed white Pigmys and they have a long way to go before they can beat Reds and Blues on a consistent basis.

If you are looking for me to give you THE answer to this dilemma, I'm afraid that you are going to be terribly disappointed. I can speculate however, which is always much safer in case somebody else does know the answer. My guess is that a dominating color has been one that has been bred by a large number of breeders over a long period of time. For example how many Pigmy breeders do you know that don't have Blue or Red Pigmys in their loft? Not too many right? Now, how many do you know that are raising whites or blacks, how about mealies or creams, or khakis or even blue checks? There are a few of course but not in the numbers that we find raising blues or reds. Which, for me anyway, shows that many more breeders have worked on and perfected the blues and reds than any other color.

So what does all of this mean? It means that the door is wide open for someone to come into the Pigmy Pouter fancy to take on the challenge of perfecting older established colors or even creating new ones and bringing them up to that standard of perfection where they would be able to compete and win consistently.

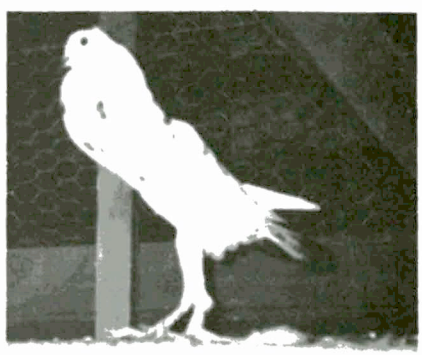
This is not a challenge for the faint hearted, Pigmys are a challenge in themselves to raise regardless of what color it is. But if you are up to the challenge and you are looking for the "World's Greatest Show Bird," then look no further, it can be found in none other than the Pigmy Pouter.



PIGMY POUTER
1991 Brown Bar cock. – Bred and owned by Mike Pope, Rushsylvania, Ohio.



Sid Earle receiving his plaque of appreciation from Warren Reitzel (standing) of the American Pigmy Pouter Club. – Photo by Charmaine Andrle.



PIGMY POUTER
1991 AOC cock . – Bred and owned by Mike Pope, Rushsylvania, Ohio.

The Thuringer Cropper

by SIEGLINDE TATE, Duarte, Calif.

The Thuringer Cropper is one of the more scarce breeds of Pouters found in the show room today. They originated in Germany and have been bred since the middle ages.

With their unique peak crest and gentle nature, it is surprising there is not a larger following of them. They are a medium sized Pouter, a bit larger in body than the Norwich. They blow a good sized pear shaped globe and have a peak crest. Thuringers are bred in monk marked or self colors.

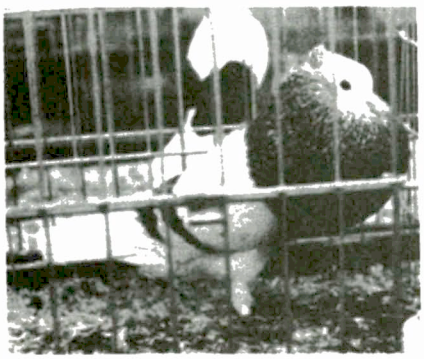
I was fortunate enough to attend the 1989 Nurenburg, Germany, show which had 230 Thuringer entries. There, I saw the most outstanding self colored blacks and reds. Since I wasn't able to buy those, my decision was to import some beautiful monk marked blacks, which reminded me of my Silesians. The whites were also quite outstanding, they seemed to be the best in type of all the Thuringers there. At the show I was able to chose a very nice white cock to import. Although nice in type, the red checks I saw in Germany were no better in color than the dull reds we have here. This might be the reason the breed lacks popularity, as this is the most common color seen in shows today. Thuringers are bred in such a wide variety of colors abroad, it is a shame we don't see more colors here. The most common colors seen at shows here today, are monk marked, red checks, yellow checks, cream bar and white selfs.

The standard calls for slightly hinged legs. Yet, many of the Thuringers here today have short legs that are too far apart, and very bent at the hocks. This gives the bird a half crouched stance. The German birds I saw had the very slightest hinging of the legs, giving them a more powerfully built upright stance. They also had medium length legs.

Probably the most difficult aspect of breeding the Thuringer is getting a perfect peak crest with a nice break in it, and trying to keep the legs as straight and long as possible. When pairing my birds up, I try to keep in mind that longer legs makes them stand more upright and proud looking. In the past I've found you can mate self white to monk marked birds with no problem, getting one or the other. The monk markings usually breed quite true, except for a few stray feathers on the head area once in a while.

I have found it strange that the parent Thuringers brood their eggs very possessively, many times, both sitting at once. They can feed youngsters for a week or so, but after that, they give too much liquid to the squab. I usually move the young to fosters at that point. They are quite hardy, I'm still breeding out of an 83 hen. Also, I've never had one with sour crop. They are docile in the loft, content with one nest box, and get along fine with other breeds.

I believe we will see more Thuringers in the coming years because they are easily show trained, and a compliment to any Pouter loft. If you are just getting started in Pouters, or are thinking of adding another breed, I suggest you give the Thuringer Cropper a try!



CHAMPION THURINGER

This white young hen #607 was Champion Thuringer at the 1990 Pageant of Pigeons. – Bred and owned by Sieglinde Tate, Duarte, Calif.



A German Champion Thuringer Pouter, "V" rated.



NORWICH CROPPER

This Blue Bar OC #719, was Champion Norwich Cropper. – Bred and owned by Ron Johnson, Alta Loma, Calif.

Tips On Breeding Norwich

by RON JOHNSON, Alta Loma, Calif.

At shows you always hear people talking about the biggest blowing Norwich. That's fine, the globe is the most important part of the Norwich.

A big blowing bird with a thick body and short legs is fairly easy to breed. A good Norwich should have a well sprung globe, good back globe, fairly long legs, a hollow back, a nice narrow waist, and slim body. Good clean neat markings finish up the bird.

Here are a few tips that can help you:

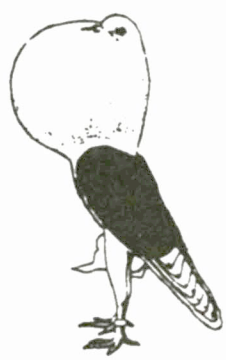
1. Learn the standard and buy birds from a reputable breeder.

2. Raise as many young as possible the first couple of years and either show the ones you think are good or have someone familiar with the breed go to your loft and cull out the bad ones.

3. Breed your best birds to your best birds - emphasize type first and foremost in your goal of breeding good Norwich.

4. Attend as many shows as possible and watch the judge and see what he or she is going for. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

I wish you success with your Norwich. Good luck!



The Norwich Cropper

by DOUGLAS DeNEEN, Edmonds, Wash.

The Norwich Cropper is an extremely complex and difficult breed to maintain at a level anywhere close to the standard. While it is obvious that a very large globe is a must, many other attributes of the globe are not so obvious, particularly to a newcomer to the breed, and perhaps not all that obvious to more experienced fanciers. The same holds true of many other factors that fit together in a balanced Norwich Cropper, things like color, markings, legs, waist, body, eyes, disposition and a hundred other qualities. In addition, the Norwich fancier faces difficulties like sour crop, variations in the magpie markings, erratic behaviour, etc. The headings below will identify some of the difficult things that must be obtained to complete a top notch Norwich Cropper.

Total Impression

A Norwich Cropper cannot easily be separated into discrete body parts. The way the various components fit together into a coherent, balanced whole far outweighs the individual pluses and minuses. A bird that would not rate a "10" on any individual quality could still be a winner over one that has a "10" globe and a "3" pair of legs. Many otherwise outstanding birds fail because of a series of minor faults that spoil the big picture. One of the most important assets to the total picture is a Pouter personality, a merry, fearless, friendly, show-off attitude that lets all the good qualities show to best advantage. Another great asset is an upright posture or station and a free and easy gait when moving. Personality and posture can and must be bred for. No amount of coop training will help a naturally wild or crouching bird turn into a champion.

Head

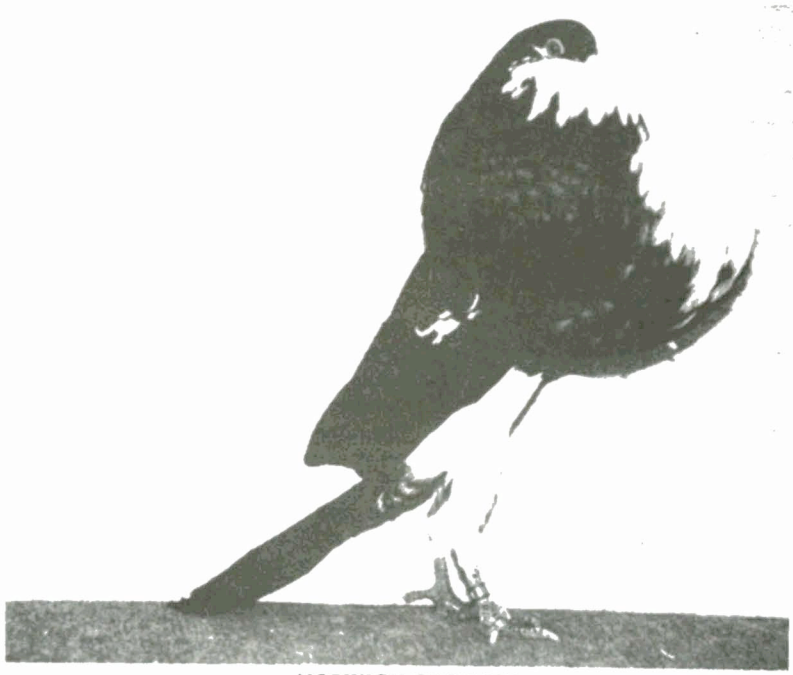
A common fault in Norwich is the head that sits on top of the globe with a clear view in all directions. Since the standard calls for a large, spherical, globe and shows the head tucked into the back one-third of the globe top, interrupting the spherical outline as little as possible, it is almost imperative to have a small, dove-like head with low frontal and top skull that continues the outline of the spherical globe. Very few Norwich have the right head shape, which does not sit like a wart on top of a volleyball. A correctly shaped and placed head, with most of the lower half of the eye hidden by the globe bulge allows the back skull feathers to flow smoothly into the essential curved back globe to complete the sphere.

Globe

While a large globe that the bird can handle comfortably is an outstanding feature of the Norwich Cropper, most of us at one time or another get carried away with huge globe size alone, forgetting that the globe must be spherical, must have a sharp break where it meets the waist, both sides at the shoulders and the back, and must be as wide as it is high and deep, and must not keep changing shape nor be lopsided. In addition, the largest globe is a failure if it is carried so far forward that the bird stands at a 45 degree angle to the floor, or so far back that the bird sits back on its tail. The most common faults are lack of width and/or back globe.

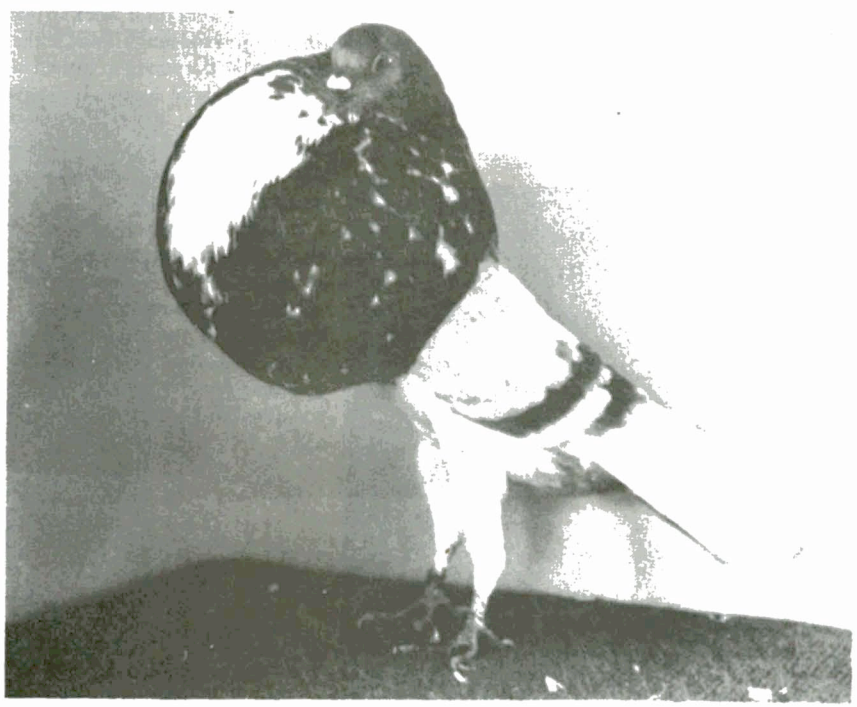
Body

All Norwich standards of this and other countries call for slim bodies, flat or nearly flat keels, hollow backs and narrow wing butts held high and tight at the base of the



NORWICH CROPPER

1991 Black Cock has been a winner at several Dutch and German shows. Considered by some to be the best black in Europe at this time. Bred and owned by Jan Jacobs. – Photo by Dick Hamer, Zutphen, Holland.



NORWICH CROPPER

This mealy old hen, bred and owned by Jan Jacobs, is highest rated in Holland. Excellent example of slim body and long legs. – Photo by Dick Hamer, Zutphen, Holland.

globe. Measurements will show that desired globes are from 2-1/4 to 2-1/2 times the measurement of the body at the base of the globe. Obviously, to achieve this proportion of globe to body width, it helps greatly to keep the body at the waist as neat and narrow as possible; it also adds greatly to the graceful appearance of the bird. Obviously, also, a heavy-bodied or deep-keeled Norwich must then have a globe so enormous as to defy reason in order to stay in proportion. At first glance, a huge globe catches the eye, but only after you check do you find the body out of proportion, heavy and ungainly. The emphasis in Europe is on small, neat bodies to show off the globe in the best fashion and also to allow the bird the most latitude for smooth performance and grace of action. Look at the Norwich from behind; a wide body makes it impossible to have the correct globe break at the sides.

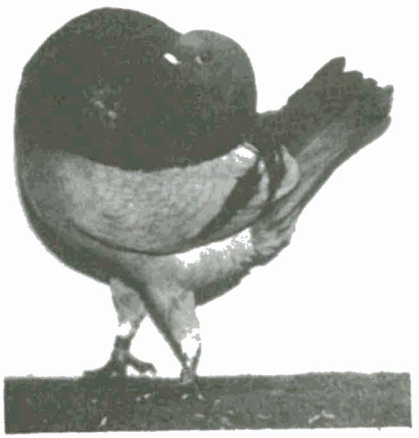
Legs

Frequently you will hear Norwich criticized because they are too long in the body or tail. The actual fault may well be instead that the legs are not long enough. If the legs are not 3-1/2 to 4 or more inches long, if they are not straight or nearly so, if they are not parallel and roughly two finger widths apart from the front view, the Norwich Cropper cannot handle its large globe properly, cannot stand erect with the eyes approximately above the balls of the feet, cannot hold its wing butts high, nor display with spread tail without sweeping the floor; in short, it cannot look like a proper Norwich Cropper.

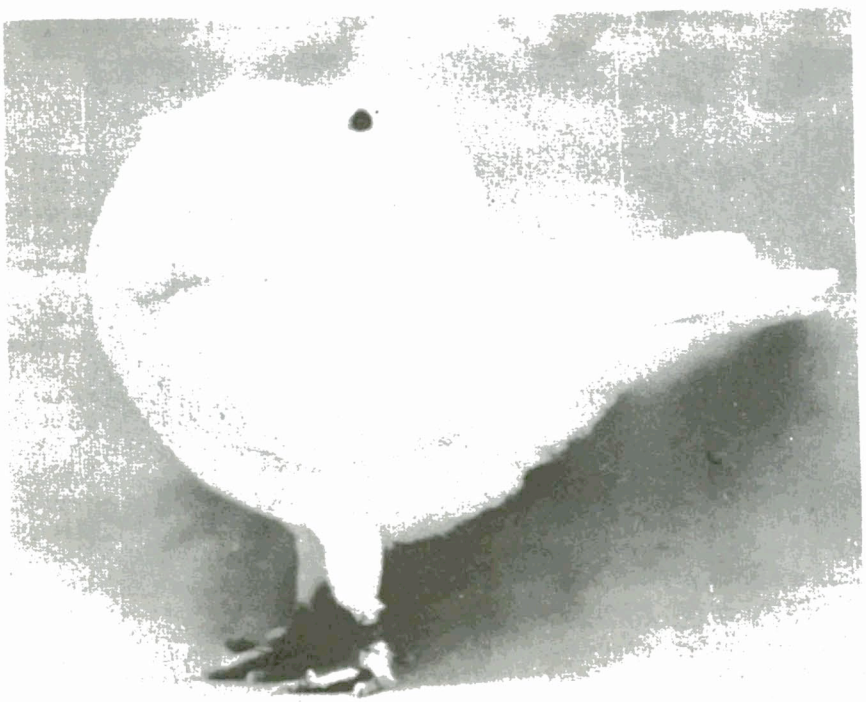
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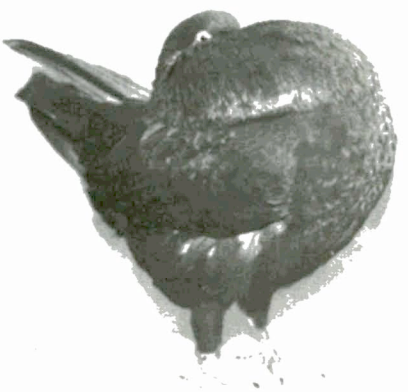
NORWICH CROPPER
This blue bar has great globe, short legs and heavy body. – Photo by Dick Hamer, Zutphen, Holland.



HOLLE CROPPER
This Blue Bar hen, Dutch bred by H.C. Wekving, is top rated. This bird shows uptilted tail desired in Europe. U.S. breeders prefer level tail. – Photo by Dick Hamer.



HOLLE CROPPER
This white Dutch bred shows grouse legs which are allowed in Europe but not in U.S. Standard. Best White Cock at Avicultura show in The Netherlands. – Photo by Dick Hamer.



HOLLE CROPPER
This black hen, highly rated in The Netherlands, would rate highly in the U.S. – Photo by Dick Hamer.

Clearly, unless you work hard to achieve the correct legs, your birds are not going to win in the show pen unless you can find a judge who thinks the only quality that counts is globe size.

Globe

All standards say the globe must be spherical. That means SPHERICAL. The same diameter side to side and front to back as from top to bottom. No flat back globes. No flat-sided globes. No oval or pear-shaped globes. Round is round is round, as Gertrude Stein would have said. Globe size is easy to achieve. Globe shape is not. Probably the most prevalent globe fault is the lack of break where the back globe meets the back. Since most American Norwich have poorly-shaped globes anyway, this last fault is the one most frequently overlooked.

Temperament

Since show performance is so important in all Pouter and Cropper breeds, it is important to elect breeders for temperament as well as for body conformation, color and markings. Personality traits are obviously possible to breed for; witness Racers versus Parlor Tumblers versus Rollers versus field pigeons versus Pouter breeds. Select your breeding stock for pleasing personality traits. Unless you have no choice, don't breed from timid, or fierce, or placid birds no matter how superior they may be otherwise.



PIGMY POUTER

Mealy old cock. A very winning bird. – Bred and owned by Howard Kogan. – Photo by Libby Kogan.

Judging Pigmy Pouters

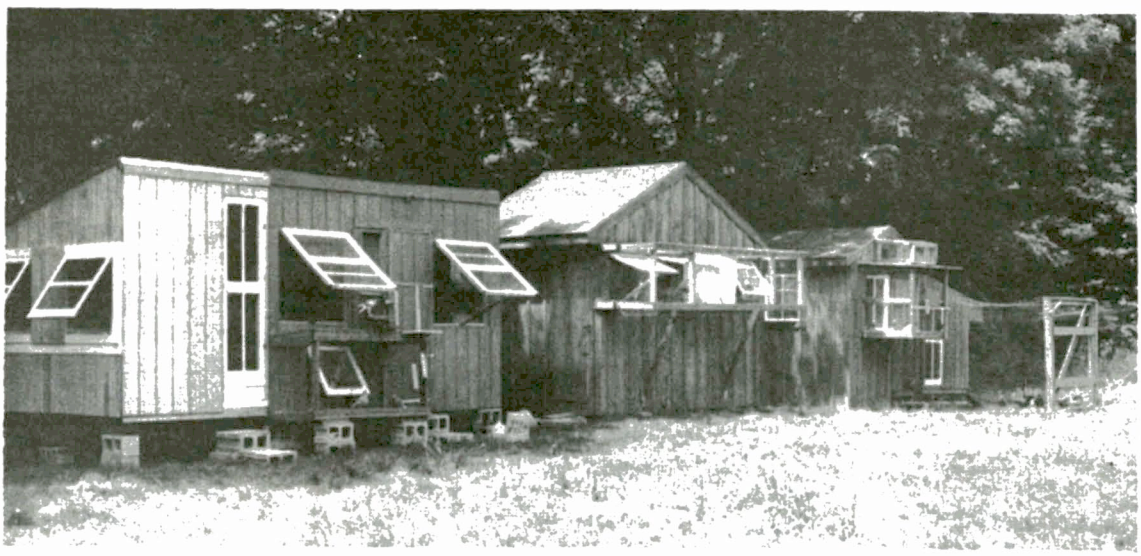
by HOWARD KOGAN, Stephentown, N.Y.

Few experiences in showing Pigmy Pouters are more disheartening than seeing the pride of your loft suddenly panic when it is placed in the judging cage with other birds. When the panic is severe the bird will try to escape through the bars, fly up, or duck into a corner and try to disappear. Needless to say the chance of it then calming down enough to show well is remote. So are your chances of winning.

As much as it is the breeder's responsibility to train and prepare the bird for this moment, once the bird is in the judging cage, it is the judge's responsibility to help each bird show as best it can. Judges should take their time! Many shows are hectic and a judge who moves the classes along quickly is appreciated. But Pouters and Croppers cannot be rushed. Nor should they be crowded! Six birds per judging cage is plenty for Pigmies, three or four is better for the larger breeds. The judge should work with at least two side by side judging cages to divide the classes into reasonable numbers or classes should be divided by the breed secretary so that each class is smaller.

Once a reasonable number of Pigmies is in front of the judge, his or her first task is to do nothing. Let the birds relax and get adjusted to their new surroundings. After a few minutes start talking and cooing to the birds to get them to start showing. At first reach into the cage only to break up a fight or give a bird that's stuck in a corner some space to walk around in.

At this time you will also begin to notice any birds with serious faults or, on the other side, any real lookers. Try to get all the birds blowing but do it gently and slowly. Avoid sudden noises or movements. Hopefully at this point most of the birds will be working. If one or two have not responded try to work with them to see if you can get them to show. Don't ignore them! Remember some breeder has spent a lot of time and energy getting this bird to your cage and they deserve a little



THE PIGEON LOFTS AT HOWARD KOGAN'S FALLING TREE FARM

The loft on the left is 16 ft. long and 8 ft. deep. There is a four foot section devoted to show and mating cages, loft supplies storage. The remaining 12 foot section houses the pumpers that are necessary to raise both African Owls and Pigmy Pouters. The middle loft is the main breeding loft for my Pigmy Pouters and African Owls. It is 12 ft. by 8 ft. deep and divided into two 6 ft. by 8 ft. sections. During breeding season, one section will accommodate the 10 to 12 pairs of breeders (about five or six in each breed) and the other will hold the young birds. Off season, the two sections allow me to separate the hens and the cocks. The third loft is for Flying Tipplers. It is 8 ft. by 8 ft. and has a 6 ft. by 8 ft. extension on its far side that houses a small group of flying hens. – Photo by Libby Kogan.

extra effort from you.

Ultimately, of course, if a bird will not inflate its globe at all, or spends all its time ducking, running and flying up, it will have to be eliminated to allow the others an opportunity to show. Pigeons are, by nature, members of a flock and if one among them is panicky, it will undermine the security of the others and interfere with their showing well.

It goes without saying that the judge should be familiar both with Pigmies and their show standard. In general what you are looking for is a thin, upright bird with a large, round globe, a long, narrow waist and long legs that moves easily and gracefully. When judging, overall factors such as structural balance, way of moving, playfulness and liveliness must be factored into your final decisions. In fact, though points are assigned to the various aspects of the Pigmy, the standard specifically instructs the judge to consider the harmonious combination of the Pigmies properties rather than to judge by simply adding up the point value of its features.

Globe (15 points). The Pigmy's globe should be well inflated including some rounding at the back of the neck. It should spring sharply away from the waist and be round and symmetrical from any angle. It should be large and carried comfortably without a tendency to overblow causing the bird to stagger backwards. It should also be stably inflated rather than going from inflated to slack every minute or so.

Waist (15 points). The Pigmy's waist should be long, slim and well defined. The more length from the base of the globe to the legs, the better. It should be V-shaped with a long, straight keel.

Limbs (15 points). The Pigmy's limbs should be long, close together and straight from the body to the hocks. At the hocks they should turn outwards slightly – the opposite of pigeon-toed – thereby allowing the feet enough room to clear each other. How close the upper part of the limbs should be is often discussed. Basically the closer the better so long as there is no indication of hip dysplasia and the bird can walk easily without rolling or straddling. The shanks should be as long as possible though short shanks are pretty common. From a side view the legs should be straight to the hocks then slightly bent at the hocks. The overall impression of the limbs should be of length, grace, smoothness, and ease of movement. Legs should connect smoothly to the body without any sign of hinging.

Station and Showmanship (10 points). Here we want to see a reachy bird that is upright – as near as possible to having its eye plumb over the ball of the foot – with a well inflated globe, that moves easily and gracefully.

These four are the most important features of the Pigmy Pouter.

Major faults in any of these areas must set the bird back to the bottom of its class. Major faults in these areas include lack of globe, a clearly out of round globe, overblowing, a horizontal station, severe straddling or rolling, or a bird that is too down at the hocks. This might be a good time to note size. Generally the bird that has it all and is smaller, is preferred over a larger one. Pigmies should stand about 11 to 12 inches from the floor to the top of the head, however, a taller, thin bird is to be preferred over a shorter, thicker one.

At this point we are at a total of 55 points with the remaining features being allotted only five points each. By now you should have placed the birds in your mind in rough order. Certainly the top and the bottom of the classes should be pretty clear.

Now, I'll move on to other areas you will want to take note of before handling each bird. For a more detailed discussion of these features, refer to the standard.

Wings should be narrow and carried well up to show the waist to the maximum. Wing butts should be well hidden and the flight end should be neatly carried on the tail. Wings that cross on the back (termed scissoring) are a fault. The back should be slightly concave. A convex or roach back is a fault. The tail should be narrow appearing only one or, at most, one and a half feathers wide. Here watch for wry or split tails, both serious faults. A V-tail is also a fault. The Pigmies head is dove-like and is rarely a problem. Understandably Pigmies are prone to foot problems especially bent toes. Toes should be normally placed without bending under the ball of the foot or twisting over one another. Two or more severely bent toes is a serious fault. One twisted toe is a less serious fault. Of course a bird that is walking with toes bent under the ball of their foot won't walk too well, so they are penalized on that account as well.

Now is a good time to handle a Pigmy though many times surprisingly they are judged without being handled. First they should be checked for feather condition and freedom from vermin. An out of condition or a heavily louse infested bird should be set back in their class – there is really no excuse for this. While in the hand check to be sure the bird's eyes are not cracked and that they are the proper color to match the plumage color. You can also take a closer look at the toes or the tail if you have any questions about them. This is also the time to check the birds' flights which should all be white.

This brings us to final considerations – feathering and markings. Of importance here is that the Pouter's legs be well covered with fine feathers ending in somewhat longer feathers (slippers) that cover the toes. These feathers should be all white. The plucking of colored feathers is considered excessive if bare spots show. No tail or flight feathers should ever be pulled. Any of these major feathers that are missing were probably pulled to remove a wrong colored feather and this should be discouraged. It is ok, however to pluck a few small feathers from around the markings or the body of the bird as long as the bird retains a normal well-feathered, well-covered appearance.

With the exception of whites, all Pigmies should be pied marked. Whites should be white throughout and for this reason in a contest between an equal white and a pied bird, the pied bird is favored.

In addition to the flights already mentioned, the Pigmy should have an entirely white underside extending from a defined line mid-waist to their toes. In addition they should have a rose mark on their shoulders consisting of 5 to 7 white feathers in a circle. These white feathers should not extend to the wing butt. If the white does run into the wing butt it is called bishop-marked and is a fault. The Pigmy should also have a white crescent on its globe, the horns of which extend to one half inch below each eye. Markings are, of course, very attention getting and a well marked bird is beautiful to behold. But don't get carried away by markings, they are assigned only five points in the standard.

Keep your eye where it belongs: globe, waist, limbs, station and showmanship!!



Bethany Nelson of St. Joseph, Mich., displaying her show coat with a blue pied Pomeranian Pouter. This is the third season with this coat. Pomeranians are Bethany's favorite breed of pigeon.

The Ancient Gorguero Pouter

by DR. J. ANTONIN CUATRECASAS, Barcelona, Spain

Translated by Frank Barrachina

It was a real pleasure meeting Frank Barrachina and Frank Soto at the IV International Show in Valls, Tarragona, Spain, this past January. We really hit it off from the start and we spent some unforgettable days discussing Spanish Pouters and their origins. Frank Barrachina asked me to write something for this special about Spanish Pouters, and so I'd like to tell you about my favorite, the Gorguero Pouter to which I have solely devoted my efforts for the past 12 years.

First, let me tell you a little about the Gorguero's personality, it's the kind of winning personality that any admirer of Spanish Pouters will appreciate. The Gorguero cock courts his hen with a deep coo and struts in a manner reminiscent of a well bred Spanish horse. The cock only courts the hen, he doesn't touch her or even reciprocate should she pick at him with her beak. He will continue an affectionate courtship because he's persistent and valiant. And although his task of winning the hen's affection is sometimes a difficult one, his determination is unrelenting.

Many years and many pigeons went by until I actually understood this breed. I felt that in order to truly understand what the Gorguero is today, I had to investigate its past. This of course led me on a study of all of the Spanish Pouter breeds and their similarities and how they came about, etc. It was a difficult task, but a rewarding one to know the truth.

For centuries, the name Gorguero was used in Spain to describe a Pouter with a hanging crop and a conquistador like personality (ornithologist author Rojas Clemente in 1800). At the same time and even earlier, in other regions of Spain the name Colguero was used to describe a Pouter with a hanging crop and a conquistador like personality (Ordinances for the Sport of Flying Laudino Pigeons, Intended for Colgueros-Murcia 1773). Authors such as Clemente thought that these Gorgueros and Colgueros were the same breed, when in fact they weren't.



A five year old blue Gorguero cock. – Bred and owned by Dr. Jose Antonin Cuatrecasas, Barcelona, Spain.

A thorough investigation into these breeds brings me to the conclusion that the Gorguero is a descendant of the ancient "Paloma de Casta" or "Paloma de Casta Azul" that was bred in the center of the Iberian peninsula (Castile and Madrid). This breed was admired for its conquering instinct, blue feathering, particular head shape, and well developed beak wattles without heavy eye ceres.

The Colguero had a separate evolution. It was a descendant of the Quebrado (Broken) Pouter which was a posture pigeon. It had the unique conquistador abilities, but it also had a most unusual way of flight. It would hold its head back and carry its crop up against its body while holding its tail up like an inverted roof tile (just opposite of the Marchenero).

Both of these distinct breeds were crossed, and while each one left its mark on the other, they were bred according to each one's regional preferences.

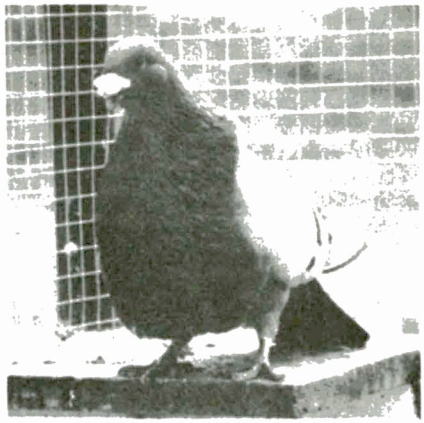
So where does the name Gorguero come in? The Gorguera was a large pleated collar which was worn by nobility of that day (look at a painting of Cervantes to see what I mean). The Gorguero's crop is formed in such a manner that the nape of the neck forms a rolled like collar or Gorguera, hence its name.

To add to the confusion of the name, the name Olguero has also been used in Murcia and it is actually a corruption combination of both names and more confusion! Time passes and nobody knows why similar names and confusing names were established. You might find some of this confusing, well it is, but in order to know the truth one needs a detailed explanation.

All of the wattled Spanish Pouter breeds have similarities and to the untrained eye they may seem to have very vague differences. While it is true that in Spain there are many "Mendellian followers" who believe that the only way to obtain distinct breeds is by crossing them, for the most part all this does is ruin existing breeds and confuse the novice breeders.

The two main types of wattled Spanish Pouters are the Rafeño Pouter and the Gorguero Pouter.

The Rafeño has a short beak, a square head with an Owl like look to the front, and a hanging crop that has a crease down the center. It is medium sized and is proportionately short and wide. It is a short distance flyer and flies with its head held down and its tail is carried flat or slightly downward, and it has a wide heavily feathered rump. It has a docile character and is a great conquistador in the loft.



An old blue cock (3 years old) Gorguero. – Bred and owned by Dr. Jose Antonin Cuatrecasas, Barcelona, Spain.

The Gorguero, or direct descendant of the "Casta Azul" has inherited and conserved unforgettable conquering abilities; these have been refined and selected for centuries - the abilities to bring home lost pigeons. The Gorguero seems to have an inexhaustible supply of energy. It constantly leaves its loft in search of other pigeons and often in extended and lengthy flights.

When the Gorguero encounters another bird in the air, it exhibits itself by slightly lifting up its neck and arches its tail slightly upwards. It swings up its wings slowly and positions itself in front of the other pigeon as if to guide it home; it makes no difference if the pigeon behind it pays it no heed, it will continue the siege and make all of the necessary trips until it brings the other pigeon home, and always guiding it in flight.

It's logical that the older a Gorguero gets, the less frequent are its flights due to a lack of strength, gaining of weight, and general old age. It does seem that the older the Gorguero gets, the more mellow it becomes and the better it gets at the refined conquistador art. It seems to have overcome the more nervous and impetuous behavior of the young birds.

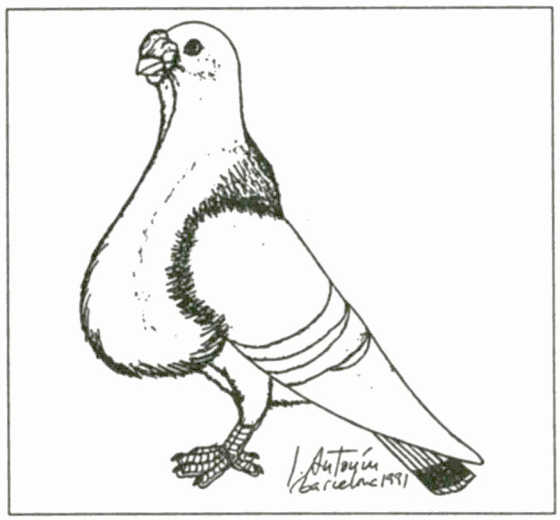
To truly appreciate the Gorguero, one must see adult birds 3-5 years old. The birds

(Continued On Page 46)

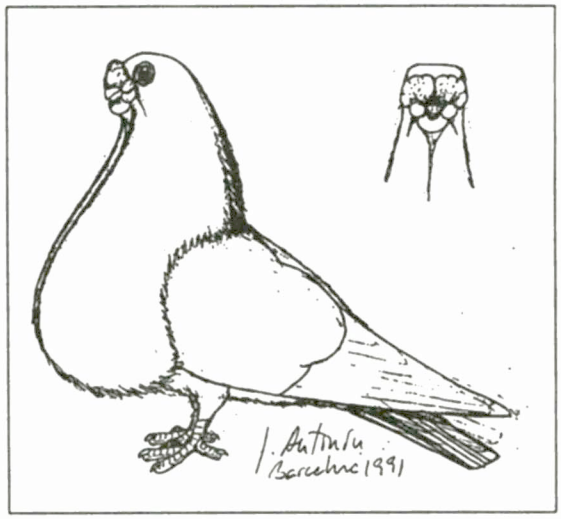


An eight year old faded ash red Gorguero cock. – Photo by Rafael Uste, Seville, Spain.

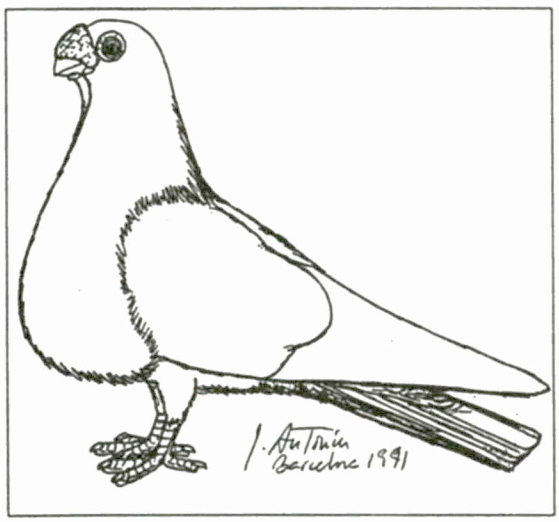
Wattled Spanish Pouter Breeds



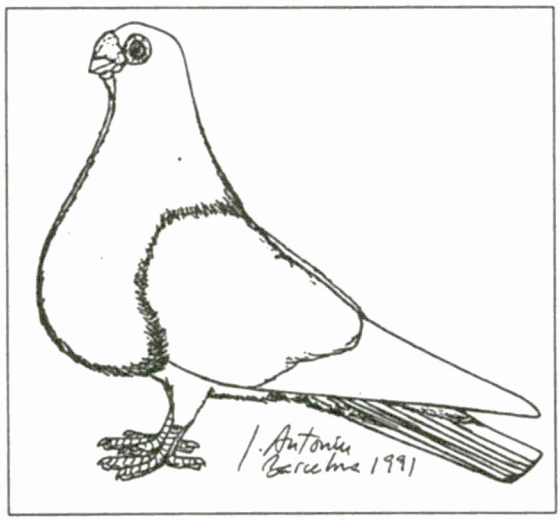
Gorguero Pouter



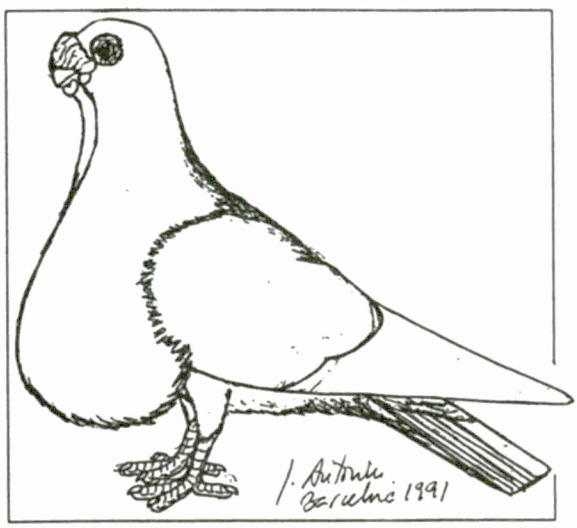
Rafeño Pouter



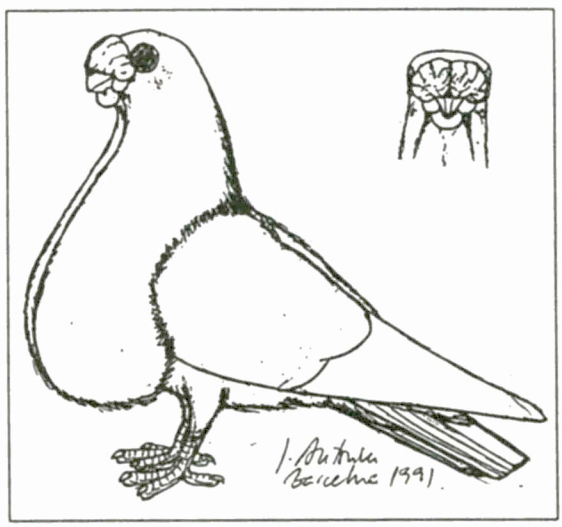
Laudino Valenciano Pouter



Laudino Muriciano Pouter



Granadino Pouter



Laudino Seviliano Pouter

change quite a bit from the time they leave the nest; they go through an extensive transformation of not only personality but morphological features as well. For example, the beak seems fine, the body seems long, and they shouldn't possess much crop as young birds. The crop grows in size with age, and young birds with large crops while appearing attractive for a moment later lose that beauty when the crop fully develops into an exaggerated thing that ultimately causes the bird's deterioration.

Here is the standard:

HEAD – Curved lines, great and large, wide, often referred to as ramish or almond shaped. The beak is short and "Roman nosed" (especially in adult birds). The beak wattles are well developed in adults but they shouldn't be exaggerated or soft and loose. They start smaller at the base of the beak and get larger as they go forward without detracting from the curved head shape. They should never grow together but always separate in the center and should be a powdery white. Under the beak you find three beak wattles which are round, well defined, and of equal size with the center one larger.

The eye is set back in the head and appears alert and defiant due to the ruby color of the iris. The eye ceres should be fine and the same color as the head plumage. Adults have a little more cere due to age but never overly coarse.

NECK – Large and long forming a "tirilla" or dewlap under the beak. This crease should never be parted as in the Rafeño or Marchenero. The crop comes off the dewlap in an even pear shape with two hollows or voids by the wing butts. In back of the neck the crop should fall towards the shoulders and the feathering should form a smooth Gorguera or collar.

BODY – Medium size (400 grams - a little over 3/4 pound). Proportionately high standing, with a wide short wedge shape. The chest is wide and deep to maintain a well formed crop.



A four year old Gorguero cock, "The Pirate", an ash red cock with an eye patch of dark feathers. – Owned by Dr. J. Antonin Cuatrecasas.

WINGS – Shorter than expected, wide, thick, and strong. They should be well formed and covering the back with the wing bars meeting by the rump. The wings should lay flat on the tail. It's typical and desirable that they have 11-12 primary flights.

TAIL - Short starting at the rump, wide and flat without over exaggeration and straight. The tail feathers should be grouped together tightly and closed. The tail feathers number from 12-16.

LEGS & FEET – Fairly long legs, strong with adequate spacing between them. Leg color purple, free of feathers with well developed brilliant scales.

PLUMAGE – Soft to the touch and free of powder. It should be loose on the crop but tight on the rest of the body. Colors accepted are blue bars, ash red (barred, checkered, and spread), grizzle, black spread and faded, and self whites. White feathers in colored birds not permitted. Other colors such as smokey blue, dilutes, browns, etc., are not suitable for this breed but are typical of some other Spanish Pouter breeds.

JUDGING POINT SCALE

General Aspect-Proportion, class, cooing & voice	10
Head: Form	10
Wattles	5
Color-2 / form 3	
Beak Wattles (the three under the beak)	5
Size 2 / form 3	
Eye Ceres	5
Color 2 / form & fineness 3	
Eyes	5
Beak	5
Dewlap	5
Crop & Chest	10
Size 5 / form 5	
Gorguera (collar)	10
Wings	7
Form 3 -	
Number of flight feathers 12-4 pts.	
11-3 pts.	
Form 2 -	
Number of flight feathers 13-3 pts.	
14-4 pts.	
15-5 pts.	
16-6 pts.	
Color & Plumage Quality	10
Feet & Legs	5
TOTAL POINTS	100

There exists a point which foreign fanciers don't know about: in Spain while each breed has its own distinct morphological features, we also select for ways of flying and conquering ways. Selecting for these three factors is a handicap for the breeders.

It is not unusual to find lofts where the breed characteristics and the flying ways are bred for but where the conquering art has been forgotten. Often times the cocks will beat the hens by picking at them and this is most undesirable.

In order to be successful, all three features must be considered when breeding these birds. Those who breed for aesthetically attractive show pigeons don't even think of the other important prerequisites. Often times, they breed for exaggerated exemplar with the sole aim of making money and the breed is ruined.

The problem is that neophyte breeders sometimes breed for the most apparent physical property and the ancient rustic qualities slowly disappear. A truly great breeder knows all of the feathers that make up his birds – the physical characteristics, the way of flying, and the conquering temperament and breeds for all three and he can have a show bird and a real Spanish Pouter.

In the last ten years there has been a big surge in the exhibition of Spanish Pouters and this has been beneficial in promoting our breeds and in disbursing knowledge about them. But on the other hand, it has also fostered divisiveness and exaggeration of some features when breeds are judged solely in the show pen; important characteristics often are overlooked and disappear.

I don't think that it is necessary to divide pigeons into show and flying diversion stock. The judges at the shows should be capable of knowing the qualities that appear hidden to the untrained eye. If they truly know the breeds they can tie in physical aspects with flying form and also stress the importance of temperament. They can't do this by standing in front of a show pen and commenting on the bird inside of it without handling and studying its every detail.

The only way to success is to have selected real masters of the breeds judge them. For example a real Marchenero master can tell how the bird will fly in the air by handling it, examining the wing shape, etc. These breeds have been preserved for countless



A young Gorguero cock in flight. – Photo by Dr. J.A. Cuatrecasas.



Another shot of a young Gorguero in flight. – Photo by Dr. J. Antonin Cuatrecasas.

centuries because all three aspects were evaluated equally and Spanish Pouter breeds have maintained different characteristics than Pouters bred anywhere else.

And when we discuss extremes, the Granadino Pouter comes to mind. It is utopian to think that one of these heavy Pouters with its exaggerated crop can fly very much or that it even has conquering urges in its heart when it does take to the air and sees another pigeon. Actually, the breed prefers to stay at home where its master can contemplate it for its beautiful body and head when it stands on the roof. The Laudino Sevillano is no longer characterized for its flight or for being a "Don Juan." Unfortunately, its breeders have placed all of their attentions on the breed's head. They will hold them in their hands and comment on the wattles, beak, eye, and head lines and you'll realize that they've used English Carrier for this purpose and the ultimate achievement is a ram headed Carrier.

Over the past years the breeders of both the Granadino and Laudino have crossed these breeds – to increase wattles in the Granadinos; to increase lost crop size and to strengthen the body of the Laudino. In the end, these breeders will have finished by forming a single variety.

With these critical details of some of the other wattled Pouter breeds of Spain, I won't pretend that the Gorguero is the only breed with all of the desired features. It is certain, however, that the objectives of the few breeders who intend to bring back this variety will travel down a different path than many have taken. We want the Gorguero to have it all and nothing less. We want them to have their typical breed characteristics, be good models, have good presence, be elegant with class without having to use the pretty superlative, "Don Juan!"

Acrobats Of The Pouter Family

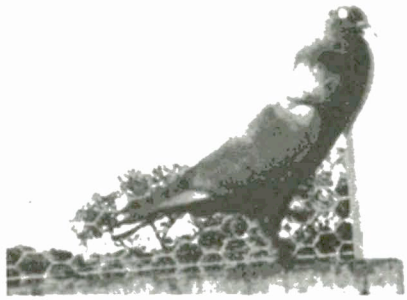
by MIKE HAROLD, Wallace, Idaho

Swing Pouter originated in Czechoslovakia and today is still a very popular breed. The Swing Pouter was used for utility in the earlier days, and mostly used for shows now days. The beautiful birds are bred in every city and almost every village in Bohemia, a "province of Czechoslovakia."

Swing Pouters are fast breeders and good feeders. Here in America they are a very popular breed because of the air performance and the color selection is almost unlimited. Swing Pouters also have a very distinct standard of pearl eye or white eye, except on whites, which would be bull. This standard for the whitest pearl eye, gives the swing Pouter a very noticeable appearance. I raise them in Red, Yellow, AOC, and Black, and all have this pearl eye, the whiter the better. The most striking are the blacks, with deep dark glossy color on the body and the white eye to give the affect, they are staring straight through you! The white eye really sets of the body color.

But, the main feature in Swing Pouters, is the ability to perform in the air. I never have heard of training Swing Pouters in performing in the air, but I will say that they do perform beautifully in the air. With a diagonal climb straight up to 50 or more feet with wide sweeps of wings and loud clapping of wings, to the desired height they prefer. They then allow themselves to fall with wings folded in upright position, the tips of the wings touching each other, straight above their heads, with globe fully blown and dive in a swinging position, "like a child's swing in the wind, or a leaf falling to earth," until close to the ground. They then again fly up with loud clapping wings, repeating the performance, and it is truly an acrobatic fling performance, which is rare in the Pouter breeds, to be able to show off in the air, as well as the show pens! The cocks really enjoy this performance and go into the vertical wing position from building to building or perform even if just to forage on the ground in front of the loft. The most unusual feature is his ability to fold his wings in a vertical position behind his back, and no other pigeon can clap the wings as loudly as the Swing Pouter! It sounds like a helicopter coming in for a landing! Truly an acrobat of the air!

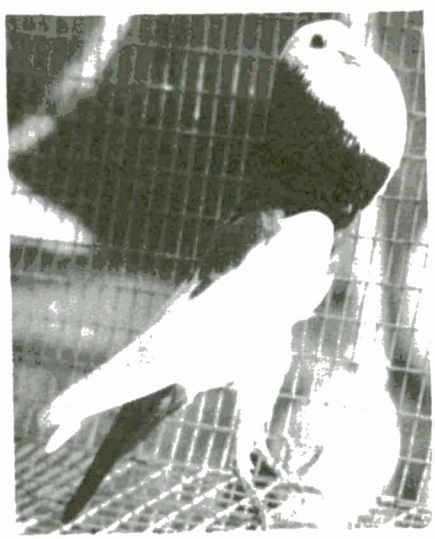
Swing Pouter is a very active Pouter to watch in the loft as well. Swing cocks are especially fun to watch. When another Swing cock is looking to surprise someone in his area, he waits until the individual isn't looking, and with globe inflated, tail dragging, white eye glaring, charges forward, bumping the individual with his globe. It's really surprising how fast the defender can react. Pretty soon you've got medieval eyed, beautifully colored, swing cocks, bumping each other around, no pecking, just globe bumping, with deep coos and struts!



Yellow Swing Pouter cock. – Bred and owned by Mike Harold, Wallace, Idaho.

In ancient times the Pouter Breeders must have realized how great the Swing Pouter is and used them in their creations of many other Pouter breeds, such as the Bohemian Pouter, Elster Pouter, Hessian Pouter, Silesian Pouter, Starwitzer Pouter, and the most recently created Pouter, the Voorburg Shield Cropper.

So the Swing Pouter has been around for a long time and many Pouter breeds carry Swing blood. But, two things that no other Pouter breed can match, is the white eye and the acrobatic air performance of the Swing Pouter! Truly the Acrobats of the Pouter family!



BRUNNER POUTER

Blue Gansel marked Brunner Pouter. – Bred and owned by Sieglinde Tate, Duarte, Calif.

Marchenero Madness

by JIM MULLAN, Ipswich, England

This year has been one to remember, with a visit to both the US of A and the Netherlands. "What for?" do I hear you ask. Pigeons, that's what.

I will write a few notes about the Dutch the first.

The Dutch have a real passion for the Cropper breeds, mostly in the Haig area. Many of our best known breeds come from this fine country: Voorburg Shield Croppers, Holle Croppers, Old Dutch Cropper. Even our own Norwich Cropper was made in the UK by Dutch crafters many years ago. So you can see, it is a real treat to go over to this country and see some of the keen fanciers.

I enclose one photo of their roof top lofts, which they use to catch other fanciers' birds. As you can see, I am standing in one loft looking at another across the street.

The loft I was standing in belonged to Dries Hejman of the Haig. Dries is a very keen breeder of Marchenero Croppers and



CHAMPION MARCHENERO
Brown bar Champion Marchenero hen bred and owned by Jim Mullan, England.



Dries Heijmans of Den Haag, Holland, showing off his hen boxes for his Machenero Croppers.



Pigeon loft on the rooftop in Den Haag, Holland. Jim Mullan of England took the photo from another rooftop loft.

Valencia Croppers.

I will try to explain the roof loft. As you can see from the photo, the loft is a small back section made of wood with a wire front section. The back section has all the hens inside with glass windows for the fancier to keep an eye out for suitable sport.

The front section has the wire plus all the cock boxes placed on the floor around the edge. Each box has a cord to suck the door up to let the cock out to fly. All cocks are flown on their own and do not see any other cocks at his loft. So he thinks he is the king of his castle. This way he is always on the look out for a mate, likewise the hens are always on the look out for a mate to bring home. Really fantastic to watch.

The second photo shows Dries with one of his Marchenero Cropper hens and the hen section. You can see the hens each have their own box which they return to after each fly. The cocks box has a solid front so it is always dark. But the hens play up to the fancier all the time.

The third photo is of a Champion Hen Brown Bar Marchenero Cropper bred here in the UK. I am indeed pleased with this hen as she only shows two bars. Most tend to show three which is a fault. If anybody is interested in knowing more about this delicate full breed, please do not think twice, please write.

Fourth and final photo is of yours truly at the N.P.A. National in Pomona, California in January 1991, enjoying the talk of judging the Marchenero Croppers. I am sure next time I come across the pond you will have a great following for the fine breed. My thanks to Frank Barrachina for asking me to do the honors. All the best for now.

Kind regards, Jim Mullan, Marchenero Cropper Club, 41 Coopers Road, Marthlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 7SJ, England, 0473 624526.



Jim Mullan of England judging Marchenero Croppers at the NPA National Show, Pomona, Calif., Jan. 1991.

The Thuringer Pouter

by RICK DUCKETT, Tulsa, Okla.

The Thuringer Pouter was named after its place of origin, Thuringia, Germany. The Thuringer Pouter is an old breed of Pouter that has been around since before the Middle Ages. Like most ancient breeds, the Thuringer Pouter had to serve a purpose besides looking good, they had to taste good too! The old style of the Thuringer Pouter was a very solid, hardy bird, with good parental abilities and could forage great distances. It became quite a common bird throughout central Europe for many years; used mostly for its fat juicy squabs.

But, once the Industrial Revolution entered Europe, the Thuringer Pouter started improving for the show halls, instead of the dinner tables. It took some time to improve the Thuringer Pouter. To get away from poor colors, little or no globe, and the horizontal stance. But the present day Thuringer Pouter is living proof that with much time and work we now have a truly beautiful show bird. At the same time, the Thuringer Pouter never lost his abilities as a good parent, and somewhat kept his strong build. The standard calls for a medium sized Pouter, but when you view the modern day Thuringer, with the shortness of legs, solid healthy body, upright stance, pear shaped globe and a beautiful peak crest, the bird looks bigger than he truly is! We surely owe the breeders of the Thuringer Pouter from the past a lot of thanks for giving us, what we show today as, the New Improved Thuringer Pouter.

In Europe, the Thuringer Pouter has some 28 recognized colors, in its specialty club, with several different markings, selfs, monk marked, and tigered. Here is America, the only selfs that I know of, are solid whites. The other colors, here in America, are of the monk-marked variety. I have seen black, blue-bar, blue check, red, yellow and cream, all with monk-marked pattern.

Here in America, the Thuringer Pouter has only a small limited number of breeders.

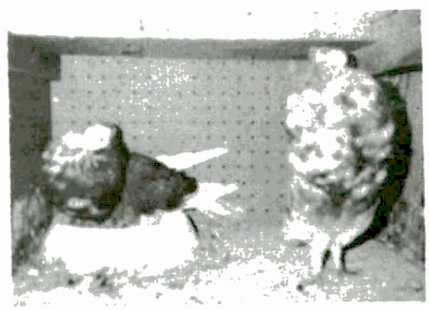


THURINGER POUTER
Bred and owned by Rick Duckett, Tulsa, Okla.

The Thuringer Pouter is a very gentle, tame breed, with a character all his own. The several pairs I have raised are just as tame as the Voorburg or Pigmy Pouters! They are not wild at all and very comfortable with man. They definitely don't get pushed around in the loft by other breeds. The Thuringer Pouter is far from an aggressive breed, but has been around long enough to know how to handle himself.

The first pair of Thuringers I acquired was really by accident. I raise Bohemian Pouters, and when I was purchasing good stock birds from Herb Berg, a very good friend and Pouter man, he gave me a red pair of Thuringers. Herb knew I was also a breeder of the Voorburg Shield Cropper, and told me of these playful, tame Thuringers. So, with this pair, Herb had introduced me to a new variety of Pouter, one which I became very interested in, the Thuringer Pouter. The red cock carried dilute, so I started raising yellow hens out of this pair of reds. Before I knew it, I was looking for more colors! Just so happens, that a fellow by the name of Tommy Hager, from Sapulpa, Oklahoma, still raises Thuringers that the late Dr. Ford imported. Tommy and Dr. Ford were very good friends, and Tommy still has original imported bloodlines on several breeds. Thuringer Pouter being one of them, in colors that got me all crazy eyed! Creams, Blue-Checks, Reds, Duns, Blacks, Yellows, all in the monk-marked variety. Leslie Hall from Fairdale, Kentucky, still raises Dr. Ford's imported white Thuringer bloodline too. So, I plan on, in the future, acquiring a few more colors, than just Red and Yellow. For my Love for the Thuringer Pouter has attacked me and won! Make way for more Thuringers, and I will start seriously showing these beautiful Pouters.

So, if you haven't tried the Thuringer Pouter yet, beware. Make sure you have loft room for several pairs. Because once the peak-crest disease hits you, you'll need room for more than one pair! This breed of Pouter has been around for a long time and has grown to get along with man very, very well! Once you try the Thuringer Pouter, his character will win you over!



A pair of Thuringer Pouters. – Bred and owned by Rick Duckett, Tulsa, Okla.

Scottish Blower Club News

by SCOTT L. SHARP, Dundee, Scotland

In the last APJ Pouter Special I wrote about the beginnings of the Scottish Blower Club and some of its members. For this issue, I'd like to talk about the breeds and some of the members we now have.

Over the last few years, a number of top-quality Croppers and Pouters have been imported from Holland and Germany. A high percentage of these have been Norwich Croppers, but I've also brought back Silesians, Holles, Dutch Croppers, Thuringians and Brunners.

I decided I liked the Norwich best of all the Blowers, so I sold my Reversewings and am now concentrating on the Norwich. My birds are mainly Bars – Blues, Mealies and Browns, but I also have a few Blacks as well. My favourite colour in the Norwich is Brown Bar.

The President of the club, Peter McCartney, has a very good stud of Norwich, which has also been helped with the influence of Dutch and German bloodlines, as well as some Thuringians, Silesians and Voorburg Shields.

Vice-President George Miller has a number of Horsemen, which are the original thief Pouters of Scotland, and a few pairs of Norwich Croppers, Thuringians and Czech Ice Croppers.

Davie Masson, who joined the club a few years ago, and is a hard worker at the shows, helping to erect and dismantle the pens, has a good stud of Norwich. He also keeps a good stud of Pigmies, in Opal, Blue, Mealy, Cream, Red and Yellow, a number of which can be traced back to Tally Mezzanatto's bloodlines. Davie has a few pairs of White Holles, one of which won best in show at the Blower Club show in January.

Jim Kelly decided to dispose of his Pomeranians and concentrate on his Dutch Croppers. Jim sent a few Poms over to Sieglinde Tate last year and I'm sure they would benefit her. Jim's Dutch are all Blue Pied, and have that nice low carriage to essential in the Dutch.



Young mealy Norwich Cropper cock bred by Scott L. Sharp, Dundee, Scotland.

One of our older members, Tam Anderson, started up with Norwich three years ago and now has a very nice small stud comprising Blues, Mealies, Browns and Reds, and is hoping to add Blacks this year.

Another retired member, Harry Morrison, keeps a small team of Pigmies, which originate from Tally and Jim Brown's birds. Over the last couple of years, Harry has bred some nice Opals from a cock I brought back from Tally in 1988.

Some of our members come from over the Border in the North of England. Mike Purdam and Billy Telford are two who have excellent studs of Voorburg Shield Croppers and are consistent winners at all the major shows.

Last year, we were fortunate to have Doug DeNeen, the well-known Norwich breeder from Edmonds, Washington, judge the Norwich and Voorburgs at the North of Scotland show, before we left for a hectic week in Holland and Germany. I'm sure Doug will be writing an article for this Special about that trip, so I'll not say anything more about it here.

Next month, I have the honour of judging again for the Western Pouter and Cropper Club's show at the Pageant of Pigeons. I am looking forward to meeting all the members once more, who make this club one of the best around. Frank Barrachina has to be congratulated on putting this Special together, along with running the Pageant of Pigeons. The pigeon fancy needs more guys like him.

Getting Peak Performance When Judging Pigmies And Other Pouter Varieties

by TALLY MEZZANATTO, Yucaipa, Calif.

To get the best performance out of a group of Pigmies or any other Pouter breed that you are preparing to judge you need to understand something about the psychology of pigeons. Hen pigeons respond to a cock's voice or coo in all breeds. The deeper and louder the coo the better a hen likes and responds to it. It is really a sexual turn-on for her. I have had hens in various breeds and especially in the Pigmies that will leave their small voiced mates for someone that sounds better.

When judging a class of hen Pouters, I coo to them in a loud deep voice and usually even the shyest one will attempt to take in air. I will also change the sound of my coo to a higher pitched sound as I know some have been trained with a higher pitched coo. It amazes me how many Pouter men train their hens with a high pitched "coo coo." You will get some that won't respond due to a variety of reasons. Some are just not trained well before the show begins. Some just have poor adaptability to new surroundings inherit in the individual personality of the Pouter and with others no amount of training works on their wild temperament.

While cooing to a group of hen Pouters, I'll also nod my head and bow trying to imitate the actions of a cock bird in pursuit of his mate. The hens that are afraid I will pick up, coo to them, and gently set them down and continue with the cooing. If she is going to respond she usually will then. I have also placed aggressive strutting males in the pens with hens to get their responses going if I can't, but usually well show trained Pouters will respond to a person's voice.

Now all the while you are doing this you may look like you are absolutely out of your mind – especially to non-Pouter people – but these acts are really necessary in order to get the best globing and performing properties going so you can best evaluate the birds.

When judging the cock Pouters, I use a little different method. Cock birds really don't care about your voice like the hens do. Some will respond to your coo with aggression and will strut around but with others you need to entice them to strut and globe by showing them a ready hen. You find a really tame performing hen and place her with the males. You coo to her and when the males see her responding they take over in the pursuit. I'll work with them from each show pen and select the best after I've given them time to show off.

One thing that is very important is the fact that you don't want overcrowding in the judging pens. Whoever sets up the judging areas needs to set up enough cages so that the larger classes can be spread out. You also need pens that will accommodate small Pouter breeds as well as the larger Pouter breeds. Otherwise it is not fair to the Pouters or to the exhibitors. I have been to shows in the past where a large class of blue old cocks were brought up and stuffed into a few pens. Pouters that probably would have done well are fighting for floor space and you just cannot properly evaluate a bird in this frantic environment.

These methods have worked well for me in judging Pigmy Pouters and other Pouter varieties at the shows. You must work with Pouters so that they will look their best. You need to see the globe development and action along with the other properties to pass the best judgement on the Pouters you select to win.

My Special Friends

by ROBERT ALPERT, Van Nuys, Calif.

I began breeding Norwich Croppers in 1965 with birds from the Bob Nolan line. Bob Nolan had the best Norwich in the Southern California area at that time. I don't know what happened, but I really fell in love with the Norwich. They were very easy to tame and they made great pets! Shortly after getting my Norwich, I got rid of all my other breeds so I could just have the Norwich.

In 1967, I met Martin Bayer at the Grand National show in Orange County, Calif. Shortly after I obtained some beautiful Red, Black and Brown Bar Norwich from his German imports. These birds had fantastic globes and very nice color.

In 1968, I went away to college so the birds had to go . . . . I sold all my Norwich to Tom Babb, a Norwich breeder, that lived just 10 minutes from me. Not until 1986, was I able to have pigeons again so I located my good friend Fred Maenpa, who I knew from the '60's. I went over to his home and he got me started again with some beautiful birds! At that time I met Joan Taylor and Ron Johnson and received some very nice birds from them.

In 1988, I had to again get rid of all my birds, because I was going to be out of town for a long time.

In 1989, I was home again and thanks to Fred Maenpa and Doug DeNeen I have a beautiful stud of 100% pure Dutch blooded birds. All my birds are either imports or children of the imports. I started with Mealies but now I'm also getting Brown Bar babies from them! I have an imported Brown Self Hen that I will use to get Reds next year. I breed on a small scale from three pairs of Norwich. I band about 10 babies a year and that is all. I only keep one pair of foster parents to insure I keep the numbers down. I do not let the Norwich feed however this year I had an accident and left an egg too long under a pair of Norwich. The egg hatched and they did a great job raising it!! I don't want to push my luck, so I won't do that again. I notice that my Norwich Hens get crop bound sometimes when they get ready to lay, so I watch them very carefully at that time. Usually after they lay the problem sorts itself out. Sometimes it does not so I'll drain the excess water from their crop and to this date, I've had no other problems. Lately, I've been giving my hens a calcium tablet every week and it may be just speculation but they do not seem to get as crop bound, also they have an easier time laying, so it seems.

I keep about four babies a year and as for the rest I do my best to find good homes for them. I do not cull my birds because to me all their lives are special . . . even the mismarked ones. I keep my birds for the pleasure of their company. Their health and happiness comes first, then their showmanship second.

The best thing about the shows are the great people. The Western Pouter and Cropper Club has so many wonderful people in it. I am happy to be a member and to know the people I've met through this relationship.

I highly recommend anyone with any type of Pouter to join. The bulletins are outstanding.

In closing I would like to thank Fred Maenpa, Doug DeNeen, Joan Taylor and Ron Johnson for the fine birds they entrusted me with. Also a special thanks to Sieglinde Tate for all the help and knowledge she has given me to keep my birds healthy and happy! And lastly to my birds for all the love and joy I get from them. They are and always will be VERY special to me!

Why Not Brunners?

by FRED MAENPA, Orange, Calif.

So, you're looking for a new breed. Maybe you've considered adding another breed to your loft, but just don't have a lot of room. How come every time you attend a major show you can't help but spend at least a few minutes watching those Pouters strut their stuff?

You must admit, the Pouters are sure show stoppers. What great personalities with a wide range of sizes; some with muffs; some without muffs; big birds; small birds; short or tall; there is a Pouter breed for you.

If room is a problem consider taking a closer look at the lively little Brunner Pouter.

The Brunner is the smallest member of the Pouter family, measuring only 12" from tip of tail to tip of beak. It is clean legged, a wonderful breeder, with personality plus.

If color is a factor, the Brunners have a multitude of colors and patterns to select from. They come in Selfs, Pieds, Tigers, White Bars, Gansel marked and more.

With each and every show, the Brunners are gaining in popularity. The number of birds is continually on the rise and the number of exhibitors are also increasing. The Brunners have attracted some of the top names in the fancy and their future looks even brighter.

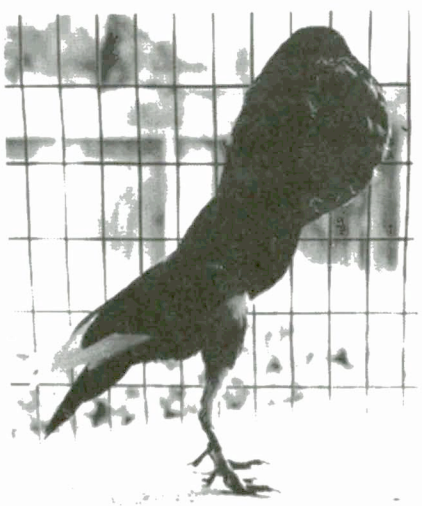
Speaking as a Master Breeder of Norwich Croppers, I have been increasingly drawn to the Brunner Pouter each year. They do not require feeder birds to care for their young. Brunners have proven themselves free of most all the problems that face many Pouter breeds.

If you enjoy watching the Pouters at your local shows, why not consider trying the lively little Brunner Pouter for yourself. They won't take up much room in any loft and will grow on you with every passing year.

Do it now; the time is right. Contact a Brunner fancier soon. Find out for yourself why the Pouter fancy has attracted so many top name breeders. Get in on all the action and watch your birds strut their stuff!



BRUNNER POUTER
A yellow AOC young hen. – Bred and owned by Fred Maenpa, Orange, Calif.



BRUNNER POUTER
A black pied old hen. – Bred and owned by Fred Maenpa, Orange, Calif.

Briefly About Bohemians And Brunners Today

by JAROSLAV SINDELAR, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

On the occasion of the special issue of the great pigeon magazine - APJ about Pouters, I would like to mention very briefly two Czech breeds: the Bohemian and Brunner Pouters.

The Bohemian Pouter is the most popular breed of all in Czechoslovakia. It has been bred everywhere for generations above all for its fantastic depth of colour, sheen of feathers, unique flying ability and variety of markings. The other country where the Bohemian is often bred is neighbouring Bavaria, Germany. It is indeed a pity that in the United States these birds are bred for only one type of marking (magpie).

The members of the Special Club of breeders in Czechoslovakia show over 1,500 birds in over 40 colour and marking varieties of excellent quality. About 1/3 of these are magpies, making this marking the most popular. Magpies are black in colour with a blue green sheen. This colour combined with white is really beautiful. Besides the magpies there are selfs, white-winged, two types of tigered, whites with coloured snip, white-barred and coloured with white snip. The newest variety is white-barred Isabel and breeders have reds covered whites with coloured bars, which were bred about 50 years ago. The most beautiful is the red colour, but this is very difficult to attain. Also, the red coloured birds are quite difficult to judge and breeders will sometimes disregard type and blowing to keep this colour especially in hens. Czech birds have smoother feathers, German birds have usually better stance and type.

The standard requires clear, reddish and wedge-shaped beak and bull or pearl-coloured iris (depending on the colour around eyes) with red capillaries.

In Nurnberg, Germany (8-10.12-89) where over 30,000 pigeons were shown (the biggest show in history), 321 Bohemians (Steller Kropfer) in 21 varieties were shown. Steiger, similar breed - 700 birds. The Germans showed irregularly spotted, that is unknown in Czechoslovakia and as a new variety they showed silver magpies (imported from Czechoslovakia), a variety that has resisted in the country of origin for over 30 years.

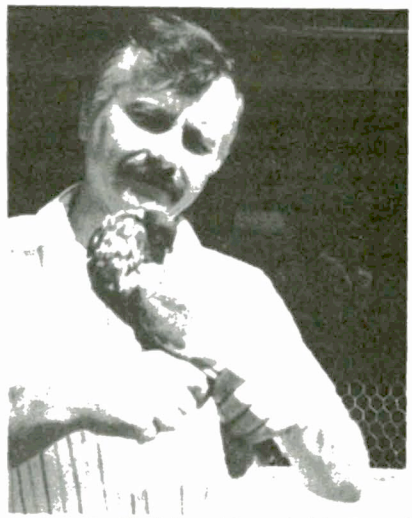
The goal is to gain perfect type, blowing ability and stance, while retaining a high level of quality of colour and luster. The center of stock breeding is found in both Czechoslovakia and Germany. Standards of both countries are different than those in North America. American standards do not mention typical fly, admit magpies without spots and in the future may accept crested birds. Also, there is no position for sheen, which is very important for this breed, and is the reason it is called, "the peacock of Pouters."

In my opinion, the American standards were temporarily made easier so that breeders could compete, and the breed could be saved. This initiative of breeders has been shown by the development of new colour varieties (almond, grizzle, opal, etc.) and this is a promise that the Bohemian will expand in North America.

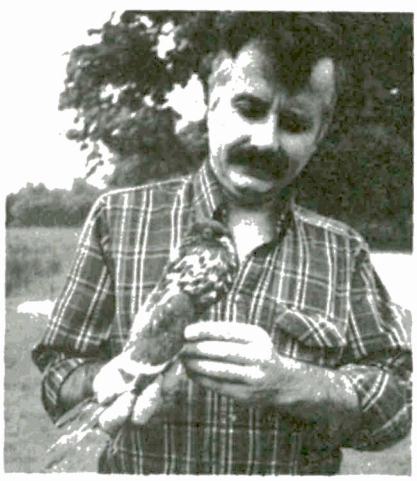
The Brunner Pouter (correct translation should be Brno Pouter), which is bred everywhere around the world is the most famous Czech breed of pigeons. Every year there is a show put on by the Special Club in Czechoslovakia, where over 200 birds are shown: selfs, white-barred, magpies, tigered and storked. Recently, the pied has been admitted, a marking which is new to Czechoslovakia. This marking is similar to the extinct Prague Pouter, resembling the Brunner but with feathered legs. German breeders have a new variety having strasser marking!

The show in Nurnberg proves that Germany is the country where most Brunners are bred. The number of Brunners reached 1,007 birds in 30 varieties - the most numbered breed of Pouters (4th of all breeds!). German breeders showed birds having excellent quality of type, blowing, cage training with many varieties of colours and markings. They are successfully crossing different colours to get good shape, type of body, temperament and vitality. It is necessary to retain typical character, vigorous temperament, and bowing and hopping during courting. For the latter trait, the bird cannot have straight legs and stiff stance, which is occasionally seen.

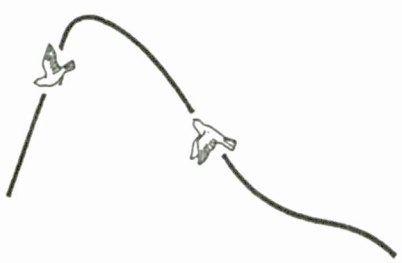
For high fertility, clownish ways and affectionate snuggling to its keeper, the Brunner will surely find more breeders. Because it is quite rare in Canada, I would like to ask breeders of Brunners to send me their addresses with the varieties that they breed and I will make a list of breeders. I could then send this list to every breeder to help them in the breeding of this beautiful bird. – Jaroslav Sindelar, 87 Westwood Rd #611, Guelph, Ont., Canada N1H 6Y8.



Jaroslav Sindelar with a red white barred Brunner Pouter.



Jaroslav Sindelar with a red white barred Brunner Pouter (young cock).



The flight of Bohemians.



NORWICH CROPPER

Strawberry yearling cock, #443-90.– Bred and owned by John Harrison, Middleboro, Mass.

The European Club Of English And Pigmy Pouter Breeders In The Last Years

by DR. LEONHARD KÜHSCHELM, Secretary General

The last Pouter Special of the APJ informed about the foundation of this club in 1982 (Western Germany, Bavaria) and about the first (Kaposvár, Hungary) in 1983 and the second (Brno, CSFR) in 1984 European Club Show. This was not only a problem of organization, but a problem of cooperation between democratic and communism countries. On both sides there were breeders with idealism, and therefore the "Iron gate" was no problem.

In 1986, we came back to the country of our foundation, to Bavaria (West Germany), and we organized our third European Club Show in Mamming with 1500 English Pouters. At this show for the first time since the Second World War, we admired a Czechoslovak collection, small, but very interesting.

In December 1988, we organized our 4th European Club Show in the town of Borovo-Vukovar, Yugoslavia. This show was also very interesting, not only because 900 English Pouters stood in the cages, but for the first time Bulgaria exhibited. Nobody knew that this Yugoslavian show was the last before the "Iron gate" fell. This very important event was in the late autumn of the year 1989.

Now the borders were opened and the breeders were able to go from East to West and from West to East. But soon we perceived that the breeders from the eastern countries are very poor. They need money when they want to exhibit in the western countries. And therefore, our last European Club Show held in January this year in Wels, Austria, the European Club had remarkable problems to finance this show with 900 English Pouters. And the help of the Austrian Breeder Association was very important for us, because we are not a rich, only an idealist, club.

Our program for the future is our next European Club Show in Hungary in 1992. There are two towns where we are able to organize this show: Kaposvár (Western Hungary) or Kecskemét (Eastern Hungary). The situation of the political system in our member country Yugoslavia during the last months is also a disaster for our club, because our Yugoslavian members are coming from all districts of this country. And we don't make a difference between breeders from Zagreb or Beograd. We need the Yugoslavian club, because the quality of breeding is enormous. To the American English Pouter breeders, we wish many "cracks" and "wonders" and good contacts to the European breeding.



Club management for the European Club of English and Pigmy Pouter breeders pictured left to right: Blas, Gerhager, Kühschelm, Menges.



English Pouter breeeders in Borovo-Vukovar (YU). – Photo from Dr. Leonhard Kühschelm.



Lofts belonging to Terry Burdon, Cockatoo Valley, South Australia.



Blue Pigmy Pouter cock bred and owned by Terry Burdon, Cockatoo Valley, South Australia. This bird was Champion Pigmy at the 1990 Adelaide Show and also Best of Show.

The Golden Oldies

by TERRY BURDON, South Australia

An introduction would be in order. My name is Terry Burdon, I live in Cockatoo Valley in South Australia, a carpenter by trade, married with three children and on the wrong side of twenty one. I'll be 40 this year. I started as most with a few paddockers, then Racing Birds, well they had rings on anyhow. I used to carry them in a box for miles up a railway line just to watch them fly home. Around 1963, I heard about a fancier in Gawler, only seven miles away, couldn't get there fast enough. Turned out to be Bruce Burt. He bred English and Pigmy Pouters, also Turbits. This was a real eye opener. I eventually came home carrying a box with a gift pair of Pigmies, the best looking birds I have ever seen. Over the years we struck up a friendship and he turned out to be one of God's true gentlemen, anyone that knew him will know what I mean.

Bruce Burt introduced me to the South Australian Fancy Pigeon Society (S.A.F.P.S.), of which he was a foundation member from 1948. I am still an active member serving as Show Secretary. I would love to see the club thrive if just for the memory of Mr. B. Burt. In the midst of all this, I tried Archangels, Fantails, then Jacobins and ended up specializing in Jacobins with limited success. I always felt something was missing and as fate would have it, another great took me aside. He was no stranger to me as I have shown against him over the years and he used to give me a real thumping with the Pigmies. Enter Len Morley, a true master breeder known widely for his Pigmies, Carriers, Modenas and Owls. He talked me into parting with my Jacobins, and it hurt for a while too! He started me up with Pigmies again. My family and I spent many a happy visit with Len and his wife Floss, we'd just sit, listen and learn. I feel very lucky to have met gentlemen like these.

Len has now retired from his birds and the birds I have now are pure Len Morley strain and any success I have had or hope to have in the future I owe entirely to Len. These were my golden years and I still find it hard to adjust from a youth looking up to these hero golden oldies and becoming one myself, an oldy that is.



Beautiful and unique carvings of pigeons by Terry Burdon, Cockatoo Valley, South Australia.

The Pouter scene locally is very good. Two of our keenest exhibitors are Warren Press and Chris Hunt and our Pouter entries are a reflection of their keenness and promotion. All that is left now, and I speak probably for Chris and Warren too, is to breed a Pigmy as good as those of Tally's we see in the A.P.J. I have been a subscriber for some years and had enjoyed the Pouter column and the Pouter specials finding these a great source of information. Here's a thanks to Frank Barrachina for his efforts in promoting the Pouter varieties worldwide and best wishes for this Special.

1966-1991 25 Year Jubilee Of The Austrian English Pouter

by DR. LEOHNARD KÜHSCHELM, Secretary

The beginning of English Pouter breeding in Austria was the last decades of the 19th century, the time of the Habsburg monarchy. The center of breeding was Vienna, the capital of Austria in the past and today.

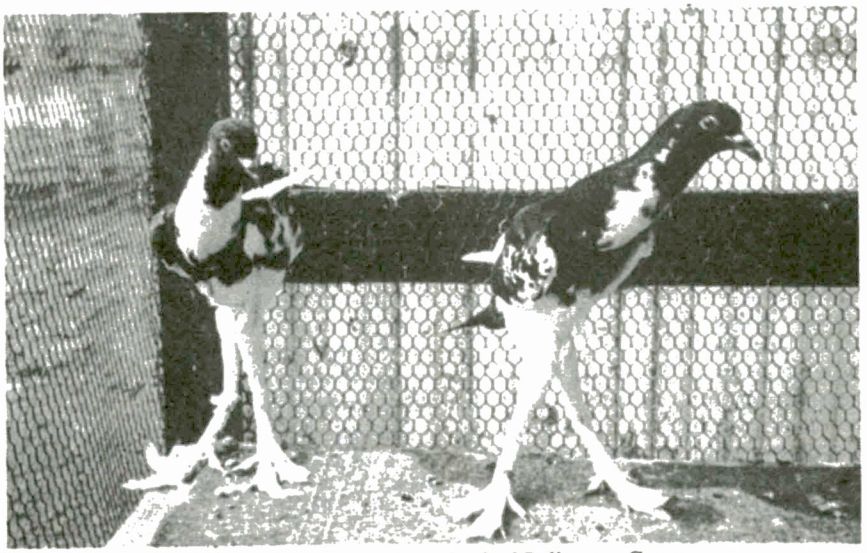
The first club, who organized Pouter shows, was the "Wiener Kropftaubenverein." It exists still today.

The second center of breeding was Upper Austria, the cities of Linz and Wels. Very late, in 1966 the "Österreichische Club Englischer Grobund Zwergkröpferzüchter" was established in Linz. It had few members, approximately 20, and they were only coming from Austria. The club had good contacts to West Germany, especially to Bavaria, but also to Hungary, although this country was communist at this time. Every year the club organized a club show in the Upper Austrian city of Wels. The English Pouter collection (90 percent Pouters and only 10 percent Pigmies) existed every year with 200 English Pouters.

In the late 70's the club management had many troubles, and therefore it was necessary in 1980, the club members elect a new management. The new team was: Franz Schuster (Chairman), Dr. Leonhard Kühschelm (Secretary), Hermann Petit (Treasurer) and Josef Amon (responsible for the breeding).



Red Pigmy Pouter hen bred by Roland Schwenk, Germany.



Two young black Pigmy Pouters bred by Manfred Bellmann, Germany.

Ten years later the club has 85 members, but not only from Austria. They are also coming from Germany, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Every year there are four club meetings: spring, summer, autumn. During the months of November or December, the club organizes the annual club show with 400 - 500 English Pouters.

The club has very good contacts with all the European countries, where English Pouter Clubs exist. A special friend of the Austrian Club is the world wide known Frank Barrachina from California. In 1985, he visited the Austrian breeders and was impressed of the quality of the Austrian English Pouters.

This year, on the first weekend of December, we celebrate our 25 years jubilee with a collection of 500 English Pouters in the little town of Tulln, near by Vienna. For the future, we are hoping for good contacts between all European countries and the American breeders.

Voorburg Shield Croppers

by BOB SALWEY, LaQuinta, Calif.

The Voorburg has got to be one of the best breeds of Pouters to start with for the beginner and at the same time challenging for the "old-timer."

The Voorburg are great parents. Raising their own young, they have no fertility problems. They are beautifully marked and come in a variety of colors such as brown, red, blue, black, almond, yellow, dun, khaki, silver and opal. These colors in the self and bar pattern are a sight to see. They are a playful Pouter that easily tames up and shows for its owner. This will help the beginner enjoy his Pouters.

The "old-timer" though has his work cut out for him. The Voorburg tends to be too thick in the waist, when we want a slender bird. Other birds tend to be too short in the legs and neck. These traits also give the breeder a challenge to reckon with, along with markings. But when you see a group of Voorburgs at any major show, you'll see a beautifully developed bird that appears slender, high in the leg with a well balanced globe with rich color and a catching jaunt in its courtship. A great bird needs type, color and markings with showmanship thrown in on top. I have enclosed a photo of a blue bar cock. This bird is too thick, but he loves to strut his stuff.

I would like to thank John Johnson, Rick Barker and Sieglande Tate for the birds that make up our little stud of Voorburg. I really appreciate the quality of the birds I got from each of you.



VOORBURG SHIELD CROPPER

A Blue Bar Voorburg Shield Cropper. – Bred and owned by Bob Salwey, LaQuinta, Calif.

The Marchenero Pouter

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

Though a newcomer to the American pigeon scene, the Marchenero Pouter is definitely not a newcomer to the world pigeon scene. In addition to its long history in Spain, there is very good evidence it's one of the ancestors to the Norwich Cropper and the old Scottish Horseman. In more recent days, it has also been used in the creation of the Gaditano (Jerezano) Pouter and the Modern Spanish Thief Pouter.

I'm not going to go into the history of Spanish Pouter breeds because others much more knowledgeable than me will likely have articles in this issue. I am going to talk about the problems and successes I've had in breeding Marcheneros here.

Talking at the Pageant over the last three years with Marchenero breeders from Spain, England, Germany and Holland, I've noticed a common thread. Many breed their birds in individuals. Most also fly them, since they've been bred for millenia as a sporting pigeon. By now, I imagine most North American fanciers realize the Marchenero's flight style is unlike any other breed. The bird roaches its back and scoops its tail up under so far that it looks like a lobster in flight.

Unfortunately, because of my present situation - a neighbor kid who shoots anything that moves and laws that prevent me from wringing his neck - I no longer fly any birds. I also have neither room on my lot or in my loft nor the inclination to use individual breeding sections. I chose, therefore, to use an open loft breeding arrangement. At first, it didn't work out well at all.

It's true. The birds are somewhat aggressive. I did learn from Dr. Jose Antonin Cuatrecasas of Spain and from my own loft experience that these birds are not the mad 'killer' birds of myth. Spanish breeders actually cull cocks that are brutal to the hen. (Remember, I'm discussing Marcheneros and not Modern Spanish Thief Pouters).

Marchenero cocks, however, are somewhat oversexed. If you think of them as 15 year old humans, you've got the idea. Because of that, I found at first in the open loft that some of the cocks didn't want to sit the full 18 days. They would walk off the nest and begin courting a nearby female. That problem was easily cured, though. I simply added a board or a few bricks in front of the nest and almost everyone settled down to steady incubation.

The more serious problem was infertility. Marcheneros are built somewhat close to the ground but the biggest problem seemed to be the curving tail. During mating attempts, the male often seemed to have trouble contacting the female because of the tail getting in the way. When I viewed videos of Spanish lofts, I noticed that the flying Marcheneros didn't seem to have the problem because they often mate at the edge of a roof where the male has plenty of room to maneuver.

I first tried pulling all the cock's tail feathers. It helped but not enough. I tried pulling the hen's too. It worked okay but I hated the look so I finally resorted to pulling the two outside tail fathers on both sides from cock and hen. This made it easier for the cock to mate and I've only had occasional infertility problems since starting this. That I chalk up mostly to the fact these birds, even more than most, will hit any cock mounting a hen – if the mating pair is away from its nest area while they mate.

I was told that I would need feeders. I HATE having to use feeders. I have a tiny loft. I can only keep about 40 birds total and feeders eat up my space. So I decided to try without them. Overall, I've been impressed by the birds on this score but there are some problems. First and most important, a few young breeders have a bit of trouble the day after hatch. Their crop seems to get in their way a bit and they don't get the youngsters beak in theirs. I lost one or two young this way to starvation. They seem to learn though and the second and subsequent rounds were fed well.

One problem common to all Pouters and Croppers is the possibility of sour crop when feeding young. Only once have I had this problem. I was lucky enough to have a pair of Archangels feeding a single youngster of the same age so I moved the Marchenero squeakers under that pair, gave the dumpy cock a Pepto-Bismol tablet and he was fine in



SAXON POUTER

Opal white bar. – Bred and owned by Layne Gardner, Colton, Calif.

Saxon Pouters

by LAYNE GARDNER, Colton, Calif.

I first saw Saxons in Tally Mezzanatto's loft in 1984. Ever since I began breeding pigeons I have been interested in color. So it's no surprise that I was attracted to the Saxons because they certainly have color. Tally had dominant opal laces and white bars in a number of colors and I was immediately hooked. In addition to beautiful color, I have found the Saxons to have great personality. When provided with large nest boxes and plenty of room, they have bred well for me.

One of the difficulties I have encountered in my Saxons is occasionally breeding young with white feathers in the boots. Saxons are recognized only in self colors with the only white allowed being white bars. White in the boots is a disqualification. As I continue to breed away from this fault I am confident that it will soon be overcome.

Another fault I see are thick bodies and short legs. Saxons belong to the long-legged group of Pouters and should be slender with long legs. The boots are fairly well developed thought not as long as a Reversewing's.

In Germany a few Saxons are bred in Blue and Black with white bars. Tally is working with black white bars but I'm not aware of any blue white bars. It seems that I cannot breed any race of pigeon without having a color project going. In the Saxons I am working on Ice with white bars and also barless. I am still in the early stages of this project but so far I like what I see.

If you enjoy color pigeons then the Saxon Pouter may be the Pouter for you!

a few days.

A more common problem at the start was the enthusiasm of the cocks to feed their young. Because of the crop size, the adults sometimes dribbled a lot of fluid over the youngster rather than just into it. I lost some young to chilling. I appear to have stopped that by using a fairly deep layer of sand or grit in the nest bowls under the pine needles. That seems to allow any liquid spilled a dry well to drain off. Of course, it may be just the temperature has warmed and evaporation is faster now than it was in the early part of the breeding season. Time will tell.

Youngsters once out of the nest need a bit of extra handling the first week. They appear to me to be a bit weaker on the wing than Rollers, Homers or any of the other flying breeds. This may be only in my loft, again because I don't fly them as I normally would. Since my birds' water is normally kept in a small sunning cage about a meter and a half above the floor, I add an extra water container to the loft on the floor. This gives the young a better chance to avoid any dehydration. I also over-feed a bit during this period to make sure even the smallest get a share.

Remember, these are fairly tiny birds even though they don't look like it. With their fluffy feathering, they seem to be Homer sized but pick one up and you find out it only weighs about 8-10 ounces (c. 270-300g.).

I've fallen in love with Marcheneros since I've gotten them and only Racing Homers have ever won my heart the way these have. It's their personality. Marcheneros play. Cocks spend a good part of the day crawling on you. Hens flirt. Youngsters tug at your shoelaces. I only wish I could watch them in the air because the pictures I've seen make me sure that would be the icing on a very pleasant cake.

Junior Fanciers – The Future Of Our Hobby

by JOHN E. NELSON, St. Joseph, Mich.

The National Pigeon Association has started a program to give recognition to the future our wonderful hobby - JUNIORS! The program was planned carefully and Bryan Stevenson is the NPA Chief Junior Director. He knows the importance of Juniors entering the pigeon raising and showing hobby as he showed as a Junior as well. There is an extreme amount of competition for time in our children's lives today with activities both in and out of school, sports and electronic toys and also the less desirable activities of idle time. Too many times this idle time turns into juvenile delinquency with young children being led astray on the streets. I was exposed to racing pigeons from my grandfather and uncle where I grew up as a young child in Castro Valley, California. When I was 12, we moved to Michigan. Fortunately (for me), we moved next door to a fancier who had 400 fancies in 20 breeds. Two doors down a man had 300 pigeons.

Our new neighbor, William Bertien, had raised pigeons with his father since he was four or five years old. In 1963, I was given a pair of Rollers and I put together a pen inside the 12' x 18' old chicken coop on the property my mom had just purchased. Twenty-seven years later I still have feathers in my blood. My mom actually tried to discourage my pigeon hobby. I was spending all my money on pigeon feed or new birds. Hey mom, sometimes I think I'm still doing this. She knew we had to watch our money closely and didn't want us to waste it. Being divorced and trying to raise two boys alone was not going to be an easy task. Now down to the point of this article. My older brother didn't share my enthusiasm for pigeons. He got into the wrong crowd at junior high school and ran around a lot. I stayed at home most of the time caring for my pigeons, learning about the many breeds, raising several varieties.

When our children show an interest in the hobby of pigeon breeding and showing let us give them all the encouragement they need to stay off the streets and become involved in some positive activities. You may know of a boy or girl in your neighborhood that would like to have pigeons. Talk with his or her parents or parent and tell them the positive side of pigeons as a hobby. Currently I am helping several youngsters in our area with this hobby. The children without a father at home really eat up the attention.

The photograph accompanying this article shows a man holding a Pomeranian Pouter. The man is William Bertien (our neighbor) holding "Pom Pom." Pom Pom has been my daughter's pride and joy since she first showed him as a youngster in 1987. He was the first National Pigeon Association National Junior Champion and was exhibited by my nine year old daughter Bethany (now age ten). He also was Reserve Champion Pomeranian Pouter at both the Salt Lake City and Los Angeles Nationals. Pom Pom has won shows in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. In the picture his boots were cut for the breeding season.

William Bertien was a man that believed in his 12 year old neighbor. In 1983, 20 years after we moved next door to him, I built him a new brick home next door to where we built our new home. He is 77 years old and still has over 200 pigeons. I raised my first Pomeranian Pouters in 1966 with a pair I borrowed from Mr. Bertien. I have my daughter Bethany to thank for getting back into fancy pigeons. She wanted to show them at the local Berrien County Youth Fair in 1986 when she was five. We attended the National Young Bird Show in Louisville and fell in love with Pomeranian Pouters exhibited by Joe Oldja from Ohio. We got some very nice birds to start with and our entire family shows them as well as race our Racing Homers.

The next time you have a junior come visit your loft don't shoo him or her away. Try to get his or her parent involved with this great hobby too. You'll be glad you helped! I'm glad my neighbor helped!



William Bertien, age 77, holding "Pom Pom", a blue pied Pomeranian Pouter cock that is owned and exhibited by Bethany Nelson of St. Joseph, Mich. Bethany's bird "Pom Pom" won the first NPA National Junior Champion for Bethany at the Los Angeles NPA Grand National held in January 1991. William Bertien started her dad John E. Nelson with his first Pomeranian Pouters in spring of 1966 when he was 13-1/2 years old. Note: "Pom Pom's" boots were cut off for breeding. – Photo by John E. Nelson, St. Joseph, Mich.

The Western Pouter & Cropper Club

by FRANK MOSCA, Montclair, Calif.

Many of us have joined clubs only to be disappointed. Sometimes this disappointment involves lack of club activity. Sometimes it involves lack of friendship. Sometimes it's because we breed something off the club mainstream and we're made to feel other members could care less. We feel as if no one cares enough to even inquire about what we raise. I know all those feelings. At one time, I was a member of a club for more than five years. In all that time I never received a call from anyone connected with the club, seldom received a bulletin, and often was never even informed meetings were being planned.

That's why even though I already knew many of its members, I approached membership in the WPCC with a tongue firmly planted in corner of mouth attitude. My first meeting was an eye opener. People were entering their birds, leaving money in an open can and doing the paperwork necessary for a lawn show. The truly amazing thing was they were doing it all on their own. While all this activity was going on more activity was taking place on the patio.

The barbecue smoked lustily as burgers, each weighing about as much as a show king, were flipped then tossed into a waiting platter by the club secretary. Food for more than 40 people (only about 20 were expected) sat on the table. In addition to all this, people talked and smiled. That was a real novelty.

At some clubs I've attended, smiles seem to be reserved only for those winning a few bucks. I relaxed, kicked back, enjoyed myself and waited for the other shoe to drop. You know the one. The shoe that causes you to wish you were anywhere but there: the backbiting, the downgrading of another's birds, the shouting match when things don't go someone's way during the business part of the meeting, the fistfights because someone's had too much to drink and decided to be obnoxious. The shoe never fell.

At the business meeting things were discussed rationally and quietly. Dissent was polite and considerate of other's feelings. People spoke their mind but never at the expense of another's pride or good will. As someone who's sat through lots of VERY loud combine meetings with my race clubs, I admit it. I was impressed. After the business came the lawn show.

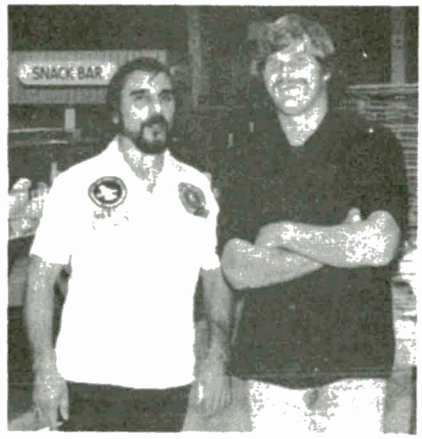
More than ten different varieties of Pouters and Croppers, some so rare they're only found in isolated pockets in North America, were displayed. I waited for the insults. The smart mouth jabbing comments that cut to the bone. Another surprise. There were none. Oh, there was some gentle joshing about people's reason for raising "that" breed but that's as far as it went.

Breeders raising birds as diverse as Pigmy and Old German, (two birds which in terms of their body type alone vary more than all Color Pigeons combined), sat discussing good and bad points of their studs. Each left with a finer appreciation of the skill necessary to raise such pigeons to perfection.

The judging went quickly. Many people took turns. Some actually volunteered to learn to judge breeds not their own so they might take over the often thankless task at major shows to allow a club mate a chance to show. The prizes given for the day's winners were better than many found at major shows. The meeting ended late, not because fighting or judging inefficiency kept things going overtime but because people didn't seem to want the day to end.



A familiar sight at Western Pouter and Cropper Club picnics - chef Frank Barrachina cooking hamburgers, Fred Maenpa is on the right.



Honorary life member of Western Pouter and Cropper Club Guenter Wenzel (left) and club president Dan Johnson (right).

I plunked my ten buck dues down on the spot. I've attended many meetings since then. Some have had lots of people and birds present, some few. Some had videos shown (a 42 minutes sequence of garbage can lid and shuffling feet produced by an ex-club president who forgot to shut the videocam is now a classic), some didn't. Still all have been as enjoyable as the first. That's important too.

Obviously we're in this hobby because we love pigeons and they tend to come first in our thoughts. Still, a big part of the fun is also people we meet. The people who share our love for one of the most beautifully evolved and man-molded creatures on the planet.

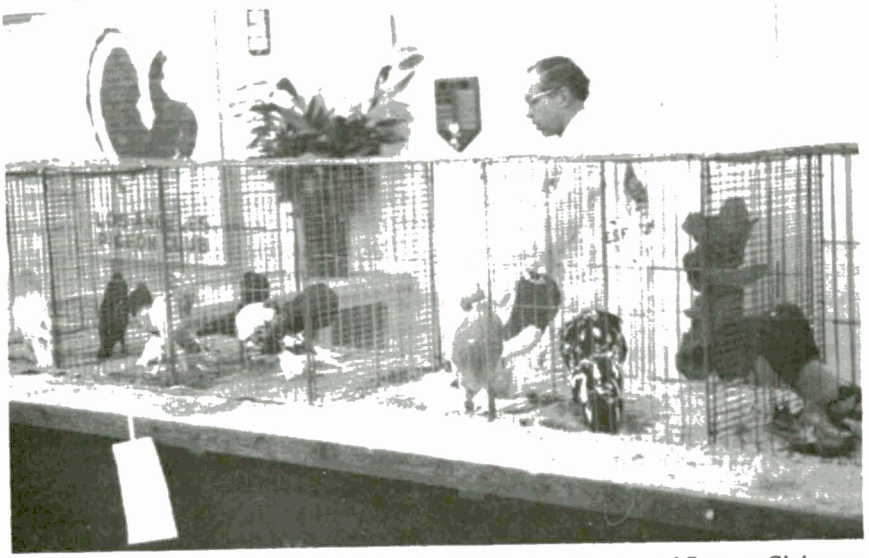
If you'd like to meet some friendly birds, please consider the WPCC. If you'd enjoy a bird that will dance on your hand, tug on your shoelace, and steal its way into your heart, then definitely consider the WPCC. With the WPCC, there's also an added bonus beside the birds. All our club's divisions are dedicated to the idea that friendly pigeons and even friendlier people go a long way to making this a thrilling hobby for everyone. Join us and be thrilled.



Dick Hamer of Zutphen, Holland, Western Pouter and Cropper Club judge in 1987.



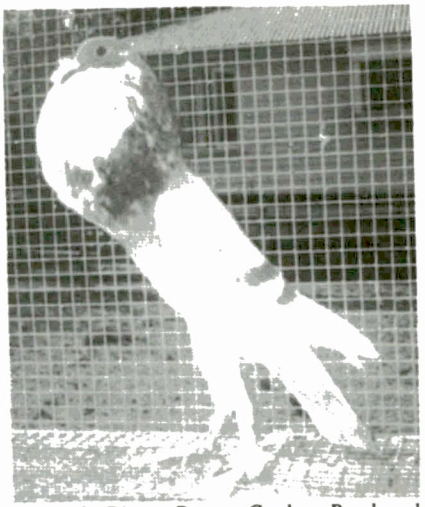
Doug DeNeen, Edmonds, Wash., judging Norwich at a lawn show of the Western Pouter and Cropper Club.



Scott Sharp, Dundee, Scotland, judging the 1988 Western Pouter and Cropper Club meet.



Layne Gardner getting some tips on Saxon Pouters from Tally Mezzanatto at a WPCC lawn show.



Mealy Pigmy Pouter Cock. – Bred and owned by Steve Bevan, Auckland, New Zealand.

Pigmy Pouters In New Zealand

by STEVE BEVAN, Auckland, New Zealand

Pigmies have always had a steady following in New Zealand. The quality of the birds has steadily improved in the last 6-7 years. The colours we have are Blue, Silver, Mealy, Cream with small numbers of Reds, Yellows, Whites and Grizzles plus Browns.

The main improvements would be in the legs being longer, closer set and more refinement. The body has also improved. With Australia being the only country we can import from, Pigmies have been imported in the last few years. I have imported Whites, Yellows, Blues and Browns to help improve my own stock. New Zealand used to judge fancy pigeons by the English Standard. We have now changed to the American N.P.A. Standards which are more precise, especially now the English fanciers are improving a lot of the breeds with American stock.

We are always looking for judges at our shows. If any fanciers are visiting N.Z., please contact me at 20A Totara Rd., Whenuapai, Auckland, New Zealand, 416-8183.

Congratulations On This Fine Pouter & Cropper Special

Voorburg Shield Croppers

by ROD LYSNE, Ferryville, Wisc.

My involvement with the Voorburg Shield Cropper began in 1973 after reading an article in the APJ about their import into the US. Accompanying the article were a couple photos of these croppers from Dutch lofts. The import of this newest Cropper/Pouter breeds, arranged by H.H. Ford of Texas was from Holland, the country of their origin. That fall he sent me my first Voorburgs. In the next two years a few more pairs were added from the same source. Having just graduated from college, I could have well used the money to pay off bills, but I have never regretted their purchase, as these pigeons have been both a source of satisfaction and challenge for me.

Like most of the initial American Voorburg breeders, I was not quite sure just what to look for regarding type. Birds were scarce, fanciers were few in number; simply stated, I lacked a good mentor. True, the Standard said in words what the Dutch wanted typewise, but there can too often be some variance on interpretation. Finally, making contact with the Dutch Voorburg Club, I vented these feelings and was happily given good advice, as well as many photos of winning birds from their lofts. This proved to be of great help, for now I had some concrete ideas about type and a direction in which to move.

The majority of my early birds were Reds and Red Bars, along with a scattering of Black/Brown and Blue/Silver. As I worked with these for a few seasons, the marking became very uniform and the color was rich and deep; the latter due to the fact that some of the first matings involved birds with an abundance of grease quills. The problem with these initial Voorburgs was that, while there were several raised that were of nice show type, they were a bit too small and short on leg.

The real break came from the offspring of a Silver/Brown mating, which produced improved type young in both Black and Silver, the latter being best. These, mated back to a couple other Silvers and Cream Bars, were used to establish my current family of barred birds in Silver, Cream and Blue. They gradually displaced my old Red family birds to the point that there are currently no birds of that color in the loft, except for a few nice Red Bars stemming from Blue/Cream matings.

The current barred Voorburgs are more typical of what one would want to see in good Voorburgs Shield Croppers: tall, slender birds with long, properly placed legs, and long necks which support a nice-sized globe.

The same Silver/Brown mating which was the ground work for my barred birds also proved to be of real help to the Black/Dun/Brown line. Prior to this, my Blacks had nice size and wonderfully rich color, as well as nice globes, but they were too thick and lacked in length of leg. These crosses put greater length of leg on the Blacks, as well as moving toward more desirable slenderness of body.

Having discarded my older Blues as they were too thick and short, it has been fun to see several birds raised in the last two seasons from crosses to the best Silvers. The blue Bar is such a striking, bold color, and to see this color now on tall, slender young is most satisfying.

Another color factor which has been of interest to me for the last several seasons has been Recessive Opal. Rare in Voorburgs, this factor produces a variety of lovely expressions. My first opal appeared in the nest of a pair of Red Laced (Ash Red Spread). It was a white barred black with laced charcoal appearance on the shield feathers. Further matings with this bird and its offspring have produced young in white bar with a soft, frosted lavender expression (Blue), as well as a creamy, pastel peach (Ash Red). Another interesting expression has appeared in the combination with Black Checker. This is a pastel chocolate with black edging on the shield feathers. As luck would have it this year, two more lovely expressions have appeared. One came from a pair of opal factored Blacks. It is a Black Spread Opal with

Bohemian Power!!

by MERLE FRANK, Clearwater, Minn.

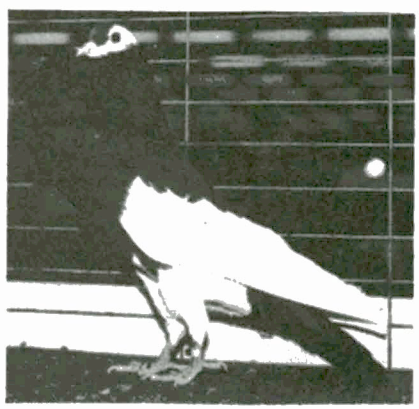
When one raises any breed of pigeon for show, one has to follow a standard set up to help get that "perfect" bird. It can be, and most of the time is, very frustrating to say the least. But add "markings" to the picture and you're in great danger of spending time in the rubber room.

The first few years of raising Bohemian Pouters seriously were very disappointing. I had stock birds with gorgeous type and style and all were marked wonderful – but for producing a good marked baby, forget it. My average in the first years were like only 10%. NOT GOOD. I then started line breeding, inbreeding and incest breeding. Wahla - I'm now getting from 50 to 60% showable young every year.

Next comes color: my senior cock, Big Red, has everything except good red color. His grandmother had it, the deep wine colored red that seems very hard to come by. But ole granma never produced it. Why? Perhaps because we bred her to blacks like the Modena breeders do. But unlike the luck the Modena breeders get with this color crossing, we got ishie reds. May be because our blacks weren't true blacks and had blue in their background. Who knows, but since then I've been told to just keep crossing red to red and eventually you'll end up with great recessive red birds. This year I took the old boy and put him on a black hen - dawh? - no, this black hen was an outcross and her father was a poorly marked red, but he had the good wine color red we're looking for. Again, wahla - and I came out on top with some excellent colored red babies. They aren't great great, but they are very, very good. I'm on my way.

Sooooo, things are kind of settling down into place. Raised lots of showable babies this year. Got some good red ones besides - but something is missing. Oh, I know: STRESS! What to do, what to do? I know, I think I'll introduce GRIZZLE into my BOHEMIAN POUTERS. Ya, that's what I'll do — I realize now I need stress, I crave stress, I want stress. But am I too old to be a yuppie? I'll never tell. The one thing I hate about grizzle is writing the word - you know - those two z's - for some reason my hand does not like making two z's in a row. That too stresses me out. Yes, I'm overly sensitive, but isn't everybody? Please agree, thank you.

So, into my grizzle project I flew. Bob Kosek loaned me one of his Starwitzer cocks, a bird so spread that he almost appears to be white. I put him on one of my champion cock's daughters and let them go to town. This hen is a dun and the results from this first cross were wild. I got six babies and four are spread almost as much as the Starwitzer cock, one is a blue grizzle with the Bohemian head marking and white flights and one was a recessive red with white flights and a half moon head marking. I'll keep one of the cocks! Herb Berg will get one. 1992 will be a fun year - I can put this blue grizzle F-1 on a blue hen and one of the grizzle hens on my almond cock. I can't wait for next years results of the F-2's. I think a nice marked grizzled Bohemian Pouter will really add to any show room. Hopefully I won't end up in a rubber room getting this new color phase off the ground. But if I do, a lot of my friends will be there too.



Merle Frank's Champion American Bohemian at the Des Moines WP&CC Meet Dec. 1990.

the appearance of a smooth, dilute lavender; the small feathers have a delicate cinnamon lacing, while the secondaries are tipped with a fine black edge. The other expression is one I have wanted to achieve for several years, but it proved evasive. Both to my delight and consternation it appeared this summer – in the odd bird pen of all places: a true, deep black with the makings of a white bar. The mystery remains, however, as to its parentage.

The initial opals were rather small and short of leg, but all seemed to have good personalities and nice globes. In the last several seasons through selected outcrosses to good silvers and blacks, size and length of limb have greatly improved. A couple other fanciers are also working with this factor via a couple birds I had let out a few seasons ago. Pictures I have seen of their resulting Opals are also encouraging.

Now, there are some small controversies/differences of opinion in regard to just what the Standard calls for on type. The Standard reads that one should strive for a medium-sized bird. Judging from current show entries, however it would appear that the problem is not that we are showing too many large birds; rather, it seems that too many of the current Voorburgs are a bit on the small order. True, a large bird that is both thick of body and short of leg is not what one wants, but then neither is a very small bird with short legs.

One definitely needs to strive for birds of good size that are tall – long of limb and neck – as well as fairly narrow on body. If some are a bit on the small order, but well proportioned, this is fine, as long as one also keeps back a few of the larger ones to use in matings, too. It seems to be a matter of balance.

Another matter which is causing some differences of opinion is the over-emphasis by some fanciers on globe size. Here, again, the Standard does not call for a huge, Norwich-like globe. I have heard of a few breeders who have gone to the extent of crossing in Norwich to increase globe size. This is certainly not necessary to attain a nice globe on Voorburgs; they already have the ability to produce nice globes. If one wants Norwich size globes, one had best breed Norwich and let Voorburgs alone.

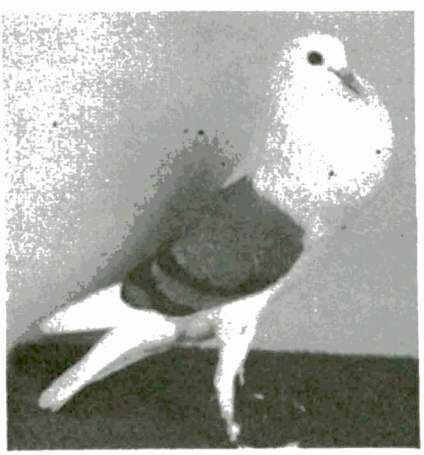
Voorburg Shield Croppers

by HELMUT BAER, Schererville, Ind.

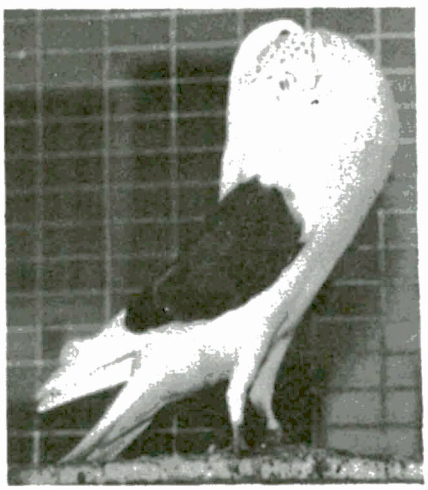
One of the best ways to learn to take care of and raise Voorburg Shield Croppers is to get acquainted with an established Voorburg fancier. Also, visit the working loft several times prior to purchasing the birds. The established Voorburg fancier should assist the beginner by teaching him various fundamentals the beginner must learn.

There are several articles written about Voorburgs in the leading pigeon magazines throughout the U.S.A. In these publications are articles on feeding, breeding, conditioning, showing and other important and interesting subjects. The beginner should start with a small loft, but not necessarily elaborate. Also it is preferable for him to purchase not more than two or three pair of pigeons. It is not necessary to buy champions although it is preferable to buy birds from a winning strain, either purchase birds that have produced winners or buy brothers and sisters of winners.

It is preferable to buy breeders rather than youngsters. Youngsters may be bought for less, but the beginner will have to wait before he can breed from these young birds. Now after purchasing from a leading fancier the beginner should not buy other birds to cross with them, at least not until he has raised several birds and knows what he is doing when he introduces an outcross or other strains.



VOORBURG SHIELD CROPPER
A blue bar young hen. – Bred and owned by Helmut Baer, Schererville, Ind.



VOORBURG SHIELD CROPPER
A red old cock. – Bred and owned by Helmut Baer, Schererville, Ind.

The same could be said of crossing in other breeds like Brunners for the purpose of producing very slender birds with proportionally long legs. Starting with good breeding stock originally, there is no need to cross in other breeds to produce desired slenderness and long legs. It is simply a matter of having good breeding stock and proper selection for matings.

Just for the sake of seeing what would happen, I have made crosses to both Norwich and Brunners, crossing in the resulting offspring to the third generation. In the end, I discarded everything resulting from these crosses. Yes, I had some that blew mammoth globes and some tiny, very slender birds with very long legs, but they lacked those particularly endearing characteristics that make a Voorburg a Voorburg.

Now, the popularity of Voorburg Shield Croppers has increased more steadily than any other Pouter breed in the US. There are several obvious reason for this. The first reason is that this is a new and very lovely breed of Pouters. The shield marking in a wide range of colors set against a pure white field has great appeal. Another reason has to do with the personality and vivacious character of this bird. They are full of life, but not flighty; they hold their own in the loft without being overly aggressive; with proper training when young, they become very tractable, but never dull.

While some Pouter/Cropper breeds have difficulty raising their own young, the Voorburg is an excellent parent. I find that they have an extremely high fertility rate; I can mate them together early in the season as they lay readily even during cold weather and usually sit tight on their young, with few chilling losses. The fact is that I have yet to have a hen not lay or a cock not fertile in the several hundreds of matings I have made through the seasons. I have kept hens as long as nine years, and they still laid regularly. One fine old cock and favorite pet of mine fertiled up until age 13; at 14 years he still raised young; at 15 he has slowed down, but still stayed mated with an old hen and defended his nest.

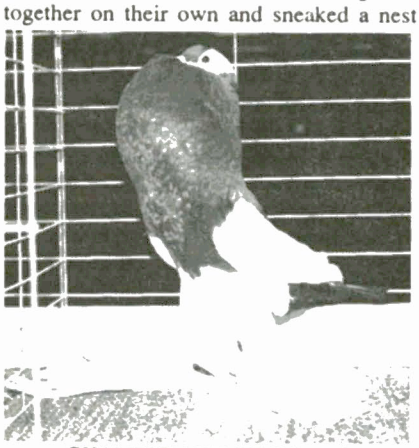
Another reason many fanciers enjoy Voorburgs is that, unlike many other Pouter breeds, they have very few problems with sour crop. Through the years I have encountered this problem only two or three times. If one keeps a constant and fresh supply of grit in front of the birds (preferably fresh each day) sour crop is a problem which will raise its ugly head only on the rarest occasions.

When it comes to the matter of culling and selecting for breeders, there are some faults to beware of. I list them in order of seriousness: 1. Short legs set too far forward on body; 2. Thick, short bodies; 3. Short neck; 4. Overly prominent keel/breastbone; 5. Wide tail; 6. Heavily feathered feet; 7. Gross mismarking.

(Continued On Next Page)

One should beware of culling birds too quickly. They do need time to mature, especially if they are raised late in the season. Many times a bird that looks OK (no major faults), but not spectacular, simply needs time. This is where an extra/odd bird pen comes in handy. This spring I put a half dozen of the "nice, but . . ." birds (all quite young) in the odd bird pen at the end of the loft. During the summer they were fed and watered, but otherwise basically ignored. After the moult this fall, I was looking more closely at the odds and ends I had put in there. I was again amazed (happens every spring) at how some of these extras had "bloomed." I found myself thinking, "Now, why didn't I use that one . . . . and that one . . . .; and that one over there!"

The fortunate addendum to the foregoing story is that a few of these birds had gotten together on their own and sneaked a nest where I didn't see them in time to throw the eggs before the young hatched. You guessed it – there are some very fine keepers among them. So, a word to the wise – be slow to cull late raised young.



CHAMPION REVERSEWING

This Reversewing Pouter OH #3 was Champion Reversewing at the Western Pouter and Cropper Club, Des Moines, Iowa, Meet. – Bred by Frank Barrachina, owned by Steve Ignera, Manitowoc, Wisc.

In closing, these birds have been a real source of pleasure for me in the many years I have had them. Their vivacious character, striking markings and pleasing composition make them great favorites.

Starting Off With Reversewing Pouters

by STEVE IGNERA, Manitowoc, Wisc.

In 1989, I decided to rejoin a sport that I had enjoyed as a youth – raising pigeons. Over the cold winter months of Wisconsin, I spent many hours building my loft in my garage. By April, the loft was finished and I was ready for my first pigeons. I chose the beautiful Reversewing Pouter as my breed.

My start in this breed came from none other than Frank Barrachina of Yucaipa, California. At that time he was selling all of his blacks and I must say that the three pairs that he sent me were excellent! I was on my way to breeding these fine Pouters. That summer I bred seven youngsters.

Over the next year I added another loft inside my garage as my first loft was too crowded by the number of birds I wanted to keep. It always seems that when you get started with pigeons that you want to add more space to the lofts after you've bred them for a year.

1990 was a slow year for me. I had problems with fertility and hardly raised any youngsters. During that year I kept in contact with Frank Barrachina, and he helped me straighten out the problems. I'm glad to say that Frank and I have become good friends. Frank has really helped me out.

Later that year I added red, yellow and blue pairs so that I'd have them in all of the accepted colors. The blacks and blues are my favorites though.

This year I built a third loft to house young birds only in the garage. When my first round of youngsters were weaned, my young bird loft was finished. This loft has been a big help.

I'm proud to say that 1991 has turned out to be a fantastic year as far as breeding youngsters goes. Every morning when I wake up, the first thing I do is go outside and take care of my team. After a day at work, I enjoy heading home to be with my wife and birds. I enjoy giving the birds a bath pan full of water twice a week. It's just plain relaxing and fun to watch the birds!

The most enjoyable part of this hobby is meeting fanciers from all over the country. You get to trade breeding tips, learn show training techniques, and maybe even trade some birds. I'm a firm believer that you can never learn enough about the birds and their management. I would have to say that proper loft management contributes a lot to one's success. Breeding Pouters and being part of the great Western Pouter and Cropper Club makes this a great hobby!



Steve and Laurie Ignera in front of their loft in Manitowoc, Wisc.



CHAMPION POMERANIAN

This Blue Bar Cock, #260, was Champion Pomeranian Pouter at the Salt Lake City 1989 NPA Grand National. – Exhibited by Marilyn Nelson, Saint Joseph, Mich.

A Note From Arizona

by ROBERT L. GUFFIN, Tempe, Ariz.

I am very excited about this issue being dedicated to Pouters as I am sure all Pouter breeders, especially W.P.C.C. members.

This is my first article for the A.P.J. I think a lot more of us would write in, except, as for myself, I feel I lack the knowledge and experience to write intelligently. Our club secretary, Frank Barrachina, has requested time and time again to become more involved in articles for our bulletin and the A.P.J. So I'm giving it my best shot.

I have been a member of the WPCC for three years now and enjoy it very much. The club members have all made this newcomer feel very comfortable. A lot of you know Frank Barrachina. I can't say enough about how he has helped me get started in pigeons again. I have bothered him and Tally a number of times with some pretty elementary problems. They both always took the time to discuss possible solutions.

I am a breeder of Old German Croppers. To me there is no substitute for the powerful beauty of a top notch Old German. I had the wonderful experience of winning champion at the National in Pomona, CA, this year. I beat the master himself (Frank) which I consider a real feat. Whether I ever do it again or not, the experience was a real high.

I raised Old Germans back in the 60's. I showed them locally at fairs in South Dakota. Then I got out of pigeons for 20 some years. Since then a lot has changed. I have moved to Arizona, so lofts as well as breeding technique are as different as night and day. Dealing with the tremendous heat has been difficult with the Old Germans as they are prone to sour crop. I do the standard treatment of flushing and rinsing, with the addition of a little Baytril. In most cases they do alright. I get some extreme ones where I have rolled them up in a funnel made of newspaper. This helps keep the crop tight and the bird upright which will force food and liquids into the stomach for digestion.

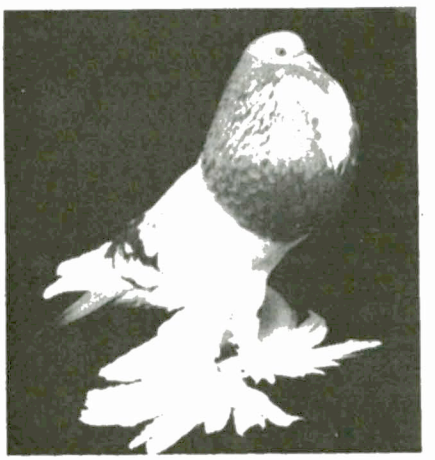
We are currently working on a crop support made from denim with wires sewn in it so it can stretch and can be molded into varying shapes. It has velcro straps which attach around the shoulders of the bird, so far it has worked well and we have had no trouble with it getting caught on anything. This was my greatest worry, the possibility of strangling the bird. With the straps around the wings as opposed to the neck of the bird does just fine. If any of you have other ideas on dealing with sour crop, please share them.

In closing, I hope everyone has had good luck with their birds this year. Make sure as many of you as can, come to the Pageant of Pigeons. It is a fine show that I am sure you will enjoy. Also, while there, you will get to see one of the best displays of Pouters in the country, especially the Old Germans.



OLD GERMAN CROPPER

This Old German Cropper, OC #FL3, was first place (VG rating) at an Arizona show. – Bred by Frank Barrachina, owned by Bob Guffin, Tempe, Ariz.



BEST YOUNG POMERANIAN

This Blue Bar Pied Young Hen, #665-90, was Best Young Pomeranian Pouter at the Pomona NPA Grand National. Exhibited by Junior Member Jessica Nelson, Saint Joseph, Mich. – Photo by John E. Nelson.



OLD GERMAN CROPPER

This Old German Cropper, #FG804-90 YC, was Champion Old German Cropper at the Pomona National. – Bred and owned by Bob Guffin, Tempe, Ariz.



NORWICH CROPPER

Blue Bar Old Cock, #163-89. – Bred and owned by John Harrison, Middleboro, Mass.

Memories

by JIM BROWN, Mollala, Ore.

As I think back to when I started with Pouters, my mind's eye shows me around 1949 or 50 in a field in southern California on a hot summer's day. Like many of you at an early age, I was on a pigeon safari. With a gunny sack in one hand and laying on the ground, I watched those beautiful pigeons getting closer and closer to the trap I had set earlier that day. Then I saw what I thought was the most beautiful bird ever. It was different from the rest. He was upright, and had a balloon of a crop, and danced around a hen in a delightful way, blue in color with white markings and reminded me of an English guard at the palace.

Well, I never trapped the bird but the picture is still as clear to me today as then.

What a great memory!

As time passed, I met a fine old Italian man in my neighborhood who raced homers. I would ride my bike over there often and we would set on lawn chairs, and watch his birds fly.

He had beautiful, well cared for birds. He cleaned every day, their water was always sparkling clean and I still can hear him say, "Jimmie, if it's clean enough for me to drink, it's clean enough for the birds." I learned much about pigeons from him, and would clean his lofts for eggs. Those were my first pure birds.

I raced and bred the racing homer from 1953 through the 1981 season, when one day that memory of the field and a young boy came back to me. Over the years, I found out that the bird was a Pouter. Hence, I started to search for my childhood memory.

I found an A.P.J. and purchased two Pouter specials. I learned more, and the more I learned, the more excited I became. It was almost like a treasure hunt, and that hunt came to an end when in 1983 my daughter and I traveled from Oregon to California for the Pageant of Pigeons, a 2000 mile trip, to pick up what is the foundation of my loft of Pigmies today.

I had talked to Tally Mezzanatto in 1982 but she was sold out of Pigmies for that season. So, I called again in the summer of 1983 and made arrangements to pick up two pair at the Pageant.

A lot of years has passed since that first Pouter. I have had a grand time breeding and showing, and meeting new friends.

I have been fortunate in winning a National and a Reserve National and the Pageant one year.

I would like to give 90% of this success to Tally Mezzanatto, and 10% to myself for being smart enough to purchase my Pigmies from her.

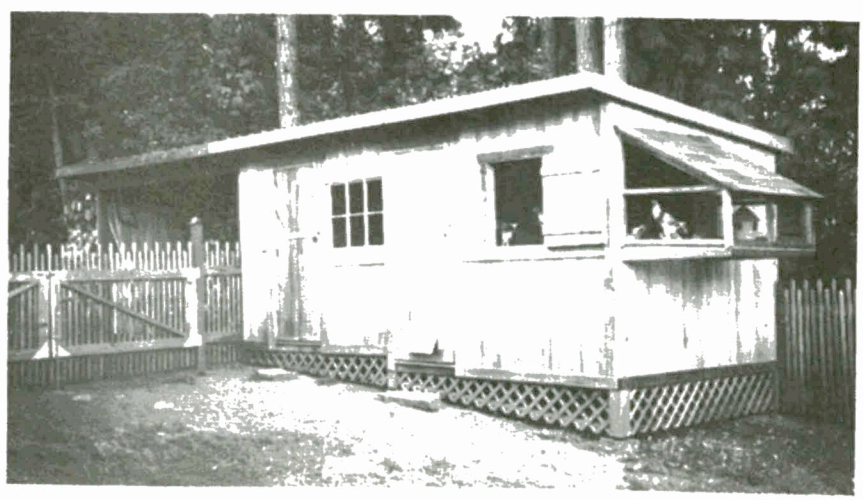
At the time of purchase, I thought she had the best, now I know for sure. In my opinion, she is the premier breeder of Pigmy Pouters in the U.S., and my good friend. Thanks,



Inside view of the English Pouter loft of Jim Brown, Mollala, Oregon.



The Pigmy Pouter loft of Jim Brown, Molalla, Oregon.



The English Pouter loft of Jim Brown, Molalla, Oregon.

Tally.

Looking back at the awards I have received especially at Downington, Pa., where I received Champion, I was overwhelmed by this.

I think my most cherished award (or gift) was presented to me by Frank Barrachina that same day. He handed me a 1912 German Pouter Club lapel pin. When given to me, he said, "Jim this is for you just because you're Jim Brown." I will always keep this and I wear it often.

Thanks Frank for being a special friend.

I thank all my friends in the fancy and invite all to join the Pouter family.

This past season I started with the English Pouter. I thank Frank Barrachina for all the help and sharing of his time and birds with me. His English are magnificent.

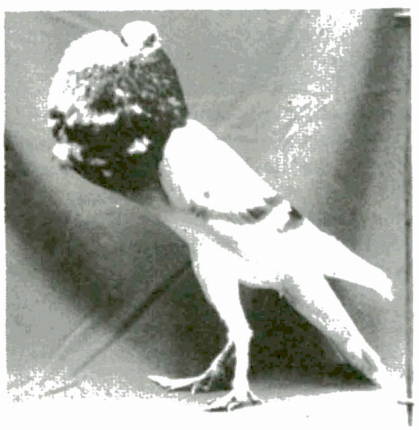
My Start In Pigmy Pouters

by JEFFERY B. CAP, Milford, Conn.

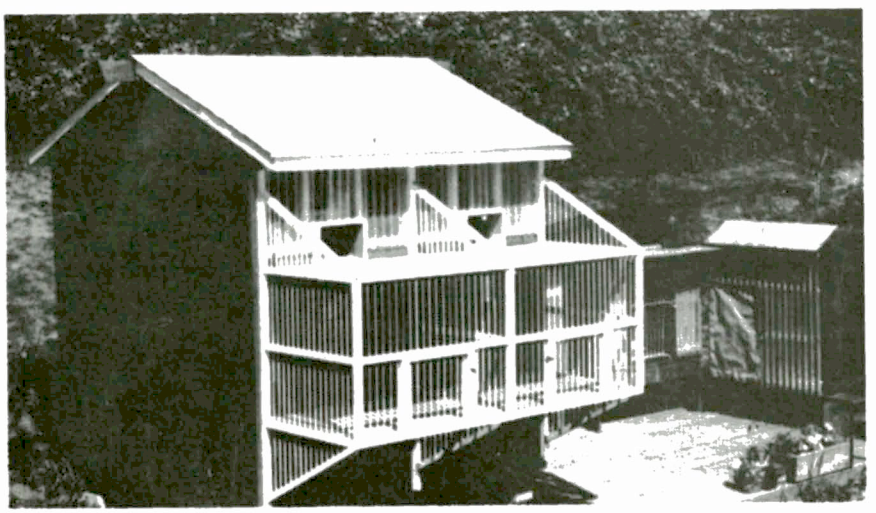
I remember when my dad used to tell me about how he raised pigeons when he was my age. I even heard it from my grandparents on how he took over the whole garage with his pigeons. Then, one day a Racing Homer flew into our garage. I caught the bird and found it was lost from a race. We kept it, not knowing who it belonged to, or even how to find the owner. My dad then went to the library and started to look up any information he could find on pigeons. There were only two or three books that had information about pigeons and they were all pretty old. He then started looking into old boxes he had stored in the attic and garage. Before too long, he found an old issue of the APJ. He told me that the APJ was the best pigeon magazine when he was a kid, but he didn't know if the magazine was still available. After all, it was 20 years later. Well we took a chance and wrote to the APJ. Bingo! We had a connection. The APJ was alive and well. Well this opened the doors to the fascinating hobby of pigeons.

We eventually went to a pigeon show here in Connecticut and bought a hen to mate with the bird. Day by day, I helped my dad care for the pigeons and I started getting interested in the hobby. The next show we went to was in Long Island, New York, where I met Ed Lorme. I bought a pair of Komorner Tumblers off him. I raised them for about two years. That's when I wanted to raise something different. So as my whole family started to attend more and more shows, I started to like the Pigmy Pouter. I then asked my parents if I could try raising some. The next show we went to was the Little Rhody Show in Rhode Island where I watched all the Pouters being judged. After the show I went and talked to Mike Cocchia from Norwalk, Connecticut. He's been raising Pouters for a while now and wins almost every show. That's how good he is. So I asked him if he would sell me a pair of Pouters, he said yes. As soon as I got the pair of birds I started raising young ones. But before I got the birds, he told me that Pigmies are one of the hardest to raise, but he would help me any way he could. Maybe that's why I started to raise Pigmies.

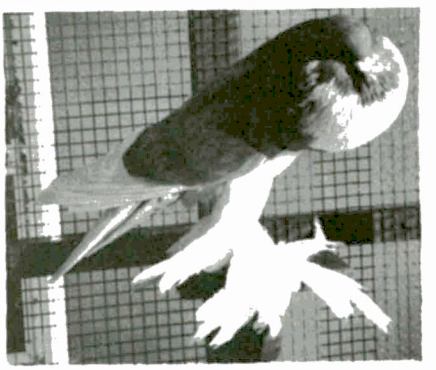
Even after telling me all that, I'm still learning. I keep my Pouters in a 3x6 breeding cage and a 8x8 loft. As of now, I only work with four pair of Pigmies. I hope in the future I have room for raising more young birds. I'm always trying to keep only the best birds to work with.



Pigmy Pouter, mealy cock #672, being used in Jeff Cap's breeding program. – Photo by Jeff Cap.



The Cap lofts in Milford, Conn. – Photo by Jeff Cap.



POMERANIAN POUTER

Yellow hen. – Bred and owned by Tim Bueb, Des Moines, Iowa.

Pom City

by TIM BUEB, Des Moines, Iowa

I started raising Pomeranians in 1981. In fact, I still have the first bird I raised (band No. 0, 1982). Colors bred for the first five years included Blue Bar, Ash Red Bar, Cream Bar, Black Dun in Pieds and White. In 1986, I got my first reds and yellows, and since then have made steady progress towards raising the ideal Pom. One big boost was when Frank Barrachina imported a very good yellow cock for me. My goal is to consistently raise the quality the Europeans have for many years.

The Pomeranian is one of the largest Pouters and it is so important that they be in proportion in every aspect of the standard. The most important characteristics of this powerful Pouter are neck and globe, body type and station and legs and boots. This makes up 75% of the standard.

The globe should be large and round but shouldn't show back globe. The birds' head and beak should be able to rest on top without rearing back. Other faults are tubular globe, causing the head and beak to rest to one side of the globe. I feel the worst is a poorly developed globe.

Next is the body type and station. The standard states that the Pom should be 20 to 24 inches long, broad and massive. The waist long and showing a well defined keel. The back should show a slight hollow at the shoulders. The wings long and held tightly against the body, flights stopping at a point just before the end of the tail. The Pomeranian should walk in an upward carriage at about 60 to 80 degrees. Some faults to look

(Continued On Next Page)

for are short body and poor back cover causing it to have sails. Another is carriage. I've seen some stand at a 45° angle. Some thick, the biggest is best. Remember we are looking for proportion.

Now we come to the legs and boots. The legs should be long and 1-1/2 to 2 inches apart. The muffs should be large and well rounded. The hock feathers should be thick and blend into the boots with no breaks. Some faults to look for: short legs, stilted legs, legs that are too close together, suggesting the look of an English Pouter. Muffs that aren't full, too short, and not rounded. Once again we are looking for balance.

The remaining 25% of the standard is divided up into: color ten points, markings ten points, head one point, beak two points, and eyes two points.

There are an assortment of colors, all of which should be clean and lustrous. Most popular come in pied markings, which have white markings as follows: half moon or crescent placed in the middle of the crop with both ends of the same size and length ending one half inch from the eyes. The flights, belly, legs and muffs all to be white. All other areas colored and to make a clean break. Some faults to look for are dull color. Some exhibitors will enhance colors by using various oils which should be an automatic disqualification. Others include rosette or white on wing butts, too much or not enough crescent, and colored feathers on white areas. It is okay to pull feathers in areas to enhance markings, but never so much as to leave bear spots. This should also be an automatic disqualification. If a bird has been enhanced in this way and is to be sold, the seller should always tell exactly where and how much mismarking there is.

The head should be smooth, long and well rounded, beak long and strong. Flesh colored in whites, yellows, creams and tail marked. All others are dark. Eyes to be bull in whites and Tailmarks and orange in all others.

What we have to remember about raising and judging our birds is proportion. Concentrate on the most important areas and go from there. If we all do this, the majestic Pom can do nothing short of excelling to its full potential.

Preparation for shows is also very important. There's nothing worse than a Pom that is hunched over or stands like a statue. Remember Pouters are suppose to perform.

I breed out of three to four pair and raise just 10 to 15 young a year. This gives me plenty of time to hand tame all the potential show birds. From the time they're 8 to 10 days old, I'm continuously checking their progress – from color tracking, size, thickness of feather quills, especially on the boots, length and position of legs, color and development of globe. In doing this, they become very tame and by the time it's show season, the young are ready to show their stuff. I can remember several times I've seen Poms in a show cage and felt if these birds were properly trained and in better feather condition (boots especially), these birds would be possible champions.

To sum it up, think of our Pouter and Croppers as body builders. If they don't flex they don't win.

I raise Pomeranians first for the mere enjoyment of having them; second to improve the type the best I can; and third to complete and converse with fellow Pouter and Cropper breeders.

Thanks to all who have helped me in my quest to improve the Pomeranian, especially Frank Barrachina. I also thank the APJ for this Special. Good luck to all. Visitors always welcomed.



POMERANIAN POUTER

This yellow cock was bred by Frank Schmid, Arrach-Haibuhl, Germany. – Imported by Frank Barrachina for Tim Bueb, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Good Times I've Had With The Voorburg Shield Croppers

by JOHN JOHNSON,
Park River, North Dakota

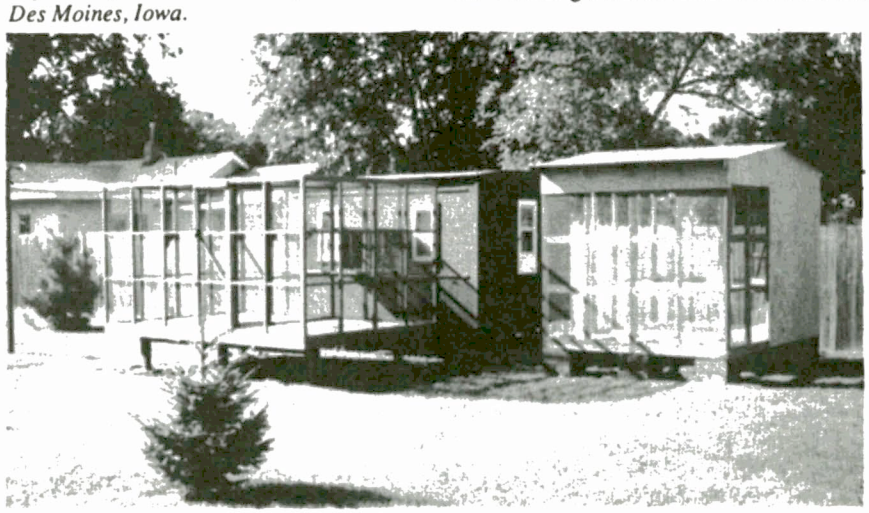
Of all the different breeds of pigeons that I've ever raised, the Voorburg Shield Cropper has beyond, any doubt, been the most graceful of movement, frolicsome, outstanding of character, personality and well balanced breed that I've ever had the pleasure to raise.

When I think back to the summer of 1956, when my older brother gave up his 12 barn pigeons to me, I sure wouldn't have guessed that 35 years later I would still be raising pigeons. But what might be strange to some people is that up until 1975 (19 years) that was all I ever raised was the faithful old barn pigeon, a very hardy and wonderful bird. The memories that I have with the barn pigeon will be hard to beat.

In 1975, thanks to my friend, Fred Thoelke, I was introduced to the world of fancy pigeons and organizations through the A.P.J. I am now well into the raising and showing of fancy pigeons.

I have always liked the Pouter and Croppers, but I had never had a favorite one until 1985 when at the Portland, Oregon, National, I spotted the Voorburg Shield Croppers for the first time. My battery was recharged on the spot. I came home with two pair. I only raise Voorburg Shield Croppers now, and of the Voorburgs, the Black Shield is my favorite color with the Brown Bars a close second.

Over the last six years, I feel that I have been steadily making some progress in building a loft of Voorburg Shield Cropper that would come close to matching the standard for Voorburgs. Not the easiest task for me,



Tim Bueb's lofts, Des Moines, Iowa.

and I know I have a long way to go.

But aside from that challenge, my biggest love for pigeons, especially the Voorburgs, is to have them flying free in my backyard.

The Voorburg Shield Cropper is an exceptionally good flyer with lots of wing clapping and floor jumping. They have a terrific amount of personality that can steal the heart of any new pigeon fancier.

If I were never to win at a pigeon show, this free flying entertainment alone would fill me with one hundred percent satisfaction for these Voorburgs. But as it is, I was given even more than one hundred percent last year. The show season last year turned out to be a very good year for my Voorburgs.

In November 1990 at the Des Moines, Iowa, state show, the W.P.C.C. District Meet, my brown bar (band #770-91) took the top award – Champion Voorburg Shield Cropper. It was very stiff competition with no less than Mr. Pouter himself, Frank Barachina, judging.

On to the Grand National in January 1991 at Pomona, California. The largest Pouter and Cropper entry ever (483) and lots of Voorburgs. Once again my Voorburgs did our loft very well, receiving the top awards of Grand Champion Voorburg Shield Cropper (#770-91) Brown Bar Hen.

This Voorburg was also grand enough to go on and win best Young of all the Pouters and Croppers. Then it also continued on and placed Reserve Grand Champion of all the Pouters and Croppers (483 entered) at this N.P.A. show.

Now I certainly can't expect any more than this, but more did happen. Voorburg (#779-91) Black, my favorite color, took the honor of Reserve Champion Voorburg. Being this was a black, it really made my year.

The blacks are not as perfectly developed as some of the other colors, but this win sure says that some very good progress is being made in the right direction with these beautiful blacks.

One day I would like to see the blacks right up there at the top (consistently) with

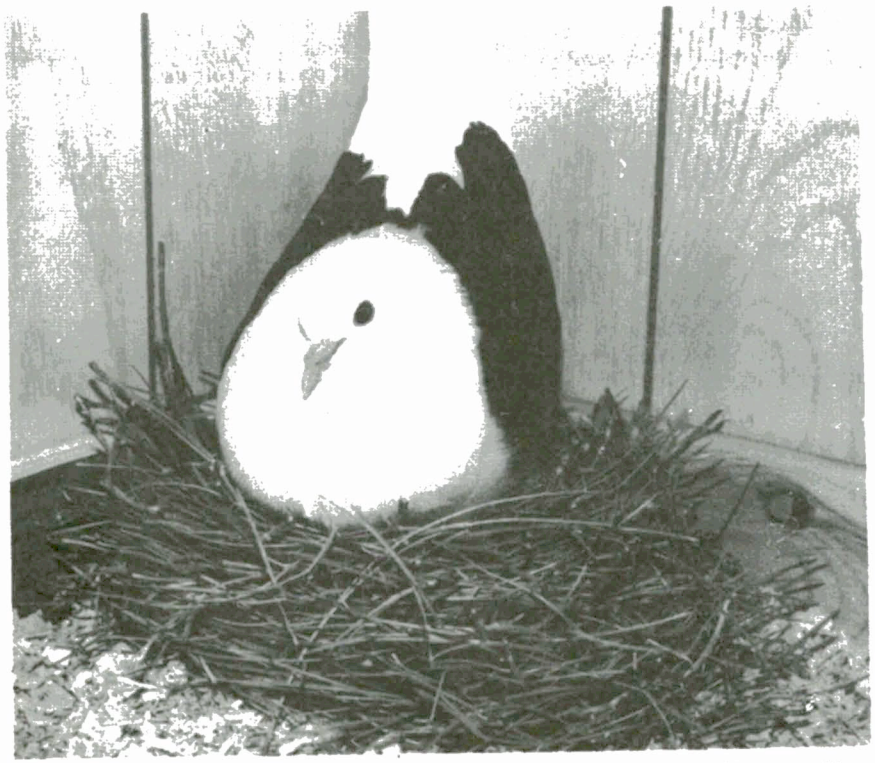


Frank Barrachina (left) presenting John Johnson (right) his plaques for Reserve Grand Champion Pouter, Champion Young Pouter, Champion Voorburg at the Pomona Grand National 1990.



BEST WINNING POMERANIAN

This Blue Check Hen, #189, was Best Young Pomeranian Pouter at the Salt Lake City 1989 NPA Grand National and Best Old Hen at the 1990 NPA Grand National, Pomona, Calif. – Bred and owned by John E. Nelson, St. Jopseh, Mich.



A perfectly marked Voorburg Shield Cropper (a breeder, #338-89). Need I say anything about their ability to build a nest out of long pine needles. They do an absolutely wonderful job, says John Johnson, Park River, North Dakota, and owner/breeder of this bird.



NORWICH CROPPER

Yearling hen, #424-90. – Bred and owned by John Harrison, Middleboro, Mass.



Chester Davis (left) and Joseph Wolf (right).

My Most Unforgettable Friend In The Fancy

by CHET DAVIS, Westerlo, N.Y.

I have had pigeons since I was seven years old and have had most breeds. When I was nine years old, my parents went to George Reohrs farm in Gilderland, N.Y. He raised English Pouters. When I saw them, I was hooked. A pair of English then cost over a $100.00 for good ones. That was a lot of money then.

Joe Wolf sold me a pair – a blue check hen and a yellow cock. They were my first English. But since then, Joe has sold me some blacks from Frank Barrachina. Joe loved Brunners and raised some good ones. Every time I went to Florida, the first thing I did was go to Joe's house. He was a gentleman, you always learned something every time you saw him. He was like a father to me. I will miss him. So will a lot of others.

Brunner Pouters

by LAYNE GARDNER, Colton, Calif.

The Brunner is a small Pouter with long legs, slim body, and a round ball-like globe. Brunners come in most colors and patterns and so should satisfy the tastes of nearly everyone.

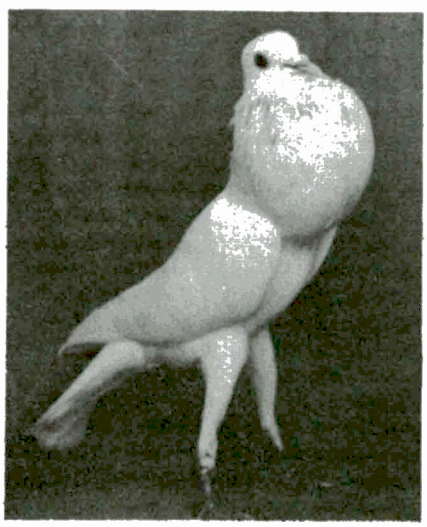
The photos I have seen of German Brunners show some outstanding specimens. Since the Brunner is very popular in Germany it is no wonder that the finest quality is found there. Getting a truly round globe is a major challenge and in my very limited experience, the best globes seem to be found on birds with thick bodies. Thick bodies really detract from the beauty of the pigeon and thus should be avoided. Birds with really slender bodies and fine bones seem to have elongated globes lacking the desired roundness.

Brunner babies look far from beautiful. The legs are very long in proportion to the body and make the bird look like it's walking on stilts. As they mature, Brunner youngsters take on a more refined look typical of the breed.

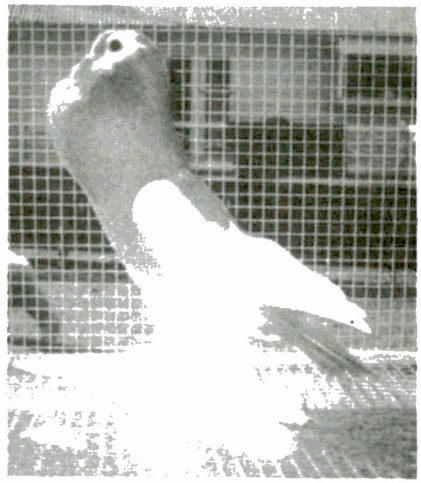
I thoroughly enjoy the Brunners and even though I have yet to breed a good one, I like just having them in the loft.

I have found Brunner fanciers to be a likeable group willing to help out the beginner. Tim Burke has been generous with his breeding stock and advice. Thanks, Tim.

For a dainty Pouter with a great personality check out the Brunners.



BRUNNER POUTER
A white young hen. – Bred and owned by Layne Gardner, Colton, Calif.



REVERSEWING POUTER
A young hen 1990. – Bred and owned by Steve Bevan, Auckland, New Zealand.

Reversewing Pouters In New Zealand

by STEVE BEVAN

Although Reversewings are not very common in New Zealand, they are much admired by most fanciers. We have around ten fanciers breeding them.

Because of the limited numbers of birds in the country to breed from, outcrossing to Norwich Croppers has been necessary and has worked very well. The Reversewing marking is very dominant and has returned after the second cross back to the Reversewings.

We have the standard colours of Red, Yellow and Black but do not have Blues yet. The most common colours are Blacks and Reds, with just a few Yellows.

The Pouter entries at our shows are increasing every year and top quality birds are being bred and shown.

If any Pouter fanciers are visiting New Zealand over the winter months when the shows are held, please contact me at: 20A Totara Rd., Whenuapai, Auckland, 416-8183.



Proper legs on a Brunner Pouter.

Bohemian Pouters In Oklahoma

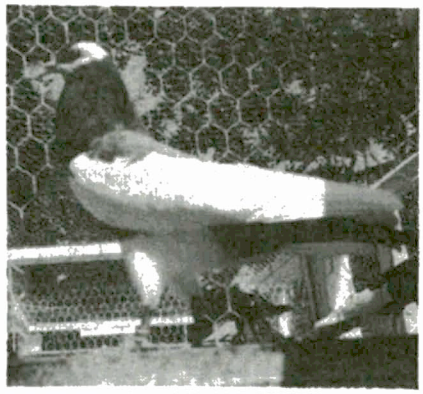
by RICK DUCKETT, Tulsa, Okla.

Two years ago, I bought two pair of Bohemian Pouters and paid a truly high price for them. Once I received them, I was extremely disappointed. All four birds turned out to be hens and terribly mismarked! I had almost given up on the Bohemian Pouter, when an article came out in the APJ about the American Bohemian Standard written by Herb Berg. So, my search for the Bohemian Pouter had ended, with a man from Minnesota by the name of Herb Berg!

First, let me tell you just a little I have learned about Herb Berg. Here is a true Bohemian promoter! A man who has worked hard over the years to better the Bohemian Pouter Standard. A man, who if you falsely advertise Bohemians as Dun Lace or perfectly marked or new German imports, will let you know if you are wrong! For he has worked hard and long to promote this beautiful breed and knows the Bohemian Pouter as well as any man here in the United States. A man who shares his knowledge and quality stock with Bohemian beginners, like me, to truly promote the Breed! And if Herb doesn't have any extra birds for sale at the time you need them, he knows several quality breeders that do. No false advertising here! These fellows from Minnesota that have worked right along with Herb, in promoting the breed, have quality birds and are true Bohemian Pouter men. Since I have become involved with the raising and showing of Bohemian Pouters, I have corresponded with Merle Frank and Robert Kosek, and of course, Herb Berg, all from Minnesota.

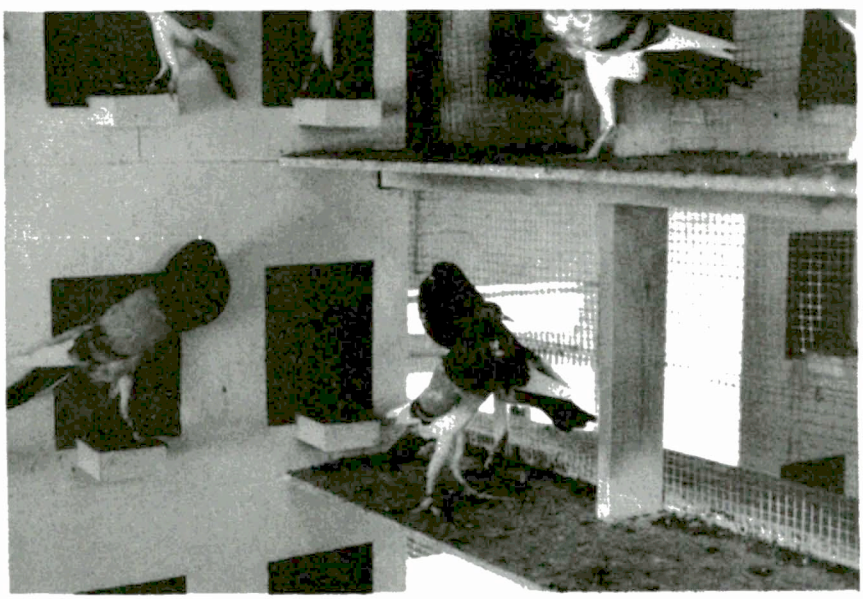
So, let me explain where this article is leading to. My search for quality Bohemians, in several colors, was achieved last year with purchasing, at extremely decent prices, breeders for 1991 from Herb. I raised several colors this year, including a couple of Silvers and one Cream from these birds. As I was close to banding 30 young Bohemians by June, I had become totally hooked on this fantastic breed of Pouter! I started looking forward to showing my Bohemians. But against who, here in Oklahoma? I am committed to the shows here, because I am the secretary to the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club, so I could not travel much to show against other Bohemians! Here again my search was ended with Herb Berg. He organized several Minnesota breeders to send Bohemian Pouters to show against me at our Young Bird Show. This was the incentive I needed. To make the competition even better, I donated shipping cost and put up $50 and a beautiful trophy for Best Young Bohemian. Herb Berg, Merle Frank and Robert Kosek even got the ball rolling more, by letting all their birds sent for the show stay in Oklahoma! So, after the show, there will be a Bohemian Auction! All proceeds from the auction go to the Southern Pouter and Cropper Club. No single individual profits, only the FANTASTIC Bohemian Pouter Breed! Now, here is my lust for real competition, some of the very best Bohemians in the country, will be shown against me, right here in Oklahoma! After the show, all Bohemians, sent by these men, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Here is the possibility to buy Champion Bohemian, with much breeding stock to go right along with this opportunity of a lifetime! What a way to start out in a breed of Pouter! To buy the BEST BOHEMIANS IN THE SOUTH! I will be the auctioneer, so all Bohemians will be sold to new fanciers. I say again, a chance to buy the BEST BOHEMIANS AROUND! I can hardly wait for our Young Bird Show, in October and the auction, and what the future brings with the Fantastic Bohemians Pouters, here in the South! My love for the Bohemian Pouter and the promotional efforts of these Minnesota fanciers have extended the Bohemian Breed, to be seriously bred and shown, here in the South!

MANY THANKS GO OUT TO THEM!



BOHEMIAN POUTER

A young check Bohemian Pouter just starting to globe. – Bred and owned by Rick Duckett, Tulsa, Okla.



Interior of Pigmy Pouter loft belonging to Ron Brammer, Coal Grove, Pa. Ron has his loft over his truck garage. The main loft is 32 feet long and 24 feet wide, divided into six individual sections with six small 4'x4' fly pens for sunning and washing. Attached to the loft is his show room with coops and office, 22'x16'. An adjoining building, 30'x30', is used for storage. Along both buildings are 12'x12' fly pens for young birds. Ron breeds only during the summer. He has four cats which were raised with his Pigmies to patrol his lofts.



Bethany Nelson, St. Joseph, Mich., with her trophies for Champion Fancy Pigeon (juniors) and 1990 NPA Grand National. Junior Champion (Overall). – Photo by John E. Nelson.

Komorner Tumblers From Start To Present

by GUIDO MADRUSAN, Simcoe, Ont., Canada

My introduction to pigeons came at the very early stages of my life. My Uncle and my Grandpa raised white pigeons for culinary purposes only (to put it simply, for the roasting pan).

They would roost all day on the balcony in front of my nursery window, but I have to be honest and say I don't remember any of it.

We will start at the age of six, when my Grandpa gave me my very own pair of white squeakers. They were the size of a Homer and they were not of any specific breed.

Grandpa helped me build my own first loft, it was about 6' x 6', with two walls made out of cardboard and the sides were chicken wire.

One of our neighbors also kept pigeons. He had a variety of fancy breeds, but my favorite were the little crested ones that would flip in the air.

I remember I would spend hours watching these little gems flying and sitting on top of his loft, and I knew I just had to have some.

I tell you, it took a lot of begging but I managed to talk my Grandma into trading two chickens for two pairs of those little crested pigeons. Yes, they were Komorner Tumblers and I was in another world.

There was a pair of white selfs and a pair of blue bar selfs.

A few months later I obtained a pair of yellow selfs, and my life as a Komorner Tumbler breeder began in 1965 at the age of seven.

They were very prolific birds, and for many years I kept a kit of 30-40 birds for flying purposes only.

They remained my number one priority until 1975 when my family decided to move to Canada.

I left all my birds to my Grandma to sell them off. After all, I owed her for two chickens.

We arrived in Canada in September of 1975, and I stayed out of pigeons for six long years.

In 1981, after I finished school and landed a steady job, I bought myself a house and started looking for some pigeons.

I started with three pairs of Berlin S.F. Tumblers and six pairs of black, red and yellow mag Komorners that I was going to use as feeders.

Needless to say, a short time later, the Berliners were phased out and I was back into Komorners.

I started attending some local shows and in 1984, I met Bill Greenslade.

Bill had a very impressive show team of K's. I promptly asked him if I could purchase some.

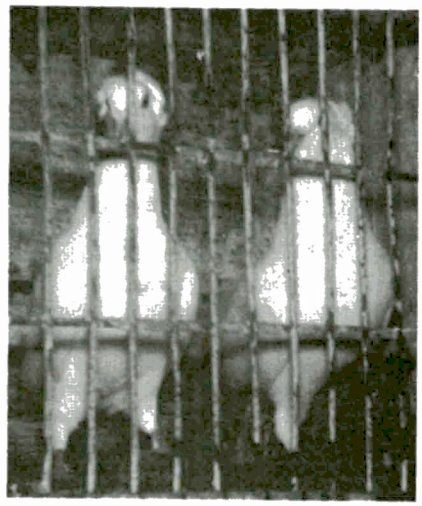
He could not help me at the time, but he informed me that if I show up at the Canadian Komorner Tumbler Club Meet in Woodstock, he and some others would have a few pairs for me.

November came along fast. As promised, Bill had a few K.T.'s for me as did Jerry Gregorinski and Darrell Slaght.

I was set up for the following breeding season with some nice breeders in red, yellow, black, blue and mealy magpies.

I finished that breeding season with several nice young birds, but they still were not what I was aiming for.

In 1986, I contacted Charlie Brown in



KOMORNER TUMBLERS FROM START TO PRESENT

Pair of white Selfs bred by the writer in 1967 at the age of 9. They were excellent performers. – Bred and owned by Guido Madrusan in Pula, Yugoslavia.



Pair of Red Short Face Komorner Tumblers owned by Guido Madrusan, Simcoe, Ont., Canada.



Country lofts of Guido Madrussan, Simcoe, Ont., Canada, are complete with hydro and alarm system.

Tennessee and I imported several KT's in red, yellow and blue magpies along with a pair of white selfs. The quality of these birds was superior to anything I had, and even today I still use two cock birds of Charlie's.

Over the years Charlie and I became good friends, but that is a different story.

My next breeding season (1987) was a success. I raised several nice birds, and I could not wait for the show season.

That fall, Jerry Gregorinski and I made our first trip to Louisville to the National Young Bird Show.

We decided we will just feel our way around and observe not exhibit. I have to admit when we arrived at the show hall, I was very disappointed. I thought I would see Komorners like I'd never seen before. I thought we had just as good if not better at home. So I informed Jerry that we will be back showing the following year.

Shortly after Louisville Jerry made a trip to British Columbia to Al Cooley's place. He purchased several pairs along with a pair of black mags for myself.

I have to say it was the best $150 I ever spent. That pair became one of my key pairs in my breeding program.

Our 1988 show was held in Woodstock. I won Champion self on a young white cock and B.O.S. on a self white old hen. I also had Best Young Hen mag on a yellow hen, Champion soft colour on a blue cock along with 12 class wins.

1989 breeding season was my best to date for quality and quantity.

We made our second trip to Louisville at the N.Y.B.S. and was well worth it. Had Reserve Champion mag with 4283-89 black cock, second reserve with 4244-89 black cock and fourth reserve with 4292-89 an outstanding yellow hen (see picture). Also had best black, dun, mealy, barred silver, barless silver and second blue young cock behind Billy Cunningham.

The Canadian Komorner Tumbler Meet was a

clean sweep, I had Champion self on a white old cock, Champion mag and Best Young with the infamous black cock KTC-4090-89 at five months of age.

Best Opposite Sex went to KTC-4292-89 a young yellow hen. Best Old Cock was KTC-2195-88 black cock and Best Old Hen was KTC-2188-88 also a black. Along with Champion soft color on a mealy old hen.

1990 Season was also a great success. That year produced me some excellent birds. KTC-2034-90 a yellow young cock, grandson of one of Dick Count's powerful yellows went to the top at the N.Y.B.S. winning Champion Komorner, Champion mag and Best Yellow, along with KTC-2022-90 black cock which was Best Black and Fourth Reserve.

I also had Best Black, Yellow, Barless Silver and I finally managed to beat Billy Cunningham with a young blue cock KTC-2044-90 for Best Blue.

The C.K.T.C. Meet held in Woodstock was judged by Charlie Brown.

Charlie picked one of my old red hens KTC-1870-88 for Champion and KTC-2000-90 black cock for Best Young and Reserve Champion.

Best soft color went to my barless silver young cock KTC-2004-90.

1991 season is now under way with some new additions. In the fall of 1990 Jerry Gregorinski and I purchased the entire loft of Al Cooley and you have to give credit when credit is due, the depth in quality of Al's birds is unbelievable.

But I still think I have a few birds that Al's could not touch.

This year I am breeding out of 25 pairs of mags in black, dun, red, yellow, barred blue and silver, barless silver, mealy, cream, Andalusian and I also keep a small stud of red short face K.T.'s.

A small advice to novices. The one you hear all the time: start with two or three pairs of the best your wallet will allow you and secondly, you have to breed your own good hens, because nobody will part with good breeding hens.

I would like to thank all the good friends that made it possible for me to get where I am today: Charlie, Jerry, Al, Bill, Darrell, Lynne, Dick and others. Without wonderful people all of this would not happen.

The C.K.T.C. and A.K.T.C. sure has plenty and a special thank you to Tracy, the love of my life, for tolerating my hobby.

Good luck with the breeding season and I hope to see you all at the National.



OUTSTANDING K.T.

KTC-4090-89 yellow hen. She exemplifies all the qualities Guido Madrusan is looking for in an ideal Komorner Tumbler. – Bred and owned by Guido Madrusan, Simcoe, Ont., Canada.



KTC-803-89, a powerful red cock bred by E.A. Cooley. – Owned by Guido Madrusan, Simcoe, Ont., Canada.

Custom Shipping Box Approved By The Airlines

by JOHN E. NELSON,
St. Joseph, Mich.

The Airlines have approved a maximum shipping size of 25"x39"x29" tall. The outside dimensions of the shipping box in the picture is 1/4" under each of those dimensions. Each Airline passenger may take two of these boxes each. We have flown Delta Airlines to the past two NPA Grand Nationals. We prepay each way at a rate of $30.00 per unit each way.

This show box will accommodate 12 large pigeons. Each of the two tiers has six separate compartments 12-1/4" high x 12-1/4" wide x 12-1/8" long. Our family shows primarily Pomeranian Pouters. These pigeons are large with long muffs. The bottom of each compartment has 1-1/2" fresh wood shavings each trip to the shows.

The outside construction is 1/4" thick wood grain Masonite pegboard. The interior partitions and large hinged lids are 1/8" tempered Masonite pegboard. The pegboard construction allows ventilation evenly through the holes on a one inch grid. The bottoms are solid. A framework was custom milled to hold the partition sections in a saw kerf 1/8" wide. The milled pieces also allow for the individual compartment lids to drop in and sit in place. One inch diameter holes are drilled in the center of each of the 12 lids. The main lid of each tier places firm pressure on each compartment lid so they will not slip out of place during shipping. The two tiers are securely fastened together by the use of eight brass clasps – two on each side and end. Each main lid is fastened to the frame with a 36" brass piano hingle. Each tier has two large brass handles. Outside, brass corners are installed on the bottom four corners of the bottom tier and the top four corners of the top tier.

A plywood base with 1x4 trip over a 2x4 frame makes the base. Four 4" dia wheels are fastened to the bottom of the 2x4 base. Two wheels are stationary and two wheels swivel for turning.

We are really satisfied with our efforts to design and build an efficient Airline shipping show box. This design could be redesigned with smaller compartments and could probably carry 16 small show birds per tier. This design does not allow for any feed or water dishes. It is heavy but sturdy. Look us up at the Milwaukee Grand National if you wish to see this. Good luck at the shows.



Custom shipping box designed by John E. Nelson, St. Joseph, Mich.



Custom shipping box designed by John E. Nelson, St. Joseph, Mich.

Performing Roller Assn. News

by DAN OUELLETTE,
Publicity Director,

1008 Reddy Ave., Medford, Ore. 97504

The Annual PRA Fly and Verified Display Convention will be taking on a different format beginning in 1992.

The verified display portion will be incorporated and held in conjunction with the Annual NPA Grand National Show Convention. This move will give all areas nationwide, the opportunity to participate in an annual NPA/PRA verified display convention as the years progress.

The 7th Annual PRA Verified Display will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 16, 1992, through January 18, 1992. Dave Kowalski will be Verified Display Judge. We are especially looking forward to this convention since it would be our second NPA Grand National meet. The PRA promotes the flying performing Roller pigeon through the Verified Display at the NPA Grand National Show Convention.

The flying portion of the Annual PRA Fly Convention will be incorporated and held in conjunction with the Annual PRA West Coast Fly. This year's debut PRA Westcoast Fly (1991) had 40 competitors from Portland to Santa Cruz. Next year we hope to expand north and south, if the interest is there. If you would like to participate in the PRA Westcoast Fly next year, contact Dan Ouellette.

The PRA has had a fly every year since 1986. The results were as follows:

1986 - 1st Annual PRA Fly, Hosted by SCVPRA, San Jose, California; Donald Ouellette won Best Kit and Outstanding Individual Performer.

1987 - 2nd Annual PRA Fly, Portland, Oregon; Leonard Kahut won Best Kit and Outstanding Individual Performer.

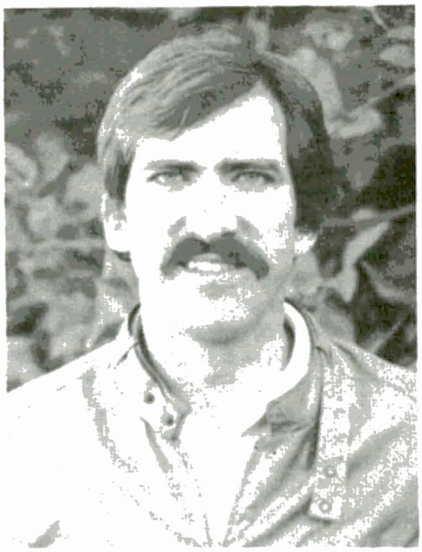
1988 - Annual PRA Fly, Modesto, California; Jack Meyers won Best Kit, and Ken Billings won Outstanding Individual Performer.

1989 - 4th Annual PRA Fly, Los Angeles, California; There were flys on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday: Frank Cortez won Best Kit and Outstanding Individual Performer. Saturday: Jerry Higgins won Best Kit, and Jerry Orton won Outstanding Individual Performer. Sunday: Kenny Kroener won Best Kit and Outstanding Individual Performer.

1990 - 5th Annual PRA Fly, Hosted by Idaho Roller Club, Boise, Idaho; Dick DeBoer won Best Kit and Outstanding Individual Roller.

The PRA is proud of its contribution to the flying aspect of our hobby. The PRA will be emphasizing competition flying in the 1990's. We believe in flying our kits and letting the birds do the talking!

SEE YOU IN MILWAUKEE!!



Dave Kowalski will be the Verified Display Judge at the 7th Annual PRA Verified Display to be held with the NPA Grand National, Milwaukee, Wisc., January 16, 1992.

African Owls

by TONY LOMUTO, Brooklyn, New York

The Nassau Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club held its 35th Annual Long Island Classic Show on November 2 and 3, 1991. The show was very well run thanks to Barbara Beer who is the Show Secretary and President Jim Price and the rest of the membership.

The African Owls were judged by John Izzo, who did a great job. John spent a lot of time going over each bird telling everyone why he picked a bird for each class. He also brought out the faults when he took a bird out and didn't make 1, 2 or 3. Overall John says our Africans are getting too big in size and not enough head power. Most Africans shown also had thick eye ceres and no gullet. Well, as most members, including myself, agree with John, so we will have to work harder to improve our African Owls.

Remember the African Owl should be 8" x 8" with a fine eye cere and you should see their gullet from a side view. Anyone interested in a copy of the African Owl Standard please write me for a copy at 2023 83rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214. The African Owl exhibitors were Tony Lomuto, Vinny Rooney, Artie Riggs, Howard Kogan, and Bruce Gaudet.

Before I list the class winners I would like to congratulate V. Rooney with his Best of Show #512 Dun Pied YH.

OLD COCKS: #159, Black, Kogan. #305, Pied, Rooney. #209, Black, Lomuto.

OLD HENS: #25, Black Pied, Rooney. #1284, Black Pied, Lomuto. #620, Dun Pied, Lomuto.

YOUNG COCKS (Dun & Black): #518, Kogan. #569, Rooney.

YOUNG COCKS: #574, Pied, Kogan. #310, Pied, Riggs. #2787, Pied, Gaudet.

YOUNG COCKS (Blue): #321, Lomuto. #399, Lomuto

YOUNG HENS (Red): #329, Lomuto. #326, Lomuto.

YOUNG HENS (Dun & Black): #571, Rooney. #573, Rooney. #334, Rooney.

YOUNG HEN: #784, Blue, Lomuto.

YOUNG HENS: #512, Dun Pied, Rooney. #338, Pied, Rooney. #567, Pied, Rooney

Congratulations again to V. Rooney with his Best of Show #512, Dun Pied YH.

Sorry, I didn't get all the color pied winners.

The next African Owl Show will be in Reading, PA, on Jan. 10, 11, 12. The American Owl Club will hold their big meet in Reading, Pa. So be sure to show up and look at some real tough competition. The American Owl Club has some of the finest looking African Owls around. The A.O.C. has some of the finest members around who are always looking to help each other with birds and advice. Remember fanciers, come on and have a great time in Reading, Pa., Jan. 10, 11, and 12 and meet some of the finest African Owl Breeders. You will find no better than the American Owl Club members.

Any information concerning the American Owl Club, please write to Tim Stajkowski, 1413 S. Raymond St., Bay City, Michigan 48706. Tim is the Secretary-Treasurer for the American Owl Club and will give you all the details on joining the A.O.C.

Looking forward to meeting some new breeders of African Owls at Reading, Pa.

The United Roller Club News

by JIM PETERSEN, Pub. Dir., Davenport, Iowa

It's certainly no secret in Roller circles, fall time, right after completion of the moult, is one of the best times for enjoying good Roller performance . . . it's also the time when hawks move in on many of us too. I'm happy to report (with fingers crossed) I have not seen a hawk this fall . . . . yet.

I read with great pleasure the many, many accounts and results of competition flying all around our great country. There is even a World Cup fly now that has fanciers judging and flying on a world wide basis. Congratulations to Monty Niebel of British Columbia for winning this year's event.

I can remember a time when our own Frank L. Rexroat Memorial Kit fly was one of the few fly reports you would see in the various bulletins. Today there are so many, I can hardly keep up with all of them! This to me is great and can only mean more interest and better Rollers being flown in the long run. I'm happy so many have now found out what fun and fellowship there is in competition flying.

I can report on the Rexroat fly since I did see all of the young bird kits fly this year. Steve Smart of Macomb, Illinois, had the best young kit this fall and Bettendorf, Iowa's Ernie Smith came in a close second. Another Bettendorf "boy" and another "Smith," Dallas Smith (no relation to Ernie) came in third. Larry Bodenhammer from Macomb was Honorable Mention. All of these guys flew the kind of young kit anybody would be proud to own at this stage of the season. I was particularly impressed with the ease and smooth rolling style and velocity of many of the birds in the top kits. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I'm very proud to be friends with all of these guys and I'm always happy for whoever comes out on top. I also know that I'm not alone in feeling this way.

One of the highlights of the competition was watching Ernie Smith's eyes light up as he hit the passing gear on Dallas Smith's classic 1971 Oldsmobile Toronado during our travels around Rexroatland (northwestern Illinois and southeastern Iowa).

On my way home from a Minnesota fishing trip in August, I had the great pleasure of visiting Dick Kollmann of St. Cloud. Dick had just moved to a new home, but already had his holdovers settled and flying well at this new site. Roller stories and fishing tales over dinner made for a most pleasant stop. I hope to make this fishing trip and stop at Dick's many times in the future.

The Iowa Flying Roller Club has held several flies this year, including an All-Iowa Championship. Mike Stapleton of the Des Moines area won the All State with John Hawxby of Hartford second and Jerry Green of Des Moines ending up in third place. Wally Hawxby, John's dad, ended up honorable mention. The point standings through September towards the "flyer of the year award" for the Des Moines area group was led by Jerry Green, Mike Stapleton and Calvin Cunningham with only two flies to go. Harold Ryan and Gary Schriver each won flies in the Chariton area district of the IFRC. I look forward to seeing some of these kits in action when I judge their annual display at Des Moines on December 7th.

HOLD THE PRESSES! I was going to report on attending the Louisville, Kentucky, Annual Convention of the National Birmingham Roller Club and I still am, but it turns out I have even more to report on a personal basis.

I was greatly surprised and even more pleased to be inducted into the NBRC's Hall of Fame at this year's convention. The emotions experienced when last year's inductee and my good friend, Paul A. Vaughn, read my name from the plaque went from surprise, a sense of pride and happiness, to a sense of humbleness. While I love this hobby and the many people I share it with, and have tried to do what I could to help it grow, I don't think I will live long enough to feel I have really "paid my dues." Little did I know, when as an 11 year old boy, I agreed to try and handle the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Quad City Pigeon Club, that it would lead 35 years later to a place in a Hall of Fame. I'm really overwhelmed . . . My induction was made in the memory of Stan Plona, an absolute top-notch Roller man and gentleman who lived in Avon, CT. Stan's birds are still considered to be some of the best Rollers around by many. Stan and I corresponded a time or two when I was the Publicity Director of the Pensom Roller Club back in the good old days and I respected him greatly. Believe me, "these days" will be the "good old days" someday. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all involved with my selection.

Talk about "frosting on the cake," not only did I get to meet and have a nice conversation with Dick Davis of South Whitney, Indiana, before the Hall of Fame ceremonies; I had the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame with him! You only have to talk with Dick a few minutes to feel what all who have had the luck to know him for a long time already feel - this is one very, very nice gentleman. Dick has been a driving force in Rollers in the state of Indiana for 50 years! Dick was inducted in the memory of Russ Harter, a former URC President and NPA Master Breeder of Rollers and a real nice guy. Mr. Davis built his family of spinning Rollers on some he received from Russ. Congratulations, Dick, it was a pleasure to meet you and wonderful to share this honor with you.

As I reported last time, the convention just keeps getting better and better. On Saturday, we were bused to three fine lofts to see the nice Rollers flown by Tom Reid of Louisville, KY., Joe Marlett of Marysville, Ind., and Tony Dasaro of Sellersberg, Ind. We also saw those crazy diving Doneks at Tony's. They're really a ball to watch. Later that day we enjoyed a fine chili lunch in connection with the business meeting. I don't think I'll ever be cold and hungry again without thinking of the wonderful flavor of this chili. Sunday we saw some great birds flown by Larry Hubbard, Hugh Wedding, Steve Haynes, Carl Hardesty, Bill Berrymore and Jerry Boehman of the Lewisport/Owensboro, Kentucky area. I mean MANY exceptional performing Rollers flown for our group of 125 or more fellow fanciers. It takes great Rollers to do that, and they've got'em believe me. The Roller hobby owes the Southern Indiana Roller Club and the Blue Grass Roller Club and all the wonderful wives a great debt of gratitude. Fantastic folks! We hope you'll remain as enthusiastic about having us as we will always be about attending. If it gets to be too big a pain to hold it as it exists now, cut back on something, but just let us come see you and see your fine pigeons fly and perform again, o.k.?

This year's convention was also a 16 bird competition fly judged by the experts from Canada (Jerry Selinger and Dominic Cincinatti) and Ron Kumro of New York. These top flying Roller experts found Jerry Boehman's kit to be the best on this occasion, Steve Haynes was second, Larry Hubbard was third and Carl Hardesty was honorable mention.

Congratulations guys – you all flew a kit that anybody would be proud to own!

Whew! I have a tight deadline, so had better cut it off right here. Thanks Roller hobby for all the fun and thrills. Thanks again NBRC for the great honor. Thanks Paul Vaughn and George Reeve for your role modeling and encouragement through all these years. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone . . . Peace on earth.

EST. 1947

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The English Trumpeter Club Of America

by DENNIS RUPP, Publicity Director
New London, Minn.



Cottonwood Showcase ET Show

The Cottonwood Showcase Young Bird and Squeaker show was held at the now famous Cottonwood Lumberyard, Cottonwood, MN, Wednesday, July 24, 1991 at 5:30 p.m. This show is also known as the Cottonwood Extravaganza. A total of 139 ETs were entered by eight breeders. The Champion bird was a very well balanced black (2517) hen shown by Norm Geihl, Cottonwood, MN. Reserve Champion went to a very strong Andalusian (810) cock shown by Rick Holmberg, Cottonwood, MN. Third went to a stylish balanced black splash (500) hen shown by yours truly, Dennis Rupp, New London, Minn. Following are the color class winners and exhibitors listed in order of final placing:

1. 2517 Black, Geihl, Champion. 2. 810 Andalusian, Holmberg, Reserve Champion. 3. 500 Black Spl., Rupp. 4. 815 AOC Splash, Holmberg. 5. 2563 White, Geihl. 6. 818 Yellow, Holmberg. 7. 926 Red, Reigstad. 8. 2586 Red Splash, Geihl. 9. 2531 Almond, Geihl. 10. 712 Black Bdhd, Johnson. 11. 2816 Grizzle, Geihl.

One bird which did not make the finals but placed second in the black splash class was a bird which had beautiful muffs, a wide skull, full wrap crest and power neck, but lacked slightly in body and style was bred and exhibited by Larry Beekler and son. They have been in the ET breeding only a few years but have made good progress.

Judgement was passed on the ETs by Dan Reigstad and Dennis Rupp. Dan judged the Red Splash, AOC Splash, Black Splash, White, Almond, AOC Self (Andalusian) and the Blue, Grizzle and Tort class. Rupp judged the Yellow, Black, Red and Baldhead classes. Reigstad and Rupp co-judged the finals.

This show marked the return to Dwayne Johnson. I have mentioned Dwayne before as he had a slight misfortune when cutting wood about one year go. After several operations and two cornea transplants he is now back breeding and showing birds. Welcome back Dwayne.

Rupp Solo Judges

After having been enrolled in the Pageant Qualified Apprenticeship judging program for about three years, I had the opportunity to judge about half of the classes at the Cottonwood Show. I find judging to be interesting and challenging. Some breeders do not prefer to be judges which is fine and others enjoy the challenge. Whether I will ever be invited to judge a major show or not remains to be seen. I have learned a great deal working with Pageant Qualified judges such as John DeCarlo, John Heppner and Peter Wolfe and soon to be Pageant Qualified Judge Dan Reigstad. Any breeder wishing to enroll in the apprenticeship judging program should contact John Heppner, 388 Hidden Lake Lane, Vista, Calif. 92054. Even if you do not want to ever judge a show, you can learn a lot about the ET.

Canadian Pigeon Fanciers' Association

Zvonko Simunovic, 47 Mohawk Drive, Guelph, Ontario, N1E 1H9 writes that he has subscribed to the APJ for the first time this year. He also visited the 1990 Grand National held in Pomona, Calif. Along with Zvonko's letter were two bulletins from the Canadian Pigeon Fanciers' Association. This club edits and prints a quality bulletin. It appears from my reading of these two bulletins that each month this club features a different breed of pigeons. The June Bulletin featured English Trumpeters. Included in the articles were a drawing of the ET and a copy of the standard. Another article traces the history of the ET in Canada. It mentions how

(Continued On Next Page)

CCRC News Update

by LAWRENCE CASTROP, Ceres, Calif.

The California Competition Roller Club held its third annual fall display on November 2, 1991 at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. While we are all dedicated to aerial performance, we also enjoy closely evaluating the expression that allow our spirited Rollers to compete. Pepe Carrera of the Santa Cruz Roller Society served as our distinguished Judge.

Show Champions

Best of Show, OH #453, Ken Billings; Reserve Champion, OC #859, Ken Billings.

Individual Results

#1 Old Cock, #859 bred by Ken Billings. #2 Old Cock, #2167 bred by Brian Manning. #3 Old Cock, #2986 bred by Jack Meyers.

#1 Old Hen, #453 bred by Ken Billings. #2 Old Hen, #3536 bred by Henry Alarcon. #3 Old Hen, #958 bred by Jesse Quintera.

#1 Young Cock, #472 bred by Leonard Tachera. #2 Young Cock, #950 bred by Jesse Quintera. #3 Young Cock, #868 bred by Henry Alarcon.

#1 Young Hen, #745 bred by Ken Billings. #2 Young Hen, #54 bred by Dallas Smith. #3 Young Hen, #953 bred by Jesse Quintera.

Awards for Aerial Performance

Both the Best Kit and the Outstanding Individual Performer were awarded to Gonzalo for the CCRC 5 Bird Series flown this spring.

Dean Biedenweg was awarded the 1991 Futurity Fly Championship.

Results of the Kit Competition from the previous three monthly flies were tabulated after the final fly in SJ county on Sunday. Our club has grown large enough to require two consecutive flying days. Ken Billings won 1st, Jack Meyers, 2nd and Sammy Williams 3rd. Sammy did an outstanding job considering that he has only been breeding and competing for seven months. He is definitely a competitor to be reckoned with here in central California.



CCRC MEMBERS

Pictured left to right are Henry Oliver, Lawrence Castrop, Sammy Williams, Dallas Smith, Jack Meyers, Billy Mathews, Ray Sanchez, Jay Ventress, Jesse Quintera, Ken Billings, Gonzolo, Brian Manning. Front: Mathew Meyers, Ty Billings. Steve Meyers and Aaron Castrop. Not shown: Henry Alarcon, Dean Biedenweg, Leonard Tachers.

Peter Wolfe and John Heppner (who lived in Canada at the time) struggled to find good quality breeding stock in the 1960's. Peter as well as many other long time breeders believe that almost 100% of all quality English Trumpeters in North America can be traced to the breeding lofts in Caronport, in Saskatchewan, and especially the small horse barn that served as John Heppner's loft and housed his ETs.

Another article by Kevin Zollars discusses what causes pigeons to die after PMV-1 vaccination. This article was very interesting reading.

The corresponding Secretary of the CPFA is Bin Trimble, 2 Hamel Ave., Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1H 5M1, phone 519-824-2138.

English Trumpeter Standard Continued

The crest, which is worth 12 points, should have its feathers growing up as high as possible and as wide as possible, yet be in balance and in proportion to the body of the bird. Viewed from the top, the crest shall be semi-circular, wrapping the back of the head extending forward and outward just beyond but not below the ears.

The crest's cushion which are feathers located between the back of the crest face and top of the mane shall be as dense as possible and on the same height as the crest face.

The crest shall be positioned on the highest point on the back of the head. The crest position should remain stationary while being handled as well as in the judging pen.

From the side view the crest should rise at a 90 degree angle to the top line of the skull. This will give the crest maximum height. You might ask, "How can the crest rise at a 90 degree angle to a round skull?" This is a good question. Upon closer examination of the standard you will see that the skull is not suppose to be round or oval when viewed from the side. This only leaves one alternative which is that the skull should be flat on top.

The crest's demarcation shall be distinct, defining the base of the crest face with a finely etched unbroken line. This simply means that there should be a fine distinct line where the front bottom of the crest attaches to the top of the skull.

The crest is worth 12 points of a possible 37 points attributed to the head area.

The rosettes (two, one on each side of the head) are worth four points. They are a small swirling outgrowth of feathers 1/2 inch in diameter radiating from a tiny center point near the ear hole marking the end of the crest. They should be positioned at the bird's eye level and as near the ear hold as possible.

Some faults found concerning the rosettes are: 1. Too large or too small. 2. missing one or both. 3. located any place except where they belong. 4. and rosettes of unequal size.

The eyes which are worth two points should be deep orange in all colors except: white, baldheads, saddles and those marked patterns where the head feathers are white. In these colors the eyes should be black or bull color.

Faults in eye color are any color except those described above as well as cracked eyes, split of odd colored eyes.

Next month the body area will be discussed.

Correspondence Is Essential

I have received some very interesting comments, letters and phone calls since I started writing this column a second time. It sure makes for easier writing when I hear from ET breeders. How about more information from long time breeders who live out of the Minnesota area. I will be waiting to hear from you. Phone: 612-354-4554. Address: 2804 Co. Rd. 40 NE, New London, Minn. 56273.

NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM ROLLER CLUB NEWS

Dedicated to the preservation and further development of the Birmingham Roller in the air.

by JACK MEYERS,
Publicity Director
3112 McGerry Ave., Modesto, Calif. 95355
209-521-6812

After I became Publicity Director, I started writing letters asking various Roller fanciers for their opinions concerning the "Early Developing Birmingham Roller" or any other topic they would like to comment on. Here are a couple of replies I received.

Kirk Hatfield, Wilmington, CA: "Like most fanciers, I've read many articles condemning the 'Early Developing Birmingham Roller' to an early death. I can't tell you who, when or where this theory started but, personally, I feel it's more of a hand-me-down theory based more on opinion rather than from experience.

"When a bird comes into the roll has nothing to do with instability. But, even if it did, that fault could be eliminated by proper stock selection. If there's any particular trait you wish to eliminate within your strain, you never consider any bird for stock that you've flown that shows any indication of that particular trait you wish to eliminate.

"If you're into early developers, then only breed from the birds that came into the roll early and showed no signs of instability and maintained that stability for at least 18 months. You may not agree with this, but that's the way I see it."

Richard Barber, Topeka, Kansas: "I am not sure if age has anything to do with control. I haven't really thought that much about it to be totally honest. If in fact age does have something to do with control, I believe it's more physical than mental. I could somehow agree that maybe the muscle tone is not quite developed enough for a three or four month old bird to handle high velocity spinning without showing some side effects, such as: rolling down, landing early, poor kitting, whatever. Then again, I've bred many birds that came into the roll early with no side effects. So, at this point in time, there's really not enough evidence for me to condemn the early developing Roller."

If there's anyone else out there who has time and would like to comment on the "Early Developing Roller" drop me a line. Also, if anyone would like more information about the NBRC, or would like to become a member, contact: George Valiska at: RD #2, Box 437, Delta, PA 17314. Dues are $9 for twelve months membership.

Northwest Pigeon Fanciers Hold Lawn Show

by JENNIFER DeVOE,
Mead, Wash.

Hello! I hope you all have had a successful breeding season. We just held our July Lawn Show and there was a total of 29 exhibitor's with a total of 204 birds. The Best in Show bird was a White Modena owned by Dick Clark. Best Junior was an Oriental Roller owned by Sara Wacenske. First Reserve was given to Doyle Wheeler with an Indian Fantail. Second Reserve to Jessi Peterson with a Norwich Cropper. The rest go as follow:

Best W.O.E. - Myron Berger; Best Roller - Ron Wheeler; Best Indian Fantail - Doyle Wheeler; Best Standard Fantail - Lorraine Council; Best Helmet - Stan Fry; Best Homer - Rod Fraizer; Best Modena - Dick Clark; Best Tippler - Ron Wheeler; Best Cropper/Pouter - Jessi Peterson; Best Rare - Vički Llewelyn, Thai Laugher; Best Utility - Walt Parks, French Mondain; Best Fancy - Dick Clark, White Modena; Best Sporting - Ron Wheeler, Roller.

We will be holding our 21st Annual Show on Oct. 26-27. There will be meets for the following breeds: Indian Fantail, Modenas, West of Englands, Rare Breeds and a special meet for the Syrian breeds.

For more information contact your district representative or: Kris Wacenske, President, E. 12527 Midway Road, Mead, Washington 99021, phone: 509-238-4984.



by GEORGE LECHNER,
Palatine, Ill.

NEW PROJECTS IN RECESSIVES

To Review: Recessive Red is a non-sex chromosome mutation that produces a regular distribution of pigment. The term Red is confusing, because in pigeons, Red belongs in the group of Brown-Red color hues. Many mutations produce such pigmentation. The entire family of Bronzes are Reddish, as is the sex-linked dominant mutation Ash-Red.

To Further Review: The mark of the Ash quite clearly identifies the Ash-Red sex-linked dominant mutation. The cocks of this mutation will show the Black "Ash" flecking or spotting; the hens will not! Recessive Red (and its dilute Recessive Yellow) show no "washing-out" to "Ash" in flights or tail. The feathers are Red to the ends. Any pigeon with a Red tail – solid to the end – can be assumed to be Recessive Red (same assumption for the dilute Yellow). However, the modern-day Recessive Red (Yellow) world is flawed by the influence of basic Blue-Black and Ash Red by the appearance of rump and tail "smut" – and the opposite "wash-out" effect to almost white.

Genetic theory states that Recessive Red masks all basic colors – Ash-Red, Blue-Black, Brown, etc.: however, most modern day Recessives do a rather poor job of masking the extraneous pigmentations which appear as "smut" in the rump and tail areas. (Why this happens primarily in the tail and rump areas – I don't know). Eliminating the "smut" is the first of the three main problems in breeding good Recessive Reds and Yellows.

The second problem is that of producing the deep, rich, Red color of the ideal Recessive Red bird. Present-day "Recessive Red" has degenerated to only a "shade" of the desired, intense, red color represented by the American Red Carneaux – the Red color which we so strongly wish to install in the Recessive American Giant Homer.

The third problem in the production of the deep, rich, Red Recessive, American Giant Homer is that of eliminating the influence of the Ash Red which causes the "opposite" effect from the Blue-Black smut. This condition appears as a "fading out" to even white in the rump, tail, and internal areas of the primary and secondary wing flights.

And then there exists the universal problem possessed by all American Giant Homers the production of the perfect body described and prescribed by the A.G.H.A. Standard of Perfection – the essential document which was "inadvertently" left out of the 1991 AGHA Yearbook. The "re-creation" of this perfect body is fundamental to all other aspects of Giant Homer breeding! It can/may be accomplished in a number of ways (as yet, I have not been able to do it!): 1. Careful selection of breeders from present American Giant Homers, 2. Careful selection of other breed outcrossed to "capture" desired characteristics (Antwerp – head; Carneaux – color, etc.). Fundamentally – the whole problem is that of re-creating the Recessive Red American Giant Homer as if it had never before existed!

The re-creation process requires first (?) to eliminate the influence of Blue-Black or any other dark pigmented birds in the background of the breeders by which you wish to produce the "new" Recessive Red American Giant Homer. This can/may be done in a number of ways: 1. Examine the genetic background of present breeders and select those which are as far away from dark pigmented ancestors as possible. 2. Select Giant Homer breeders and outcrosses which carry the best Recessive Red color available which have the least dark pigmentation in their ancestry. I am thinking of the modern American Red Carneaux, the American Show King, the American Show Racer, and Red Schietti Modena and others.

The ultimate solution(s) to this "triumvirate" of problems cannot be achieved in a short period of time – and certainly not by simple selection of breeders from present day recessive stock. These faults have become so well established over at least 63 years of Giant Homer breeding, that it is going to take at least a few years to "dis-established" them.

The task of working with the Ideal Recessive Red (Yellow) American Giant Homer is great enough; however, if enough interest and energy can be generated, several other recessive projects may be instituted, but – keep these "other projects strictly segregated from the "ideal" basic breeding stock. Some of these other projects are as follows:

1. DEROY – RECESSIVE RED ALMOND. Most authorities say, "Mate a Recessive Red cock to an Almond hen. Some breeders, however, suggest using an Almond cock on a Recessive Red hen. I have long since come to ignore the phrase "It can't be done!" so I will try both ways. The sons/(daughters) from these matings, mated back to Recessive Red hens/(cocks) will, somewhere down the line, blend Recessive Red and Almond on the same chromosome, and you will produce the "true" Deroy hen/(cock).

2. GOLD – RECESSIVE RED – PALE. The best suggestion I've heard yet is to "get a Gold Recessive Red Schietti Modena Cock and cross it to a Recessive Red Giant Homer hen. You'll drop some size and get poor heads (in the first generation), but you may well help color and station." This suggestion, however, is but the beginning of the process – a lot of further study has to be done. It is sometimes difficult to pick Pale Recessive Reds from intense colored Recessive Reds, but there is a difference in color – especially if the Ideal Recessive Red color (i.e. - Carneaux Red) has been established.

3. REDUCED RECESSIVE RED. I have been advised to mate a Reduced Blue Giant Homer (or American Show Racer) cock and a Recessive Red Giant Homer hen. The daughters will be Reduced (probably blacks) and will carry Recessive Red. The sons would be a combination of Reduced Blue and Recessive Red (again probably blacks). Set two matings in this program, so the offspring from pair #1 can be used the following year on the offspring from pair #2.

Since Recessive Red can mask "anything," the first cross may throw anything – especially blacks – possibly spread Ash Reds even Andalusians. But these "combinations" from the original matings, will, somewhere down the line, give a re-combination – and you will get the Reduced Recessive Red HEN.

4. PLATINUM – RECESSIVE RED VARIATION. The idea is to join Recessive Red and Milky. In combining these two mutants, a Giant Homer of Pinkish body plumage and Pearlish-colored neck feathers will be produced. This is done by finding a Milky Show Racer/(Giant Homer) cock (pattern unimportant) and mate it to two Recessive Red Giant Homer hens of large, deep, short bodies. Produce four to six offspring from each mating, then inbreed the half-siblings (young from one hen to the young from the other hen). At this particular mating level, the parental breeders (probably blues) will carry both Recessive Red and Milky genes, invisible, of course, until these mutants come together and visibly bloom in the next generation.

A certain percentage of Platinum will appear. Whenever the mutants Recessive Red and Milky unite, neither will care to dominate the other; both prefer to "share the light of day." Not only will their color "dazzle the senses," but it is likely (expected, even) that a couple of Giant Homers will express show quality. What's more, these Platinum Giant Homers with remarkable color – Pinkish bodies with Pearlish necks – will, when mated together, breed true. (Blaine)

5. FADED RECESSIVE RED. The effect of the Faded factor has a similar effect upon the color on the chromosome as Almond has on the Recessive Red chromosome factor but, of course, with a somewhat different result. Both Almond and Faded "mute" the color on the chromosome with them – and let the other color show through. So 1/2 Recessive Red and 1/2 Almond is a

(Continued On Next Page)

Deroy. So 1/2 Faded and 1/2 Recessive Red produces a Faded Recessive Red.

DEFINITION OF RECESSIVE

RECESSIVE: Of, pertaining to, or designating an Allele that does not produce a Phenotypic effect when Heterozygous with a dominant Allele.

ALLELE: Any of a group of possible Mutational forms of a Gene.

MUTANT: An individual or organism differing from the parental strain or strains as a result of mutation.

MUTATION: 1. The act or process of being altered or changed. 2. An alteration or change, as in nature, form or quality. 3. Any heritable alteration of the genes or chromosomes of an organism.

GENE: A functional hereditary unit that occupies a fixed location on a chromosome, has a specific influence on phenotype, and is capable of mutation to various allelic forms.

PHENOTYPE: The environmentally and genetically determined observable appearance of an organism, especially as considered with respect to all possible genetically influenced expressions of one specific character. (Phenotypic – adjective form).

HETEROZYGOSIS: Derivation from or union between genetically different Gametes.

HETEROZYGOTE: A Zygote that has inherited different Alleles at one or more Loci.

HETEROZYGOUS: Having different Alleles at one or more Loci.

ZYGOTE: 1. The cell formed by the union of two Gametes. 2. The organism that develops from such a cell as characterized by its genetic constitution and subsequent development.

LOCI: The position(s) that a gene occupies on a chromosome.

GAMETE: A germ cell possessing the Haploid number of chromosomes; especially, a mature sperm or egg, capable of participation in fertilization.

HAPLOID: Having the number of Chromosomes present in the normal germ cell, equal to half the number in the normal Somatic cell.

CHROMOSOME: A DNA - containing linear body of the cell nuclei of plants and animals, responsible for the determination and transmission of hereditary characteristics.

DNA: Deoxyribonucleic Acid (Deoxy - Indicates that a molecule contains less oxygen than another to which it is related).

DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID: A polymeric chromosomal constituent of living cell nuclei, consisting of two long chains of alternating phosphate and deoxyribose units twisted into a double helix and joined by hydrogen bonds between the complementary bases adenine and thymine or cytosine and quanine, each of which projects toward the axis of the helix from one of the strands where it is bonded in a sequence that determines individual hereditary characteristics.

SOMATIC: Of or pertaining to the body, especially as distinguished from a bodily part, the mind, or the environment: physical.

SOMATIC CELL: Any bodily cell other than a germ cell. Possesses the genetic contributions from both the male sperm and the female egg.

HOMOZYGOSIS: The union of genetically identical gametes, resulting in the formation of a homozygote.

HOMOZYGOUS: A zygote derived from the union of genetically identical gametes.

PIGMENT: 1. Any substance or matter used as coloring. 2. A substance, such as chlorophyll or hemoglobin, that produces a characteristic color in plant or animal tissue.

DILUTE: 1. To thin or reduce the concentration of (a solute). 2. To lessen the potency, strength, purity, or brilliance of by admixture. (The act of mingling or mixing).

DILUTION: 1. A. The process of diluting. B. A dilute or weakened condition. 2. A diluted substance.

SOLUTE: A substance dissolved in another substance, usually the component of a solution present in the lesser amount.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CONTRIBUTORS

Jud Appley, Eddie Blaine, Maurice Durkee, Bob English, Alan Gorby, Ted Grulke, Joe Haas, Gerald Hobbs, Chris Lloyd, Joe Quinn, Johnny Severson, Paul Steiden, Frank Wiedlocker, Denby Williamson, John Woods, Norbert Wozniak.

I haven given attention to what these experienced breeders have written and said; however, I have also injected some of my own thoughts and experiences into my Recessive program. I could be completely wrong, and they could be entirely right – we shall see in a few years!

But in the pigeon hobby, my present recreation is the re-creation of the Recessive Red American Giant Homer. For 20 years, my efforts were directed toward the Grizzle Factor, now – it's something else. Now why don't I produce a Grizzled Recessive Red American Giant Homer? How about a Grizzled Reduced Recessive Red American Giant Homer?

In conclusion, I invite readers to criticize what I have written, particularly those ideas which are strictly mine. I do not criticize the knowledge which I have absorbed from the above 16 people; I simply reserve the right to add my own thinking in an honest effort to "go beyond" the limits of present knowledge.

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KingTracks

by HELEN TRACHT,
Publicity Director
American King Club

There was no Senate Judiciary Committee involved. No 100 million people watching every move, listening to every word, no repercussions that could be felt nationwide.

But yes, there has been scrutiny. A different, less serious type of scrutiny than we have been watching on television of Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill. I can empathize with both of them. No human being should be put through the hell they have been through by some of our so called leaders.

Many calls came in to say my last article was good and to the point. Then I had one conversation that said I was always talking about him, but I don't recall mentioning any names. All I can say, "If the shoe fits, wear it."

Joe and Alice Abreu from Hayward, CA, came for a visit and told us about the Bay Area young bird show. It was judged by the rules that some of us believed we voted for. They liked it, and most of their members are young and had never used that way of judging before.

S.C.K.C. had their young bird show Oct. 12, at the home of Bill and Jan Harrison. The members voted to judge the same way. Paul DiCandia came down and judged our show the same way as the Bay Area. Everything went well and Paul did a good job for a beginner. With more experience and the way he is studying the standard he's going to be good. Be sure Paul, to also study the colors as that is as important as the points as you already know.

The 5th District Show was Nov. 16 and 17 at the fairgrounds in Phoenix, Ariz. The judge was George O'Hara Jr., from Carlisle, PA. Details on the show forthcoming.

Had a nice talk with Harold and Merleen Martin from Opelousa, La. They are doing fine and had their young bird show Nov. 16. I understand they have lost some of their members due to disillusionments. I hope this doesn't last because you'll be missed. Always in life there are a few people that always have to make trouble, but most of us are good. Try us again and come back.

Here is a true story that should make you feel good.

Last summer a pigeon was found on the patio, several stories up in a building in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. Mary Snook, who works in the building, saw the bird and noticed the band on its leg. Her brother-in-law, Bill Russell, raises King pigeons at this home in Chino, Ca., so she knew the importance of a band on a pigeon. She and her coworkers found a man who raised pigeons in a town near Des Moines. The Humane Society brought a pigeon trap to Mary and they caught the bird. They then called the man in the small town. He came to the building in

downtown Des Moines, looked at the bird, read the band number, and said "I know the man who owns this bird. He lives in Chicago." So the racing homer that was lost among the tall buildings in Des Moines, was returned to its owner.

It's always nice to hear a story with a happy ending. I might also say it proves my point that most of us really are good people. Betty Russell, the wife of Bill, told me this story. Don't you all feel better?

Now that Jeff and I have just about recooperated from our surgeries, his at triple-by-pass and my back, we are looking forward to getting out and around soon. I would appreciate all the news from each district and your pros and cons. Hope to see a lot of you at the National.

Pigeon trachting for you, Helen Tracht, Publicity Director, A.K.C.

Chinese Owl Chatter

By TERRY T. FICK
Pine Grove, Pa.

I just arrived back from judging the National Chinese Owl Club's Annual Fall Meet held on October 12, 1991 in St. Jacobs, Ill., and I must say I was very impressed. The quality of the birds, especially the rarer colors, was excellent. It's nice to see that someone is taking the time to perfect something besides Blue Owls.

Surprisingly the Blue Bar class was one of the weaker classes I judged. This seems to be becoming more and more common in recent years, mainly due to the fact that Blues are most commonly used to improve lesser colors. Consequently the Blues have suffered greatly for the benefit of other colors. There are still a lot of nice Blues around, but overall they are not as good as in the past.

By far the strongest class, at least at this show, were the Blue checks. Many of the Blue checks had nice wide chest frills, well shaped collars and excellent poise. Especially impressive was the width of many of the birds upper frill. Many Owls lack good upper frill width so it was a pleasure to see so many birds with this very important feature. Champion of the show went to a fine Blue Check old cock owned by Melburn Bonnell Jr. This bird had everything one could want in an Owl, including an excellent head. As I've mentioned in previous articles, many Chinese cocks are becoming very feminine in appearance. This bird however had an almost perfect head for a cock.

Pat Scroggins also exhibited a blue check young cock that was very close in quality to Bonnell's bird. This bird went on to win fourth Reserve, being held back mainly for condition. Pat's bird was not quite finished with the moult causing it to place lower than it should have. With a few more weeks this bird will be hard to beat.

The most memorable part of this entire show was the pleasure of seeing so many good quality rare colored birds. With color breeders the likes of Chris Stenger, John Lenz and Ray Scroggins present, I expected to see some nice birds, but I wasn't prepared for the numbers that I saw. Everything from Browns, Blacks and Whites to Silvers, Creams and Qualmonds strutted their stuff, and strut they did! So well in fact, that Chris Stenger had second Reserve with a Cream Check cock that would have made anyone envious. This bird really positioned nice, forcing me to take notice every time I passed his cage. Stance and positioning are so important in the show room and this bird was proof of just that.

Another bird that really stood out was a Black cock exhibited by John Lenz. This was an outstanding bird and could have easily been Champion had its color been better. Unfortunately Blacks still need a lot of work since they lack the lustrous sheen and deep rich color that makes black so appealing. I don't know if we'll ever see the quality of black color in Chinese Owls that many German Toys possess, but improvements are definitely being made.

One thing I did notice on some birds was the lack of proper show preparation, probably on the part of newcomers to the world of competition. Some of these oversights could mean the difference between a win and a loss if it came down to two birds that were otherwise very close. For the benefit of those who don't know, I'd like to review some of the things I found.

First of all, it's important that anyone who's even the slightest bit interested in winning at a Chinese Owl Show learn to pluck a bird's lower frill. Many Chinese Owls have so much lower frill that it begins to push down and actually hide the bird's pants. When this happens, the fancier must pull just enough feathers form the lower frill to allow the pants to stand out, otherwise it will look like the bird has none. When doing this though, you must be wary of over plucking as this can do more harm than not plucking at all. Just pull enough to allow the pants to naturally fluff out when the bird positions.

Spanish frill or curl on the bird's wing shields is also a never ending problem in most lofts. These feathers can also be plucked to an extent as long as bare spots don't occur. Judges are becoming harder every year on rough backed birds, so fanciers are wise to pull these feathers if possible. Some birds are so bad, that they cannot be plucked. A bird like this has no place in the show room, and possibly not even in a breeding program. I'd be very reluctant to breed with a bird like this, since Spanish Frill can easily take over your loft.

I also noticed birds with feathers on their shanks. None went as far as the toes, but even the shanks should be feather free. Make sure you check for this and remove any feathers in this area before judging.

Just these three simple things will mean a lot to the success of your show team. If you neglect these simple tasks, you might as well save your entry money. It may not sound like much now, but when it's time to pick Champion, it will mean a world of difference.

For a breed with a future, try the one with the fancy pants. – Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, PA 17963.

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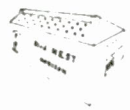
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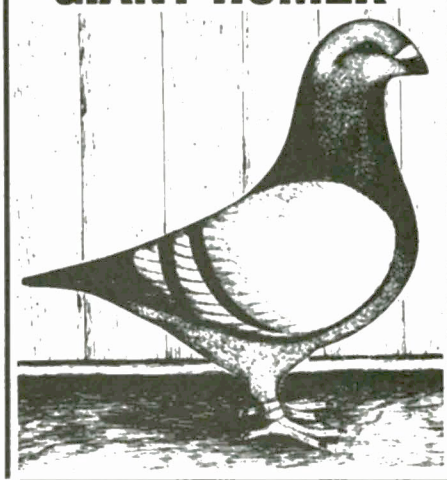


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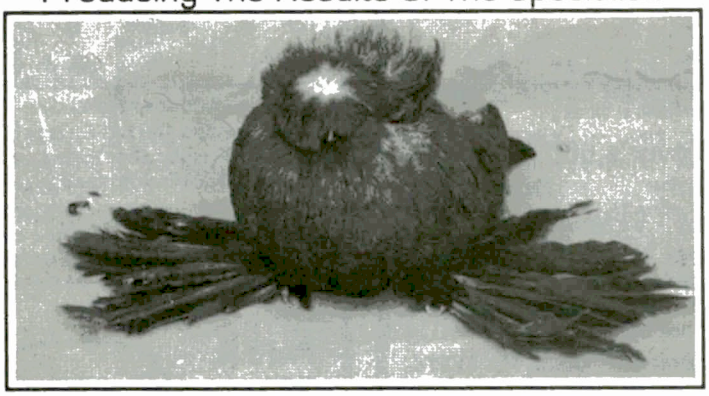
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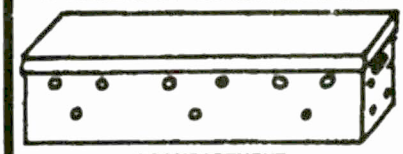
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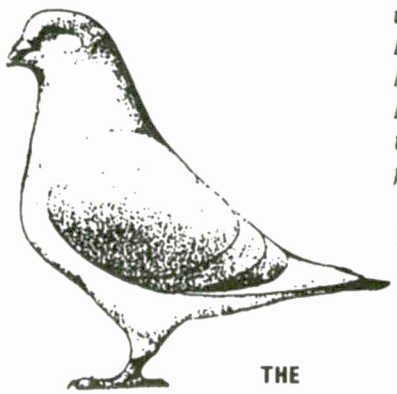
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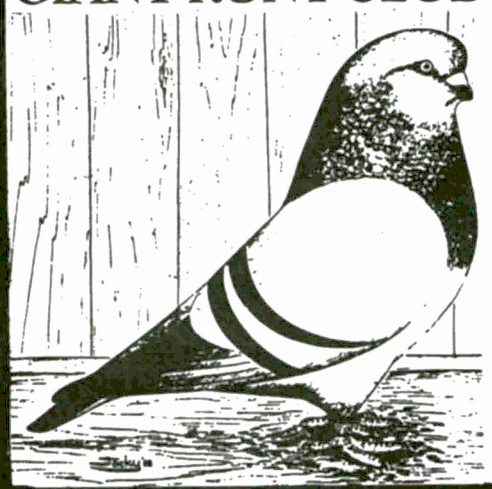
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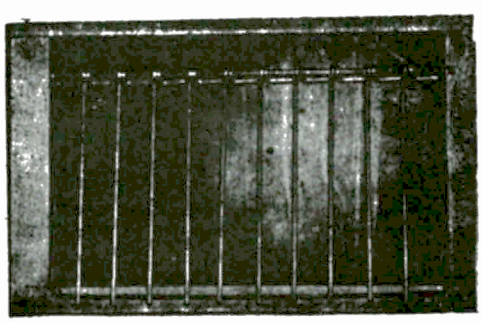
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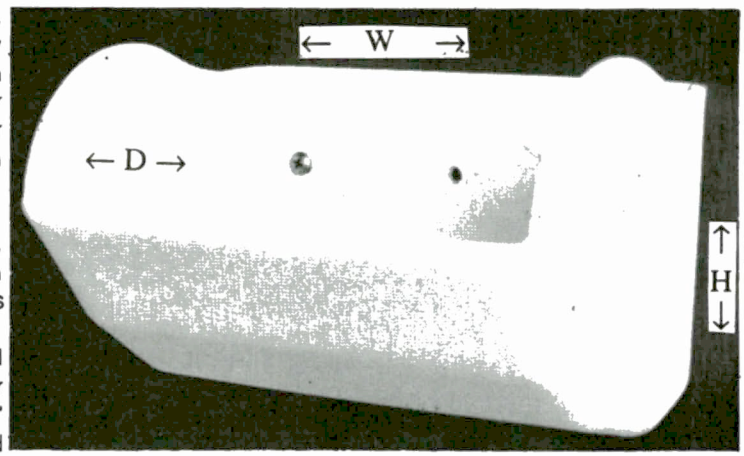
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Our banquet on Saturday night will be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marc Plaza.

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We've just begun to work on the balance of Friday night's program but feel certain you will get a good dose of **GEMEITLICHKEIT!!**



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PURE HANSSENES – Birds out of Schumacher, McCallion, Dennis bloodlines. Pedigreed to 1900. Young Birds $25.00 each. Breeders $50.00 each. Also pure Otto Meyer Trentons. – Russell Phipps, 1929 Old Kanuga Rd., Hendersonville, N.C. 28739. 704-697-6775. (291-192)

MUST REDUCE STOCK – Need rest, 77 years old. My loss is your gain. Sxity years racing, breeding and showing. Three years in WW11 Signal Pigeon Corp. Quality Birds Now Available. Youngsters 1991 A.U. banded. Mexico and Vernazza Janssens, Heitzman and Fenoyer Sion; Curtis and Heitzman Stassords; Fabrys; Huskin Van Riels; Trentons, Duns and Reds. Breeders $50.00 to $150.00 pair. Youngsters $20.00 each. Black Eagles, Youngsters $25.00 to $35.00 each. Breeders $100.00 to $150.00 a pair. White Pletinckx, Youngsters, $25.00 to $35.00 each; Breeders $125.00 pair. Fenoyer Sion, Youngsters $25.00 to $35.00 each. Breeders $75 to $200.00 a pair. Order two pair breeders or more or 6 youngsters, mix or match. Express Mail Charges including MBC Container $44.95. Anywhere in USA up to 6 pigeons. – Louis Nicosia, 324 N. 18th, Waco, Texas 76701. 817-754-1691 or 772-1587. (291-1291)

RARE BREEDS

VIENNA MEDIUM FACE TUMBLERS – Danzig Highfliers: males $9, females $14. Five miles from Nation's capitol. – Harris, 703-820-2722. (1191-192)

RZHEV STARTAILED – (Flying Tumblers of show quality. Known in Russia since 17th century.) Kazaner Tumblers (Ancestors of modern Berlin S.F. Tumblers). Also 4 pairs of Shakhsharlis. – Alex Lowmann, Rt. 25, Box 7, Parkville, Mo. 64150. 816-746-0255. (1191-192)

SPANISH CATALONIAN TUMBLERS – Monjins, 1 pr. Pidcentinos, Kings, Homers, other breeds. Will ship N.E.S.T. – Samuel Pino, 823 Reservoir St., Socorro, N. Mexico 87801, SASE or call 505-835-2184. (1191-192)

I MUST SELL – All my Budapest High Flyers. Getting out of hobby. – Bela Kiss, Box 65, East Falmouth, Mass. 02536. (1091-1291)

BERNBERG TRUMPETERS – Top quality in most colors. Six bird minimum. – Tom Conway, 1509 Cedarhill, Riverside, Calif. 92507. (1091-1291)

HUNGARIAN GIANT HOUSE PIGEONS – Outstanding quality. – Tony Brancato, 653 Glen Cairon Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455, (805) 934-3429. (991-1191)

WANTED – Crack Tumblers; Nasal Tuft Chinese; Wutas; Kelebeks. – Willie English, Box 1942, Jacksonville, Texas 75766-1942. 903-586-5083. (991-1191)

CRESTED SOULTZ – Import lines. Blue Barless. – Tally Mezzanatto, 12376 Bryant St., Yucaipa, Calif. 92399. 714-797-9757. (991-1191)

IRAN ROLLERS – Don Lindquist, 215-794-5580. (891-792)

TOYS, UTILITY, SYRIAN, PERFORMING – Terry Fick, RD #3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963. (591-492)

PERFORMING SYRIAN COOP TUMBLERS – Iran Rollers, Egyptian Swifts, Syrian Swifts, all breeds of Dewlaps, all Lebanons, Damascenes, Syrian Fantails, Shaksharli Tumblers. – Jack Schubarth, 508 Central Ave., Great Falls, Mont. 59401. 1-406-467-2910. Visa and Mastercard accepted. (391-292)

CAUCHOIS – Red Laced and Yellow Laced. – Charles Lucas, 6813 Catina St., New Orleans, Louisiana 70124. (1290-1191)

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BEAUTIFUL WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA – 3 BR, 2-1/2 baths, over 2,000 sq. ft. Top, move-in condition. 3.62 acres, 50x25 separate building for horses or cars. New 8x8 pigeon lofts with 8' fly pens and built-in mating cages. Much more for only $159,000. – Century 21 - Barnette & Coates. Call toll free 1-800-621-3121. Ethel Evers, Broker. (991-1191)

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PORTABLE ROLLER LOFT VIDEO – Two hour VHS instructional video on how to select, train and fly Rollers from mobile lofts, $18.00 pp. – Don Pisowicz, 85 E. McDashowicz Dr., Porter, Ind. 46304. (1191-192)

PEDIGREED PENSOM ROLLERS – Master Breeder bloodlines. Show and fly, all colors. – Dennis M.Barton, 18550 W. Observatory Road, New Berlin, Wisc. 53146. 414-542-4438. (1191-1092)

TRY A HARTSROLLER – Proven spinning pair, $25.00. – 51 Brad St., Rochester, N.Y. 14622. (1191-192)

PARLORS – $25.00 pair. – 814-695-5169. Dick Greubel, 441 First Ave., Duncansville, PA 16635. (1191-192)

NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM ROLLER CLUB – The original national club dedicated to **flying performance only.** World's largest roller club - over 1,000 members. Bands, pedigrees, patches, videos available. 30 page bulletins. $9.00 membership or free complimentary bulletin. Write to: – George Valiska, RD 2, Box 437, Delta, Pa. 17314. (1191-1093)

EMERSON'S SHOW ROLLERS – National Champion bloodlines. $25.00 up. Will ship. – Joel Mullins, 299 Speck Rd., Lebanon, Tenn. 37087. 615-374-3388. (1191-192)

FLYING ROLLERS – All colors including Almonds. Will ship. – 501-342-5534. (1191-1092)

BROZ ROLLER LOFTS – Top quality Show Rollers. Petro/Emerson bloodlines in popular colors. Reasonably priced. Also, tight kitting, frequent deep spinners. Many colors including red and yellow mottles. Individual birds or entire kits available. References. – Norm Brozovich, 103 White Cloud Rd., Apollo, Pa. 15613, 412-727-2683. Near Pittsburgh, will ship. (1191-1092)

BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Performance Plus. As purely bred family of Bill Pensom Rollers as exists. Ten years of hawks are causing me to re-think my breeding program and forcing this reduction in birds. My loss is your gain. Outstanding young and old birds available. – Ron Moden, Calif. 619-670-7249. (1191-192)

THE BEST – In Plona Bloodlines. Performance bred 1992 youngsters. – Jim Osche, 1454 Boise, Alliance, Nebr. 69301. 308-762-6142 MT. (1191-192)

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED – Performance strain. Will demonstrate. – John Dow, Kansas City, Kansas. 913-631-4864. (1091-992)

PLONA - PENSOM - SPINNERS – Flown 1991 Kit birds - 6 for $75.00. Few stock prs. $40.00. - 2 pr. Platz bred orange eyed whites $100.00 shipped your MBC plus $28.00 postage. – Jim Cassettari, 4272 Spring St., Coos Bay, Oregon 97420. 503-888-6046. (991-1191)

ROLLER FLY PENS, for sale. – 4x4x7 ft. drop front with traps, sturdy 2x4, 6 pc. modular, bolt together construction. Two available @$75.00 each. 707-829-2543. (991-1191)

PERFORMING ROLLERS – Will ship. – 903-628-2034. (991-892)

JACONETTE BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Competition flying, fun, sport. Performance bred for frequency, depth and velocity! Bred off 1940 imports from Ray Perkins, Bill Pensom and Smith lines. References a pleasure. Breeding only performance standard birds. Quality spinners. Visitors welcome by appointment. – Richard Jaconette, 205 Paden Drive, Spring Valley, Calif. 92077. Phone: 619-479-3001. (891-792)

ROLLERS - REDEFINED! – Excellent size, type, spinning and kitting ability, unusual colors, good temperament birds. REMEMBER - Quality doesn't cost, it pays! Will ship. – Stephan Wolf, 2060 Estey Ave., Naples, Fla. 33942. 813-793-2279 or 775-3303 days. (891-1092)

PARLOR ROLLERS – Long Distance. Birmingham Rollers - tight, deep. – Norm McMurray, 1-805-466-4408. (891-792)

BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Old Jaconette family. – Danny Horner, Mebane, N.C. Ph. 919-563-5378 or 5658. (891-792)

ROLLER VIDEOS – #1, "Fla. Suncoast Roller Club Winter Flys." #2, "2nd Annual Southern Performing Roller Classic." #3, "LOUISVILLE 1990 - National Young Bird Show and Kit Flys." #4 "ATLANTA CLASSIC 1991 Convention and Kit Fly." 2 hrs. - excellent footage! All extremely well made videos! $20.00 each. All FOUR Tapes, $75.00, includes shipping and insurance. – Stephan R. Wolf, 2060 Estey, Ave., Naples, Fla. 33942. (891-192)

FLYING ROLLERS – Excellent Spinners. Can ship. – 903-838-5973. (891-792)

PARLORS – Beautiful colors. Excellent performance. Call between 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. – 804-272-4944. (691-692)

IFBRO ROLLER LOFT – Excellent spinners. Young birds. $15.00 and up. Call – Don Brooks, 2130 19th S.W., Naples, FL 33964, 813-353-4597. (391-292)

V.C.R. LOFTS – Velocity Controlled Rollers. Flying Widowhood hens only. Extra cocks. Sex-linked colors available. – 402 Heidrich, Houston, Texas 77018. 1-713-691-6106. (591-492)

TEXAS ROLLER CLUB – Competitions each month include: kit, single bird or futurity flys. Monthly bulletins. Annual dues $10.00. – Lonnie Eager, Sec./Treas., 1624 Ann Dossy Ct., Crowley, Texas 76036. (291-192)

PERFORMANCE PEDIGREED PENSOMS. – Visitors welcome. – Don Jones, 912-953-9230. (191-1291)

PARLORS – Assorted colors. Good performance. – 913-625-9658. Hays, Kansas. (191-1291)

YOUNGSTERS & PROVEN BIRDS – $12.50 up. Bred for competition, frequency, velocity and depth. My kits win in both Ohio and Florida. Will ship. – Harter, 813-485-1491. (191-1291)

BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Bred for flying, kitting and performing qualities. – Robert Prisco, 601 Cleveland Ave., Riverside, N.J. 08075. 609-461-8091. (191-1291)

C.C.C. LOFTS – Pensom Rollers. Will ship. – D.R. Kies, Santa Maria, Calif. 93454. 805-922-5272. (1290-1191)

ROLLERS, YOUNGSTERS – & Proven Birds, $15.00 and up. Bred for competition, frequency, velocity and depth. Will ship. – Jim Cook, Michigan, 517-652-6303. (1290-1191)

RUSSIAN TUMBLERS

RUSSIAN TUMBLERS – Also called East Prussion Rollers. Top quality. Most colors. – Sigmund Sliwowski, 126 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn, Mass. 01501. 508-832-2489. (991-1191)

SREBRNIAKS

QUALITY SREBRNIAKS – Have only a few for sale. – Alex Stolarow, 316 Fir St., Jenks, Okla. 74037. 918-299-5344. (1091-1291)

SUPPLIES

TOBACCO STEMS - PIGEON NESTING MATERIAL – $.50/lb.(UPS) plus $1.75 for handling (UPS) under 50 lbs. Loft Tobacco Litter - same price. Dealers - write for prices. Pigeon Fertility Capsules - developed by Dr. R.V. Brown - $15/25, $25/50, $50/100 plus $1.75 s/h. Add Virginia Sales Tax (4-1/2%) – Organo, Ltd., Star Route, Box 124, Topping, VA 23169, 804-758-5728 Fax. (891-192)

FOR SALE – Micro-Barrier Containers for shipping birds, $18.95 plus postage. – AB Supplies, 27383 W. Wilmot Rd., Antioch, Illinois 60002. 708-395-2782 evenings. (391-292)

OYSTER SHELL – The finest available calcium for the health of your birds. 20 lbs. $20.00 UPS shipping paid continental U.S. Send check or money order to: – Beck Organics, 1001 Bridgeway - APJ, Sausalito, Calif. 94965. 415-289-9620. (291-192)

NEST FRONTS – Custom and Standard Sizes. Full line of Pigeon Supplies. Send stamp for FREE catalog. – Leardi Wood Products and Supplies, 8317 Harvard Terr., Raytown, Mo. 64138. 816-356-3787. (191-1291)

SWALLOWS

SILESIAN SWALLOWS – Blue barless, Bar and Check, Silver Barless, Bar and Check. – Perry Mueller, 9836 Conventry Lane, St. Louis, Mo. 63123. 314-631-3772. (1191-192)

UNITED SWALLOW CLUB – Dues $7.50 year. Quarterly bulletins. – Dave Harris, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 1, Box 20B, Arcadia, MO. 63621. (991-1191)

TEXAN PIONEERS (AUTO-SEX)

BEAUTIFUL UTILITY – And Show Birds. Mated pairs and young birds. – C. Weithman, 3306 Beechgrove Rd., Bucyrus, Ohio 44820. 419-562-4916. (1191-192)

JUMBO SQUAB PRODUCERS – Breeding pairs. Young birds. – Persiano, 88 Hillcrest Road, Watchung, N.J. 07060. 908-755-3209. (391-292)

TIPPLERS

IMPORTED MACCELSFIELD TIPPLERS – With Butterfly Action. Loft Tom Beechiner, South Wales, England. – Anthony Pietranski, 41 Helms Hill Rd., Washingtonville, N.Y. 10992. 914-496-7969. (991-1191)

LOVATTS – Jerry Pace, President, American Tippler Union, 59 South Park Dr., No. Massapequa, N.Y. 11758. 516-799-3432. (891-792)

LOVATTS – Also by Arti Canadian and Lovatt crosses. – Robert Culley, Foggintown Rd., Brewster, New York 10509. 914-279-2542. (291-392)

FLYING TIPPLER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA – Organized in 1938 and still going strong. Quarterly bulletins containing endurance flight training information, ten competition flys annually, diploma awards in Official and Honor Systems, colored bands available to members only. Dues $10.00, $2.50 junior. – Walter Wiechec, Treasurer, 105 Clay Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. (491-392)

AMERICAN TIPPLER UNION, INC. – Monthly meetings, 9 official system flying contests. Annual Lawn Show, 3 Fall Shows. N.Y., N.J., Conn. fanciers only. Initiation $5. Dues $20. – Clarence Williams, 831 Nichols Rd, Deer Park, NY 11729. (391-292)

Join the **FLYING TIPPLER SOCIETY OF U.S.A.** – Features informative bulletins, membership certificate, constitution and fly rules, diplomas and trophies for flying competitions. Colored bands for members. Dues $10.00. Call or write: – Rex Leon, 17826 Edna Place, Covina, Calif. 91722. Tel.: 818-967-8933. (291-192)

LOVATTS – Richard Seabridge, 703 President Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. 609-396-2434. (291-192)

TRUMPETERS

BERNBERG TRUMPETERS – Black. $40.00 pair, 2 pair lots. Will ship. – Paul Mulford, 52 Wagstaff Lane, West Islip, New York 11795. 516-587-5455. (1191-192)

ENGLISH TRUMPETER CLUB OF AMERICA – Family $10.00, Adult $7.50, Junior $3.00. – Orin and Barb DuChien, 751 Park Ave. E., Big Lake, Minn. 55309. (1091-992)

ENGLISH TRUMPETERS – Blacks, Reds, Yellows, Splashes (Red and Black), Almonds and more. – Roger R. Leclair Sr., Ph. 401-766-0883. (1091-992)

ENGLISH TRUMPETERS – Will ship by mail, $25.00 up. – Whitey Parkins, 83 Rebecca St., Tiffin, Ohio 44883. 419-448-1220. (1091-992)

ENGLISH TRUMPETERS – Black Splashes, Blacks. – Tally Mezanatto, 12376 Bryant St., Yucaipa, Calif. 92399. 714-797-9757. (991-1191)

NATIONAL ENGLISH TRUMPETER CLUB – Seniors $10.00, Juniors $5.00. Contact: – Royce Perry, 2101 A Gary Lane, Hobbs, N.M. 88240. (691-592)

WESTERN AMERICAN TRUMPETER CLUB – Join today! $3.00 Jr., $10.00 Sr., $15.00 couples. – Bobby Perrenoud, Sec.-Treas., 28889 Capano Bay Ct., Menifee, Calif. 92355. (591-492)

Join the **NATIONAL GERMAN TRUMPETER CLUB** – Jim Buhrmester, Secretary-Treasurer, 208 N. Glenn St., Milford, Illinois 60953. (391-292)

TUMBLERS

BARRED LFCL TUMBLERS – Mealy, Cream, Blue, Silver. Show and stock birds starting at $25.00 each. – Don Copeland, 14820 E. Germann Rd., Gilbert, Ariz. 85234. 602-821-0234. (1191-192)

LONG FACE TUMBLERS – Clean Leg/Muffs. Excellent stock and show quality. Must sell 80% of birds. Whites and Marked Muffs. Clean Leg Baldheads in Barred and Selfs – 619-749-0451. Corky Packard. (1191-1291)

WHITESIDE AND SELF MUFF TUMBLERS – Danny Raposa, 95 Fourth Avenue, Lakeville, Mass. 02347. 508-946-4156. (1191-192)

LONG FACE MUFF TUMBLERS – Whites exclusively. Stock and show quality, winners wherever shown. 88 - 89 - 90 Pageant of Pigeons, 91 C.T.S., Bay City, Mich. Will ship. Contact: – Larry Deckert, 1905 E. Walnut, Orange, Calif. 92667. 714-639-8975. Please note phone #. (1191-192)

L.F.C.L. TUMBLERS – Bars in blue, silver, mealy and brown. – Tom Thompson, Rd #2, Box 726, Jersey Shore, PA 17740, (717) 745-7319. (991-1191)

MUFFED TUMBLERS – Most colors and markings. – Bob Fragoman, Box 157, Memphis, N.Y. 13112. 315-689-7753. (891-792)

L.F.C.L. SHOW TUMBLERS – Black Selfs, mealy and cream bar. Stock and show quality. Each $25.00 and up, will ship express mail, 4 bird minimum. Please note your phone number. Willing to help newcomers into the L.F.C.L. Tumbler fancy. Contact: – Roland Teed, 275 Verbena Lane, Brea, Calif. 92621, 714-996-5256. (691-1291)

TURBITS

AMERICAN TURBIT CLUB – Shows annually, News, Bulletins, Senior Dues $10.00, Junior Dues $3.00. Club Standard, JOIN NOW! – Alfred Stebbins, 9 Cedar St., Selden, N.Y. 11784. (891-792)

UTILITY BREEDS

STRASSERS & CARNEAU – Good quality birds. Call late evenings or write: – Vern Thorson, Rt. 1, Box 98, Clearwater, Minn. 55320. 612-878-2855. (1091-1291)

PUREBRED HUBBELS – Bred scientifically to bring out the superior Squabbing Quality. – D & G Squab Farm, 5412 Roeding Rd., Hughson, Calif. 95326. 209-883-2568. (791-692)

WHITE UTILITY KINGS – Good quality. Top producers. – Dean Rupp, 1099 Noose Rd.., Hays, Kansas 67601. 913-628-1692. (691-592)

VARIOUS BREEDS

BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Macclesfield Type Tipplers and Doneks. Third and fourth rounds available each year. – David L.Thomas, P.O. Box 135, Dryden, N.Y. 13053. 607-844-4366. (1191-1092)

100 DIFFERENT BREEDS – Rare, Show, Performing Highlfying pigeons. Most breeds from imported stock. – Horst Roch, Rt. 1, Box 236, Splendora, Texas 77372. 713-689-5279. (1191-192)

BIRMINGHAM ROLLERS – Macclesfield Type Tipplers and Doneks. Third and fourth rounds available each year. – David L.Thomas, P.O. Box 135, Dryden, N.Y. 13053. 607-844-4366. (1191-1092)

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ARCHANGELS (BRONZE ONLY) – Hanna Pouters, Bohemian Pouters, English Trumpeters, Chinese Racing Homers, Helmets. – Vern Thorson, Rt. 1, Box 98, Clearwater, Minn. 55320. 612-878-2855. Late evenings. (1091-1291)

BUY/SELL - SHIP/EXPORT – 5 breeders. – Box 1701, Sequin 78155 - 25 miles east San Antonio, Texas. 512-379-6302. (1091-992)

REDUCING STOCK – Komorner Tumblers, Racing Homers, Chinese Owls, Satinettes, Parlor Tumblers, Modenas, Jacobins, Indian Fantails, Rollers, Polish Highflyers, Pouters, Flights, Russian Tumblers, Scandaroons, English Carriers, West of England Tumblers. Selling out of some breeds. Will ship. – Charles Khater, P.O. Box 130, Rockwall, Texas 75087. 214-475-5948. (1091-1291)

HANA POUTERS & MALTESE – $10.00 Each and Up. Will Ship. – Adam Geteianc, 37855 Pineridge, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48045. Ph. 313-465-6386. (991-1191)

REVERSEWING POUTERS, SADDLE FANTAILS – And fancy, colored Homers. No shipping. Call evenings. 717-945-5013. – Edward Gill, RD 3, Box 3254, Factoryville, PA. 18419. (991-1191)

TOP QUALITY BERLINER SHORTFACE – White Chested Stettiner, Elbinger Bald Head, Vienna White Shield, from imports. Short Face Budapests, Damascene, Saddleback Muffed Tumblers, Show Flights, Rollers. – Frank Quatrochi, 4633 Madrona Heights Rd., Silverton, Ore. 97381, 503-873-7179. (991-892)

LAHORES, TRUMPETERS, HOMERS – Helmets, Damascenes and many other breeds. – Bill Sotnick, Westport, Mass. 508-636-8520. (891-792)

CLOWN AROUND – Featuring "Top Show Flights." Visitors welcome, just to look and various other breeds. – 908-477-9099. (291-192)

FOR SALE – Canadians, Rollers, Show Flights. Top quality. – Frank DeAngelis, Box 817, Jeffersonville, N.Y. 12748. Ph. 914-482-3231. (891-792)

126 DIFFERENT BREEDS – For Sale At All Times. – Ralph and Florence Cole, Rt. 3, Box 389-B, Cloverdale, Ind. 46120. 317-795-6703. (791-692)

300 FANTAILS, TRUMPETERS – Helmets, Mookees, Others. Many colors. No shipping. – Vernon Schroeder, 2410 Triana Blvd., Huntsville, Ala. 35805. 534-6188, 881-6705. (391-292)

ENGLISH CARRIERS, DRAGOONS, BARBS – Scandaroons, Helmets, Komorners, Nuns, English Trumpeters, Bokharas, Muffed Tumblers, African Owls, Berlin Shortface, English Pouters, Rollers, Show Flights, Parlors, Spanish Nuns and more. Try a new breed! – John Heppner, 388 Hidden Lake Lane, Vista, CA 92084. 619-941-5504. (391-292)

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY – Valencian Frill; Valencian Figuritas; Tunisian Owls; Cassel Tumblers. – JK, P.O. Box 9075, Ft. Worth, Texas 76147. USA. 817-732-2840. (1191-192)

INFORMATION WANTED – On J.B. Harris of Ashland, Ky., an early pigeon fancier who died in 1971. Did you know him? What pigeons did he keep? Etc. Please contact: – Paul Rader, 52 Fairfax Drive, Huntington, W. Va. 25705 or phone 1-304-529-7189. (1191-192)

WANTED – Gazzi Modenas (yellow, silver, lavender, gray, andalusian, cream, indigo, magnani, splashed red, splashed yellow). Argent Modenas (black, red, yellow). Indian Fantails (almond, yellow, silkies). Nuns in yellow only. Jacobins any color. Vienna Short Face, any color. Bokhara Trumpeters (white, yellow, saddle). Doves any color with the white ring on the neck. – Charles Khater, P.O. Box 130, Rockwall, Texas 75087. 214-475-5948, 800-872-1535 if no answer, please leave message. (1091-1291)

WANT TO BUY – White Jacobins, Nuns, Archangels, and Frillbacks. – 2155 West 3100 So., West Valley City, Utah 84120. 801-974-0653.(991-1191)

WANTED – Pigeons for raising squab and contacts for selling. – Ingram, P.O. 1324, Perris, Calif. 92572. 714-657-1468. (991-892)

WANT QUALITY PIGEONS – Jacobins, Modenas, Satinettes, Vienna Short Face, Bokharas and others. Quantity no problem. 317-795-6703. Will return call if you miss us. – Ponderosa Pigeon Farm, RR 3, Box 389B, Cloverdale, Ind. 46120, Ralph Cole. (591-492)

WEST OF ENGLANDS

FLYING WESTS – Almonds, Lavenders, Blacks, Red Mottles, Baldheads too! Will Ship. 914-876-4897. – Bill Jacox, 12 Ackert Hook Rd., Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572. (991-1191

NATIONAL WEST OF ENGLAND TUMBLER CLUB – Supporting the NPA Grand National, National Young Bird Show and Pageant of Pigeons. Dues: Seniors $10.00, Juniors $3.00 (under 18). Members receive: By-Laws, Standard and Bi-monthly Bulletins. Contact: – James Krebaum Jr. (Treasurer), 11509 Leland, Whittier, Calif. 90605 or Bob Christman (Secretary), 715 Harold Date, Palmdale, Calif. 93550. (891-792)

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

RARE BREEDS – RUSSIAN TUMBLERS - Also called Crested Muffed Tumblers. Top quality. Most colors. – Sigmund Sliwowski, 126 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn, Mass. 01501. 508-832-2489. (1191-192)

AFRICAN OWLS – TOP BLOODLINES - Several colors. $25 and up. Minimum order $100. Buyer pays shipping costs. – Jack Forney, 602-277-9225. (1191-192)

PIGEON SHOW CALENDAR

1992

Jan. 4 – Midwest International Pigeon Show, Fremont Pigeon Club 48th Annual John Hoffman Memorial Show, Sandusky Co. Fairgrounds, Fremont, Ohio. Contact: Jim Feasel, Show Sec., 2373 County Road 181, Clyde, Ohio 43410, 419-639-2935.

Jan. 5 – Empire Short Face Futurity Show to be held at the Polish National Hall, 61-60 56th Road, Maspeth, N.Y. Show Sec.: Dave Fhagen, 154 Oak St., Medford, N.Y. 11763.

Jan. 5 – Show Kings, Old Bird Show, Rockford, Ill. Contact: Merle Meyer, 3850 Lonegan Rd., East Dubuque, Ill. 61025.

Jan. 10-12 – Eastern Fantail Club Annual Show held with the Reading Pigeon Expo, at The Inn at Reading, Reading, Pa. Judge: Louis Christner. Contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 10-12 – Eastern Jacobin Assn. Annual Show with the Reading Pigeon Expo, at The Inn at Reading, Reading, Pa. Judge: John Malizia. Contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 10-12 – Eastern Pouter and Cropper Club, Frank Frisch Memorial Show held in conjunction with the Reading Pigeon Assn. Annual Show. Contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 10-12 – Central Fantail Club Annual Meet, Omaha, Nebraska. Contact: Ed or Mary Karnish, 3532 Vinton St., Omaha, Nebr. 68105.

Jan. 10-12 – National Chinese Owl Club 1st District Show, Reading, Pa., Winter Expo. Contact: Ron Schwartz, 662 Minor St., Emmaus, Pa. 18049.

Jan. 10-12 – Reading Pigeon Assn. Annual All Age, All Breed Show held at The Inn at Reading, Reading, Pa. Contct: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 10-12 – United Nun Club All Age Annual Meet held in conjunction with the Reading Pigeon Assn. Annual Show. Contact: Terry Fick, RD 3, Box 412G, Pine Grove, Pa. 17963.

Jan. 11 – St. Louis Metropolitan Pigeon Fanciers Assn. Winter Show, Keith Wamhoff, Sec., 1517 Doris Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63138. Judge: Wendell Conger.

Jan. 16-19 – National Chinese Owl Show and Annual Meeting held with the 70th NPA Grand National Show, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Jan. 16-19 – Central Jacobin Club 47th Annual Meet held in conjunction with the 70th NPA Grand National Show, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Jan. 19 – New York Combine Domestic Show Flight Club Futurity Show at Polish National Hall, 64th Street and 56th Road, Maspeth, N.Y.

Jan. 25 – Michigan Tumbler Club Annual All Age Show held in conjunction with Bay City Pigeon fanciers. Contact: Tim Stajowski, 1413 S. Raymond St., Bay City, Mich. 48706.

Jan. 26 – Long Island Domestic Flight Club "Futurity Show," Islip Homer Club, Richard Street, Islip, New York. Show Sec. Angelo Cavallo, 68 Martin Rd. North, Bethpage, N.Y. 11714. 516-796-1378.

Feb. 2 – Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Annual Futurity Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, New York. Information: Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom. West, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757, 516-226-3534 or Jim Price, 1358 Richland Ave., Bay Shore, N.Y. 11706, 516-MO6-8389.

Feb. 2 – Mid-Island Flight Club, Annual Futurity Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Ave., Central Islip, NY. For info. - Fred Sommers, 4 Dual Drive, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, (516-588-4537) or Richie Bailin, 32 Snapdragon Lane, Levittown, NY 11756, (516-731-0603).

Feb. 9 – All Breed Pigeon Show. Contact: Jerry Hackbart, 508-13 St. N.W., Watertown, S.D. 57201.

April 5 – Southern Minnesota Pigeon Assn.

Spring Swap 'n Sell, Austin National Guard Armory, Austin, Minn. 8 a.m. to noon. Contact: Ted Conradt, RR 1, Box 32, Lyle, Minn. 55953. 507-325-4507.

April 5 – Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O.Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

April 25 – Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show (includes pigeons), Hillsville, Va. Contact: Mike Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 263, Sandy Ridge, N.C. 27046.

May 3 – Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Sept. 6 – Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O. Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Oct. 4 – Tri-K Pigeon & Bantam Club Bird Fair/ Swap Meet, Kankakee County Fairgrounds, Kankakee, Ill. For information, Guenter Wenzel, P.O.Box 203, Grant Park, Ill. 60940. 815-472-2238.

Oct. 24 – Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show (includes pigeons) Hillsville, Va. Contact: Mike Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 263, Sandy Ridge, N.C. 27046.

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