

AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL

September 1992

Fantail Special

*Devoted Especially To
Fantails
& Their Breeders
Worldwide*

Artwork By
Bill O'Dell

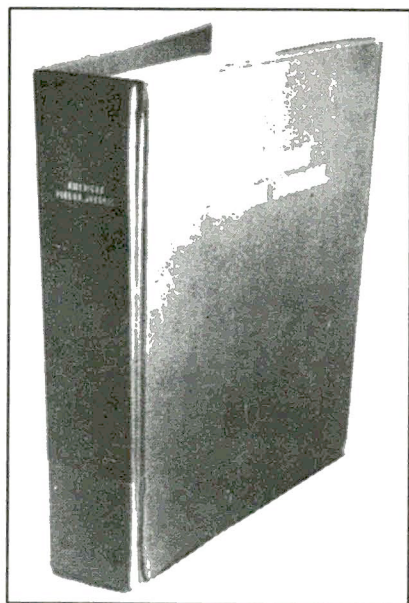


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JANUARY 8, 9, 10, 1993
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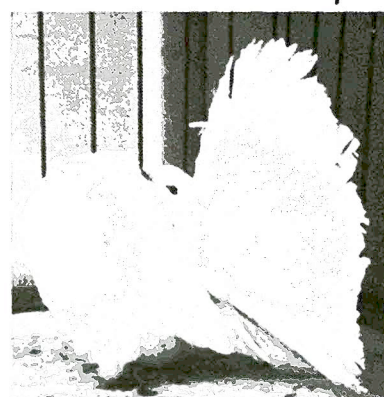
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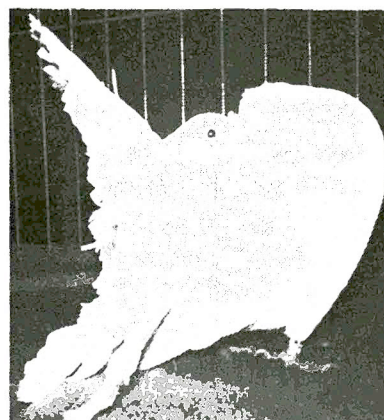
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4601 CUPID DRIVE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79924
PHONE: 915-821-5170

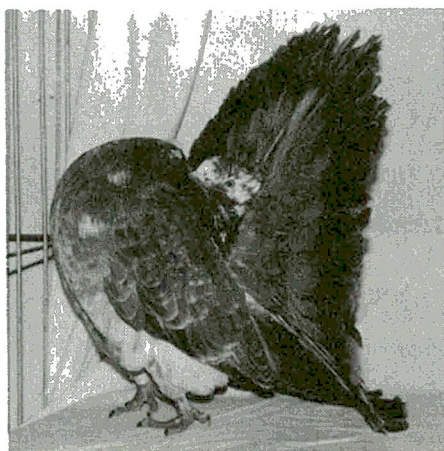


Master Breeder Central Fantail Club
Master Breeder National Pigeon Assn.
Consistent winners at major shows
throughout the country.

BLUE - WHITE
SILVER - GRIZZLE



SPARKMAN FANTAILS



1991 Grizzle cock #193 - Grand Champion Central Fantail Club 54th District Young Bird Show, four times Best Grizzle in major shows in the US. Bred and owned by Rick Sparkman.



#999-89 Black Cock - Possibly one of today's most competitive Black Fantails. 14 times first place winner at major shows all over the United States during the 89, 90, and 91 show season.

Featuring: Blacks, Blues, Silvers, Grizzles, Qualmonds, Dominant Opal, Saddles, Ash Red and Powder Blue.

I breed only the best quality birds in a variety of colors. I constantly strive for excellence in breeding Fantails to the standard. In the past 11 shows, this stud has won two Grand Champions, five Reserve Champions and 51 color classes.

Quality breeding pairs and singles available during the winter months. Join and support the Central Fantail Club.

RICK SPARKMAN

Rt. 5, Box 133
Ennis, Texas 75119

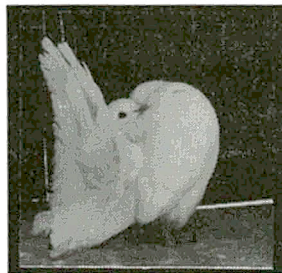
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The Queen Of The Fancy



WHITES

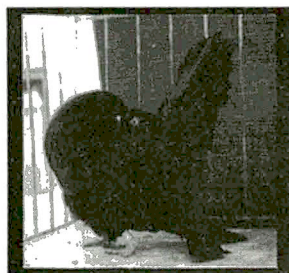


POWDERED



SILVERS

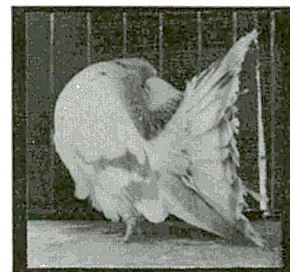
BLACKS



AMERICAN FANTAILS

**35
YEARS**

POWDERED

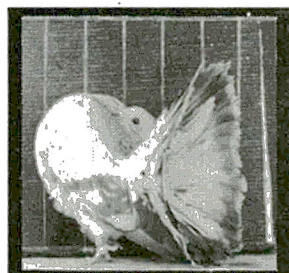


SILVERS

BLACKS



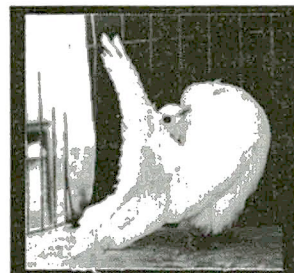
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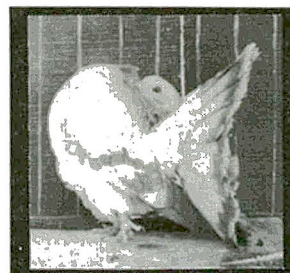
BLUES

BREEDER

WHITES



POWDERED



BLUES

*For Great Fellowship,
Keen Competition,
Show With The
Illinois American Fantail Assn.*

JERALD J. KITCHENS

1290 Moffet Lane
Decatur, Ill. 62522
1-213-429-0331





#994 - Best Young and Champion
1990 NPA Grand National WFC Meet

DENNIS SOARES

**9409 RANCHO ST.
ALTA LOMA, CALIF. 91737
714-941-0866**

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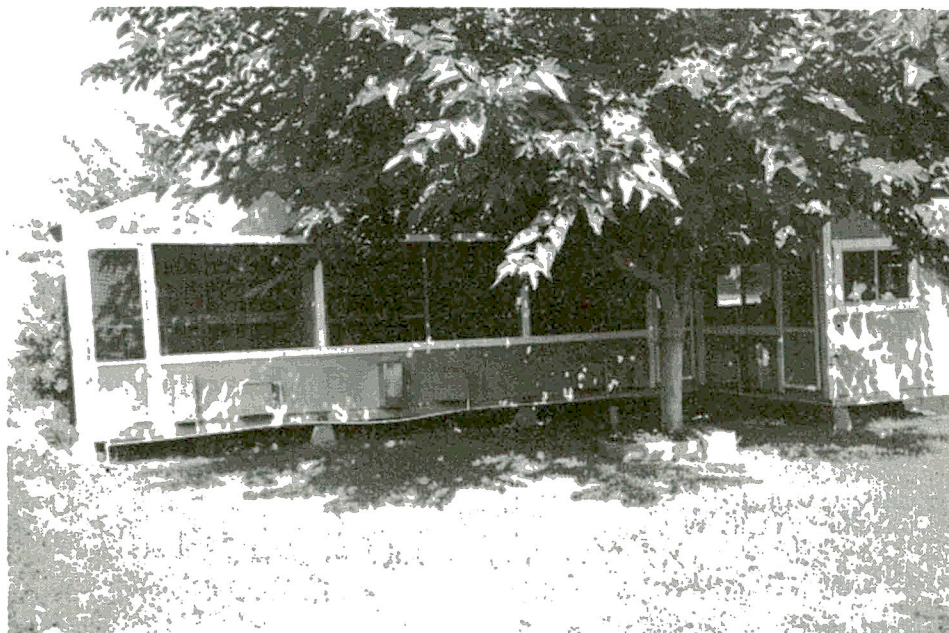
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#955-89 - Outstanding Mismark Blue
and several times class winner. A
great bird in the breeding program.
Carries dilute and milky. Bred and
owned by Dennis Soares.

**WFC
Master Breeder**

This loft has produced
over 30 Grand
Champions here on
the West Coast and
several other top
awards wherever
shown the last 20
years in Black, White,
Mealy, Almond, Blue,
Powdered Blue.
Occasionally birds for
sale.



THE SOUTHERN CONNECTION

- *Breeding and showing Fantails for fun and fellowship.*
- *Inquiries and visitors always welcome.*
- ***Southern Hospitality Plentiful***



Fantails

#1

Breed



**Scott & Joan
Saltee**

15 Avalon Court
Seale, Alabama
36875
(205) 855-2355

Red • Yellow
Tailmark • Saddle
Andalusian • Indigo
Barred Birds

**ROY & JOYCE
WINKLES**

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Powder Springs, GA
30073
(404) 943-2706

White • Black
Tailmark • Saddle



Show

Your

Fantails



Support

our

clubs!

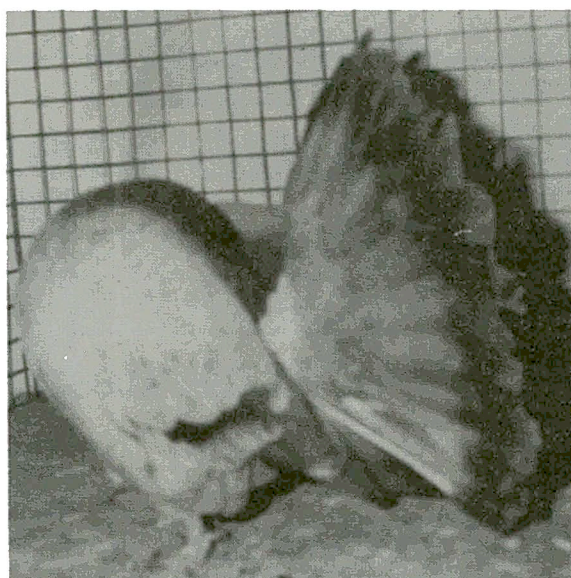


**Wayne & Brenda
Bowman**

Route 5, Box 161
Fort Payne, Alabama
35967
(205) 657-3301

White • Black
Tailmark • Saddle
Barred Birds

*Best Wishes
To Fantail
Breeders
All
Over the
World*



Blue Y. cock #7459-91 Grand Champion Fantail AF Memorial Show, April 1992. Best Blue OFS Area Show. Bkern-Fontein June 1992. Bred and Exhibited by Frikkie Butler, Smithfield, South Africa

*From:
The
South
African
Fantail
Club*

**Chairman
Otto Holm**

15 Piemeef Str.
Sasolburg
9570

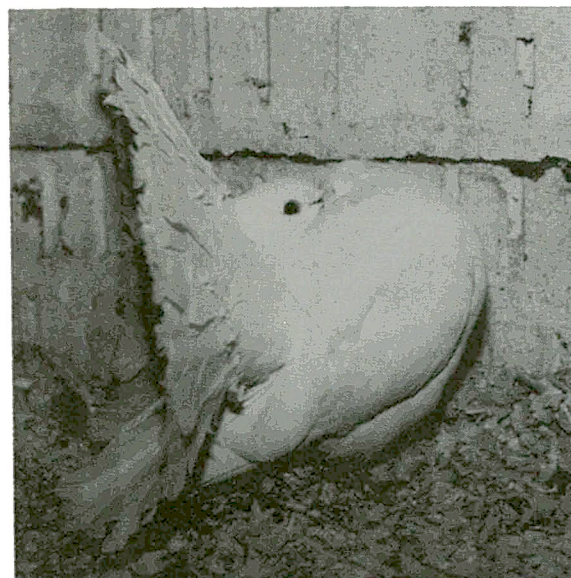
Breeder of Red, Yellow,
Black and Dun Fantails

**Vice Chairman
Frikkie Butler**

Box 57
Smithfield 9966
Breeder of Barred, Ash
Red and Yellow,
Almond. Grizzle,
Tailmarked and Lace
Fantails

Daan van Vuuren

Box 156
Virginia
9430
Breeder of Black and
Andalusian Fantails



White YC #5424-91, bred and exhibited by Foeta Lourens, Standerton, South Africa. Reserve Champion Fantail, AF Malan Memorial Show, Welkom, April 1992; Champion Fantail, Eastern Transvaal Area Show, Standerton, May 1992.

**Hon. President
Coen Butler**

54 Duiker Ave.
Virginia 9430
Breeder of Black, Red,
Yellow and Saddle
Fantails

**Pieter and Willie
Schmidt**

Box 335
Bultfontein
9670
Breeders of White,
Ash Red and
Saddle Fantails

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29 Alex Pienaar St.
Strand
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Breeder of White, Black
and Saddle Fantails

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46 Raglan Street
Oakdale
Bellville 7530
Breeder of White, Black,
Dun, Almond and
Saddle Fantails

Foeta Lourens

Box 58
Rietkuil
Holmdene
2342
Specialist Breeder of
White Fantails

Ken Rosevear

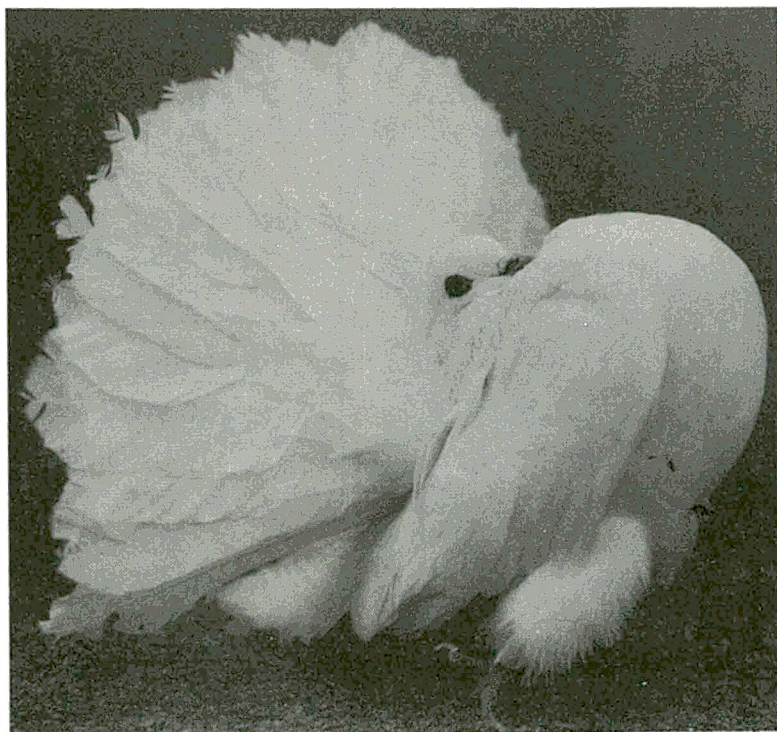
Box 130240
Bryanston
2021
Specialist Breeder of
Saddle Fantails for more
than 20 years

David Malan

11 Villa Casa Blanca
Jelliman Street
Noordheuwel
Krugersdorp 1740
Breeder of
White and Blue Fantails

Littman and Jubb

Australia's Leading Fantail
Breeders and Exhibitors
Send Their Best Wishes
For A Successful Fantail Special



White cock 3830-90 = Best Young White NSW Fantail Club Annual Show 1991.
Only Time Shown.

This stud of pigeons is selectively bred and is culled heavily in the pursuit of excellence. Colours working with are White, Blue and Grizzle. We are attempting to establish a stud of Red Fantails from our recent imports.

All Inquiries:

Graeme Jubb

143 Bromley Street
Cornubia, Qld., 4130, Australia

Phone:
07 287 6857



Pied Cock 3689-90 = Best Young and Reserve Champion of Show NSW Fantail Club Annual Show 1991.
Only Time Shown.

This stud of Fantails has exhibited at seven National Shows in nine years for six National Champion and six National Young Bird Champions, a record that speaks for itself. We have shown four times at NSW Fantail Club for four Champion birds of show.



White Hen 3612-90 = 2nd Place Young White Hen NSW Fantail Club Annual Show 1991. Only Time Shown.

Breeders and Exhibitors

Quality Fantails in the following colours:

Selfs: White, Black, Dun, Red, Yellow,
Andalusian and Brown

Bars and Checks: Blue, Silver, Brown and
Ash Red

Others: Almond and Powdered Blue

THANKS TO THE APJ AND JOHN MOPPIN
FOR ANOTHER GREAT FANTAIL SPECIAL

Greetings To All Fantail Fanciers Around The World

**GARY
BROWELL**

8 Hunter Street
Golden Square 3555
Victoria, Australia
Phone: 054-423824

**MAL
O'KEEFE**

P.O. Box 361
Pyalong 3521
Victoria
Australia



4410/90 Blue Hen

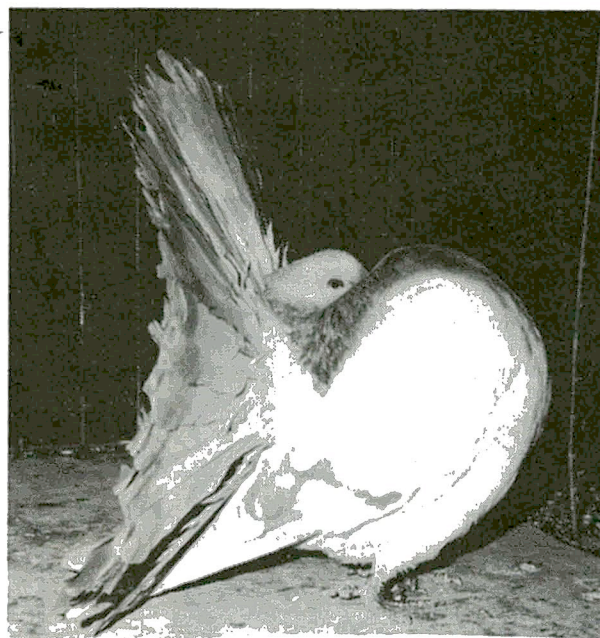
Champion, Western Canadian Fantail Club, 1991 - Judge: Zarlenga. Champion, Central 9th District, 1990, 1991 - Judge: Taupert/Zarlenga. Best Young Blue, Central 1991 - Judge: Pritchett. Reserve Blue, Central 1991 - Judge: Pritchett. Bred by Bob Vincent.

**BOB
VINCENT**
**Box 237
Grande Prairie
Alberta
Canada
T8V 3A4
Phone:
403-532-0540**

This stud of Fantails was made available to me in 1986 by my good friend Egon Thiel, Tucson, Arizona, after I lost my entire stud to a heater malfunction. This stud of Fantails has won over 20 Grand Championships and scores of colour classes under Thiel and Vincent.

This stud is based on Gerald Champ Whites transformed into Black, Andalusian, Indigo, Blue, Silver, Powder Blue, Powder Silver, Mealy, Cream, Grizzle, Lavender, and my favourite **POWDER CREAM**.

The goal of this stud is to show that small, refined, dainty Fantails can have superior legs, body and tail.



551/91 Powder Silver Hen

Reserve Champion, Central 9th District 1991. Reserve Champion, W.C.F.C. 1991. Best Young, 9th District W.C.F.C. Judge: Domenic Zarlenga. Bred by Bob Vincent.

Domenic Zarlenga

137 Byng Ave., North York, Ont., Canada M2N 4K6 (1-416-225-9244)

Blue

Grand Champion,
1988 Central
Annual Meet
NPA Grand National,
Peoria, Illinois
Blue Yrlg Cock
35-87



Reserve Champion &
Champion Young
Ray Ostrander Classic
1985 Eastern Annual
Meet, Reading, PA
Blue Grizzle Young
Cock 255-85

Silver

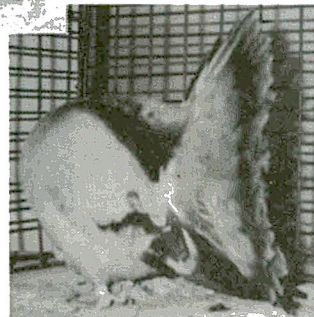
Check

Grizzle

Powdered



Grand Champion
1989 Central
Annual Meet
Ottumwa, Iowa
Grand Champion
Earl Clark Classic
1990 Central
Annual Meet
Omaha, Neb.
Blue Old Hen
27-87



Saddle

Central Fantail Club Master Breeder - 90



1988



1989



1990



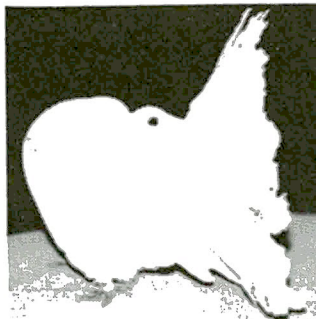
1991

Canadian Fantail Club Master Breeder - 83

Jerry Macerollo

117 Arlington Blvd., Kitchener, Ont., Canada N2A 2G8 (1-519-748-0553)

Whites



Saddles



Silvers

Blues

African
Owls

Grizzles

Grand Champion
Bob & Vida Given Classic
1991 Central Annual Meet
Omaha, Nebr.
White Young Cock
628-91

White Young Hen
626-91
Not Yet Show

We are universally recognized for having some of the finest Fantails in existence today.
Quality Fantails occasionally for sale.



WL Bows



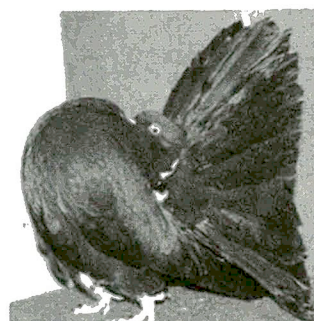
WL Plume



WL Hot Shot



WL Main Event



WL Picturesque

WINDERMERE LOFTS

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16 Ferman Dr.
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N1H 7E1

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The Genetics To Advance Your Program

Almond • Andalusian • Black • Dun • Gold • Red • Yellow

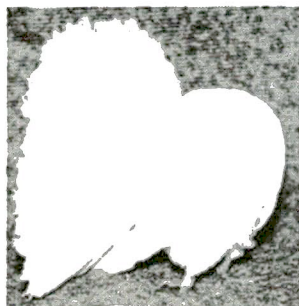
PHILHAVEN FANTAILS

Robert Phillippo

11 Park St.
Burford, Ontario
Canada
N0E 1A0
(519) 449-5366

*"The Bloodline
That Is
Proving Itself."*

Black/Indigo
Family
White • Almond
Saddles



White Hen #24-89
• Grand Champion (CPFA '91)
• 2nd Reserve (CFC '89)
• Best Yearling (Central '90)
Sold to France,
along with 17 other Fantails



Black Cock PH-PO
"Platoon Leader 505"
• Grand Champion
(Quebec Fantail Club '91)
• Reserve Black (CCFC '91)
• Birds from his family went to Australia '91



Indigo Cock CH422-90
PH-MC
"Prairie Wolf"
• 3rd Reserve (CCFC yrlg./YB '90)
• 2nd Reserve (CPFA '91)
• Res. Champion (CCFC Annual '91)
• 4th Reserve (CCFC YB '91)



Indigo Hen CM 510-91
"Petite Princess"
(Daughter of Prairie Wolf)
• 3rd Reserve (CPFA '91)
• 2nd Reserve (Quebec '91)
• Grand Champion (CCFC Annual '91)
• Grand Champion (CCFC-YB '91)
• 4th Place Overall (CFC, Omaha, Nebr.)

Central Canada Fantail Club

Join us at our annual show.

November 21 & 22, 1992
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Expecting fanciers from Canada,
the United States, France and Germany.

Be a part of it!

Dues: \$10 Senior, \$5 Junior, \$15 Family



Fantail of the Year
Breeder: Bob Phillipio

President

Brian Pogue
16 Ferman Drive
Guelph, Ontario N1H 7E1
(519) 836-6345

Secretary

Jason Boettger
192 Vermont Street
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2M8
(519) 885-6260

Dedicated to the advancement of the Fantail hobby
from coast to coast in Canada



CHAMPION SADDLE
1981, '82, '83, '84 '85, '86,
'87, '88, '89, '90

Pommers Fantails

ROBERT (BOB) POMMER



CHAMPION TAILMARK
1986, '87, '88, '90

SADDLES
WHITES
CHECKERS
OPALS
INDIGOS

CANADA

TAILMARKS
BLACKS
BLUES
REDUCED
RARE

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Nottawa, Ont.,
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(705) 445-7383

Over 50 colour Champions in the
last 5 years of Major Competition





MICHAEL M. BOYD

R.R. 1
Terra Cotta, Ontario, Canada
LOP 1N0
(416) 873-0927

Whites, Blues and Other
Barred Colours, Grizzles
And Now Trying Red and Yellow

Breeder and Judge
For Over 25 Years

A Proud Member of:



- The Central Fantail Club
- Canadian Pigeon Fanciers Ass'n.

*Compliments
From*



CLUB DU FANTAI DU QUEBEC FANTAIL CLUB

Founded 1984

**Province: Quebec, Canada
and**

G.H. GUIMOND

Sec.-Treas.

Coordinator of Events for Q.F.C.

2502 Villiers, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada J4L 4B3



Breeders of Whites from RAY D.
LAFLEUR

and all popular colors.

"May God Bless All Fantail Breeders"

Fantails

in White

More Than 40 years

Bodo Tolle

Lange Str. 2
3054 Rodenberg
-Deister
Germany

PARK LOFT

Modern Type Fantails
White and Blacks
Our regards to everyone.



BOB AND VIDA GIVEN

2645 Hampshire South
St. Louis Pk., Minn. 55426



Black Cock #516
Reserve Champion
Dixie Fantail Club 1988

Dave Mintert Fantails

10745 Lake Road
Highland, Ill. 62249
(618) 644-2821



Breeder & Exhibitor of:
Blacks, Whites & Powder Blues

FANTAILS

Breeder and Exhibitor of
Whites and Blacks
JIM EMERSON

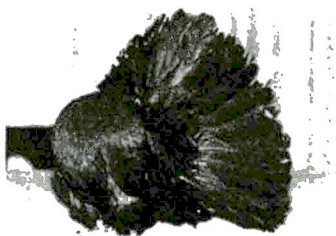
816 W. 18th,
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Member of:
Central, Mid-America
and Badger Fantail Clubs

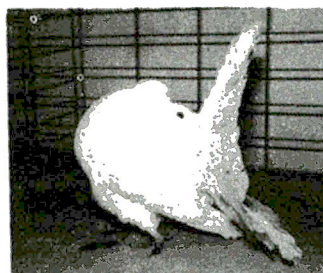
FV

FANTAIL VALLEY FARMS

FV



#404-81 Black Hen



#819/77 White Hen

In 83 shows, I have won Champion or Reserve Champion 70 times.
I have won all major shows. 10 different colors, mainly White, Black, Saddles.

Enjoys Company

Visitors Welcome

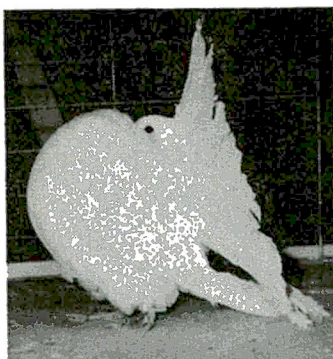
Member Of Most Clubs

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:

WILLIAM I. DIEMER

5260 Kensington Rd. • Brighton, Mich. 48116

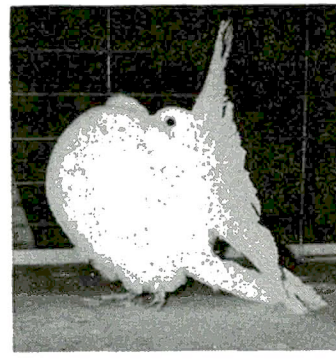
Phone No.: 313-685-3504



116-91 White Cock



147-91 White Hen



115-91 White Cock

Birds out of the Famous Forrest O'Connor strain of fine White Fantails.
Note: The Round Bodies.

**Dick
Ury**

Member C.F.C.
M.A.F.C. • G.L.F.C.

Breeder and Exhibitor
of
Fantails

2634 Stanton
Des Moines
Iowa
50321



Silver Saddle Hen

Quality Fantails

Winners Wherever Shown

Specializing in the following colors:

*Solids in White, Black, Blue, Silver, Powdered Blue
Saddles in Red, Yellow, Blue, Black, AOC*

Recipient Of:

NPA Master Breeder Award 1977

Central Fantail Club Master Breeder Award 1983

Robert R. Kingkinger

3105 Grandview Blvd., Sinking Spring, Pa. 19608

Breeder and Exhibitor of the Finest Quality Fantails

FANTAILS

at

WINDECK LOFTS

GHAZI & HEIDE GEORGE

5227 Windeck 1/ Germany

Tel: Germany 2292-5773

Quality Fantails in:

WHITE - BLUE - BLACK - SILVER

SADDLE - BODYMARK - TAILMARK

Special thanks to all friends in the CFC
for their help to be successful in breeding
such nice and quality Fantails.



GRAND CHAMPION BLUE #ES151/91

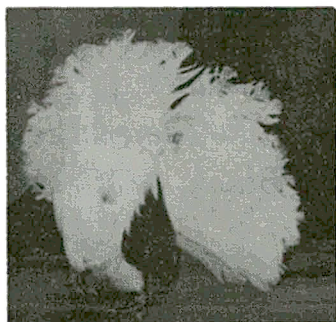
CFC 11th District Germany, Dec., 7, 1991

Judge: William Diemer

Bred and Owned by: Ghazi George

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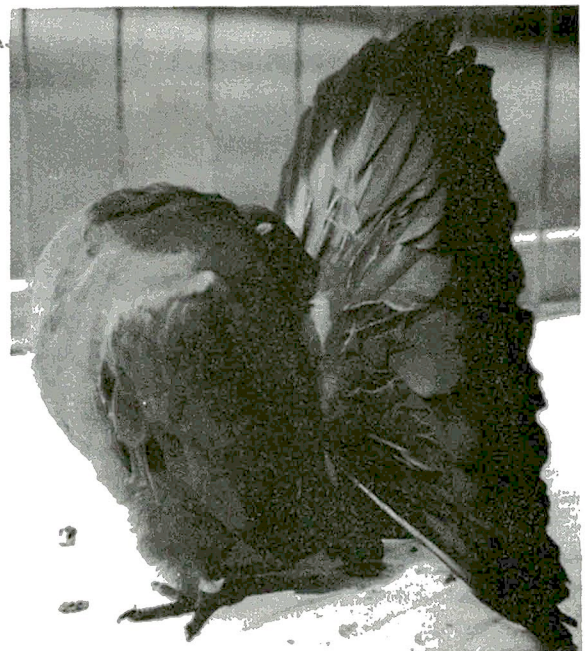
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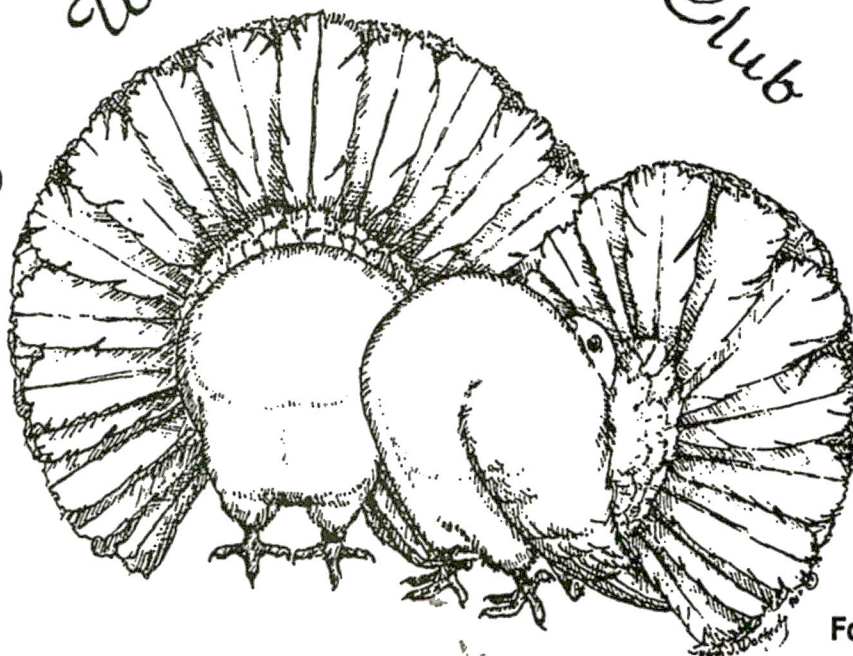
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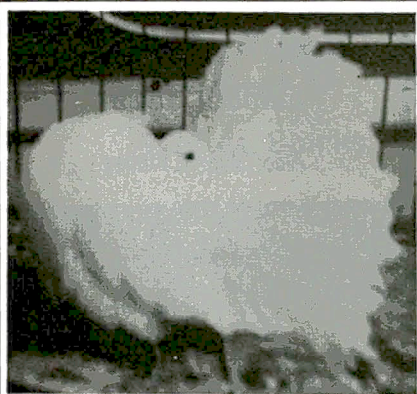
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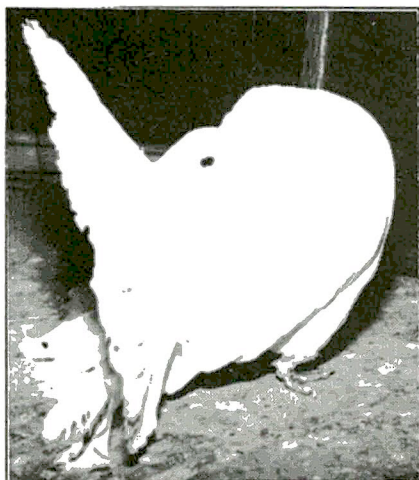
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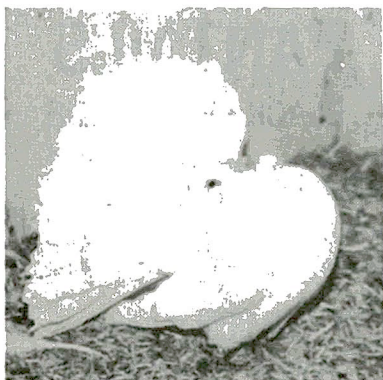
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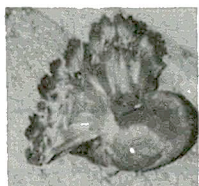
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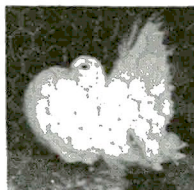
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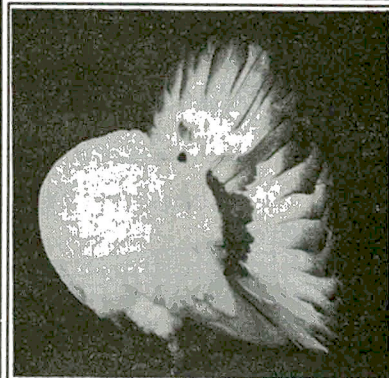
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The Fantail Special

We are pleased to present the September 1992 Fantail Special. We would like to thank the coordinator of this issue, John Moppin, who helped make this issue a success. Credit is also due to all the Fantail fanciers around the U.S., Canada and the World who contributed their advertising, articles and photographs. We appreciate everyone's support and patience in this long awaited issue.

Attention APJ Readers

We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the lateness of the APJ in recent months. We have had several difficulties over the past few months including the death of my brother during the National Young Bird Show, which is the reason we could not attend this year.

We would also like to inform our readers that we are NOT going out of business nor have we filed for bankruptcy. These rumors are untrue and unfounded. We are behind in our mailing schedule, that is all.

We appreciate all of your calls and letters to our office about being late and about these rumors that are going around. We also appreciate your patience and cooperation in this matter. It is our intention to correct this problem as soon as possible.

Feel free to call our office anytime and talk to me. - Wm. L. "Mike" Worley, Editor & Owner

Visitors At The APJ

Clifton Padgett, Whitewater, Kansas and Orval Riggins, Wichita, Kansas, were recent visitors to the American Pigeon Journal office. We appreciate everyone's visits here and welcome anyone who wishes to see us to stop by.

Dick Barr Hospitalized

The many friends of Dick Barr of Cowiche, Wash., will want to know that Dick has suffered a very serious accident. He attended and showed his Giant Homers at the Northwest Winter Show in Puyallup, Wash., on Nov. 28 and 29, 1992. On the 30th, he was going to store his carrying cases over head in his garage. Some how he fell from the ladder or rafters striking his head on the cement floor. He was unconscious for three days and in intensive care at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima. He will be hospitalized for some time. We don't know yet how long. He is regaining some strength but does have pneumonia. So far he is unable to talk although he seems to recognize family and friends.

I'm sure his wife Jan and the family will appreciate the interest and prayers of the many who have visited with him at the Nationals and other shows he has attended over the years. Dick has always loved the shows and the many friends he has made while attending.

His address is Dick Barr, 1271 Thompson Road, Cowiche, Wash. 98923.

In talking with Jan recently, she told me that the doctors estimate it will be at least three months and maybe up to six before Dick will be back on his feet.

The above information comes from Dan Harvey, 2901 Hillcrest Dr., Yakima, Wash. 98901.

- Preface -

This will be the fifth Fantail Special the APJ has printed and the second I've coordinated. The first two were coordinated by one of the Masters in the Fantail fancy Gerald Champ. The Fantail Specials Mr. Champ coordinated were in March of 1961 and December of 1968.

The third APJ Fantail Special was coordinated by one of the men who probably did more in the development of the Tailmark Fantail than anyone to date - Harry Little. The Fantail Special Mr. Little coordinated was printed in July of 1977.

As for the fourth Special, I had the honor of coordinating it and having it printed in September of 1985.

I'd like to take this time to thank all of you. The people who make up the Fantail Fancy. For without your articles and advertising, this Special would not have been possible. Thank you one and all!

I would also like to dedicate this Fantail Special to four men who have passed away since the last Special. These four men will be greatly missed by all of us and the Fantail Fancy may never be quite the same without them.

Earl Clark
Bob Evans
Ray Ostrander
Bill Warner

Again thank you for your support in putting together another great Fantail Special
John Moppin, Coordinator

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Fantail Care That Works

by JERALD J. KITCHENS, Decatur, Ill.

FANTAILS EYES

Very little care is given to the eyes and thank God the majority of our birds need no eye care. But when you do, it's caused by either a eye cold or the fine row of feathers that line the eye. If you have a bird that is always being bothered by these feathers getting into their eyes, don't just pluck them out, they will just moult back in a few weeks and the trouble will just start all over again. Try taking a warm damp cloth and wetting the feathers around the eye. Now take a small sharp pair of fingernail scissors (that are curved) and while someone else holds the bird, you cut off the first row of feathers that are under the eye only. By wetting the feathers, you will see this row and it will make it easier to cut them off. This way they will not come back until the bird goes through the moult. One eye colds, most of us have had this in our lofts off and on. The first thing to do is to take a warm damp cloth and wipe the eye until all the feathers are good and clean. Then hold the eye open and put one drop of Tylan 200 into the eye. Let the eye close and open several times and then repeat with one more drop. I find this will cure almost every eye cold in just three days. Before you picked this bird up you should have noted roughed up feathers on the bird's wing shield. This is where the bird had been rubbing its infected eye. While you are handling the bird, take and mix a solution of one half water and rubbing alcohol and wipe this area clean. This will kill the germs that the bird has placed there by rubbing its eye.

FANTAILS TAIL

I've tried not trimming the tails during breeding season and I get better results by snipping off the bottom six shoeing feathers on both sides of the tail and on both the cock and hens. I cut them with scissors, about one half inch up from the base of the feather. If you catch a young bird with a off centered tail, take and tape one or two small steel washers to the base of the bottom shoeing feathers, on the side of the tail that is up too high. The weight of the washers will bring the tail back down, on that side, straightening up the tail. This should correct the tail in four to six weeks. I will never pull the tail feathers out of a young bird again, you can really ruin a good bird by doing this, just breed for better tails. The tails on the old birds, I do remove the stubs of the feathers I have cut off for breeding season, but you shouldn't just pull them out, give them a clockwise turn and they will slip right out. I have found when you have a young bird carrying its flights in

its tail all the time, just take and cut the flights off on both sides and after two months remove the cut off flights and when they moult back in, the birds has gotten use to its flights being carried down and not in its tail. A book could be written on the tail of the Fantail, so I'll stop here.

FANTAILS VENT

It is important to trim around the vent before breeding season and you should check the bird every two months for more trimming during breeding season, this always seems to slip by me and I wonder why I'm getting infertile eggs. When doing this trimming you want to take precaution not to trim off the first row of feathers around the vent. You will see them, they look like a little fan at the top and bottom of the vent. These feathers are put there to guide the bird to a correct place of copulation. These small feathers have also been said to stimulate fertilization at the very point of copulation, in which I believe is correct. Always keep your birds clean around the vent, this also will help production. While trimming the vent, check the skin between the vent and the end of the keel for body lice, this is the best place to check for lice.

FANTAILS WINGS

Very few things go wrong with the wings, but when you see a young bird four to six weeks old in the nest and it looks like the end of the wings are turned up and away from the body, this is the first sign of too much protein in your birds' feed. All vets I have talked to say 13 to 15% protein is all a bird needs.

FANTAILS FEET

Here lies where I think most breeders get infertile eggs. The toenail. Most breeders trim the nails by just snipping off the end of the nail. You should only trim the nails after the breeding season and just before the show season. If you observe the nail that has not been cut for five months, you will see at the end of the nail a small sharp needle pointed barb. This barb is what you want on your birds' nails your entire breeding season. These needle point barbs are what holds the cock bird in place and on the hen long enough to make a good copulation. These barbs stick into the feathers and hangs up which holds the cocks in place. So if you just snip off the ends of the birds nails you won't get this barb back for five to six months. So if you mate up in January and February and you wonder why the first two rounds of eggs were not fertile, think back to the date you trimmed the birds nails and how you trimmed them. You should trim the nails once a year and I

find October is the best month. You should cut the nails from the bottom of the nail and straight out. This lets the top of the nail come to a point and in three or four months you will see the barb coming back, so by January or February you will have the sharp barb back and your first round will be a lot more productive. I'm writing this article in April of this year and I started mating up 75 pair in February, and I had only six pair that was not fertile the first round. So keep the nails sharp to a point.

If you birds keep getting balls of dirt collected on their nails you need to keep the loft cleaner and dryer. Also furnish more bath water during breeding season. I think three times a week is enough and if you give them more than that, they will start drinking it and you don't want that. You could also build a square frame out of 1x6's, like you were going to build a nest box and instead of a solid floor nail on one half inch hardware cloth on one side and then with the wire side up set your waterer or feeder in the middle of the wire. This wire will help keep the birds feet clean and also all the spilled feed and water will fall through your wire and being 6" high and framed in, the bird cannot get to the feed that falls out of your feeder. I find a two foot square frame works good for my feeders and waterers. Several times I've had birds get some kind of a yellow fungus growth on their feet and when you try to scrape it off with your fingernail, it starts to bleed. It looks like a wart seeding and it seems to collect between the toes and ball of the foot. I know someone has a correct name for it. Anyway, I've tried just about everything and every way to remove it, with really no good results. Then one day, I thought since this fungus was semi-hard, I'd put some regular 30 weight car oil on it. I started to rub it in and the fungus started coming off in small hunks. So I put more oil on the foot and rubbed it in more, after about five minutes the fungus was almost completely gone, so I stopped, I thought it might make the bird's foot sore with too much rubbing. I repeated this in about three weeks and about a month later the foot was completely smooth and the fungus didn't return. Why 30 weight car oil works? I don't know, but it does. Just try not to get in on your birds' feathers, the oil will stain them, but it's not hard to keep the oil off, after you're done treating the fungus wipe most of the oil off the feet.

Medicate your birds only when you have gotten a vet to diagnose the problem your birds are having. Don't just medicate because you heard this is what to treat something with. Nine out of ten pigeon diseases have the very same symptoms, but worm

(Continued On Next Page)

your birds when you don't think they need it. In other words worm, worm your birds, most diseases in pigeons are secondary to the breakdown of the bird by worms. I now find that telmantic-40 is the best wormer on the market today for pigeons. It mixes into their drinking water. The first treatment is for five days and followed up in 14 days. After this treatment I also follow up one treatment for five days every third month and have had excellent results.

If you are going to show your birds you should by all means vaccinate them for PMV1 and Paratyphoid every six months. I've vaccinated some 3,000 birds for both diseases at the same time over the years and have not had one bird die. So if I can do it, you can too.

Thanks for reading this article and I hope some of the things will help you breed a champion bird. Tell the truth and God Bless you all. — Jerald J. Kitchens, 1290 Moffet Lane, Decatur, Ill. 62522, 1-217-429-0331.

Fantail Odds And Ins

by RICK SPARKMAN, Ennis, Texas

During a conversation with one of our newer Fantail fanciers, I made a couple of comments about how I did something which I considered basic. The person to whom I was speaking was surprised by my comments and stated that I had just given him the answer to a problem he had been having. I am certain that those problems which each of us languish over for hours, have a solution which is day to day practice for someone else. In this article I intend to ramble on about what I do and what I believe is important when breeding Fantails. I hope that some of the points I bring up will be of benefit to the reader. Also, a complete article could be written on each individual topic which I bring up. You will probably find such articles which address an individual topic in more detail in this issue.

GETTING STARTED

Breeding Fantails requires a great deal of commitment, more so than in many other breeds of pigeons. Having raised several breeds in the past, I have found that many of the others reproduce faster, with less effort from the fancier than do Fantails.

Because of these things, a fancier should first consider if the Fantail is right for him. For many, the difficulties that go along with breeding Fantails is a big part of the challenge. A greater sense of accomplishment is felt when you raise the good one.

After having decided that Fantails are for you, contact a couple of reputable breeders—those with the best show records, those who are officers in major Fantail organizations, or those who are master breeders. If you are having difficulty finding such people, you

can do so by contacting one of the major Fantail organizations. They will be able to refer you to the breeders who meet the above criteria as well as specialize in the color you are looking for.

Contact the breeders in the spring or summer. Let them know your intentions. Most fanciers begin to make selections for sale birds in October or November. You should plan a follow up call or letter at that time to confirm your order.

Buy the best! Although price does not always denote quality, you can expect to pay more for the better stock birds. By getting the best available, you may eliminate years of frustration and set backs. Spending an extra \$50-\$100 more for a pair of birds may seem like a lot, but it is nothing compared to trying to overcome the problems of starting out with mediocre breeding stock.

ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS

Nothing is more fun than talking to a knowledgeable person about your favorite hobby. Fantails are not like golf. You can't find 30 Fantail breeders at the office. Besides, if you tell those people what your hobby is, they will say you're weird anyway. Find the knowledgeable breeders nearest you and introduce yourself. You can be sure they will be pleased you did. Stay in contact by phone, letter and visits. Invite them to visit you. There is no better way to learn than with one-on-one contact with an expert. Also we all become what I call loft blind. We see things in our birds which really do not exist. A friend can be more objective and help you with this.

Additionally, read everything you can

get your hands on. Gain all the knowledge you can.

HOUSING

I am not going to go into loft design as this definitely requires an article in itself. However, I would like to discuss some of what I believe to be proper maintenance.

The loft must be kept clean. I believe in using a good quality wood shaving for litter. The shavings should be fairly small in size as the larger varieties tend not to pack easily and thus are more likely to blow around, pile up in corners and contaminate food and water. The litter should be maintained at a depth of 2"-3". You can easily tell that there is not enough litter when the floor in the center of the loft becomes bare.

Each week, using a leaf rake, the top of the litter should be removed and replaced with a fresh supply. Depending on the number of birds kept in each coop, the litter should be completely removed and replaced every 2 or 3 months. During the most crowded times at the end of the breeding season, I change the litter every couple of weeks.

A shop vac works very well for removing the dust and cob webs that build up on the walls and wire. Of utmost importance, the loft must remain dry. If ever moisture is present in the litter it should be removed immediately and replaced with clean dry litter.

Feed and water containers must be kept clean to avoid disease. Use chlorine bleach to disinfect containers. A mixture of two teaspoons chlorine bleach to one gallon of water makes a good disinfectant. It can be used not only for sanitizing feed and water containers but also for cleaning the loft as well. I do not use bleach in the drinking water; however, I know several fanciers who do.

Feed a good quality feed which is free of dust, mold, and insects. Good nutrition is essential for healthy birds. I add vitamins to the water a couple of times each week. Always use a vitamin which contains iodine, most do not. Iodine helps prevent squabs from dying in the shell at hatching time. Youngsters dying in the shell are not only frustrating but also a terrible waste of time. Your best pair just spent 17 days on eggs for nothing.

Birds love to bathe. There is disagreement among fanciers as to the importance of bathing; however, it does seem to give the tail feathers that hard look we are looking for. I bathe my birds each weekend during warm weather. The birds seem to love it, especially during the hot Texas summers.

CARING FOR YOUNGSTERS

At about six weeks of age, youngsters should be removed to a separate pen. The pen should contain birds only of similar ages as very young birds placed with older birds are frequently pushed away from food and water. Also mature birds will begin to peck at some youngsters often scalping them. For



Ron Schwartz, Gordon Larson and Rick Sparkman at the Pageant of Pigeons 1990.

obvious reasons, this should be avoided.

As your youngsters mature, watch how they handle their tails. Many youngsters will begin to hang their flights in their tail causing a wry tail. This can be avoided by taping the tail so that the flights will slide off. In the worst cases the shoeing feathers can be cut off to solve the problem.

Handle the youngsters as often as possible. Fantails must be gentle and unafraid of people in order to show properly. You can't start this process too early.

Culling is a very important part of raising Fantails. There are two common mistakes when it comes to culling. First is not culling deep enough. All of us are guilty of keeping a marginal bird because we keep hoping it might produce a superior bird. Most often it doesn't happen. Instead that loft ends up overcrowded and we have several marginal birds with a higher feed bill. The second culling mistake is to cull too early. Many Fantails are slow in maturing and don't show what they are really made of until they are five to six months old. I never cull birds until October or November. I separate the bad from the good during the breeding season into separate pens. Every year I find a good one among the supposed culls as they mature.

SHOW PREPARATION

As I mentioned before, handling the birds as often as possible is of the utmost impor-

tance if they are to perform in the walking pen. Placing the birds in a walking pen daily with other birds, prepares them for what they will experience at the show. Learn to lace. Proper tail lacing is a must for the birds to do their best in the show. Also it will take a while for the youngsters to become accustomed to having their tail laced.

About one week before the show, the birds' toenails should be trimmed. Take care not to cut them too short as this could cause bleeding which is often difficult to stop. Trimming the nails not only gives them a nice rounded appearance but also helps the bird perform to his best.

Three to four days prior to the show, I bathe each show bird in a solution of mild dish soap and water, then rinse the bird thoroughly. The bathing not only cleans any dirt from the feathers but also gives the tail feathers a nice hard texture. The birds must then be placed on clean litter to avoid further soiling of the feathers. During cold weather, I wash the birds in the late evening and keep them in boxes with clean litter in the garage over night to avoid the risk of the birds getting chilled while they are wet.

During transportation to the show, your Fantails must not be overcrowded. It is best, as I learned from Gordon Larson, to transport the birds in a camper shell on the back of a pickup. Clean food and water can be made

available along the way so that the birds are fresh when they arrive at the show. For those of us who must travel in cars, boxes with clean wood shavings for litter do reasonably well.

As soon as you arrive at the show, place the birds in the holding pens and provide them with food and water. Allow them to rest and eat without interruption for several hours before disturbing. Birds should also be force watered using a tube on a syringe in case they are not drinking in their strange environment. This will avoid possible dehydration during the trip.

Just before each bird is to go into the walking pen, clean its feet with a damp cloth with a small amount of rubbing alcohol. This will give the feet and legs a nice bright red color. Ben-gay can also be used on the feet and legs to further enhance the red color but use caution not to soil the feathers.

Be courteous, get your birds in early so other fanciers are not forced to wait on you. And help anyone you can. Enjoy the show and learn as much as possible. The experts are all around you.

This article only touches the surface of all the things the top fanciers do to give them the winner's edge. As I mentioned earlier, articles throughout this issue will be more specific on given areas, so read them all. Good luck with your Fantails.

FANTAILS

Top quality whites, since 20 years.
I am also working with the bars.
Some birds available
in fall and winter months.



Uwe Schierloh

Lilienthaler Heerstr. 125

2800 Bremen 33

Germany

Tel. 49-421-256751

Housing The Fantail

by JEFF CLARK, Omaha, Nebr.

Proper housing for the Fantail is a must if you want to do well in the breeding loft. First a Fantail should have plenty of room to mate and raise their young, without being disturbed by other pairs. That's why I believe in pen breeding. It's a whole lot easier to keep track of pairs and their young, if you know exactly where they came from. Also being confined forces them to get down to business.

From reading the Rod Hatcher handbook, I settled on breeding pens 24"x34"x15". I think this is the ideal size for breeding pens, and I have had no fertility problems with them. The doors are 12 inches wide, made from 2x4" or 1x2" welded wire. This is big enough to allow easy cleaning of the pens. An easy way to hinge the doors is by using hardware staples, which are very inexpensive. Now you need water, feed and grit cups. You can use anything you like such as plastic yogurt cups, plastic frosting cups, etc. The easiest way that I have found to secure them to the outside of the cage is with wire baskets, made from 1x2 welded wire. This allows easy access to clean, water and feed on a daily basis.

The nest bowls that I use are cheap and easy to clean. I cut the top three inches off 5 gallon plastic buckets. They are easy to clean,

and at the end of the season, string a rope through the rings, and hang them up till next year. I have found them at bakery's, deli's and grocery stores, just ask them to save some for you. Also if you have friends in the construction business, such as painters or drywallers, they always have some to get rid of.

For nesting material I use hay or pine needles, don't use straw as bugs like to hide in the hollow stems. Also make sure your Fantails have plenty of access to the nesting material. It seem as though when they get busy building nests, it stimulates them into breeding.

There are several different types of bedding to use in your Fantail loft. And Fantails should have bedding, something absorbent to keep the droppings from soiling their feathers. I've tried cotton seed hulls, they are expensive and dusty but stay in place very well. Sand gets soiled and the birds eat it, which then spreads disease. Peanut hulls are kind of sharp and are not very absorbent. Corn cobs do not blow around much but if they get wet they tend to get moldy. Rice hulls are excellent, stay in place, but are hard

to get and expensive. I settled on wood shavings, mostly because they are readily available and very inexpensive. An idea where you can bag your own for nothing is to visit a wood mill, where they make furniture, windows, etc. Just ask the person in charge and assure him that everything will be left as is, and they will usually say okay.

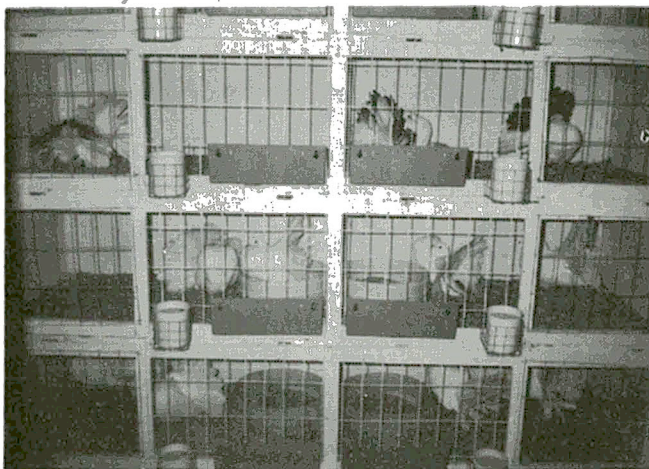
In feeding your Fantails, do not skimp on the quality of their feed. You get out of your Fantails what you put into them. So buy or mix a well balanced ration of clean, dust free grain. Also begin to give them a higher protein content in breeding and molting seasons. You can also add a good vitamin supplement to their diet, to give them nutrients they're not getting in the grain.

Your birds should have grit in front of them at all times. Not just sand and oyster shell. But a good commercial grit with the needed minerals in order for them to function properly. I like to add anise oil to my grit, they love the smell and it entices them into eating plenty of it.

In closing, I would just like to say if you keep your loft clean, follow some of these ideas and experiment with some of your own. You will come up with a system that works for you, and you will be raising plenty of Fantails.

Good luck.

An outside view of Jeff Clark's breeding loft, 12x12. Steps on the left lead to upstairs young bird loft, 12x12.



On the left are the breeding cages used by Jeff Clark. Note the use of cups for water and tops of buckets for nest bowls. On the right is the inside of Jeff's breeding loft.

Procedures For Breeding Through Culling

by BOB PHILLIPO, Burford, Ont., Canada

Here is basis that can make or break a Fantail breeder. I guess that the best place to start would be before the youngsters are even hatched.

What a breeder has to keep in mind in order to produce show quality Fantails is that you have to breed from good stock. I, like so many other breeders, learned the hard way. What I mean is mating improper birds together. You must compensate one bird's fault with another bird's good points. Without the balancing out factor you will get nowhere, and until a breeder realizes this you will go nowhere fast. Probably in my stud I have done things a little different from other breeders. What I worked on first of all (keeping in mind legs, which there was a shortage of) was working on tight, full bodied birds with good wing lines. To me this is a very impressive sight in the judging pen. At present I am trying to hold these bodies and work the good leg into them. The reason I did it this way was there were a lot of good legged birds around but if you put the proper full, rounded, deep bodies on these birds, their legs would be too far back and you would have lost them completely.

Now that I have the proper pairs selected, the breeding program is under way. What I would also like to stress is that if you are going to breed Fantails seriously, you have to care for them seriously. The bird will produce if, and only if, they are properly looked after. Far too many times neglect destroys a breeding season. A balanced diet, fresh water daily and regular antibiotic treatment yearly all favours success during the breeding season. Last year I had a lot of good hens and good cocks that were not put together because by mating these birds together they did not balance out the good from the bad points. By sticking to the balancing out factor, overall the youngsters were better and culling became much easier.

As the breeding season gets into full swing this is where the breeder can make or break a Fantail. This is where the work begins, not in the fall after the moult, but right now. Keep your eyes open for wings caught in tails. This can produce an unbalanced tail for you in days. If you see a young bird catching its tail, lace the bird up and tape the tail. This will prevent the wing from hooking into the tail and destroying a potentially good youngster. If you also see a youngster that is carrying a nice well balanced tail and is having problems carrying it, then what I always do is trim the side feathers off just like the breeders. What this does is enable the bird to push back with more ease, and at the same time you will find that it will put more strength into the youngsters legs. Another common thing to look for is a tail pulling to one side or the other. Again, get your tape out

and weight the high side with dimes, pennies, or what I found that works well are pieces of coiled solder. Check this bird after a week or so by taking off the weights and if it is balanced, then you have succeeded. Handle your birds a lot. Twist the crooked feathers and continue lacing and working with your youngsters. You will be surprised how much smoother a contented bird will look compared to flighty ones.

Very little culling should be done before the moult. Chances are that the birds which had promise before the moult by showing you Fantail features, will stay in your young bird pen for a long time.

The first thing in my culling procedure at this point in time is LEGS. If they do not have them they are the first ones out. If you can see a few of these good bodied birds with legs and tails, then you don't need these maybe birds.

A lot of people stress tail size. If I have a small round bird with good legs and a 10 inch tail, chances are this bird will be there to the last also. These birds are much easier to put tails on. All you have to do is put these to a mate with a large tail. Remember that large 14 inch tails on a 5-1/2 to 6 inch bird with roundness is impressive only if you have that tight wing line and depth in body. Far too many 14 inch tailed birds have those long wings, and every time this bird gets up and

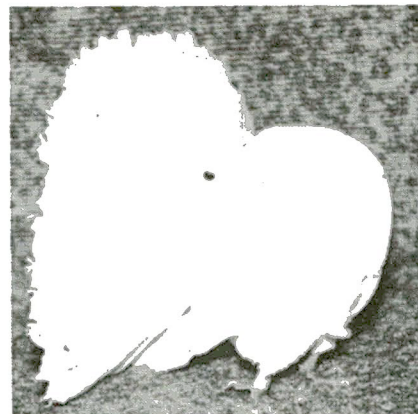


This red saddle hen was bred in 90 by Bob Phillipo. The saddle class in Canada is becoming a very hard class to win in the last three or four years. There are at least six different breeders in the Burford, Ont., Canada, area who are working and improving on the saddle fantail. Phillipo bred from this hen for one season and she produced some very good quality saddles. Her one daughter was best saddle at the Central Canadian Yearling Young Bird Show in 1991. For the last three years, Phillipo has been crossing saddles back to blacks and other colours. This hen was sold to France in 1991.

shows, it opens up the front. Too many breeders are blind over big tails. Remember if you have a bird with balance, that can show with ease, then that factor called carriage and motion will come much easier.

I have found that some strains of birds in my loft may be left alone until they are 7 to 9 months of age. They are just slower developing than others. Also there are those obvious culls. These birds will never do you any good. Get rid of them.

These methods have worked well for me and hopefully may help someone else. — Bob Phillipo, Vice President, Central Canadian Fantail Club.



This white Fantail hen 24-89 shows tremendous body and lots of depth. Her father was a black cock and her mother was a white hen. In 89, she was 2nd reserve at the Canadian Fantail Club Annual Meet. In 90, she was best yearling white at the Central in Nebraska and in 91, she was grand champion at the CPFA. This hen was sold to France and was bred by Bob Phillipo.



#544, bred by Bob Phillipo, is a very small, compact little saddle. She has a very good body, decent wing line and a good sized tail for the size of her. She was Best saddle at the Central Canadian Yearling Young Bird Show in 1991. This hen has produced some very good fantails in my saddle program in 1992. This hen was also 2nd young hen at the Central.

Fantail Loft Management

by DICK URY, Des Moines, Iowa

After 30 years with the Fantails, I still find this dainty little pigeon holds for me a fascination which is hard to explain.

The Fantail, with all its parts, is a real challenge for any breeder and the pursuit of its perfection can take a lifetime.

Fantails have enjoyed good popularity over the years which always makes for keen competition at the shows.

If competition and challenge plus life-long friendships are what you are looking for, then Fantails will give you all three.

In order to enjoy your Fantails to the utmost and have them do good at the shows,

they need to be healthy and be in top condition. Good management practice is a must for your Fantails. I have not had a serious health problem in my loft in the last 20 years. We all have an occasional bird that will have a problem, but there is a big difference between one sick bird and a whole loft full.

There are a few simple things that you can do on a regular basis that will keep your Fantails healthy and you will enjoy them much more. Number one and most important is to worm your Fantails at least every two months. Fantails that carry worms cannot stay healthy very long, they will grow weak from the stress and pick up all kinds of other diseases. The wormer that I have found works best for me is Ivermectin or Ivomec. Ivomec will keep your Fantails free of not only worms but also body lice and mites. To administer the wormer I use a regular baby Q-Tip to paint their throats. If your Fantails are free from worms, their natural immune system will keep them free from colds, canker, Paratyphoid and other diseases. I do treat yearly for Paramyxovirus.

Another problem area is the bottom of the feet. Most fanciers have seen the fungus that grows on the bottom of the birds' feet. This fungus usually starts with droppings that stick to the birds' feet. I do not know of anything that will satisfactorily get rid of this condition once it gets started, but there is prevention. Vaseline if applied on a regular basis will keep the birds' feet soft and free from droppings and prevent the start of this fungus.

Keep your Fantails free from lice and



#CL-2 is a blue opal bred by Bob Phillip. This hen has been best opal nearly every time shown. This is another pigeon that goes back to Phillip's Indigo.

mites and give them good clean feed and water. Do not give them more feed than they will clean up in about 30 minutes. Dirty feed laying around the loft floor will only cause trouble. Keep your loft free from mice. Mice carry Paratyphoid and other diseases. You cannot raise Fantails successfully if mice are present in your loft.

Fantails are a floor type bird and do not need to fly a lot. They are kept on the floor of the loft and should not have a lot of perches and other places to fly up to.

Fantails are basically healthy and with good care will give you years of enjoyment. These are simple things that are often overlooked by the fancier. Your Fantails will only do as good as the care you give them.

Make lifelong friends and enjoy a wonderful hobby raising Fantails.



A red saddle hen of Bill Shekleton's of New Hampton, Iowa. This hen was bred by Bob McKee. This pigeon shows a lot of type, good body, good wing line and a very good balanced hen. Bill is a Fantail breeder who is doing very well with his saddle program.



The first photo is of a blue pied which is a very impressive pigeon to see. He is in Bill's blue saddle program. This cock is small and shows a lot of balance with an excellent wing line. The second photo is an opal saddle cock. Bill Shekleton is using various colour combinations in his saddles. This cock shows good width in body and legs. He is clean with a good size tail. The third photo is of a red saddle cock. Notice how clean the shoulders are with good width in body, good depth in body and carries a nice balanced tail. — All birds were bred by Bill Shekleton of New Hampton, Iowa in 1991.

Our Fantails

by MATT COSBY, San Marcos, Calif.

My father (George Cosby) started raising Fantails in 1963. His first pairs of birds were purchased from Earl Clark of Spring Valley, California. He showed with the local clubs up until 1969. Later in 1969 my father went into the service and wasn't able to raise birds again until 1975. At that time he was living in Chicago. There he picked up a couple pair again from Earl Clark and Gene Altpeter of Wisconsin. There my dad showed with the Central and showed in the Young Bird Fantail Show in Louisville, Kentucky, up until 1983.

Later in 1983, my father moved back to California under special circumstances and wasn't able to raise Fantails again up to 1991.

Now I live with my father and I help him raise Fantails. He has taught me many ways to raise strong and healthy Fantails. One is to always keep the coops dry. A dry coop keeps away disease, insects and prevents a bird from accidentally swallowing a germinated seed. Even in the wet season, we have found ways to keep our coop dry and free of disease. For example we applied a huge plastic tarp over the whole coop. Only a dry coop however doesn't always insure healthier birds. It is also very important to keep a clean coop by using wood shavings on a wood floor and cleaning it weekly. Now with this technique combined with keeping a dry coop, does insure, up to a point, a better environment for the birds to grow strong and healthy.

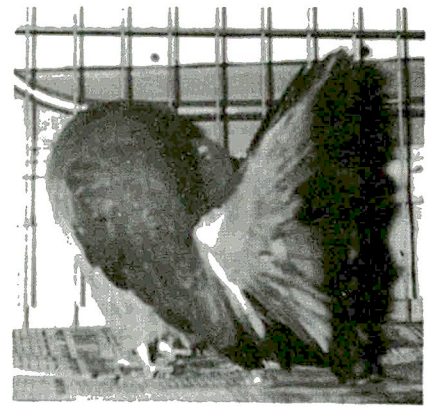
When breeding, always nail salt tabs close to the floor for the birds and always keep

your water very clean by changing it twice a day in the winter months, but changing it as much as possible in the summer, to help cut disease. Now that we're on the topic of warm weather, I'd just like to mention that a bath every week with a spoonful of Borax cuts down the chances of your birds getting lice. If you do have lice on your birds, then Borax will cut that number of lice down on your birds drastically.

On the food part, always remember to keep seed dry. Also always have a full container of seed for the birds. Oyster shell in the grit is very good. Using all of these key points, we have maintained a low mortality rate and all we have to show for our work is the power and fitness of all our Fantails. Another plus of our clean coops is our strong showing of birds in the Pacific and Western Fantail Shows.

This season, we banded our first 92's in mid-January. Our key was to keep our coops warm and dry, yet keeping circulation and sunlight. Sunlight, by the way, is very important in the process of life, when dealing with Fantails or any other plant or animal. So keep around plenty of sunshine. We also (in mid-winter to start raising early) applied fiberglass insulation around the bottom sides of the coop, and salt tabs all around the interior of the coop.

To get maximum space in the larger coop, we built four individual lofts about four feet above the floor. There we were able to keep four more pairs of pigeons in the coop comfortably. As the 92's kept coming, we were



Dun Fantail #151-92. — Bred by George Cosby, San Marcos, Calif.

able to convert all of the older babies to an alternate and even smaller coop than our main one. That allowed us to breed more without an overcrowding problem occurring.

NOTE: Packing birds into a small coop is very unhealthy and may lead to bigger problems.

This year we have banded over 30 birds already. Each of our birds are strong and healthy enough to become Grand Champions. You might want to know the secret we used to raised so many healthy birds in a small coop? The secret? Just go down this list.

1. Clean coops once a week (make sure you have a wood floor and wood shavings).
 2. Keep water clean by changing it many times daily. Scrub down once every two weeks.
 3. Keep your Fantails' feed dry. (If seed gets wet — get rid of it quickly). Also have the birds' feed container filled (especially in the breeding season). Put oyster shells in with the grit. (It helps the birds digest food better).
 4. Keep plenty of salt tabs on hand (especially during breeding time).
 5. Keep the coop dry and sunny. (A wet, dark coop is just a breeding ground for disease and insects).
 6. With or without lice, it is good to give your birds a bath in Borax once a week. It keeps the birds conditioning in top quality and prevents or reduces feather lice.
 7. Make sure there is sufficient space for every bird you own.
 8. To keep the birds in good show shape, have a four-day rotation with seven birds and rotate who you work with in training cages.
- If you follow all these important key points, even if you own a large coop compared with a small coop, you will see how strong and healthy your birds can really be.



The loft of George and Matt Cosby, San Marcos, Calif.

Breeding Fantails

by TOM RYKE, Bellville, South Africa

In breeding Fantails, the beginner should rather start with two-year old, or older birds, if he can obtain them from a reputable breeder with a good show record, in the colour that he selects. The main reasons for my point of view is as follows:

1. They were good enough to breed for him - so they should breed for you.

2. You won't buy birds that he wants to cull.

3. You can see the hidden faults in a strain that develops with age. Some strains are only good when they are young birds, but afterwards fall apart - they develop too coarse wing butts or their legs start to buckle.

4. Your birds won't change too drastically with age.

5. You can check in his loft for any offspring of those particular birds - you won't buy birds that he struggles to breed from, or have fertility problems with.

6. If a breeders' older birds look the same as his young birds in type and quality, then he is on the right track.

The type of bird I had the most success with is small round hens - the legs can be short, even as short as possible, they are well forward placed. Check these legs for buckling at joints.

Do not select cocks with very short legs - they normally all have trouble to fertilize a hen and they are normally only good for showing purposes.

Select for normal medium length legs, stylish cocks with strong forward legs.

Try to avoid cocks with too much over action because they also struggle to fertilize hens - do not go for them. See that they have a reasonable tail size with broad, hard, long feathers.

It is very easy to breed birds with big tails or birds with round bodies. The real challenge is to breed birds with both these qualities combined, as well as action and motion.

The modern Fantail is the bird that is the furthest developed from its wild type ancestor. Now you are breeding against nature. The genes of the birds want to go back to their original ancestral form.

The breeders have by selection bred these traits into the modern Fantail as we see it today.

It is very important to create your own strain of Fantails. (Similar Fantails will breed similar offspring). For example: If you take cattle, the Brahman (the holy cows of India) is a pure breed strain for many, many years. If you cross it with any other cattle, we see that the Brahman characteristic is the dominant or prevalent one - in other words, all the cattle will look mostly like the Brahman side and have that characteristic.

We want to do the same with our Fantails in a strain of birds that have been developed over a long period. These pure characteris-

tics are inbred. If you outcross it with another Fantail strain, these birds will be dominant over the others. Now this applies to good characteristics as well as bad characteristics. Example: We all know saddles have problems - long legs, bodies, bad leg setting - they have been bred with these characteristics for a long time.

Cross them with a good white that shows front legs, body, etc. - what will you get - more than 80% will be like the saddle or worse - unless this white is a prepotent individual that has been pure bred for this type for a considerable amount of time and is dominant in type over other genes.

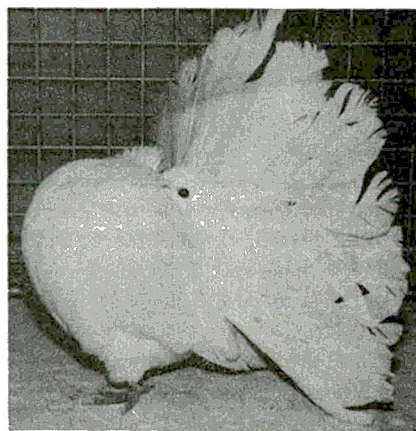
You must test a bird like that with different hens - this is your key to improving your Fantails. You must just realize with this, you introduce into your birds a lot of hidden genes that might still surprise you.

To improve your birds when you are breeding within a specific gene pool, which have not got all the necessary characteristics, or lacking in a specific quality that is needed, you have to bring this quality into your stud.

Careful consideration must be made when

you are selecting such an outcross. It is very important that you select a bird that is reasonable in the same qualities that is already prevalent within your own gene pool and outstanding in the quality you desire.

Mate this test cross bird to your own, and select one that is best. If this bird breeds true for the quality that you desire, it will show in his offspring. If your birds are stronger and prevalent over these genes, you will see no



Late bred young cock #92-1960 to be shown in 1993. - Bred by Tom Ryke, Bellville, South Africa.



T. Van Bilton of Somerset, Strand, South Africa, in his loft. He breeds from 12 pairs of white Fantails.

improvement. You will then start over to breed with another bird or his other offspring.

There are two routes to follow: a completely different bird as a mate or one of the offspring back to the bird that you have selected. If you do the latter, you must be very careful not to establish inferior quality genes within your gene pool.

My recommendation is: use only one of these testcross youngsters, if these are any good and carefully start to breed with this bird to different mates with your own, looking all the time for other hidden faults that might show up.

If possible, keep all the qualities that make up the ideal Fantail in your loft, so that you do not have to go and seek that quality elsewhere. Look out for a bird in your own loft with an outstanding quality in the points where most of your other birds lack or are less in this desired trait.

Overall composition of the ideal Fantail is a must for the modern day Fantail breeder. Size of Fantail in relation to body, tail, leg inset and side and frontal views. You can stare yourself blind in the excellent quality of one particular point in a Fantail and fail to see the overall qualities in another. You must strive to get the right balance in your birds.

It's A Long Way From The Filled Egg To The Show Pen

by UWE SCHIERLOH, Germany

It's not possible to show Fantails with success by giving them shortly before judging in the hand of an experienced breeder to fix them up and lace the tail. In fact of today's quality of the birds, it is necessary to handle them out of the nest bowl. Keeping in mind the standard, the youngsters have to be supervised as soon as possible. That means: Beware of overcrowded youngsters' lofts, keep them as clean as possible and give them the best feed you can get; lace the tail as often as possible! A little bit of masking tape could be a help, but I have to warn to make a good tail only by taping. Tape is only for help, but it is unable to change bad genes into the good ones we need in our breeding stock for the following years.

Prepared as above mentioned, the youngsters are able to have their heavy moult without difficulties.

I pull out the tail feathers when the birds are in strong moult around the head. During this time you have to be careful of health.

Let them have a bath one or two times a week, and put more protein into the feed. After some weeks they would show their

new beauty. Even the breeders have changed their cloth so that we all can enjoy the wonderful picture in our lofts.

At this time you have to make your show tactics and make plans for the next year breeding program.

Everyone tells you not to show your best birds on any show, because they need time to retire. I admit sometimes it is hard to leave a show star at home, but I guaranty for it: he would be thankful.

In the last time before the show you have to handle the birds daily, lacing the tail, setting them down in the walking pens and learn them to eat and drink in the show pens.

By doing this some birds will change form a "loftcrack" to a "mad showbird" and we have to remove him from the showteam.

In the show hall we have to clean the legs and bands, lacing the tail for a last time and then set them down for judging. Now it's the Fantails part to place or to lose.

Breeding and showing the Queen of the Fancy is a very exciting procedure that takes some time of your life, but it would indemnify you by giving good times among friends and lovely birds.



FANTAILS

WHITE

BLACK

RICHARD DOYLE

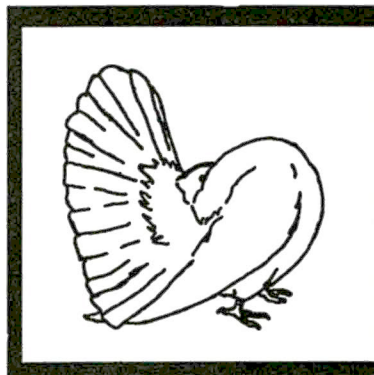
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Fertility

by TOM RYKE, Bellville, South Africa

When you seem to get low fertility and some pairs just do not seem to have any fertile eggs - try to increase the fertility by placing a round wooden block, approximately 140 mm od by 25 to 30 mm high with them in the nesting compartment.

When they want to mate, the hen will crouch on top of the round wooden block and she will be higher off the nesting compartment. This will help the cock to swing around the hen and give him that extra edge to do his job properly when mating takes place.

It will help with some pairs especially where the cocks' legs are very short and where he has got a round, short body. When those cocks try to mate, they sometimes fall off the hen during the mating process.

The hen sometimes crouches so low that the cock digs with his tail into the nest box floor. This helps to raise the hen up from the floor because the cock takes such a long time to cover her that she cannot take his weight anymore and rests with her breastbone on the nest box floor. The keen fancier that spends enough time with his birds will know how frustrating it is to watch a pair of fans trying to mate and do not come right.

DO NOT FORCE TWO BIRDS TO MATE THAT DO NOT WANT TO MATE. Most of the time the cock will not drive the hen enough and lose interest after a while.

The same cock with another hen will drive her and because some pairs will mate frequently with a mixed rate of success, your chances are much better to get fertile eggs with a cock that is happy with its mate.

I don't put this wooden block in at the start (unless I know that a particular cock has a problem in mating or if I know a particular hen crouches too low).

I wait for the first round of eggs and if it's infertile, I observe the birds to try and see

them mating. It is best to watch after feeding in the late afternoon if they are nesting, and if he is not interested to mate and just sits around, then there is something wrong with him (sick, etc.).

I have watched countless Fantails mate and not succeed and try again until they succeed. Some cocks just seem to throw in the towel after the first attempt in mating whether it was successful or not.

When your birds are in a good physical condition, the cock will drive the hen and mate with her frequently. The first requirement is a good physical condition and good nesting arrangement. You will have much less problems with two birds that like each other that you did not have to struggle to mate up. This part is sometimes overlooked by the breeder. I trim the tails of both the cocks and hens before breeding starts and trim the vents as a rule, too.

Another point I observed is that where we reside in the South with its long summers, we have a lot of daylight, up to 14-1/2 hours per



Note the round wood block to be placed in the nesting compartment as "mating block".

day at its peak in December.

The rate of fertility is much better during these months and I put it down to the longer daylight - after all, your birds only eat, drink, breed, sleep and hopefully perform for you. They get less sleep, but a lot more time to mate and breed. Artificial light can help to lengthen your daylight hours with improved results in fertility in the onset of the breeding season.



Champion Yearling and Champion Fantail at the 1990 Championship Show, Bloemfontein (#89192993). - Shown by Tom Ryke.



Tom Pritchett, Fairmont, Okla, and Uwe Schierloh, Bremen, Germany, discuss Fantails in the Pritchett loft January 1991.

Marked & Color Breeding Fantails

Almond Markings

by TIM KVIDERA, Anoka, Minn.

The classical expression of almond, as exemplified by the English Short Faced Tumbler (a rich buff base colored bird with rich black flecks throughout the bird and a combination of the buff, black and white in the flight and tail) is hard to achieve. Not only that, it is hard to maintain.

The desired flecking, break, is a uniform distribution of small spots of black color on the buff ground. Typically the nest feather of an almond is almost devoid of break. Each successive moult results in more break until at some point of age the break has darkened the bird beyond show-worthiness. In the extreme case the bird will look almost like a kite. Normally an almond is in peak coloration at two to four years of age.

But there is a lot of variation in the expression of break in almonds, some which have very little break until quite late in life and others which have good break early, even in the nest, and quickly moult too dark. What causes this spectrum of expression is not thoroughly understood. But it can be selected for in a breeding program. I have some families which develop break very slow, fast and in-between.

One line, represented by #87-193, is the slow developer. In photo #1, taken in March 1991, he has very little break for a four year old. Photo #2 is of #87-193 taken in May 1992. Now he has a little more break on the sides, a lot more on the chest and the tail has darkened considerably, unfortunately losing much of its buff ground color. Photo #3 is of #90-77 as a one year old. He is of the same

line as #87-193 and is included as an example of the good ground color but little break of this family.

The other end of the spectrum is represented by #88-816. In the March 1991 photo #4 is already beyond prime break even as a three year old. A year later, photo #5, he has gotten darker yet. He was a nice looking one and two year old. This line has generous break but often lacks some in ground color.

There is a little more balance the next bird, #89-634. The March, 1991 Photo #6 shows decent ground with a good start on break as a two year old. Photo #7 shows he got better break as a three year old but now has virtually lost the desired white terminal bar and most of the tail ground color.

When you look at a class of almonds in a show it is obvious that there is a wide range of shades represented. Since almond is a dominant gene it is "easy" to upgrade the type by crossing to superior quality Fantails. The beauty of the almond color is that, no matter what shade, it is pretty. It is also dynamic. Each year brings about a new look on the same bird.

The tough challenge is to improve the Fantail qualities and achieve the classical expression of the almond. If you dedicate all your effort to "building the house before painting it" you will soon find out that the paint bucket is dried up.

It is generally agreed that kite is needed to produce good colored almonds. It is not widely agreed though as to what is kite, if indeed it is something in and of itself or a combination of numerous color intensifying

(Continued On Next Page)

#1



#87-193 taken March 1991 bred by Lance Christiansen and owned by Tim Kvidera.



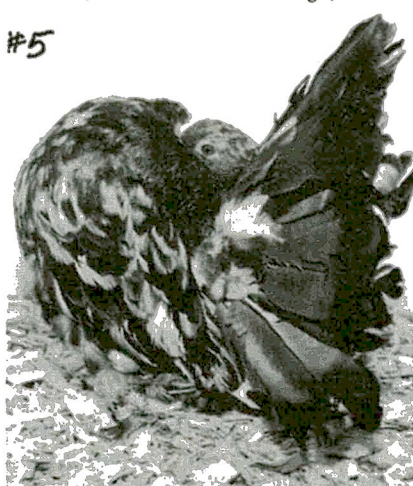
#87-193 taken May 1992 bred by Lance Christiansen, owned by Tim Kvidera.

#4



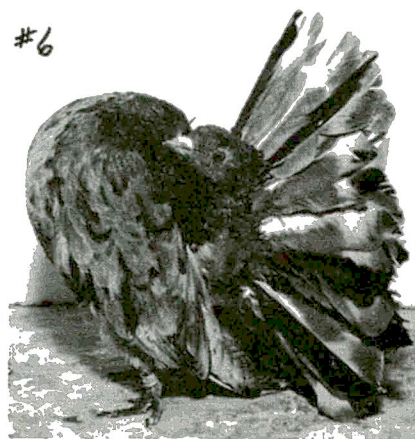
#88-816 taken March 1991, bred and owned by Tim Kvidera.

#5



#88-816 taken May 1992, bred and owned by Tim Kvidera.

#6



#89-634 taken March 1991, bred and owned by Tim Kvidera.

modifiers. But using dark, rich, lustrous, black looking T-pattern checkers with bronzing tones will help.

Another ingredient to enhance the almond expression is recessive red, in an impure state. If an almond is pure, homozy-

gous, for recessive red the almond effects the red expression, lightening the shade to what is often mistaken for yellow. An example of this combination, called DeRoy, is seen in photo #8. This shows #88-101 as a three year old. She is a harsh buff color with a few darker, reddish spots. DeRoys develop this dark flecking similar to the break on regular almonds.

There is also a school of thought that grizzle will aid in evenly breaking a bird. Maybe I have not used the right grizzle, or did not have an established enough almond, but I have yet to see benefits from grizzle in my almond program. It usually lightens and streaks the ground and greys up the flecks.

A traditional taboo is to never mate almond to almond. This will result in 25% of

the offspring being homozygous (pure) almond cocks. They usually have eye problems and often die in the nest. I normally cull a lot more than 25% of the youngsters. So sacrificing a quarter of the production for the possibility of generating a bird advanced to either of its parents in coloration is a small price. Just be sure that both parents have some of what you are looking for and you will have a chance that some of their offspring will have even more.

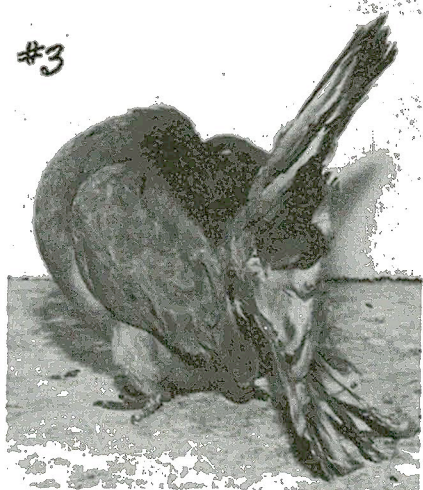
No one has all the answers. If you have a novel idea give it a try in the breeding pen. No matter what shade the almonds are that result they will be pretty, and fun to watch develop. Who knows, you may make a quantum leap towards achieving a truly classical colored almond Fantail.



#89-634 taken May 1992, bred and owned by Tim Kvidera.



#88-101 DeRoy hen, taken March 1991, bred by Lance Christiansen, owned by Tim Kvidera.



#90-77 taken March 1991, bred and owned by Tim Kvidera.

Blue/Silvers Breeding

by DON VAUGHN, Des Moines, Iowa

I would like to share some information about blue and silver matings that may be helpful, especially to new or beginning Fantail breeders. Most of my friends in the fancy who have been working with blues and silvers over the years certainly know this information very well and probably even better than myself. While most of us who have been breeding Fantails for sometime may take this information for granted, I am hopeful that it may be helpful to some of our newer members.

My friend, Dick Ury, over the years had always told people that he raised whites and bars. I would always ask him why he would make that statement. He would say I breed bars because I can mate my silvers to blues, or blues to silvers and so I just tell people I raise barred birds. In fact, one can even go beyond that blue/silver mating. In our loft we often times have powdered blues with blues and of course, barred birds and other colors such as ash red or ash yellow could be incorporated with a silver as well.

A person can have much control over their breeding stock throughout the years if they are aware of what's behind the birds that they are mating. The initial purchase of birds to pair for mating may make this difficult, since the only information you will know about the birds is what you've been told by the seller. How accurate that information may be depends upon the integrity or the knowledge of that seller. Knowing some of the following information will be helpful though in telling you what is behind birds that you have purchased so that you know the proper matings for your purposes for the future. Proper matings of one color to another will also assure you of having certain kinds of sexes when you may need to have an emphasis on certain sexes. For example, if

you are short on hens, you may want to put your matings together a certain way.

An important note at this point for beginning Fantail enthusiasts is to understand that color is secondary to all other points in a Fantail. You want to breed for the quality Fantail pigeon first. You should therefore learn the standard of perfection and bred to that standard before attempting to figure out your colors. Still if you have the standard of perfection in mind and you are working toward that model, the proper matings of colors will be of help to you in moving toward successful showing when exhibiting your young birds.

I use information found in the Rod Hatcher Fantail Handbook as far as the breeding results of matings and I have always found them to hold true. They are as follows:

Pure blue cock + pure blue hen = pure blues (1/2 cocks, 1/2 hens).

Pure silver cock + pure silver hen = all silvers (1/2 pure cocks, 1/2 pure hens).

Pure blue cock + pure silver hen = all blues (1/2 impure blue cocks, 1/2 pure blue hens).

Impure blue cock + pure blue hen = 1/4 pure blue cocks, 1/4 impure blue cocks, 1/4 pure blue hens 1/4 pure silver hens.

Pure silver cocks + pure blue hen = 1/2 impure blue cocks, 1/2 pure silver hens.

Impure blue cock + pure silver hen = 1/4 impure blue cocks, 1/4 pure silver cocks, 1/4 pure blue hens, 1/4 pure silver hens.

Understanding the sex relationship to color matings can play an integral part for your overall breeding planning. As I had indicated before if you had a shortage of a particular color in a particular sex, you could look to this table and find the most efficient way to bring you the most numbers for those needed birds.

Let's Talk About Saddle Fantails

by WILLIAM HART, Rochester, N.Y.

Before we get going let us look at the standard for this nicely marked bird. In part it reads: the wings shall be evenly marked, the primary feathers to be white, the rest including the covert or shield, to be colored. The body except for the back shall be white, period, no exceptions.

Now that we have read the standard, let's continue with our comments. Any kind of saddle color markings are pretty but if any mismark occurs it mars the name of the bird. Today many or most popular colors are show-

ing up at our shows. Due to the crossing to get these colors, the saddle markings is, in some cases, forgotten.

According to the standard, it consists of the same points given to any other colors. However, many of the Champion saddles today are badly mismarked. It must be heard that such markings are hard to come by yet we never put a silver in a blue class only to make up a larger class. Going back to the standard again, it states five percent for saddle markings. At most shows that I have at-

tended, the judges disregard markings and go for other points of the standard. To me this is far from right. If mismark birds in other colors are thrown out, so should a saddle if not up to the saddle markings. I have seen many saddles with colored plumage running up to the side nearly to the wing butts. Again, to me a bird of this off color should not be in the winning circles.

Over the years I have raised many saddle Fantails and the bad marked bird is left at home. Now if chances are so great with a poor marked bird maybe I will take some to the shows and see how they place. How about you? We must come to a conclusion marking or the other given points in the standard. To me we should only show the saddle marked birds that way everyone knows what to show and nothing else will win. We can only improve by abiding by the standard and anything beyond this, in my opinion, is a mismarked. In other words any overmarked birds of 25 percent should not be considered a true saddle.

This is not to offend anyone but to bring to light if we are to better the saddle Fantail we must go by the words in the standard, that is why we have written words.

Good Tailmarks: Can't Buy 'Em, Make 'Em

by JEFF CLARK, Omaha, Nebr.

I hope this can be of use to someone trying to improve their Tailmarks. Do not take what I have to say as the gospel, these are just a few things that have worked for me.

It is hard to obtain quality Tailmarks with which to breed from. Some are of quality that resemble whites, but basically most lack the refinement to compete with the whites. So you must do what you can with what you've got.

I am currently breeding from two lines of Tailmarks. Line A is based on taking the darker tailed Tailmarks, and mating them to whites. Their young usually carry the lighter tails, but gain in the tail size and body frontal. Because of the white strain I used is very old, it seems to click when it enters a fresh gene pool. With the offspring from mating A though, usually produce lighter tailed birds. So comes the problem of getting color back in the tails.

This is where crossing to line B is used. I have found by mating whites or Tailmarks to solid or mismarked birds, you will raise a number of birds with useful or close to tailmarked birds. These birds are then put back on the line of lighter tailed birds to bring the color back.

Reminder, do not discard mismarked birds

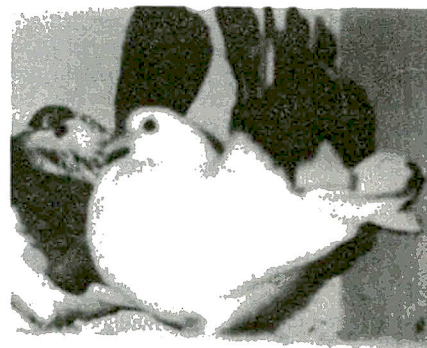
from the crosses. As long as the quality is there, put them back on tailmarked birds, and you will raise a percentage of showable young.

I try to make it a point to blend the birds together, like a light tail on a dark tail to balance them out. But this is not always true. I've raised dark tailed birds from light tails on occasion. Or birds with a few colored feathers mated to Tailmarks, that produced very well marked young. What I'm saying is don't be afraid of trying a bird as long as the quality is what you want. If you can, try to mate the young from the crosses, back to birds with a couple of generations that the markings are set. It seems like there is a better chance of raising nicely marked young.

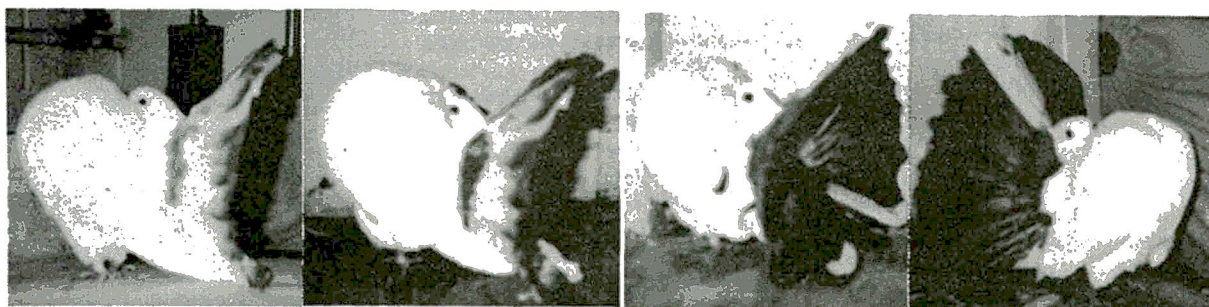
Here are a few crosses I've used that have worked well: White/Tailmark - Tailmark/Blue - Tailmark/Check - White/Blue - White/Black.

Again do not be afraid to put a mismarked bird into the program. You can raise showable Tailmarks from any cross, even the first generation.

Also the best way to have a good breeding season is to have your birds in the best possible condition before they're mated up. Good luck.



Note the young tailmark in front with the mismark father in back. This shows it doesn't matter what you mate to your Tailmarks, you are still able to raise good Tailmarked birds from mismarks. - Bred and owned by Jeff Clark, Omaha, Nebr.



WINNING TAILMARK FANTAILS

The first photo is #333-85 cock, Best Tailmark CFC 1985 and 1987. Second photo is #609-89 cock, Best Tailmark MAFC 1991. Third photo is #850-87 hen, Reserve Tailmark CFC. Fourth photo is #851-87 cock, Best Tailmark MAFC 1987. - Birds bred and owned by Jeff Clark, Omaha, Nebr.

Dominant Opal Fantails

by JIM KREBAUM JR., Whittier, Calif.

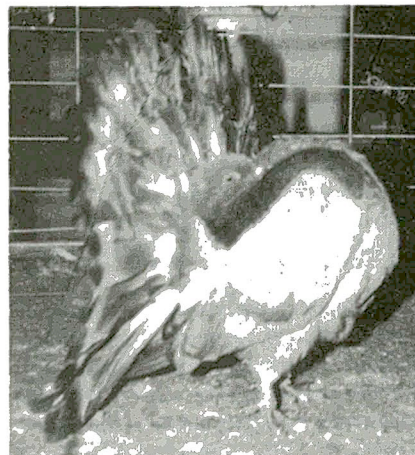
Dominant Opal is one of the newer colors to make an impact on Fantails today. Because opal is dominant, you're going to raise opal from whatever you mate it to. Opal bred to blue or blue check will produce a beautiful white tail bar. This is what most Fantail fanciers are breeding today. You can also breed opal to black and the results is opal spread or lace. Then take the opal spread back to opal and the color will clean up to a beautiful mercury colored lace. The cleaner

the opal color is and the whiter the wing and tailbar, the best for producing more good laces on black and clean tailbars on the blues. With the quality of the blacks and blues, the Dominate Opal should emerge as one of the top colors in Fantails.

In 1984 at the Pageant of Pigeons, I first met Gordon Larson of El Paso, Texas. I remember talking to Gordon about my West of England Tumblers in Dominate Opal. "How nice it would be to breed Fantails in that color." The color being a pale blue with clean white bars. As I've seen the opal Fantail improve over the last few years, (Rick Sparkman won the Western Fantail Club's 1991 Annual Superbowl of Fantails with an opal). I've never seen a Fantail with the super color of the west until this year. My experience with dominate opal has been with the West of England Tumbler.

My father has been breeding Dominate Opal for 3 or 4 years now and he has raised a young Fantail with the same color as my West of England Tumblers were in 1984 when Gordon saw them. All the opal Fantails along with this article were bred by Jim Krebaum, Sr. I hope to breed opal in the future myself. Right now, I breed powder blue, blue, check and yellow.

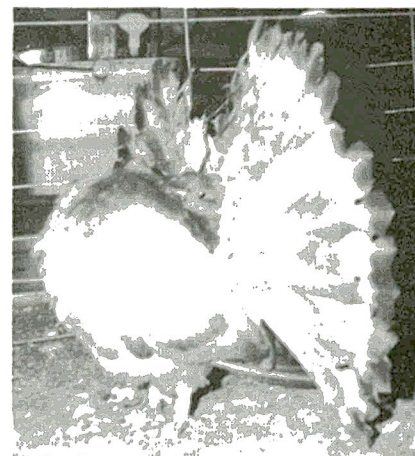
In closing, let me recommend Dominate Opal to those Fantail breeder of pigeon fanciers with a love of pastel colors.



1992 Dominant Opal Fantail Cock is a good quality show bird. - Bred and owned by Jim Krebaum Sr.



A young Dominant Opal Fantail that is the cleanest colored one to date for Jim Krebaum Sr. - Bred and owned by Jim Krebaum Sr.



1992 Dominant Opal Fantail is a nice young hen with a nice clean tailbar. - Bred and owned by Jim Krebaum Sr.

Blacks Of The Nineties

by WILLIAM I. DIEMER, Brighton, Mich.

It seems about every four or five years I write something on the Black Fantail. Before I started this article I went back and read the articles in the Central 1981 Handbook and the 1985 APJ Special. While the same thoughts are there, it seems there are more good breeders and different ways to breed blacks than even five years ago. There also seems to be better than average breeders of Blacks.

Besides Diemer, Altpeter and Gray, you can now add Sparkman, Geist, Young, Smith in Kansas, Lawrence, Pogue, Phillip, McColeman, Martin, Racho, DeAdder and a few I missed. All of these gentlemen can beat you on any given day. So believe me, times have changed not only in the show room but in the way we put together these blacks. Black splashes on solid blacks, spread almonds on solid blacks, duns on blacks, yellow/red on black, black splashes to black splash, indigo on black, Andalusian on black and black on black. All of these ways have taken Champion Black or a first place in one of the six classes at the Central in the last six years. Most of the new names above are producing great blacks with unusual matings.

In today's competitive way of showing blacks, there are certain rules to follow if you want to win.

1. Birds should be six inches or less in height.
2. Tail should be 12-1/2 inches across or more with at least two inches of top tail above chest. The more, the better for you. Four and five inches is now quite common.
3. Legs should be short.
4. Body should be round as possible and show no wing line or wing butts.
5. Head should be deep in pocket.
6. Color should be shiny black with beetle green throughout.
7. Even the black hens usually will have 13" tails on small birds.
8. These birds must be able to walk.

This is what it is all about, and when getting started in blacks, buy at least two pair from a "good breeder" and breed that two pairs together for one year. Take the youngsters (only the best) back to the parents and cross the two original pairs' youngsters together. The most important thing of all is to show year after year to see if you are improving your stud of Blacks.



#90-92 Red Hen was Champion Red three times: November 1990 Mid-America Fantail Club annual Meet, Cooper judging; January 1991 Central Fantail Club annual meet, Pritchett judging; January 1992 Central Fantail Club annual meet, Pogue judging. - Bred and owned by Tim Kvidera, Anoka, Minn.

The Evolution Of Black Saddle Cock #88-88

by DREW LOBENSTEIN

As a young pigeon breeder, I used to see the saddle Fantails and wonder why anyone would breed them. They represented virtually every poor quality there was to be had in Fantails, except markings. Occasionally, I would see one that had an individual good quality or two but judgement would still end with me shaking my head and wondering why anyone would feed such culls. Of course, I had not yet matured into a real pigeon breeder and I had not gained the concept of imaging. As years followed, I saw my first outstanding Jacobin, a red, and came to wonder what a blue Jacobin of that quality would do. Later, I saw an Andalusian Tumbler shown by Adair Allen and imagined a Jacobin of that color. Twelve years to 20 years later, I have both blue and Andalusian Jacobins better than the awesome red I had seen as my first image of a real quality pigeon. A process of positive imaging was the key to developing my pigeon breeding ability. To see something or imagine it and then produce it was the amazing process that brought forth #88-88.

For years I worked with pigeons, breeding poor type with color or markings and trying to add better type until Paul McNorgan one day told me that his blues and silvers were still kites and duns. The blue and silver Jacobins were quite poor and the kites and duns were quite good. Paul had introduced blue bar into the kites, and stayed with the kite of good type until it produced a good blue. He never went back to the inferior blue again, but waited for his good kite to produce one once he had introduced it... The concept of putting color or markings on good type rather than trying to put good type on color and markings was a good lesson to learn.



Saddle Fantail, #88-88 cock, was three times Best Saddle and Best Marked Fantail and 4th Reserve Champion at the Earl Clark Classic. - Bred and exhibited by Drew Lobenstein.

The first really outstanding saddle Fantail I ever saw was bred by my friend Dave Cox of Pontiac, Michigan. When I saw that bird the striking presence of black saddle on white type embedded forever the image of a good Fantail with saddle markings - in my brain. It only took me eight years to produce one once that image became my goal.

I was able to obtain a pair of black saddle fans from Bill Warner, of Ohio, at the Hershey National. The pair was not particularly unique as saddles go. The hen was very showy with long legs and open wings but perfect markings. The cock was an overmarked somewhat loose feathered bird with a pretty good sized tail. This pair produced seven young the first and only year I had them together. Five of the youngsters were glorified park pigeons, terrible Fantails. Two of them however were excellent mixes of every good quality the two parents had. One of these two hens, slightly overmarked, went to Earl Clark to play with and the other hen I kept went on to be best saddle at the Lincoln National (Central Fantail Meet) under Bill Diemer. This hen became the key to the program. I mated her to the best White cock I had, the father to my Hershey National Reserve Champion young hen. I was also able to obtain from Bill Diemer a brother to black cock 1224. I was able to raise about six usable birds from these two cocks and the saddle hen. After six years of mating brothers and

half sisters, mothers and sons, daughters, and fathers, I had produced several birds with good Fantail quality and near saddle markings. My goal was always to keep the Fantail quality up and keep the marking close - hoping eventually to raise the good one.

In 1988 it happened, a kite cock grandson of both the Diemer cock and the white cock mated back to an undermarked but excellent type hen from the same ancestry produced number 88.

As a baby, the tail was so big that he couldn't hold it up and since he was raised very late in the year, he never saw the showpen his first year. As a yearling, his belly filled in and he began to hold his composure very well. As he emerged from his moult it was very exciting to see him each day. By Pageant time he was in almost perfect feather. When our judge Gordon Larson saw him, he said that he was the best saddle that he had ever seen. With coaxing from Gordon and Rick Sparkman, I sent him along to the Earl Clark Classic. Rick said that by judging time he was almost worn out from everyone admiring him. He proceeded to win best saddle, best marked Fantail and was fourth in line to the Champion.

His quality came from the whites and the blacks I had the good fortune to obtain from Louie Christener, Bill Diemer and from Bill Warner came the markings. Comes also friendship and inspiration from Gordon, Rick, Bob McKee, Brian Pogue, Leon Stephens and many others. Next stop a blue barless indigo saddle silky grand champion. If you can conceive it, you can achieve it.

Progress With The Qualmond Fantail

by WM. M. LYNCH, DVM, Richardson, Texas

In the September 1985 Fantail Special, I reported on the development of the Qualmond Fantail with the gene being transferred from a Racing Homer crossed with a Birmingham Roller. The resulting cross was then mated to a Blue Bar Fantail. That resulted in the beginning of the Qualmond Fantail. An F-3 was exhibited at the Central Fantail Club Show held in conjunction with the NPA Show in Lincoln, Nebraska, in January 1982.

Since that beginning study, progress has been made by various breeders culminating in the awarding of Reserve Champion of the Mid-America Fantail Show to a Qualmond hen bred and exhibited by Rick Sparkman of Bristol, Texas. The judge of this show was Dwight Crewdsen of Lincoln, Nebraska, and 325 birds were shown.

One of the outstanding features of the Qualmond Fantail is the feather quality or hardness of feather. Since it is an incomplete dominant, one can count on 50% of the offspring to be Qualmond when mated to Blue Bar/Silver Bar or Powder Blue. The Qualmond offspring can be identified at the

time of hatching by the horn beak as opposed to the Blue Bar and Powder Blue having the dark beak.

In addition to Rick Sparkman, other prominent breeders and fanciers showing the Qualmond Fantail are Gordon Larson, Ray Dees and Brock Nesbit in Texas, Darrell Fowler in Oklahoma, John Watson and Larry Mason in Arkansas, Mike McAtee in Missouri, Tim Kvidera in Minnesota, and Joe Paoni in Illinois.

In 1986, I sent an F-6 Qualmond cock to Jim MacCallum in Stirling, Scotland. Jim has bred the Qualmond, and others in the United Kingdom have taken to it. Stuart Fox in England, in a recent personal letter, mentioned that he and others are now showing Qualmonds competitively in the United Kingdom.

So if you want to improve the feather quality of your bars and add some variety to your loft, contact a breeder of Qualmonds for the gene. Like Indigo, you will know when you have it, as you do not carry it.

Saddles – A Noble Challenge

By ROBERT POMMER, Nottawa, Ont., Canada

Under represented. This is probably the best way to describe the numbers and the quality of the saddle Fantails that have been shown at our major shows in the United States and Canada in the last 25 years. How could this happen to a bird that was so popular half a century ago and one that remains among the most beautiful colour patterns available in our breed? It is my opinion that most of the breeders today simply find the challenge too tough for them.

Let us be realistic. It is far easier to breed a good white or black, where colour expression and markings play a minor role at best, than it is to produce a bird of similar Fantail qualities WITH the added complication of markings.

Please don't think that I am suggesting that the production of a show type white or black, one that is capable of turning the judges head, is somehow easy. It is not easy. As a matter of fact, is considerably difficult. So why would a breeder want to add the noble challenge of perfecting the saddle marking in the same bird?

While I have only my personal observations to reference, I have formed an opinion as to what happened to those show champion fans of years long gone by (yes, saddles frequently won Grand Champion at major shows 50 years ago). I believe that a major contributing factor was an obsession on markings and colour. Little was known at that time about colour genetics and any breeder who felt the necessity to sacrifice type for markings was doomed to the destruction of the saddle Fantail. As you read on in this article and gain an appreciation for the breeding programme that I use, you will come to understand why it is that I hold this opinion.

Let us take a layman's look at the genetics of the saddle.

The saddle markings refers to a white pigeon with the wing shield the only coloured

area. The wings should be evenly marked, the ten primary feathers to be white, the rest, including the scapular and covert feathers, to be coloured. Besides Fantails, the saddle marking is also found in Turbits, Shield Owls, Voorburg Croppers among others.

Quinn refers to this type of expression as PATTERN WHITE and suggests that it is a variation of the expression found in Gazzi Modenas, Swallows, etc.

The saddle may be bred in all of the standard colours with "red" and "black" along with their dilutes, "yellow" and "dun" being the most common.

I placed the colours in quotes because the uninitiated may be misled by the names. The "red" is NOT the beautiful recessive red of our chestnut coloured selfs and the "black" is NOT the beetle green spread pattern of the black selfs. Instead both are T-pattern (velvet) expressions of ash-red and blue with modifiers to intensify the expression. This may help to explain the "checkering" found in the "poor coloured" reds and blacks.

A few years ago I crossed "black" saddles into my spread black family in an attempt to improve type and colour at the same time. It has worked, producing superior coloured birds in the F2 generation. As a caution I should advise you that the spread factor of the blacks made it more difficult to produce "cleanly" marked birds. There tended to be more extraneous black flecking in the breast and the tail. In my programme this was a small price to pay for the superior colour produced.

In the past there were spread black saddles, and indeed there still may be a few elsewhere today. The evidence for this comes from an old myth that you may have heard – never cross a black saddle with a red saddle. The scientific fact is that the cross is quite acceptable as long as you are prepared for the results. A spread black crossed with a T-pattern ash red will produce a certain percentage of spread ash reds, often referred to as "strawberries." This was a colour not desired at one time hence the myth. Today this type of mating may be used as a good test of whether a "black" is really a black.

Let us look at outcrossing in a little more detail.

My start in saddles was quite accidental. In an attempt to interest my two sons in my hobby, I wanted to start them in a colour that was totally their own and different than dad's. As luck would have it, at this time I was judging a show where one exhibitor had a small entry of saddles. While they were poor Fantails, they were on a par with other saddles that I had seen, so I came home from the show with one pair and presented them to my oldest son Eric. It was clear that they should not be mated together so both were outcrossed to whites. The results were a dra-

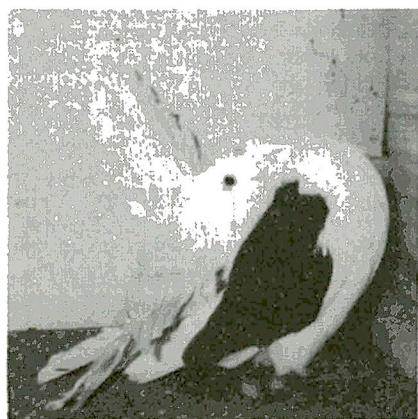


Red Cock #501/88 was Best Saddle in six major shows. He stands only 5-1/2 inches tall. – Bred and exhibited by Bob Pommer.

matic improvement in type but almost a total loss of colour. It was through selective use of these out crosses and carefully selected outcrosses since, that our present stud was produced.

While the white out-crosses produced primarily white offspring, (some may have had a patch of shield colour) the out-crosses into other solid colours produced essentially solid coloured offspring (some pied nature was noted). When these birds were reintroduced into saddles, I found that more than 50% of the youngsters were well marked. The other 40-50% were mismarked but obviously bred from saddles. There were even excellently marked BODYMARKS produced with this backcross.

Fifteen years have elapsed since that first pair of saddles came home with me. Eric is now in a university with his own interests, but I have taken a liking to the saddles and have kept the stud intact. Over the last ten years we have shown at over 30 large club sponsored Fantail Shows in Canada, while being beaten only once in the saddle class. It has now reached the point that the saddles are being given a new respect and are finding a



Red Cock #015/90 was Best Young Saddle and Reserve Champion Saddle at 1990 NFC and CFC Shows. – Bred and exhibited by Bob Pommer.



Black Cock #132/91 was produced from an F1 outcross to blacks. He was Champion Saddle at 1991 CPFA Classic. – Bred and exhibited by Bob Pommer.

home in many new lofts.

Three years before his death, Earl Clarke purchased several birds from my stud and introduced them into his excellent stud of whites. Correspondence that was received from him was most gratifying and I often wonder what happened to these birds. They would have been very useful to someone if appreciated for their potential.

While a few of our saddles have gone to such far flung places such as Bermuda, Malaysia and England, most have been adopted by Canadian breeders. Many of these breeders are known for the high quality of their solid Fantails and a few are now putting saddles in the show pen as well.

The possibility of the show champion of a major show being a saddle is dramatically increasing with each passing season. Last fall I was fortunate enough to win Champion AND Reserve Champion in a 100 bird Fantail class at a show judged by a respected Fantail judge. As well, the Champion Saddle has risen to 6th, 5th, 4th Reserve Champion of Show in the largest Fantail Shows in Canada. With some of the breeding programmes now under way there are only better things yet to come.

Under represented? Yes, saddles are still

not shown in large numbers. However with the established programmes and the new guys introducing saddles into their studs, this under representation won't last long. We are

not afraid of a challenge. Are you? If you have always admired the marking but questioned the quality, maybe it is time for another look.

Breeding Tailmark Fantails

by ROY WINKLES, Powder Springs, Ga.

In 1981, I acquired three Harry Little Tailmarks from Bill Henderson, two cocks, and a hen. I also acquired a blue check splash cock from Wayne Bowman that proved to be one of the most useful Fantails I've owned. This bird and a white hen along with one pair of Harry Little's birds became the foundation of the family of Tailmarks I am breeding today. This family produces good quality Tailmarks in Black, Blue and Lavender. I'm also working on a recessive red Tailmark project with limited success.

When you decide to raise a marked bird such as Tailmarks, Bodymarks and saddles, you double your headaches right from the start because you are working with type first and markings second. Good marked birds do not always produce good marked birds. I have gotten the best marked birds by breeding an overmarked bird like a pied or splash bird to an undermarked or well marked bird.

It seems to me you can hold the tail color better that way. Well marked birds to undermarked birds almost always produce undermarked birds; by undermarked, I mean a bird with white in its tail. Two undermarked birds will often produce white birds. You will see two kinds of Tailmarks; some with solid colored tails, and the grizzle tailed variety which is not a true grizzle, but is caused by the masking effect white has over a color. Both are beautiful marking, but I prefer the solid colored tails for my use. This creates a problem because the solid tail birds are more difficult to breed than the grizzle tailed birds. Most solid tailed birds have some colored feathers on their bodies, where most grizzle tailed birds are well marked. When you do raise a well marked solid tailed bird of good quality, it is really something to be proud of.

In the past ten years, my Tailmarks have done well at the shows. I have had two of my Tailmarks picked Reserve Champion of the National Young Bird Show, and the Central 2nd District Show. What I am most proud of is I have earned the Dixie Fantail Club Color Breeders Award. In order to do this, you must have best of color at six different shows with six different birds. I hope one day to have a Tailmark picked Champion of a major show and will continue to try until it happens.

I would invite anyone who likes a challenge to try breeding a marked Fantail for a while, they are worth the headaches. In closing I would like to thank Wayne Bowman, Bill Henderson, and Harry Little for their birds, their patience and advice.

Recessive Opal Fantails

by ROY RODD, Petoskey, Mich.

The recessive opal color is now established in the Fantail breed. This beautiful expression, quite common in Racing Homers, was transferred to the Fantail using a plan described in the August 1984 issue of the American Pigeon Journal. Additional information and reports of the project were presented in subsequent issues of the APJ and Pigeon Genetics, News, Views and Comments.

The formula for transferring this recessive gene to another breed as suggested by Willard F. Hollander used the linkage between color and pattern. Simply stated, the

checker cross-bred hens were mated to blue bar Fantail cocks in successive years until youngsters of reasonably good type were produce. Then checker youngsters were mated with each other with the result being the first recessive opal Fantail in America!

Fanciers are now improving the type on the recessive opals in Ohio, Missouri, Texas and Michigan. It is expected that this beautiful color will be readily available soon and that the type will be of such a good quality that they will appear in the winner's circle in prominent shows. Watch for them soon!



TAILMARK FANTAILS

First photo, young hen #221; second photo, #173, old cock; third photo, old hen #446. — Bred by Roy Winkles.

My Ash Red Fantails

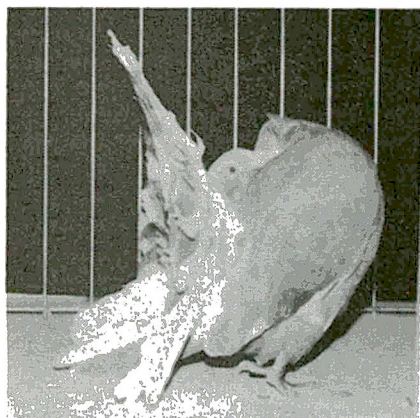
by DENNIS SOARES, Alta Loma, Calif.

Breeding ash red Fantails (mealies and creams) has been a very rewarding experience. My first venture into reproducing this hue on good Fantails started in 1976 with an old cream bar colored cock bird that I drove to Oregon from Southern California to purchase, and in all fairness was not too bad a Fantail at the time. Now, 16 years later, I have mealy bars in numbers as good as the blues, at least in my loft. We have produced four Grand Champions in this color (mealy) and a lot of competitive birds, challenging for top awards wherever shown. I believe this is a step forward for this color from anything from the past.

Ash red color lends itself easily to other bar Fantail breeding. It is a sex-linked, dominant color and while working with blues it has been a convenient color to raise when room is a factor and different color Fantails is your fancy. Even though I raise powdered blues/silvers, I don't care for the pink coloration (milky factor) of the offspring from these matings. I almost always mate ash red to a blue or silver of highest quality rather than mealy to mealy even though this is done in striving for optimum plumage.

My greatest results were attained from line breeding to a great blue and going back again to her for five generations. It has instilled uniformness and consistent type in my mealies that I believe sets them apart. Although I will raise an occasional dilute (cream/silver), my mealies are the dominant color and my favorite in the loft or show pen. The standard for the ash red color in Fantails is as follows:

BASIC COLOR MATING TABLE



Red Pied Fantail, OH #208-89, wins include: 1989 - Best Pied, NYBS; Best Pied, Dixie Fantail Show; Best Pied, CFC 2nd District Show; 1990 - Not shown; 1991 - Best Pied, Dixie Fantail Show; Reserve Pied, CFC 2nd District Show; Best Pied, CFC Annual Show; Best Pied, Milwaukee Grand National; Reserve Champion, CFC Annual Show; 1st Reserve Champion, Milwaukee Grand National.

Pure Basic Color

Dilutes

Silver cock x mealy hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/2 silver hens (sex-linked).

Cream cock x silver hen: 1/2 creams; 1/2 silvers (both sexes).

Cream cock x blue hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/2 cream hens (sex-linked).

Silver cock x cream hen: 1/2 cream cocks; 1/2 silver hens (sex-linked).

Intense

Blue cock x mealy hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/2 blue hens (sex-linked).

Blue cock x cream hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/2 blue hens (sex-linked)*.

Mealy cock x blue hen: All mealies (both sexes).

Mealy cock x silver hen: All mealies (both sexes)*.

Mealy cock x cream hen: All mealies (both sexes)*.

(Cocks produced from "starred" (*) matings will carry dilution and thus will be impure).

Impure Basic Color

Blue cock x mealy hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/4 blue hens; 1/4 silver hens (sex-linked).

Blue cock x cream hen: 1/4 mealy cocks; 1/4 cream cocks; 1/4 silver hens; 1/4 blue hens.

Mealy cock x blue hen: 1/2 mealy cocks; 1/4 mealy hens; 1/4 cream hens.

Mealy cock x silver hen: 1/2 cream cocks; 1/2 cream hens.

Color Standard

CREAM: Plumage - The body and wing color is very soft cream-gray blend, shading to a rich golden cream on the head and

Roy, Bob And Bob

by SCOTT SALTEE, Seale, Ala.

Several Fantail breeders have approached me in reference to writing an article on Red Fantails for this Special. I have to admit, I have had some success with my Reds, but I don't think I'm qualified to write such an article. However, I would like to express my views on three gentlemen who have had the most impact on myself and my Fantails. Through these gentlemen, I have received top notch quality Fantails, and just as important, hours upon hours of information on the Fantail hobby. Without a doubt, these three men have my deepest gratitude.

Roy Winkles: What can you say about this guy. In my opinion, the best Fantail breeder in the South. There is never a dull moment when he is around. This man has a great sense of humor, a sharp eye for a good Fantail and an unbelievable ability when it comes to pairing his birds together. Roy is always a threat at any show - a true competitor.

When I was winding down my military career - coasting into my retirement, Uncle Sam totally screwed up my hobby by sending my family and I to Alaska. Roy gladly offered to keep my birds and did for two years until I retired and returned to Alabama. Roy is the brother I never had, thank you friend!

Bob Roberts: The Florida connection, the true gracious host. This man helped me grow, he took a nervous novice and made me feel at ease. My trips to Florida whether visiting or going to shows, will never be forgotten. Running out of gas in the middle of nowhere, the seafood feasts, hours of looking at quality Fantails, in general just having fun, how can you beat it. At times I think we in the Fantail hobby are just to damn serious. Bob my friend, thank you very much!

Bob McKee: Mr. Genetics, Mr. Fantail. This man got me started in good quality Red

Fantails in 1986. Of course, it was Roy who conned me into getting my original pair. Thanks guys. Bob didn't just leave me on a limb. At all shows he is curious about my breeding season and is anxious to see birds I have raised. Because Bob lives in Pennsylvania, the distance between us has not allowed me to become as close in friendship with Bob as I would like. But the fact remains that Bob started me on my way with Red Fantails. Thanks, Bob!

These three men are true Fantail breeders, helpful to anyone with information or birds.

Thank you gentlemen, without you, I would not be in the hobby.



Red Fantail, OC #433-89, wins include: 1989 - Best Red, NYBS; Best Red, Dixie Fantail Show; Best Red, CFC 2nd District Show; 1990 - Best Red OC, CFC Annual Show; Best Red, Milwaukee Grand National. -Bred and owned by Scott Saltee, Seale, Ala.

hackle. The wing bard shall be a rich golden cream. Tail, a very pale cream-gray shading to ash-white with as little flecking as possible and no flecking at all preferred.

Eye and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with light horn colored cere.

Beak - Light horn.

Toenails - Light horn.

MEALY: Plumage - The body and wing color shall be a clear lavender-gray shading to a rich claret-red on head and hackle, the bars shall be a rich claret-red. The tail is an even shade of lavender-gray with as little flecking as possible with no flecking at all preferred.

Eye and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn colored.

Toenails - Horn colored.

CHECKER: Plumage - Checker is a pattern but is shown as a "color class" with consideration given to balance in pattern and richness in color. The pattern varies with the amount of light colored pigment base. The checker pattern is made up of light and dark colored shades of the same color. The light color appears as a "T" on the wing covert feathers. Checker class includes checkers in all basic colors (ash red, blue and brown) as well as their dilutes. It also can include checkers that have had their pigment modified by reduced, milky, pale and the like, that leaves the checker appearance. Checkers are various patterns that range from light to dark to velvet "T" pattern checks.

Eye and Eye Cere - same coloration as that of basic color.

Beak - Same as that of basic color.

Toenails - Same as that of basic color.

In past articles I have read and photos observed, I have concurred with the writers' finding and believe that good Fantail type is the most lacking factor in mealy or cream Fantails. This is the factor first to consider

whenever striving for color breeding Fantails. As also a long time breeder of top quality almonds where color is always a challenge, Fantail body, legs and overall type must always be first and a life long challenge to integrate color is the breeders' delight and dilemma.

The Development Of Brown Bar Fantails In Australia

by HOWARD PIPER, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

How many times at a show has a fellow Fantail breeder taken notice of a specimen of one of the less popular colours and said something to the effect of "Wouldn't it be nice to see some top class fans in such and such a colour?" This has possibly been the thoughts of most of us from time to time but we are usually too involved in trying to produce that elusive Champion in our more conventional colours. The challenge has been to produce one of these pretty but less common Fantails that is capable of going all the way to the top in the toughest of competition.

My involvement with Brown Bar Fantails began simply by accident when in late 1986, I found in the nest what I considered to be a poorly coloured silver baby. Both parents were blue Fantails so this was the obvious conclusion. When the young was weaned I began to realize that what I had produced was a fairly nice Fantail even when compared to by blues of that time. I made some inquiries with some of our colour specialists as to what colour this young Fantail might be and to my surprise I was advised that it was a Brown Bar. This was my first sighting of a Brown Bar Fantail and my thoughts were that this could be a bird that I could base a line of Brown Bars on. I considered the compatibility of Brown Bar with white, Blue and pied and how I should apply these colours to my best advantage. When the shows rolled around I showed my first Brown Bar as an A.O.C. and she always returned respectable results, usually winning her class and frequently going on to become Best A.O.C. however after that she was completely out-classed.

My quest to breed superior Brown Bars was sidetracked for 18 months or so as, along

Great ash red colored Fantails in checker, barred pattern, intense or dilute, even in milky factor are pleasing to view at home or show. If you are so inclined, give em a try!

*Basic color taken from the Central Fantail Club of America 1981 Yearbook.

with a partner, I became involved in a broiler chicken producing business where the keeping of any other form of bird life was strictly forbidden. Fortunately, long time Fantail breeder, Phil Peters of Bargo N.S.W. came to the rescue by allowing us to keep some Fantails in his pigeon lofts on his acreage property. I promptly got my Brown Bar hen back and then I picked up a useful Blue cock to get me going again. From this mating I bred a young Blue Cock which was just what I needed because only the cocks from such a mating are of any use in a Brown breeding program. This young cock was exhibited a few times as a young bird and he always won his colour class and he also picked up Best Blue at the 1990 N.S.W. Fantail Club Show.

I was then faced with the choice of whether I should breed for quality or quantity because if I put him back to his Brown Bar mother I would breed 50% Brown Bars in both cocks and hens or if I crossed him to the best Blue that I could get my hands on, only 25% of the young would be Brown Bars and all of them would be hens. I opted to breed for quality and the search was on for a top class Blue hen. I recalled that Colin Campbell of Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. had an excellent Blue hen that had won the 1987 Fantail Club Show and I immediately contacted him in order to purchase this bird. Initially I met with disappointment as she was not for sale. Some time later Colin phoned me to advise me that she was available, at a price which I promptly agreed to and we struck the deal.

During the 1990 breeding season she was mated to my young blue cock (which was carrying Brown) and they raised six young.

(Continued On Next Page)



Red Fantail, OC #401-90, wins include: 1990 - Reserve Red, NYBS; Best Red, Dixie Fantail Show, Best Red, CFC 2nd District Show; 1991 - Not shown. - Bred and owned by Scott Saltee, Seale, Ala.

My Hobby Is
Raising And
Showing
Fantails

◆
◆
◆
◆
◆
◆
**Richard M.
Drought**

252 West Lanvale St.
Baltimore, MD
21217

Two Blue Cocks, two Blue Hens and two Brown Bar Hens. The best Blue Hen died as did one of the Brown Bars. Both blue cocks are very useful, one of them showing very successfully. The only remaining Blue Hen was shown only once at the Australian National Pigeon Association Show in Melbourne in 1991 where the judge, Brian Pogue of Canada awarded her National Champion Fantail which, considering that this is Australia's largest pigeon show and the Fantail entries was the largest of all pigeon breeds proved a most satisfying experience. My young Brown Bar hen was also on exhibition at this show. Even though her sister, the Blue Hen, won Champion Fantail, the Brown Bar totally eclipsed her in terms of the attention that she received from both the judge and the spectators alike. She captured the imagination of Brian as he made the extraordinary comment publicly that he believed that she was "The Best Brown Fantail in the World." He went on to say that he was tempted to award her National Champion and in so doing make world history as he felt that never before had a brown Fantail even taken the coveted Champion Award anywhere. She finished second Reserve Champion (third overall).

I am very happy that I was able to achieve my goal in such a short time but needless to say this would have not been possible with anything but top stock. This little Brown Bar Hen has exceeded my greatest expectations, as a young bird she was always in the final judging for Champion. Now the task in front of me is to duplicate her and transfer her type to other Fantails in the barred color range. I guess that I have another big job on my hands. All being well I will submit another article for the next APJ Fantail Special on that project and how I have progressed.

Do You Colour Breed Blacks?

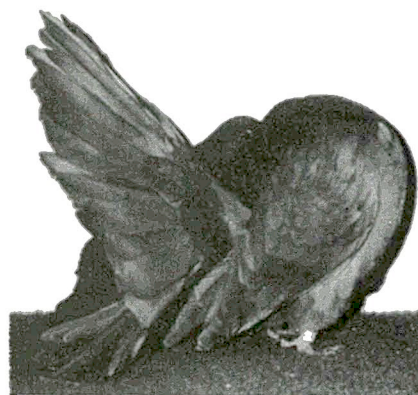
by BOB PHILLIPO, Burford, Ont., Canada

This is a very interesting subject depending on who you are talking to. There are a lot of Fantail breeders out there, and might I add very good breeders, that are very set in their ways about crossing colours.

I suppose that you could say that blacks are priority on my list. To me a black is a very striking pigeon in the walking pen. Whether it is the colour contrast or not, a very fine featured black that shows you roundness, good legs, narrow wing lines and a 13" or 14" tail on it, you have a very eye-catching pigeon. Now, you ask how do you get these birds? You make them. I have been working on blacks for a number of years now and I use a variety of colours in my stud. There are so many colours that can be crossed into blacks. The results from the first cross can be 50% or higher. They are so easy to make.

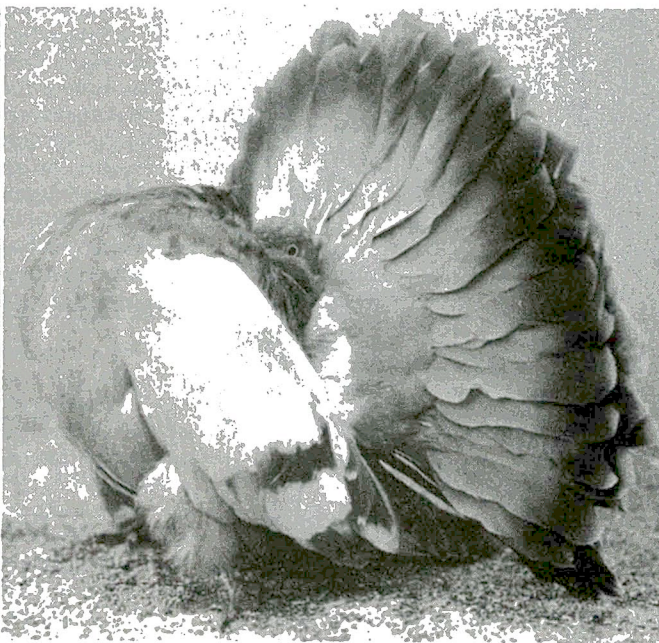
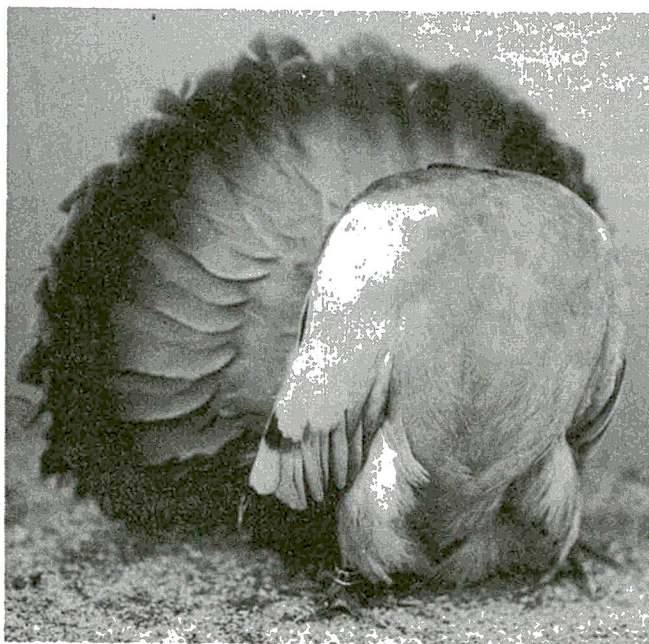
I showed Fantails at five different shows in 1991 including the Central in Nebraska. The C.P.F.A. show I had Grand Champion with a white hen, band #24. Her father was a black and her mother was a white. Also I had 2nd and 3rd Reserve with an indigo cock #CH422-90 and indigo hen CM510-91. 510's mother is a black hen of mine who was also best black at the Central Canadian annual and also at the yearling-young bird show.

The second show in 91 was in Quebec, Canada. At this show Brian Pogue and myself were co-winners with a young black cock CM-505. This cock was bred from a Pogue black cock and a black hen #33 that goes back to indigo's. 505 is one of the best blacks I have seen. 505 is 6 1/2" tall. He has a very deep round body, he is a bird that has very good legs set under a lot of depth. His



PETITE PRINCESS

Indigo Hen #CM 510-91 has a shown record that may be the tops for a fantail in 91. She was Grand Champion at the Central Canadian Fantail annual, Grand Champion at the Central Canadian Yearling Young Birds, 2nd Reserve at the Quebec Fantail Meet, 3rd Reserve at the CPFA and 4th Overall at the Central in Nebraska. For her accomplishments in Canada, she was awarded Fantail of the Year. Her father was an Indigo cock called Prairie Wolf and her mother is 429 black hen. 510 is a pigeon that shows you body in front of the wing. She carries a lot of depth and roundness in her body. Notice how clean the upper part of her wings are. She has good head setting, has a large tail with very good showing and when it comes to carriage and motion, she knows what to do. — Bred by Bob Phillipo.



Two views of brown bar hen NPA 90 #12309. — Bred by Howard Piper, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

wing line in the shoulders is very clean and he maintains the rest of his wing tight to his body. The boasting feature of this bird is a 15" tail with tremendous top tail. He is a very impressive bird to watch in a walking pen. There were 270 Fantails shown at this show. CM510-91 indigo hen was 2nd reserve who again came out of black.

At the Central Canadian Annual judged by Bill Diemer CM510-91 indigo hen and CH422-90 Indigo cock, this is a daughter-father team, 510 was champion and 422 was reserve champion. Black backgrounds.

At the Central Canadian yearling-young bird show CM510-91 was champion again. 520 was awarded Fantail of the year for her winnings in 91. She also placed 4th overall at the Central. She had an impressive year with two grand champions, and never placing lower than 4th overall in her other three shows. Reserve Champion at this show was a young bronze hen band #CM-551. She came out of a white cock who was also sold to France in 91 and a black hen #33. This bronze hen was also 3rd overall at the Central in Nebraska.

Also in 91 I had best black at all the five shows I was at.

CPFA-91 - 410 Black Old Hen. Father is half white. Mother is out of Indigo.

Quebec - 505-91. Both parents are black.

Central Canadian Annual and Central Canadian Young Bird - 429 was best black at both shows. Her mother is lavender and her father is spread almond.

Central - 113. Her father was an indigo cock. 113 also has two reserve champion under her belt and also boasts a record of

being best black at the central for three years in a row.

My answer to the headline on whether you colour breed or not would most definitely be yes. For many years I have been working on my blacks and still at least half of my matings are still cross colour matings. The only reason I still do this is for type. Just because you have five or ten pairs of black in your loft who are all lacking say in tail or legs that does not mean you have to mate these all together just to get all solid blacks out. If you do not see good qualities in your stud showing up, then you are not going to produce top-quality Fantails consistently. If you see other breeders' birds which excel in certain quality which you are lacking, no matter what colour they are, take the challenge and start crossing, you will be surprised in the outcome in just a couple of years.

My loft here consists of about 18 pair of breeders. I still concentrate mainly on the blacks. My matings this year have blacks mated to spread almonds, dun, bronze, indigo, opal, checker and also some mated to black. If you keep a variety of colours then experiment with them, it's common knowledge that some colours are closer to the standard than others. You do not have to worry about crossing because all you are doing is improving in type and collecting more points in the show pen. That's what we all strive for.

There are a few Canadians in the Central Canadian Fantail Club that do this. When I show in the states, the big classes are your whites, blacks and your barred class. By colour crossing birds in Canada we have tremendous Fantails in the lesser colours. For the last three or four years, there may be opals at the top, indigos, yellows, reds, bronze and checker, almonds, duns, lavender and



PRARIE WOLF

Prarie Wolf, indigo cock CH 422-90, has a lot of quality that you want to see in your cock. He has lots of width, very clean, has very good legs under him with good feather and tail quality. Prarie Wolf is the father of Petite Princess who was Fantail of the Year in 91. He comes from a Paul McColman indigo cock and an indigo hen of Bob Phillip's. In 90, he was 3rd Reserve at the Central Canadian Yearling YB, 2nd Reserve at the CPFA 91, Reserve Champion at the Central Canadian Annual and 4th Reserve at the Central Canadian YB show 91. This is a partnership bird shown under Phillip-McColman.

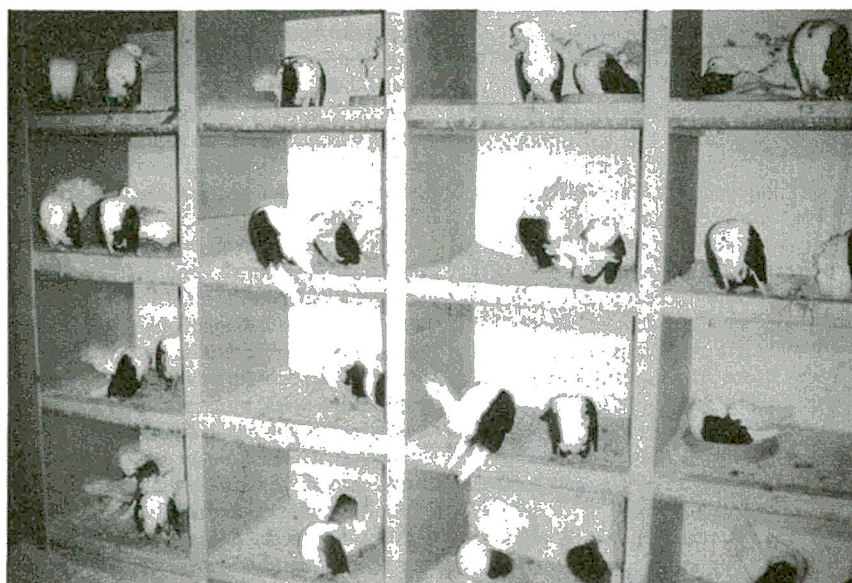
yes, pied and we all know where pied comes from.

So you see, this does not only work on blacks, it works on any colour you want. The bottom line is you improve on your type in your black and also you will be surprised on how far advanced your other colours will improve. At present, I have five pair of saddles going, which I may add are also crossed into other colours and I am pleased how they are improving.



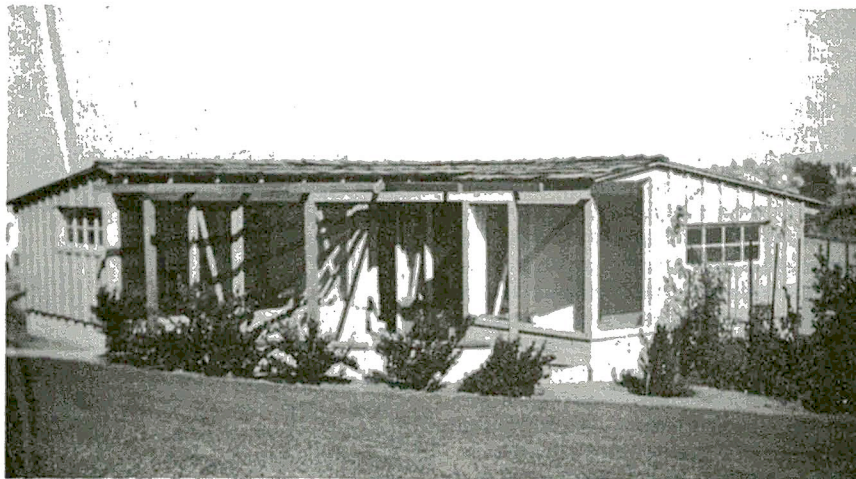
PLATOON LEADER "505"

505 is a 91 cock who is one of my partnership birds with Brian Pogue of Guelph, Ont., Canada. He comes out of a Pogue cock bird and a black hen from my loft. 505 was Grand Champion at the Quebec Fantail Club meet in 91 where 270 Fantails were shown. In Bob's mind, 505 is one of the best blacks ever bred. He is 6 inches tall, has tremendous body, clean wing line and has a set of very good legs. The quality that sets him above a lot of other good fantails is that he is carrying a 15" tail with good wide, hard tail feathers. The 505 family has been producing some very good blacks. - Bred by Bob Phillip.



Inside the loft of Rudy Fenzl, Germany.

Our Friends In Fantails



The Champ loft overlooking Point Loma, San Diego. — Photo from Tom Pritchett.

The Champ Fantails As I Know Them

by TOM PRITCHETT, Fairmont, Okla.

The Champ strain of Fantails has been very near and dear to my heart these past 30 years for reasons that will come to light as this story unfolds.

Some 35 years ago, my father, who worked in an oil refinery, would bring home young birds for his three sons to raise and let fly. A year or so later, we had a flock of semitame, multicolored pigeons around our sheds and chicken coop. We disposed of all the commons, and Dad bought two pairs of Fantails from a fellow worker. The Fantails started us on a road to pigeon activity and friendships that have grown and blossomed all these years. We entered our first pigeon show in 1956, the Garfield County Fair, winning first, and I still have the ribbon.

About this time the Northwest Oklahoma Pigeon Breeders Assn., was formed in Enid, Oklahoma, and as junior members, we showed pigeons and made friends with fanciers that continue today. The NWOPBA for years was the most progressive pigeon club in the area and attracted some of the finest pigeon breeders in the United States. A lasting friendship with the best pigeon man and one of the greatest breeders and judges I'll ever know came during this period. My good friend, Jay Stone Jr., is mostly responsible for my competitive attitude, and his example has afforded me a great deal of the breeding expertise I've enjoyed. Jay is a pigeon man like no other I've ever known, and I'd like him to know that his years of effort and example weren't wasted on me. Thanks Jay.

I had lots of boy's pigeons over the years, but always kept the Fantails. About 1963, I decided I wanted to seriously breed white

Fantails; so I contacted two very serious and competitive breeders, Gerald Champ and John Bolton. The 1961 Fantail Special really fired me up and directed my attentions towards a serious goal.

I found Mr. Champ and Mr. Bolton to be courteous and honest men who sent me good useful Fantails that did well for me in local competition the next few years. Mr. Bolton passed away that Fall before shipping the birds, but his wife sent them with a very gracious letter.

The year 1966 saw me enter the Navy and the disposal of the Fantails. While in Vietnam I received the 1968 Fantail Special. Now quite honestly, I'd almost forgotten about Fantails, but this issue had been sent to me and that's all it took to peak my interest again. After my first tour in Nam was complete, I was stationed at a debriefing center near San Diego. I still had the 1968 Fantail Special and an idea taking shape in the back of my head.

I decided to travel to Pomona to the Pageant of Pigeons and see first hand the Pacific Fantail Club meet. I had never attended a Fantail Club meet of any kind, and to say I was excited would be an understatement. I got up early that Saturday morning, about 4 a.m., caught a bus into San Diego and boarded a Greyhound to Pomona. As luck would have it, a bus change dropped me off directly across the street from the show hall.

As I entered the show hall all those memories of past pigeon shows and the smells and sounds flooded my brain. I floated along looking for the Fantail section. When I found it, I was mesmerized by all the rows of

quality Fantails, the judging and the fanciers themselves.

I'd worn my uniform because I was in too big a hurry to change; all I wanted to do was look at and talk Fantails. I found a seat in the chairs along side the walking pens and intently watched the judging of several classes. I listened to the Fantail banter and the friendly exchange of good natured barbs as fanciers set their birds down.

When a lull in the judging occurred, a big rough voiced man walked over, stuck out his hand and said, "Young man, my name's Earl Clark, and I used to be a sailor." Thus began a friendship that lasted more than 20 years.

Earl introduced me to his friend and mentor, Gerald Champ, and to other fanciers whose names were synonymous with good Fantails. Names like: Lud Brown, Jesse Racey, Bill Quinlon, Charles Manwearing, Gus Waldusky, Cy Harper and others I've forgotten. Champ and Clark took me under their wing the entire weekend and answered every question I had. They told stories about great Fantails and Fantail breeders; it was a weekend I'll always remember.

I became a regular visitor to the Champ and Clark lofts; Champ loved to talk Fantails, and he had a first hand experience dating back to the early 1900's. Champ was a great judge and knew exactly what he wanted in a Fantail; he was especially happy that the American clubs had adopted the revisions to the old English Fantail standard that he, Elisha Hanson, Clint Wilbur, John Bolton, Ray Ostrander and others had worked so hard to obtain.

The present Champ strain traces their lineage back to stock acquired from Hanson, Rutter, Howland and T.A. Havemeyer about 1920; from this beginning came a strain of Fantails that have won in Fantail competition all over the world. Over the years, Champ added Fantails from Gene Altpeter, Sr., and Wolf Dettmer. Champ was a staunch advocate of "knife-edged" wings, but he told me the Dettmer birds had such great round bodies with good underbelly that he couldn't resist using them in his stud, even though they had coarse wings. At last year's Central Meet, Gene Altpeter and I talked about the last out-cross bird that Champ used in his stud; a great hen from the Altpeter Loft that Champ said had a tail like a dish pan.

The birds that Champ bred had wonderful legs, great refinement, large tails and worlds of style and action. I greatly enjoyed sitting under the arbor at the Champ loft watching the birds and talking Fantails with the Dean of Fantail breeders. The greatest advice that Champ ever gave me was, "Never let fads influence your Fantail breeding, al-

ways breed for a balanced Fantail."

I purchased two pairs from Mr. Champ before I left the Navy in January 1970; he was always a source of interest and information when we corresponded. Occasionally I'd get in a hurry to breed winning Fantails, and he'd caution me, "Rome wasn't built in a day," and "Always breed for that balanced Fantail." I showed Fantails at the Pacific meet for several years, the third year I had a first young cock; the next year three firsts and a second on four Fantails shown, also Best White and Best Young White. I was ecstatic and both Champ and Earl were just as excited as I was.

Earl was to be commended for the great attention and care he bestowed on Mr. Champ. When Champ's health failed, Earl would spend part of nearly every weekend visiting with him and taking him to view the Fantails, as his health allowed. Beneath Earl's gruff exterior was a heart of purest gold; he was one of the finest men I ever knew.

After Champ's passing, Earl and I corresponded regularly; we had a great many things in common, and we both liked good Fantails. Earl took the Champ whites and improved the bodies with even more roundness, and improved on those ever powerful out in front legs that the stud was so famous for. Earl was a stickler for style and action; he loved to use big tailed stock cocks with lots of action and style. He called them "Power Cocks."

On the occasion that Earl attended the Central Fantail Club meet we would always share a room together. Now sharing a room with Earl Clark is a whole lot like being in Navy Boot Camp. Earl would generally retire about 10:30 at night, but held reveille at 5:00 a.m. He always woke early, carried his own coffee pot and after shaves and coffee, we were ready for breakfast and a Fantail show.

Earl was a great breeder, and like me, a

poor showman. He set down some excellent Fantails, but condition sometimes kept him from winning. He understood this, but that didn't diminish the quality of his Fantails. If Earl had a Fantail he considered outstanding, he wouldn't show it. He considered it too valuable to the program to take a chance of losing it.

I was probably responsible for the biggest win he had at Central. In 1975, at the LaFleur Classic I was looking for a specific hen, one that had the great legs and round body that I needed to work into my Fantails. I looked at every Fantail hen in the holding pens looking for that special bird. The next day I watched the judging of every white class.

In the Yearling hens I found a bird that had everything I wanted. She placed 17th in the class; I followed the steward back to the holding pens to find out who owned that little hen. You guessed it, Earl Clark. I asked Earl later if he'd consider selling that #1088 hen. He said, "Absolutely not, I want to breed from her this year." I said, "Would you sell her after next year?" He replied, "Only to you." He planned to come to the Central the next year, and I could pick her up then.

When the Central rolled around in January 1976, I had had a poor year, and just didn't have the quality of young birds I liked. I made arrangements to attend the Central at Lincoln, the Chet Bailey Memorial, but mostly I was going to pick up #1088. I had big plans for her.

Earl and I checked in and retired to the show hall; when he showed me #1088, I was amazed. She had matured into one of the finest white hens I had ever seen. She was outstanding, easily winning her class, and went on to be Best Old White and Reserve Champion White. She was beaten by the great three times Champion hen that Bob Given bred and Arnie Schroeder showed to perfection.

About two years later, I answered the phone one August evening; it was Earl calling. If Earl spent the money to call, you knew it was important. Earl and Jill and the kids were on vacation and had stopped by Doc Lynch's in Dallas. He wanted to come North and visit me. I said, great, I'd love to have you.

As luck would have it, Cheryl and I were both late getting home from work the next evening. I found a "HOT" Earl Clark with his shirt off yelling, "If I hadn't come when I did; he was loading up and heading for cooler parts." Boy, am I glad he didn't leave.

Cheryl fed us a good meal, Earl relaxed a little and regained his composure. After supper we went through the birds; we compared the differences in our studs, both strengths and weaknesses. Earl told me the reason he'd come, he needed an outstanding cock bird, and did I have one for sale? I said, "Earl, for you the loft is always open, pick what you want." Earl looked at a lot of cock birds. I

said, "Earl, why don't you take this one. He should fit right into your program being a son of #1088." Earl's eyes lit up; I told him I'd shown the bird twice. He was Grand Champion at the combined Central District Meet at Shreveport and Grand Champion at the Central Fantail Club Meet.

The smartest thing I ever did was let Earl have #1162. When I went through the pedigrees of the Fantails I got from Bob Roberts, the number 1162 appeared at least once in the pedigree of all but two Fantails. Earl bred #1162 every year, except his last year and Bob bred from him, on a blue hen that produced the Reserve Champion Fantail at the 1988 5th District Meet.

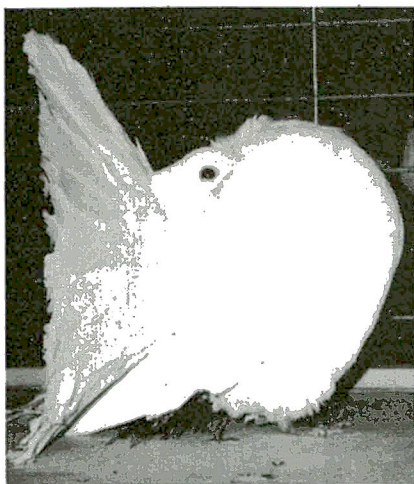
When I visited Earl in California in 1984, he had the most impressive stud of white Fantails I had ever seen; to say I was impressed would be an understatement.

When Earl moved to Florida he bred some of the greatest Fantails he ever owned, and set them down at a lot of good Southern shows. Earl really enjoyed Florida and the closeness of the fanciers in the area. Bob Roberts did a lot to help Earl get settled, and they became fast friends.

After Earl's passing, Bob bred the birds as much like Earl would have as he possibly could. These past years saw Bob with an enviable show record, winning Reserve Champion white at both the Central and mid-America.

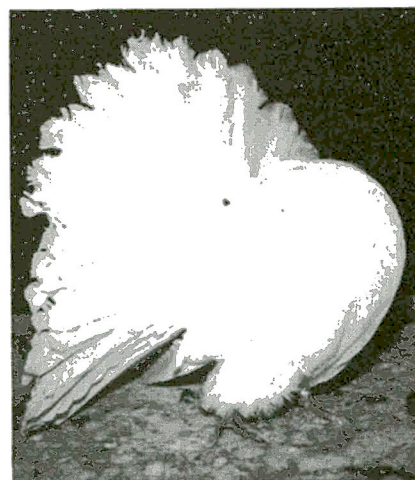
The Champ strain has done much to establish quality white Fantails in lofts all over the world. Champ birds can be found in lofts and shows in the United States, Canada and some ten foreign countries. Probably 95% of the competitive white Fantails in the world contain Champ blood.

The Champ strain stands as a lasting memorial to Gerald F. Champ, and now to Earl Clark. Earl said it best, "The Fantails belong to Pa Pa Champ; I'm only their caretaker."



WINNING BIRD

#116 was 1st YC in a class of 32 birds at Central Fantail Club Meet. - Bred by Dick Ury.



GRAND CHAMPION

White Fantail Hen #505, Central Fantail Club 5th District Young Bird Show October 1990. - Bred by Tom Pritchett, Fairmont, Okla.

Western Fantail Club – Friends And Members

by DENNIS SOARES, Alta Loma, Calif.

What John? Oh sure, write about West Coast fanciers, no problem. Almond breeding, mealies yeah, love judging shows, talking and writing about Fantails. So six months later where's the beef? And you know, deadline for this is fast approaching and I just don't know what to write about. Once I was a prolific writer mainly about Jacobins but some how in his fast paced world of electronics sitting down to put an article together or write a letter just doesn't seem to fit the time schedule. Where has all that time I've saved gone? Fax machine, answering service, cellular phones, etc., still doesn't afford any extra time.

Well something about Fantails, clubs or something, here it does, how can I say it all, let alone well?

Way back in 1968 after returning from duty in Vietnam, I came home ready to resume my pigeon hobby. Oh, I had had Fantails and remember the great Fantail Special in 1960 as a 15 year old high school boy, who raised 30 varieties of pigeons at the time, on my father's dairy farm in Turlock, Calif. But being isolated from the metropolitan areas or local clubs that I could attend, I wasn't acquainted with pigeon shows in reality. Only through reading about the leg-

ends Champ, Harper, Altpeter, Otto, Hansen and so on, and looking at the photos of birds that I thought looked like mine, did my interest flourish about this fascinating hobby, that was even more mystique than I had ever realized, since collecting pigeons form where ever I could then way back as a nine year old boy in the mid-fifties.

The pigeon hobby in 1969 turned into a magnificent world of pigeon shows. This unbelievable gathering of people all talking about one of my favorite things in the whole world. Competition, gorgeous birds and meeting Gerald Champ, Cy Harper, Gus Waldusky, Earl Clark and those beautiful Fantails, could this all be real?

Well you got it, I'm hooked. Jacobins and Fantails forever for me. In 1970, three other fanciers and myself started the Western Fantail Club. Those fanciers were Bud Jones, Modesto, Calif., Phil Gonzales, Bay Area, and Doug Gillespie, Santa Cruz, Calif. Bud passed away that next year. Phil left the Fantail fancy. Doug stayed a few years and left in the late 70's. The WFC was created primarily to organize awards, judging, etc., in popular north California shows in Fresno and San Jose at the time. It grew with good support and many of its early members are

still active today. We progressed and were a young group of fanciers as many of our legends left the fancy. The Pacific Fantail Association, principally in Southern California was devastated with the loss of these great fanciers and many of the WFC joined both clubs to hold all Calif., shows together. This is why there are two Fantail organizations in Calif. Another reason for two clubs is the vast size of the state. For the most part they both exist in harmony, each with well attended shows.

Fanciers showing in early WFC shows Earl Clark, Gus Waldusky, Dan Tennyson, of course no longer with us, but a few going on 20 years are Richard Verissimo, Drew Lobenstein, Ron Schwartz, Craig Stewart and I am going to have to apologize if I do miss anyone, but I can tell you the aforementioned are still going strong. Then there is yet another group that has been with us a while and producing some outstanding Fantails. Dennis Lawrence, Jim Krebaum Sr. and Jr., and new wife Joy, Ted Woods, Shane and Marv Shahan, Larry Rosales, Howard Dotson, our regular out-of-state member Gordon Larson, and we hope Rick Sparkman is becoming regular. Couple this with an aggressive junior member program, gorgeous innovative awards, top judges and a whole host of keyed up new members (under three years memberships) Mike DeOlivera, young



A group of West Coast Fantail fanciers at the 1989 Pageant of Pigeons.

people like Lauren Dockerty, the late Jaimie Petty, all encouraged exhibitors young and old at any time. Only a few of our members have been fortunate to show in other areas of the U.S. but the results are usually good as the birds are very competitive.

Now under the leadership of Jim Krebaum Sr., the WFC is still doing well with three big shows a year. Added to this agenda is our young bird gathering, a fellowship meeting that plans to obtain noted Fantail judges from throughout the US, with outstanding awards as our goal was 22 years ago. The most rewarding about this club is how it maintained a high level of fellowship and sometimes untold Fantail exhibitions displaying large numbers of quality birds. There has been a lot of sharing and caring for each other that ingrains a level of human pride that is unfortunately not always present in many organizations. We certainly hope this continuity of fellowship last through the years, as newer young folks enter the club and will be here to carry on as we hopefully will become their legends.

Lastly, I would like to mention and mourn the loss of two of our Fantail breeders. Most recently our junior member Jaimie Petty (15). Jaimie attended our shows and bred her birds with her father Lee Petty who was fortunate to experience their hobby together. We mourn the Petty familys' loss. Jaimie specialized in almond Fantails. We will miss Jaimie at the shows and my deepest heart felt sympathy goes to the family.

Then there was my friend Earl Clark. Many people don't realize how many Sunday afternoons I was fortunate to spend with Earl and Jill in their San Diego home before he left for Florida. Earl was a friend and I miss him dearly since his departure. He helped many members of the WFC as he not only

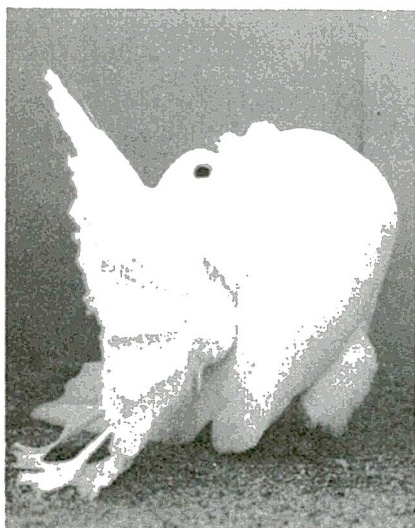
distributed his world famous whites to WFC members but also sold out his blacks and powdered blues here. I know this news isn't recent but it is pertinent and I miss my friend's smiling face at all of our West Coast shows, even now.

I want to thank the fancy for the many

wonderful friends, memories and acquaintances derived from our hobby. Yes, the shows will probably go on with or without us. But the fellowship attained makes our experiences with our little creatures of nature, good or bad, pleasurable and most fulfilling.



John Moppin with Dennis Soares (right) in front of John's loft in Ella, Kansas.



GRAND CHAMPION

White Hen #8529-88 was Champion of Show at the NSW Fantail Annual 1991. - Bred by Graeme Jubb, Cornubia, Qld., Australia.



Larry Rosales, Chino, Calif. (left) holding his young blue check Reserve Champion Fantail and Dennis Soares holding his Champion Fantail, mealy old cock, at the 1989 Pageant of Pigeons.

Raymond Ostrander 1906 - 1992

by RICHARD DROUGHT

A good friend and a preeminent Fantail pigeon fancier passed away on May 26, 1992. Ray Ostrander began breeding Fantail pigeons in 1934 with red saddles. A bird of his breeding "Whistler" appears in Levi's masterwork "The Pigeon." Ray continued with saddles for a few more years. In 1940 he provided, as a prize for Champion Saddle at the Boston Poultry Show, a portrait of a Havemeyer red saddle Fantail painted by A. Schilling. However, during the war years it was necessary for Ray to give up his pigeon interests.

In 1949, Ray purchased two pair of white Fantails from Elisha Hanson. Mr. Hanson, a Washington, D.C. attorney, wrote to Ray that a picture of "Resolute" and "Wing Commander," two of the four birds Ray received, "should be in the loft of every Fantail fancier." From 1949 through about 1961, Ray added just a few birds to his line. These birds came from Eugene Altpeter, Sr., a hen and a cock, Gerald Champ, a hen, and Wolf Dettmer, two pair. The total number of outside birds introduced was seven. No new blood was added between 1961 and 1982. In 1982, two cocks from Bob DeAdder were introduced to improve fertility. Finally, in 1989, Ray turned his stud of Fantails over to John Whiteside.

During a career which lasted almost 55 years, Ray was an aggressive and successful showman. He presented his birds in a marvelous manner. While he never bred from more than eight pair with six more the norm, he consistently won best white and champion at various pigeon shows on the East Coast. The last time he exhibited at the Eastern Fantail Club was in 1974 when he won Grand Champion. The last time he ex-

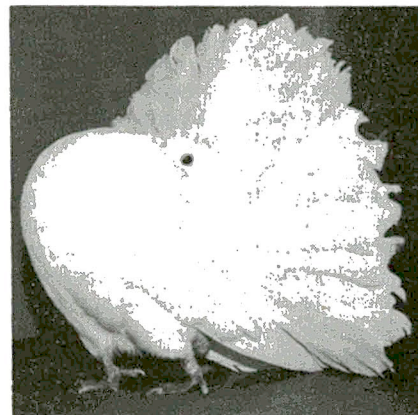
hibited at the New England Fantail Club was in 1983 when he won Grand Champion. His first Grand Champion at the Eastern Fantail Club was in 1960 with "Reading" a white cock. A picture of Reading is on the EFC membership badge. I have included a number of pictures of various birds Ray bred during his lifetime with Fantails. A hen, "Parade Princess" was never exhibited, but Ray felt she was the best he had ever bred.

As part of his dedication to the Fantail fancy, Ray was instrumental in revising the Fantail standard during the late 1950's. Working closely with fanciers such as John Bolton, Clinton Wilbur, Elisha Hanson, Forrest Strawbridge and Gerald Champ, a revised standard was developed and accepted by the then major clubs. This undertaking of revising a standard required implementing numerous suggestions and managing the strong personalities of several prominent fanciers. The end result was accepted in 1960.

Recognition of his accomplishments as a Fantail pigeon fancier include the American Pigeon Club Master Breeder Award and Life Membership in the Eastern Fantail Club and the Central Fantail Club. In 1986 the EFC named its annual show "The Ray Ostrander Classic."

Ray was a lifelong educator. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1928 and received his doctorate in education from Columbia University in 1949. He served in several school systems in the states of New York and Tennessee, rising from teacher to principal to superintendent. He completed his professional career as Professor of Education at Boston University, retiring in 1971.

While Ray was a genuinely gifted and

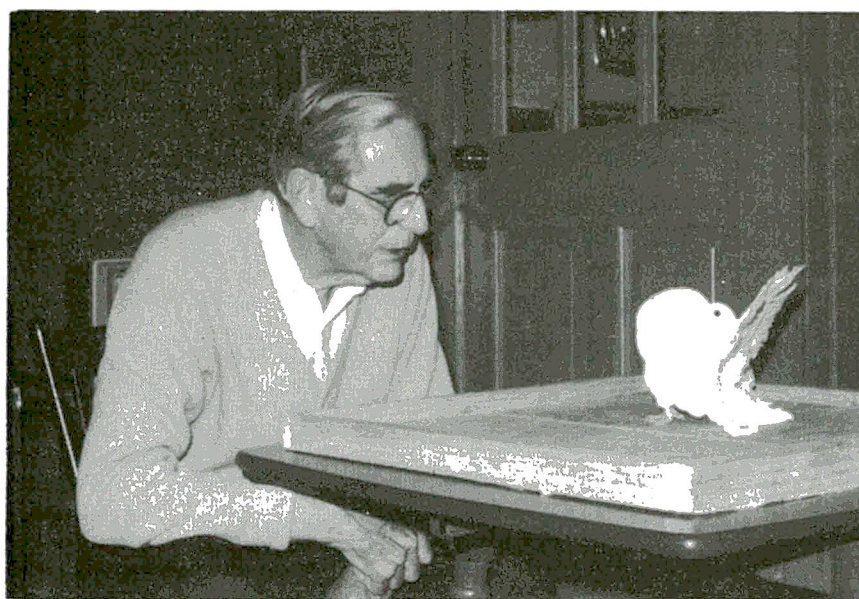


PARADE PRINCESS

White Fantail, #M106-88, bred by Ray Ostrander, was never exhibited but Ray felt she was the best he had ever bred.

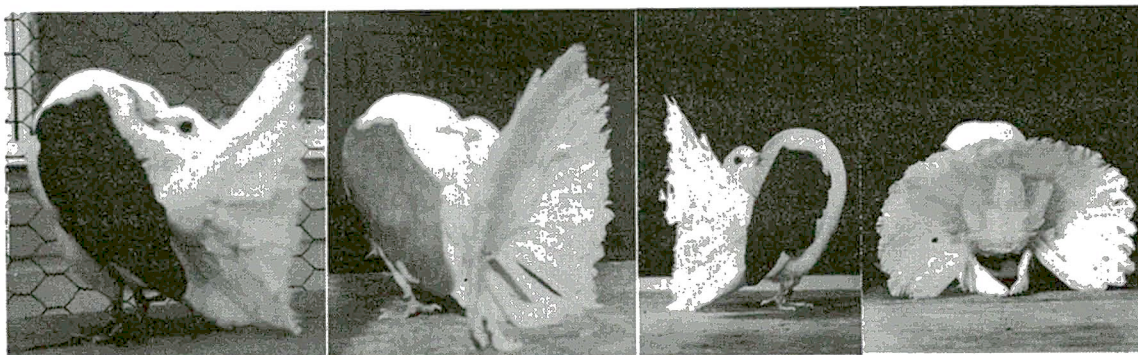
dedicated breeder of Fantail pigeons, as well as a professional educator, he will be remembered most as a wonderful friend and he truly represented what is meant by the term, gentleman. He liked people whether fanciers or not. His circle of friends and correspondents was impressive with representatives in Canada, much of Europe, Africa, Central America and of course, the U.S.A. He would go out of his way to help others with advice, support and on occasion, a bird. A year ago, he was preceded in death by Eloise, his wife of over 40 years. Those who knew Ray understood that without her, life had lost much of its sparkle and it would be only a matter of a short time to when he would join her.

I hope Fantail fanciers enjoy the gallery of Ray Ostrander's birds. Ray never claimed to have the best, but I think we can all agree on the consistency of quality throughout a 40 year period.



The late Raymond H. Ostrander with one of his Fantails.

**Portfolio
Of
Raymond
Ostrander's
Fantails
On
The
Following
Two
Pages**



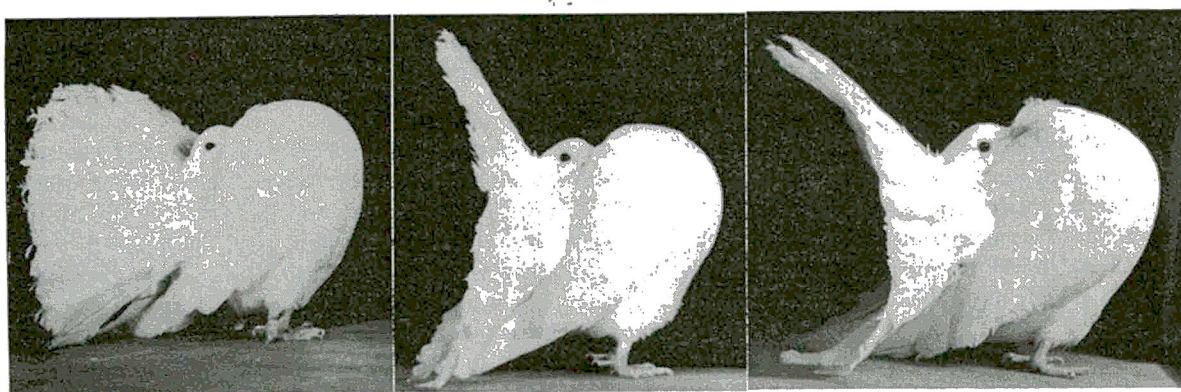
RED SADDLES 1934-1943

1st photo, Whistle - 1937; 2nd, Ginger - 1939; 3rd, #590 - 1941; 4th, #361 - 1942.



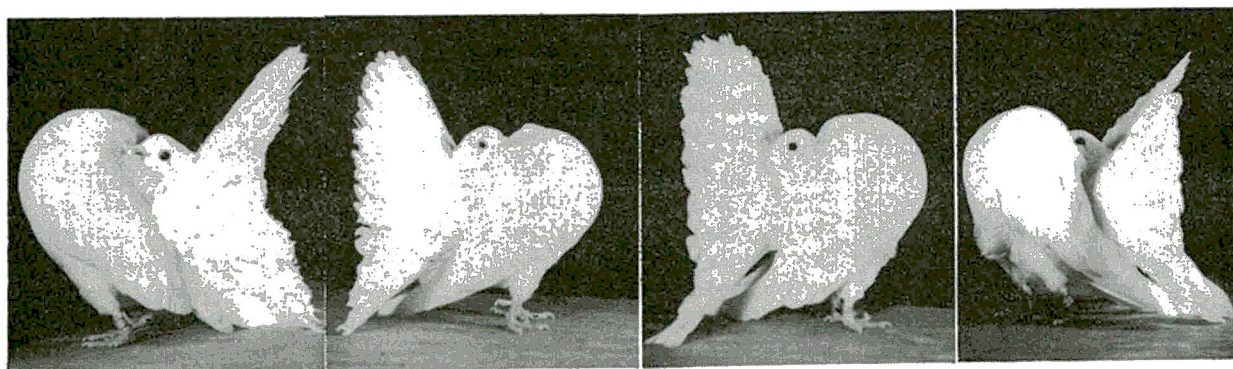
ORIGINAL WHITES BRED BY ELISHA HANSON

1st photo, Lover's Lane - 1947; 2nd, Easter Parade - 1947; 3rd, Wing Commander - 1948; 4th, Replica - 1949.



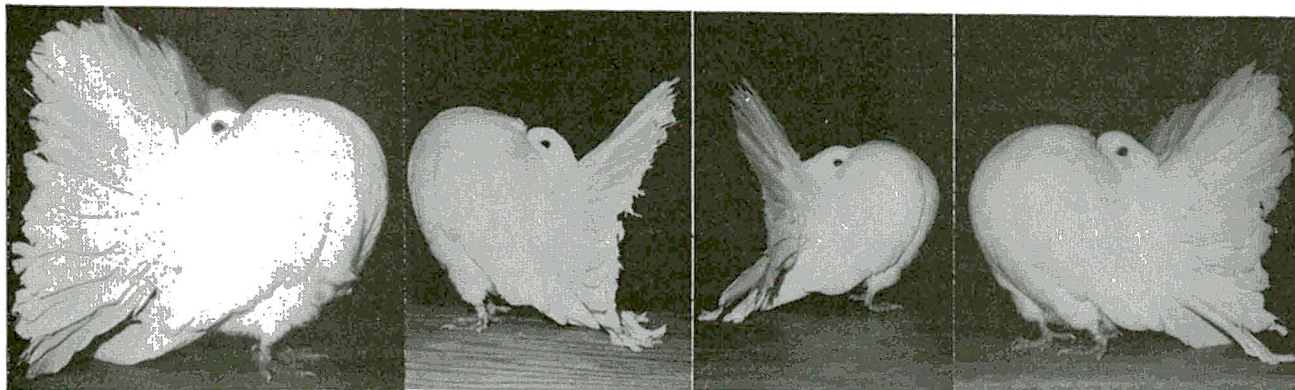
1950's

1st photo, California Lassie - 1952; 2nd, Majorette - 1957; 3rd, #512 - 1958.



1960's

1st photo, Reading 995 - 1960; 2nd, Mary Poppins - 1964; 3rd, #854 hen - 1965; 4th, Maybelle 907 - 1968.



1970's

1st photo, #836 Hen - 1973; 2nd, Lucky 13 - 1975; 3rd, Athena 104 - 1977; 4th, Diana 110 - 1979.



1980's

1st photo, Little Rhody 117 - 1982; Aphrodite 203 - 1984; Transition 303 - 1986; Pavaratti 318 - 1987.

Give Credit Where Credit Is Due

by BRIAN POGUE

One of the main objectives of a Fantail show is to have as many good Fantails present as possible. Another primary objective is to have fun and fellowship amongst the fanciers. Both of these objectives are often compromised with the exhibiting of purchased birds.

Many fanciers don't feel they should show birds they have not raised. While others simply show their best birds regardless of who bred them. Unfortunately there have been purchased birds shown successfully with the breeder receiving no recognition.

The Fantail is the most complex breed in our fancy. It is one thing to mate pairs properly blending points to produce a promising youngster. It is quite another to train and prepare a bird for a show and set the bird down in a walking pen looking its very best.

To produce a top quality racehorse it takes excellence by the part of the breeder, the trainer and the jockey or driver. The same can be said for Fantails and other show animals such as cattle and dogs. There are a number of good Fantail breeders who are not

very successful in the show ring because their birds are not trained and/or set down properly at the shows. It is well known that certain jockeys are able to improve the placing of a horse, so too with show jockeys in cattle who fit the cattle. This is also true where fanciers like Karl Otto and Domenic Zarlenga have that knack to transform a jammed mess into a beautiful saucer.

When you attend a livestock or pet show, the catalogue lists the owner, handler and breeder. The Fantail fancy should do the same. In the CCFC, our policy is to identify the exhibitor and in brackets the breeder ie) 975 Boyd (Pogue). This way both the exhibitor who has put a lot of work into preparing the bird for the show and the breeder get the recognition they deserve. In this case the owner receives any awards while the breeder receives the points for our Master Breeder Program.

Our club has been very fortunate in having great camaraderie amongst our members. One of the results has been that partnerships have often formed on specific pairs. A pair is bred where each parent is owned by a

different fancier and the youngsters split between the fanciers. When these birds are shown, the partnership is listed ie) 422 Phillippo & McColeman, with the exhibitor listed first. In our system, the master breeder points are shared between the fanciers.

There is still the case of a fancier buying birds and producing a very good bird. I don't know of any way to recognize the original breeder other than word of mouth. Personally, I find it very satisfying to receive a letter or phone call from a fancier reporting good results with youngsters of birds he has purchased from me.

In other species, the handlers are professionals and not always recognized. We have not found any particular way to recognize the person who laces and sets the bird down, other than the fact that he is observed doing so.

Implementing the system of recognizing the breeder and partnerships has helped in achieving the two objectives mentioned in the first paragraph. Hopefully a standard policy could be implemented by all Fantail clubs.

"My My" Fantails

by GARY BRONSON, Delta, Ohio

This article is on powdered blue Fantails. The title of this article is a little play on words as "my" is also the genetic symbol for the milky factor that when found in a double dose on a blue Fantail changes this bird into a powdered blue. Add a double dose to silver and you get powdered silver; to black - lavender; to recessive red - "pinks;" to ash-red bars - pink bars, etc.

The factor affects color much the same as if you were coloring and you colored a section blue and then took a white crayon and colored over the top of the blue. The overall effect is a lightening of the ground color with a soft blurring effect. I realize this is an oversimplification of this modifier but this analogy becomes very important as we proceed on to what is the proper coloration for a powdered blue and how to go about producing it in our show birds.

Apparently, powdered blues can be traced back prior to 1920 and even in those early years, there has been an ongoing controversy on just what the proper coloration should be. (An excellent article was written by Ronald Spencer in the September 1985 Fantail Special on page 107). Fred Robinson wrote an article regarding color in the December 1961 Fantail Special entitled, "Color in Powdered Silver Fantails." (Powdered silver was the old name of powdered blues). The "original" color standard was for a "clear body color like a new silver coin from the mint, with sound black bars."

Today in the show pen we see everything from heavily flecked (sooty factor) birds with cinnamon bars to some really excellent colored birds as the standard calls for.

I know the old saying goes "build your barn and then paint it" but have you ever tried to paint over mildewed wood? The mildew bleeds right through and mars the paint job. So it is if you use sooty factor birds in your

breeding program.

To get the "new mint" silver coloration on the shield and body we must use the lightest, cleanest and clearest colored birds available. This means dirty, sooty and smokey colored birds are out. When using blues as an outcross, use the lightest ones possible with the richest bar coloration. Those so-called "flour-bellies" are great to use, the more floury the better.

The darker the base color you use, the less milky coloration will be expressed. Just as if you took a white crayon and colored over sky blue you would get a lighter coloration than if you were to try coloring over navy blue. The smokey factor also has the tendency to blur the bars, making them indistinct.

That brings us to the tricky part - those black bars. You will not get the same richness of black bars such as is found in your better colored Damascene or Ice pigeons because milky is an entirely different factor, but you can produce a good "flat" black bar on your birds. If you have already eliminated the dirty, sooty and smokey factors, you are well on your way. What you need to eliminate further to enhance your bar coloration is the bronze factor.

Bronzing can best be seen in the webbing of the primary flights of your blues and to a lesser extent in the powdered blues, especially in their juvenile plumage. A reddish tint can also be seen in the bar itself in many blues. The lighter the bar in a powdered blue, the greater the presence of the bronze agent. Eliminate the bronze and your bars will become cleaner, clearer and darker.

This brings me to another point. Never cull a powdered blue for color until after its adult moult. The juvenile plumage is a third again darker in coloration as what it will be after the moult. Until they complete an adult moult, I also wouldn't be too critical on a soft feather quality to their tail either. This also improves greatly with the moult.

Rich tail bar coloration is even more difficult to achieve in powdered blues than bar colorations. It is possible to achieve through selective breeding just like anything else. I have seen birds where the tail bar is dark, yet somewhat blurry with the outer edge of color seeming almost to glow - a real bright blue. This is caused by the smokey factor and can be identified by checking the last feather on either side of the tail. These feathers are normally half powdered blue colored with the bottom edge being white (Albescent strip) in a normal colored powdered blue. However, in a smokey factored bird, the feather will be entirely colored in.

The best colored powdered blue I saw was a bird bred by John and Ben Ferber of Canada. Good powdered blues, type wise, are found throughout the U.S. and Canada in

several lofts. There is no one loft that dominates the color. In any given year at any given show, fanciers such as Ron Willis, Joe Yancey, Michael McAtee, Harry and Frances Hawkins, Dave Minert, Denny Stapp, Wayne Tourville, Jim Armstrong, Robert Kingkinger, Domenic Zarlenga, Joe Schabert, Arnie Schroeder and a host of others could win champion powdered blue. So as you can see, the competition is there.

As an after-thought, the coloration of powdered silver is just the dilute form of powdered blue and is a very pretty color in its own right. Their color can be improved using the same methods as for powdered blues and it holds the same relationship to powdered blue as blue does to silver, just in reverse. A short downed baby in the nest of two powdered blues will be a powdered silver and a hen. To produce cocks in powdered silvers, you would then mate the daughter back to the father and sooner or later you should produce the desired cock powdered silver.

The overall size of our powdered blues are now down to medium to small. In the past, some of the cocks were running a little on the large size. The tails which often in the past were small and soft have really made some great strides in both length and hardness, mainly through selective outcrossing to blues and in some cases whites.

Speaking of outcrosses, your best bet for overall improvement of type AND coloration will be found by using superior blues. For the quickest improvement in type, whites are usually the way to go. However often when using whites as an outcross you will introduce those factors that you are trying to eliminate, namely, sooty, dirty, smokey and bronze as whites tend to be carrying many of these factors and there is no way to tell until after you breed them.

It has been several years since a powdered blue has been the Grand Champion of a major show. As I said earlier, the competition is there - why not be the one to breed the next Grand Champion powdered blue and take up the challenge.



#CA109-91 Qualmond Hen was Reserve Champion at the Mid-America Fantail Club 1991; Best Young Bird Central Fantail Club 5th District Annual Meet; four times Best Qualmond. - Bred and owned by Rick Sparkman, Bristol, Texas.



#872-87 Blue Hen was Best Blue Mid-America Fantail Club 1987. - Bred by Jeff Clark.

Starting Again

by GORDON LARSON, El Paso, Texas

In the spring of 1990, I sold my entire stud of Fantails. This decision was brought about by the asthma and other allergic symptoms that I was suffering which my physician was attributing to my contact with my birds.

It was indeed an agonizing decision. I had spent years in developing what I considered to be a competitive stud of blue, white and silver Fantails. Raising and showing Fantails was my principal hobby, one that occupied most of my leisure time. During the show season, I attended a minimum of four shows a year and raising and caring for my birds kept me busy year round. Not having my birds would create quite a void in my life, particularly since I intended on retiring soon and I had planned on my pigeon activities occupying a considerable portion of the additional leisure time I would have. But despite this, my concern for my physical well being won out and I disposed of my birds.

During the summer of 1990, my exposure to pigeons was limited to the time I spent attending to the needs of the one pair of birds that I just could not bring myself to part with. I kept this pair in a wire fronted cage, 48 inches wide by 30 inches deep by 18 inches high. I considered having a wire floor on the cage, but finally decided to use a wooden floor covered with a coarse pine sawdust litter. I was prepared to change to a wire floor if my respiratory problems were aggravated by using the litter. I had three of these cages stacked one on top of each other and the other two cages were used to house the youngsters I raised from my one pair.

In performing my chores with the birds, I was careful to wear a pollen mask when cleaning cages and changing litter, and I was

pleased to find I was suffering no ill effects. At the end of the summer, after caring for the one pair of breeders and the five youngsters they raised, I was satisfied that I could tolerate limited exposure to birds if I kept them in well ventilated cages that I did not have to enter and if I took the proper precautions to reduce my exposure to the litter dust when cleaning cages.

In the fall of 1990, I decided to further test my capabilities to handle exposure to pigeons so I entered some birds and attended the three day Pageant of Pigeons show in California. Having passed that test with no physical problems relating to exposure to the birds, I judged the Fantails at the Grand National Show in January 1991 and again was delighted to find that I could be around birds in show halls for extended periods without suffering any ill effects.

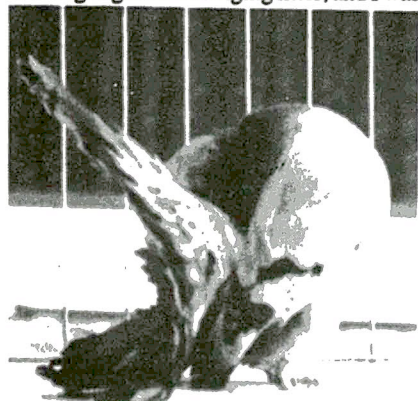
I decided to increase the number of breeding pairs in 1991. I was fortunate to get back some of my original birds and some of their offspring and to obtain two excellent pair of whites from Tom Pritchett. I ended up with eight pairs of breeders, all housed in individual cages. All of their young were kept in the same type cages and I ended the breeding season with neither the birds nor myself suffering any ill effects from this breeding setup. I only showed birds once in 1991, at the CFC Young Bird Show in St. Louis, but I was able to judge three shows. Having enjoyed all four shows with no ill effects, I became convinced that by altering my breeding methods, I could still breed, show, and judge pigeons without endangering my health.

Starting over again has caused me to abandon some ways of doing things that had become accustomed to over the years. It was quite a change from the times when I was breeding from 40 pairs and banding over 200 young birds a year. My birds then were housed in large lofts and I was required to spend a good deal of time in the lofts with the birds and as a result be exposed to the air laden with dust from the litter and dried droppings and the bloom from the birds' feathers. Now, during the breeding season, pairs are kept in individual pens, youngsters are kept in the same size pens, and when sexually mature, are segregated, four cocks or six hens to a pen. There are advantages and disadvantages to my new method of individual breeding. There is less possibility of disease. The birds are more easily individually scrutinized, so when birds become ill, they are spotted sooner and can be isolated before other birds are exposed to the ill bird

for a long period of time. Contact with ill birds is limited to only a few birds. Food and water consumption can be more carefully monitored. Breeding records are more accurate, legitimacy is guaranteed when breeding pairs are individually housed. There is no danger of young birds being scalped. In large lofts, some birds will perch off the floor and will soil the feathers of birds below them with their droppings in the small pens, this doesn't occur and the birds stay cleaner. Fantails are bred to be walking birds. Restricting their ability to fly does not seem to harm them. The principal disadvantage in raising the birds in small pens is the additional time required to take care of the birds. It is quite a chore to tend to the feeding, watering and cleaning of numerous individual cages. Also, the cost of building individual cages is more expensive than building larger community lofts for an equivalent number of birds.

My new method of raising birds was forced on me. My alternatives were to abandon the pigeon fancy or raise the birds in a manner that I could physically tolerate. The choice was easy. When I considered by love for pigeons, the anticipation at the beginning of the breeding season, the challenge of selecting the breeding pairs, the satisfaction of watching the young birds develop, the thrill of spotting among them one that might turn out to be a show winner, the camaraderie and friendly competition experienced at the shows, it was an easy choice to make. I would continue with my birds. I won't be able to keep as many birds as I had in the past, but I am determined to try to keep enough to maintain a competitive stud.

I don't know if I will be able to achieve again the success that I have had with my birds in the past, but of this I am sure, I will certainly have a lot of fun trying.



GRAND CHAMPION

#222 Blue Cock, Central Fantail Club, Dec. 85 Altpeter Classic, Des Moines, Iowa, Pogue and Pritchett, judging and Jan. 87, Ottumwa Iowa, Diemer and Altpeter, judging. - Bred and exhibited by Gordon Larson, El Paso, Texas.



BEST TAILMARK

#17-89 Old Hen was Best Tailmark, Mid-America Fantail Club 1990; Best Tailmark, 4th District Meet, Nov. 10, 1991; Best Tailmark, Central Fantail Club Annual Show, Omaha, Nebr., Jan. 11-13, 1991.

Fantail Nostalgia

by BOB KINGKINGER, Sinking Spring, Pa.

With a topic like this where do you begin? As I write this article, I'm sitting in my home office looking out of the window at my loft for the past 36 years, and watching some of my Fantails parading by the windows on the walking boards provided there for that purpose. Occasional visitors, who don't know I'm a pigeon fancier ask, "What is that in the building at the rear of the yard?" People who are interested in livestock want a "look see." Other people pass it off and are not interested. This is quite natural, as it takes all types of people to make the world go around.

So many things have changed in the last 60 years regarding the Fantail fancy. Many fanciers have come and gone. Many through death. Some changed to other varieties, some just seemed to lose interest in pigeons, and still others had to give up pigeons because of health reasons.

The stalwarts still remain. Their names are still recognizable on the Fantail scene. They may no longer breed Fantails, but they show interest by judging or attending Fantail shows.

One thing that hasn't changed very much is the Fantail standard. It was upgraded and made more understandable, some years ago, with explanations of various points. Also, new colors were added, etc. Basically it's all there as it was 60 years ago.

There are more Fantail fanciers and there are more good birds in many lofts all over the country and the world. This is a contrast to years gone by.

There are a lot of Fantail breeders that don't care to show, yet have excellent birds in their lofts. I've seen some of these birds and try to get these fanciers to show them. Sometimes I have been successful, but not always.

Thinking about good birds in non-showing fanciers lofts: Van Zandt Knight and I flew to one of the Central Club Meets at Lincoln, Nebraska, some years ago. While there, we decided to visit the loft of John Dietz. John has stopped showing for some years but had good birds. Van saw some excellent birds that he liked and decided to take them back home with him and work them into his breeding program.

For a good many years when the Central Club held their meet the first weekend in December in Chicago, I made that trip by automobile. Many of those trips were made in snow storms, at least part of the way. One in particular I remember was when Harold Tagert of Oriental Frill fame was traveling with me and we were the fourth to last car to be admitted on to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Traveling was so bad that it was impossible to go more than 35 miles per hour.

However, some person in a hurry, proceeded to pass me going considerably faster. Two miles up the road, his car was tangled up against a bridge abutment.

Another time traveling to Chicago and the Central Club Meet, Charles Archer was with me and driving my car. I asked him if we needed gas, he said, "No, it was still a quarter full." Some miles along I asked him again and he still said it was a quarter full. I began to get suspicious and took a look and saw what he thought was a quarter full was actually empty. It wasn't long after that we ran out of gas. So it cost \$15.00 for a service truck to give us one gallon of gas to get to the next service station.

One of the last Eastern Club Meets during World War II (I think 1942) was held in conjunction with the Madison Square Garden Show. I had saved up my gasoline rationing stamps so I could make the trip with Charles Burkey. We left in a snow storm but by the time we hit New Jersey, the roads were all ice. A truck traveling toward me was coming down the middle of the highway and I lost control of the car, causing an accident. I never got to the show and had to ship the birds home by Railway Express, plus my car was tied up for one month getting repaired.

Madison Square Garden had an area more than adequate to house a poultry and pigeon show. Consequently, there was a large display area for cages featuring rare poultry or pigeons. One of these cages housed about 25 (what were originally white Fantails) pink, green, and lavender birds which were dyed by George Rinsland of Lynchburg, Virginia. The display caused quite a few comments.

At one of the Northeastern Fantail Club Meets held in Worcester, Massachusetts, Bill Pursel was with me. We got up Sunday morning to return home and found the cars on the motel parking lot surrounded by about three feet of snow. It was noontime before the motel had the lot cleared and we could head for home. Forty miles down the road, there wasn't any snow.

Too bad the big Fantail meets are always in the winter months, but we all know why. The only meet the Eastern Club had in Rochester, New York, experienced snow continuously for the three days we were there. This is the name of the game.

The last time I flew to a show with my birds was the payoff. I checked in at United Airlines in Philadelphia. The attendant asked what was in the two dog carrying cases I had with me. I told him pigeons. He protested saying I couldn't take them with me. I told him that was not so and, as proof, showed him the baggage stubs on both cases from previous flights. He relented somewhat and

asked me for my veterinarian papers. I told him I didn't need any. He became adamant telling me it was going to cost me \$200.00 for the both cases. I blew my top and told him I wanted to talk to his supervisor. The supervisor came and told me I needed veterinarian papers. I told him if he could show me in his book of regulations that this was required, I might think about it. He then backed down. I told him if he could not take the birds as excess baggage as the other airlines do, that I would go to another airline. They finally resolved the whole matter by charging me \$40.00 for excess baggage. This episode soured me on United Airlines.

My thoughts are saddened by the death of Ray Ostrander, a stalwart of the Fantail fancy here in the eastern part of the country. Ray was the last surviving member of the committee that worked on revising the Fantail standard. He, Elisha Hanson and Clint Wilbur met periodically in New York City with proposals and then conferred with John Balton and some other people to draft the forerunner of the present standard.

Ray once told me he wanted to see how long he could breed a family of birds without any deteriorating defects in the progeny. He succeeded for 20 years but then he realized he needed to introduce new blood because of a lack of fertility, etc.

These are but a few of the things that come to my mind as I am writing. There are a lot more, but they will have to be saved for another time.

P.S. To you who are superintendents of all variety shows: Please try not to place the Fantail cages back to back with the English Carrier cages. This happened at one of the Atlantic City shows and the Fantails were upset by the Carriers pacing back and forth in their cages. It took a day for the Fantails to settle down to normal.



GRAND CHAMPION BLUE
#ES151/91 was Grand Champion Blue at the CFC 11th District, Germany, Dec. 7, 1991. Judge: William Diemer. - Bred and owned by Ghazi George, Germany.

There's Promise

by JOY KREBAUM, Whittier, Calif.

I have been involved in the pigeon fancy for over 26 years but not as a owner and breeder personally, only as a help-mate to my husband and kids.

Well, Jim came home from a show one day and announced, "You were voted in as Secretary of the Western Fantail Club."

But, how could I be secretary of a Fantail Club, I don't know much about Fantails. Now if it were Wests or Komorners, it would make more sense.

"No one would take the job, they don't have time."

Oh, I do. I work full time, help care for 500 pigeons, have a hard time keeping the dishes done or taking time to visit the four granddaughters. Who has time?

I have to confess Fantails are not my favorite breed. I explained to Jim, "I don't have any Fantails, so how can I be an officer in the Club?" "Come on out back and pick any you want," was his answer.

I picked the whites, so I can tell them apart from the others. That was the beginning and from there . . .

In 1991, I raised two nice hens #661 "Lady" and #662 "Overspray." Why Overspray, because she got painted when the outside of the coop was spray painted. She outgrew the paint, but the name stuck. They have a brother #969 "Him."

So far in 1992, there is "Promise" #1072, out of #662 and 1073 and "Traveler," out of an older pair (named because it left its nest and went to another nest and was raised by another pair). I guess you call that picking your parents. I have another baby hatched and some more eggs. This looks like a good beginning.

The Fantail fanciers are a great group of people, many very helpful and encouraging.

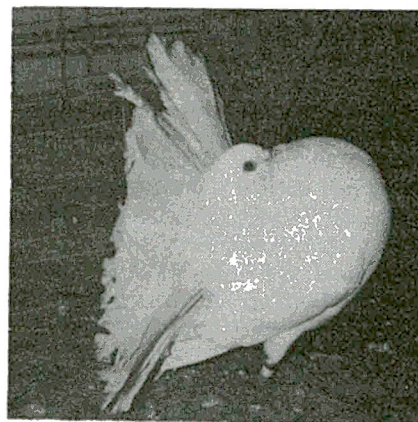
As you know, the challenge with the Fantails is their tails. You can have a good bird but if its tail's not there, forget it! Have

you ever laced a tail?

As a new breeder learning rudimentary things like how to see if an egg is fertile or how many days before it hatches, how to pair birds up to accentuate the positive seemed like a lot but, how to lace a tail, wow! You have to learn how to manipulate your hands in a manner you have not done before. I have to thank Dennis Soares and Ron Schwartz for teaching me the fundamentals of the art. I need a lot of practice. I will start with "Promise" next week training in the show coop. His (?) tail looks good and I hope I can add perfection. Wish me luck.

Jim and I hosted the '92 Superbowl, it turned out a top success. As hostess and Secretary my focus had to be on food and paperwork. I'm grateful to many people who helped with my birds especially the Cosbys. Being a novice, I separated my show birds in a pen with perches. Well, white Fantails with droppings all over them do not show well. They looked awful and I felt as bad.

Matt and George Cosby came to my rescue. They hand washed and blew them dry (hair dryer), so they were ready in time for



PROUD LADY

"Lady", #661, White Fantail bred and owned by Joy Krebaum, Whittier, Calif., was Best White and Best Young White at the 1991 Cavalcade of Pigeons, Fresno, Calif.

the show. They also helped lace their tails along with Jim, Jr., and others. Thanks guys, you all make me feel welcome.

My contribution to the Fantail fancy is keeping the records straight and putting out an informative and enjoyable bulletin. This is the sort of thing I enjoy doing. I hope the club membership likes the results.

A Letter From Earl Clark

by RICK STOKES, Destin, Fla

When I was looking for Fantails, I called and wrote Earl Clark, who to my delight had retired to Florida. Asking for advice regarding the colors I was interested in, this letter was received in reply shortly prior to his passing away. It was attached to the outstanding newsletter of the Florida Fantail Club, now defunct. The letter is repeated here for the benefit of those who knew him and because of some wisdom I found in it.

Rick: There was a young man back about '67-'68 who had Parlor Rollers and I believe Blue Fantails. I can't remember his name.

But I got some Parlors for my wife from him. Very good ones. He lived in Tuscon, I believe.

I got rid of all my colored birds when Champ moved his birds to my house. I kept my whites and along with his, built a really great stud. Every white winning today has at least some of this blood.

A few years ago, I started a program to improve saddles. It's a long, tough road. Progress is being made.

The reds and yellows of today aren't as good as a few of us had years ago. But Bob Roberts has a few. How about blacks? And over the years, I have learned more than two colors can't be done justice to.

Our club is growing down here as you can see by the membership list. Quite a few in Florida are new.

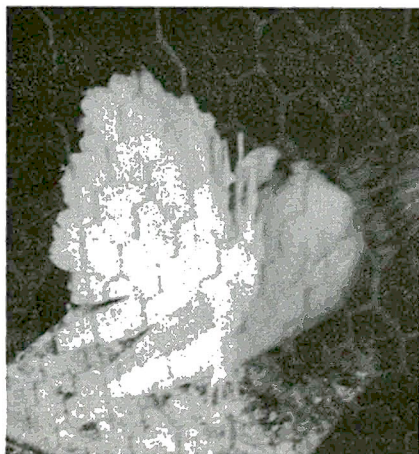
Bob Roberts and Dave Smith both have some good blacks.

I am enjoying my retirement here in Florida and get many visitors.

Welcome to the club and hope you enjoy the bulletin. — Sincerely, Earl Clark

Who among us will become the great Fantail breeders of tomorrow? I regret not meeting this gentleman and learning from him.

If you ever come to Florida, our area has great fishing, sugar white beaches and my Fantails. Coffee is always on. My phone number is (904) 837-0128 and my address is P.O. Box 5432, Destin, Florida 32540.



NOT ALL PROMISES ARE KEPT!

"Promise" #1072, 1992 white Fantail bred and owned by Joy Krebaum, Whittier, Calif. Joy is still hoping for development of proper show qualities.

My First Fantails

by NORMA STEVENS
Houston, Texas

I will never forget my experience with my first pair of Fantails. We had just put in a swimming pool and landscaped around it. Everything was so pretty. Well, my neighbor man, whose specialty is in Rollers, came over and handed me a beautiful pair of Indian Fantails. He gave me a small bag of food and told me how the Fantails will enhance the beauty of our yard. How true and how pretty they looked walking around the yard. I looked at my husband and he at me, "What do we do now??"

We cut a small opening in our garage wall and started building a cage inside the garage with an outside platform. What an experience!

When the cooing started, I thought my Fantails were dying. I had so much to learn - their habits - mating - all the things pigeons do.

Before I knew it, eggs - babies - help!!!

By this time, I met some pigeon breeders, plus my nice neighbor man that gave me the Fantails and they helped me with all my questions. Since then we have become good friends and have our get together pigeon meetings.

More babies, more openings in the garage wall, more platforms.

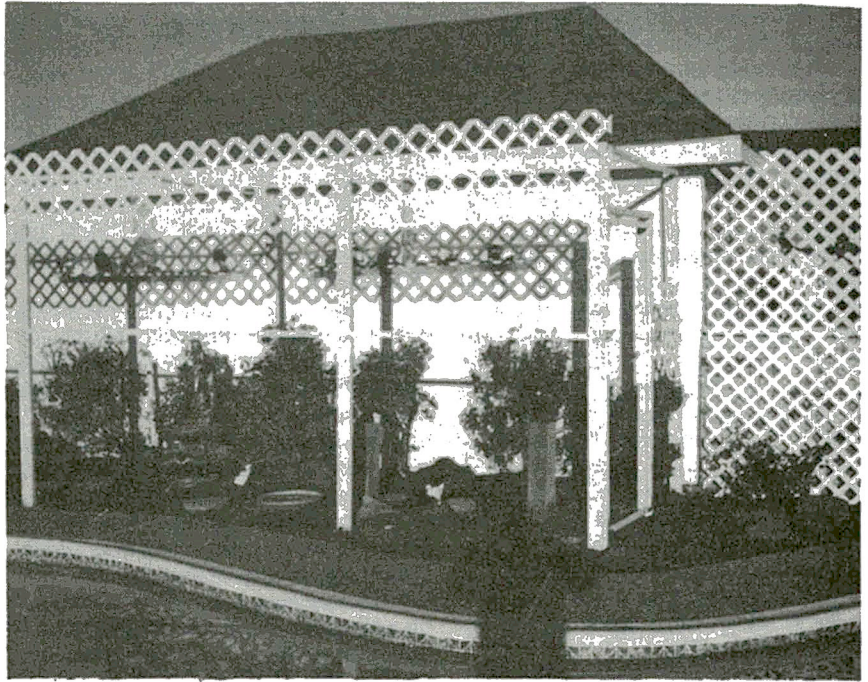
Then the problem came that all pigeon breeders have - the hawks. What a heart-break. Now, all my Fantails are enclosed.

I have started others with their first pair of Fantails. I give them their starter kit that includes food, grit and a pamphlet that I have written on the basics of pigeons. The pamphlet is easy to read and deals with their food, grit, shelters best suited for caring for the pigeons.

I have spent many hours with my friends and neighbors watching the Fantails.

My goal is to get started on writing children's stories about birds.

I have come a long way from my first pair of beautiful Fantails. I still have more to learn because I think each day with our birds is a new learning experience.



The loft of Norma Stevens, Houston, Texas



Norma and Tom Stevens. Note the fantail lofts with the openings cut in the wall. This was before the loft was enclosed.



The Future For Fantails

by BRIAN POGUE

I have been very fortunate to have been involved with Fantails for more than 25 years. In this article I will review some of the events of the past and project what may occur in the future.

Classics

The most spectacular show I have attended was the Ray LaFleur Classic. I recall walking into the show hall and seeing what seemed like endless rows of Fantails and almost all of the who's who in Fantails. This of course was the largest Fantail show in history. The second largest show was the Gene Altpeter Classic where I had the privilege of picking Larson's 222 blue cock as Grand Champion in front of 150 people. Classics have also been held in honour of Earl Clark and Bob and Vi Given. This year the Central is holding another classic to appreciate Bob Evans and Doc Lynch. It is very proper to acknowledge these fanciers for their contributions.

There will be more classics where special fanciers will be paid tribute. These need to be organized and promoted at least two years in advance. This amount of lead time is needed to attend the show. A historic show should be held on a regular basis (every four years) so that we can all plan for it. The Central has been the club hosting these classics. I would suggest that other clubs or districts should host some of these events. Ideally the show would be held close to the person who is being honoured. These classics and the APJ Fantail Specials are what bring the fancy together.

International Scene

There have been fanciers from South Africa, Australia, Germany and France that have recently attended shows in Canada or the USA. Tom Pritchett, Gene Altpeter and myself have judged shows in South Africa. I have judged in Australia and Bill Diemer has judged in Germany. Rene Jean from France, came to Canada to judge a show in Quebec last year.

The "American" version of the Fantail is becoming accepted worldwide. Consequently several birds have been exported overseas. There are several very good fanciers in these other countries. They already have raised birds that can compete very favourably in North America. It is only a matter of time before some imports are made from these other countries. I look forward to the day when the Classics become truly international with Fantails shown from several different countries, the "Olympics of Fantails."

There is a tendency for fanciers from other countries to interpret the standard somewhat differently. Discussion about these differences allows for a greater understanding by everyone. The relationship with our foreign friends will continue to grow. The sharing of ideas will benefit all of us in showing

and breeding our queen of the fancy. I expect to see someone like Malan, Jubb or Jean judging at one of the Olympics. Perhaps we will start to use the point system when judging or classify the birds into categories: excellent, very good, good, etc., while still judging them under the American format.

The Ideal

During my tenure with fans there have been a number of strides made towards improving their type. The Diemer birds were amongst the first to be noted for huge tails on small bodies. Last year, Bob Phillippe produced a bird with a 15 inch tail on a bird that was less than six inches tall. The O'Dell drawing and birds brought attention to the need for narrow wings which blended into the body when viewed from the front or side. I really noticed the considerable improvement in refinement and wings while judging the whites at last year's Central. Bodies have become very full with few birds displaying any wing butt. The move to refinement has also resulted in smaller more petite birds.

I believe we will see more birds with large flat tails on small bodies but without the long flights. Fantails will become rounded. Many birds are full in the body but are not as wide as tall, giving an oval appearance particularly noticeable from the front view. Bronson discussed this in an article measuring O'Dells drawing. Roundness will come about with smaller birds that are not as tall adding more meat on the breast bone and changing the angle of the keel. These changes in body make for beautiful Fantails when posing. The most significant change that is necessary is that legs must be moved farther forward to support the additional body. A good fan in a pose is a beautiful sight but one walking daintily while maintaining compo-



HIGH HOPES

#301192 was Champion Fantail at the Milwaukee Grand National Jan. 1992. - Bred and exhibited by Gene Altpeter, Sullivan, Wisc.

sure is breathtaking! Those who have seen Zarlenga's 27 blue would quickly agree. I believe that the action of our birds will become more important.

The standard may require an overhaul. I mentioned the emphasis on wings, but how many points does the standard allow for wings? Wings are only mentioned under carriage and motion. As I interpret the standard, a bird can receive almost full points for body and tail without "rolling up." A very popular article was written several years ago by Kinginger and Bolton on the interpretation of the standard. This well written article was often read more often than the standard because it was easier to understand. Shouldn't the standard be clear enough without an interpretation? Some recent changes to standards of other breeds (ie) English Trumpeters have resulted in a longer but clearer document.

Colours

One of the greatest changes to our breed has been the addition of many new and beautiful colours. Most of the colours found in other breeds are now found in Fantails. Various combinations of colours are popping up more often, such as pink (powdered red) or spread ash reds. New colours on the horizon include golds (pale), ice and stencil. In addition to these new colours, there has also been great improvement in some of the neglected "standard" colours notably the reds and saddles. Bob McKee deserves much of the credit for introducing opal, ice, pale and stencil as well as developing a stud of saddles that can compete with the best Fantails anywhere.

Now clubs need to develop a standard set of classes. It would make sense and reduce confusion to have the same colour classes at each show. Combining the mismark and splash classes into pids eliminated some controversy. Should a blue with one white flight or a black with a white feather near the eye be considered a pid? I suggest points for soundness of colour and have these birds shown in their predominant colour class.

Innovation

As long as the fancy continues there will be new people and new ideas that will improve our fancy. The once guarded secrets of tail lacing and show preparation are now openly discussed at seminars held as part of the show agenda. Changes may occur with walking surface, size of judging pens, lighting for judging, photography, breeding techniques such as artificial insemination, health care and disease prevention. Computer programs will be developed for loft records, show reports and perhaps image analysis for comparing a bird to the standard.

Our fancy will continue to thrive so long as we keep an open mind, cooperate with other fanciers and assist new fanciers who join in the fancy. If we all make our contribution to the fancy, the future is very bright for Fantails.

Those Were The Days

by HARRY L. LITTLE, Tequesta, Florida

Each time that I glance through the membership list of the Central Fantail Club it is always amazing to me that it contains so many names that I do not recognize. It is then that I come to the realization that it has been nine years since I have been active in the fancy. Nine years? How the time does fly! The recent loss of my good friend, Bob Evans, brings to mind the many names that no longer appear on this list. Names of those who were the backbone of the Fantail fancy. Sometimes I wonder if we are so concerned with the present that we tend to forget the accomplishments of those who preceded us, those who made it possible for us to enjoy the hobby as it is today.

The Central Fantail Club was formed in 1926 by three fanciers, J. Hipert of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ray Schmedel of Neillsville, Illinois and Eugene Altpeter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The first meet of the new club was held in that same year, in Milwaukee, with over 100 Fantails shown. The Club soon became famous from coast to coast and from the gulf of Mexico to Winnipeg, Canada and in England where it became known and respected by the English fanciers.

As far back as 1934 the membership list of the Central Fantail Club contained the names of 89 members from the United States and Canada. This was in the days before the super highway and fast automobiles and air transportation had not come into its own. As the Club grew it attracted people who became known throughout the Fantail world. Ray LaFleur was a charter member and Jim Argall joined the Club in 1935.

The membership list of the Central Fantail Club that year reads like a "Who's Who" of the Fantail world. Of the 89 members listed, there were very few that were not internationally known. Any one of them is worthy of an honorable mention in the following paragraphs but as space dictates the length of this epistle, I will just sort of close my eyes and pick out just a few of them.

Jim Argall was a breeder of several different colors in the Fantail but was most famous for his blacks. He started with blacks from E. E. Wallace and whites from the Altpeter lofts. Upon visiting there, I admired a painting that hung on a wall in his home. It was of one of his famous black Champions which he had named "Ebony," one that he had painted himself, which portrayed a Fantail that was far ahead of its time. The birds in his loft were later obtained by Rod Hatcher and Dwight Crewdson.

Eugene Altpeter was the originator of one of the leading studs of white Fantails in the world. The Central 1935 Yearbook contains a photo of "Miss Perfection," Cham-

pion Fantail at the 1934 show at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago, Illinois. "Miss Perfection" was bred by the partnership of Kelly and Altpeter. Gene Jr., who is no longer a Junior, has carried on the tradition with Champion after Champion.

Bob Boehland held the position of Secretary of the Central for many years. He was responsible for promoting shows in first class hotels such as the Sherman and Edgewater Beach in Chicago and for some entertaining judging sessions. He was a well known breeder of the blue Fantail and gained fame for his Champion blue hen "Symphony."

Gerry Champ, very possibly, wrote more articles on Fantails than anyone before or since. He originated the word "pocket" in describing correct head position of a Fantail. He established an outstanding stud of white Fantails that is now scattered throughout the world. He was the coordinator of the first two Fantail Special issues of the American Pigeon Journal and was known the world over as a true authority on the breeding and exhibition of the Fantail. It was he who recommended me as coordinator of the third Fantail Special.

Elisha Hanson got his start in blues from Dr. Howland and was a consistent breeder of the best blues and silvers of that era. Although he was a top corporation lawyer, involved in some landmark decisions before the U.S. Supreme Court, he never lost interest in his Fantails. It was from the Hanson blues and silvers that Bob Evans got his start. Show reports prove what an excellent job he did with them.

Ray LaFleur once possessed some of the best saddle Fantails in this country. Later, he was known for breeding almost every color in existence. He kept a very large loft of Fantails and was a consistent winner in al-

most every color. On a visit to his loft, some years ago, I was amazed at the number and the quality of the Fantails from which he was breeding. The Central and the fancy were truly honored with the use of his name in the Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic which was held in Madison, Wisconsin, in December of 1976.

Karl Otto along with Gerry Champ were probably the two judges that were most in demand in the Fantail fancy. Karl never kept a large number of Fantails but you could be sure that they were great specimens. Karl had the reputation of being a true expert in the art of lacing a tail. I have seen birds before and after they were laced and set down by Karl Otto and they just did not look like the same Fantails. He laced many Champions of his own and for other fanciers.

Dr. Frank Solley was the breeder of the famed Solley white cock, thereafter simply known as the "Solley Cock." It set the fancy on its ear and was probably the most talked about Fantail of its time. There was much speculation among fanciers as to the merits of this Fantail but when T.A. Havemeyer announced that it was the best he had ever seen, the issue was set pretty much to rest.

These brief paragraphs, outlining some of the accomplishments of only a few of the great Fantail breeders of other days, cannot really do them justice but are simply a reminder of what these people have done for the Fantail fancy. There are many others that are just as deserving.

To all of you that are now active in the fancy, especially those of you whose names I did not recognize - you are the new ones, the ones who will be the future leaders in the fancy. I say to you - pick up the banner and carry it proudly. The future of the fancy is in your hands. May you have as much success in your endeavors as those who preceded you. At any rate, enjoy your Fantails and your associations with one another!



Harry Little lacing tails.

Recollections Of The Fantail Fancy

by EUGENE T. ALTPETER

My father, Eugene Sr., received his first pair of Fantails as a gift from his mother when he was just a boy. He loved the birds, raised them all of his life, and so I have been around Fantails since I can remember. I went to my first show with him when I was in elementary school. After I returned from military service we showed as a team. Many incredible changes have taken place in the world in the past 50 years, but within the Fantail fancy the basics seem to remain constant. Raising Fantail pigeons continues to bring people together from all walks of life to share a mutual interest, and it continues to soothe the nerves and obliterate the problems of everyday life for the minutes or hours each day that we can allow ourselves to focus on the birds. Any changes I've observed within the Fantail fancy itself are in the nuances of raising the "perfect" Fantail, the rest is history.

World War I ended, and the young men were home to settle into a new life with their families. But for a certain few there was something still missing to complete the picture. Oh yes, pigeons... Fantail pigeons. So lofts were built and filled with Fantails. But the picture was still not complete—a Fantail Club in the Midwest was needed. Various attempts were made to start a Fantail club, but each lasted only a short time. It took the right combination and the dreams of three pigeon fanciers to successfully form a lasting club. And so, in 1926, the Central Fantail Club was established by Jacob Hippert,

Pittsburg, PA, the club's first President; Ray Schmedel, Neillsville, WI, the Secretary/Treasurer; Eugene Altpeter, Sr., Milwaukee, WI, the Publicity Director. The first CFC show was held that same year in St. Louis with over 100 entries from their nucleus of about 10 members. The following two years the shows were held in Milwaukee with the entries doubling to slightly over 200.

The Eastern Fantail Club (the oldest Fantail Club in the U.S.) was already in existence at that time, and was recognized for its distinguished members who were all well established in Fantails. Some of these renowned breeders were Elisha Hanson, T.A. Havemeyer, and his loft manager Jimmy Glasgow, Walter Hersey, Harry Sarsfield, Raymond Ostrander, and Dr. Howland. As the Central Fantail Club grew in size and stature, numerous Eastern Club members joined it, just as many Central Club members had already joined the Eastern Club. Of course, this also resulted in participating in their respective shows, but it was the Eastern shows that any serious Fantail fancier regarded as the premier competition. One of their shows was held at New York's Madison Square Garden in conjunction with the National Poultry Show and was quite an event. It was at this show, in the early 30's, that Ray LaFleur (CFC) had Champion Fantail (Saddle). The Central Fantail Club continued to grow, and it was during the depression years that some of their great shows were held under the crystal chandeliers of

ballrooms in some of Chicago's finest hotels of that era—the Edgewater Beach Hotel, LaSalle Hotel, and the Sherman House. With the poor economy, even these hotels were eager for business and were happy to rent their rooms to the fanciers. A particularly memorable show for me was held in Chicago in conjunction with the International Livestock Exposition. It was a thrill to see the best in the world of horses, cattle and other livestock on exhibition. In those days we all shipped pigeons by railway express which was quite affordable, and with no restrictions on the crate size.

When World War II started, the economy changed and hotels were no longer interested in having pigeon shows in their elegant ballrooms. In 1933 the CFC started showing with the Chicago Pigeon Club, and for many years the two clubs were together at Harmony Hall. At these particular shows, the Fantails always had their space designated to the hall's stage. The cooping was stacked three and four tiers high around the edge of the stage, with the walking pens in the center. The only space left to watch the judging was from the rows of chairs that were lined up next to the cooping, and this arrangement inevitably resulted in wood shavings sprinkling down the back of the spectator. For the next 30 years, the show was held in Chicago with the exception of 1941 (Lansing, Michigan), 1946 (Dayton, Ohio), 1949 (Des Moines, Iowa), 1954 (Indianapolis, Indiana), and 1959 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). The highest entry number during those 30 years was in 1939 with 409 entries on display. Starting in 1934, 350+ entry shows were common. After so many years of shows in Chicago, in 1965 the members decided it was time for the Central Fantail Club to start moving their shows around the Midwest. New locations would bring in new faces, and could possibly be more accessible to some of the members. As the Fantail shows moved geographically, so did the actual style of exhibitions. Sometimes the Fantail shows were held with all-breed shows, and other times it was the Fantail Club on its own, showing in a motel or civic center. Through the years the CFC shows became the World Series of Fantail Shows and the highlight of the show season. Today there are also district shows which enable fanciers to show locally, and as an added benefit I think they have strengthened the Club as a whole. During the 70's came the advent of Lawn Shows. These shows were more of a social gathering or picnic held in the summer. Fanciers would bring their best young birds along for some friendly competition. It was really an opportunity to visit and talk pigeons while the rest of the family enjoyed the picnic atmosphere. To this day, the Mid America Fantail Club continues to hold these Lawn Shows.

In the past 50 years, Fantails as a whole have been bred up to a higher standard. To begin with, years ago high quality birds were

It Can Happen To You

by ROY WINKLES, Powder Springs, Ga.

In writing this I'm not trying to worry anyone. It's just something I feel anyone who raises pigeons should be aware of.

Last May, my neighbor who raises game chickens had a complaint filed against him. When the investigator came out to check on this complaint, he saw my loft in my backyard. He came over and questioned me about my birds. I offered to show him my birds and how my loft was maintained. He said that it wasn't necessary and left.

Well, about four days later I got a letter from the county zoning office. I was told I had 20 days to dispose of my birds because keeping pigeons is a violation of zoning ordinances. My first thoughts were to panic. All I could think of was ten years work down the drain. After the panic subsided, I got mad as hell. I thought what gives them the right to tell me I can't do something I've been doing on my property for ten years with no complaints from my neighbors!

My next step was to get in touch with Stanley Harr of the Avian Assistance Council. He sent me lots of information on han-

dling this problem. I got a petition started. It was signed by every person on the street where I live except the person who filed the complaint against the chickens. He said he didn't object to the pigeons, but he would not sign the petition. The next thing I did was applied for a zoning variance that would allow me to continue my hobby.

Well, three months had a couple of hundred dollars later, I had my hearing. I was lucky, I was granted a variance because no one came forward to complain about my birds, but two other fanciers had hearings the same day, and were turned down due to neighbor complaints. I gave them copies of the material I got from Stan, and I think one has been successful.

In closing, I would like to say do your best to keep peace with your neighbors, it could happen to you. Also, according to this ordinance, I could keep a pack of 100 dogs if I chose to. I told the investigator, "you know, I can't remember ever reading in the paper or hearing on the news where a flock of pigeons attacked and killed anyone."

limited to only a few breeders. It was the era after the depression that probably marked the beginning of that change. Purchasing quality birds became more realistic, and in time, the high quality Fantails could be seen in many more lofts. The "White" Fantails usually comprised the largest class at the shows, and still do today. This, of course, enhances the competitiveness. Nevertheless, the many champions of yesteryear would still compete well with the Champions of today. I can recall some champions that would be hard to beat. There are also excellent specimens of "Blues" today, and when best of colors are judged for Champion of Show the Blues take their share of honors. "Silvers" were more prevalent years ago. It seems there are fewer breeders of this beautiful color.

Although the classes in recent years have been rather small, occasionally a high quality bird is shown at the major shows. Perhaps the greatest progress has been made in "Reds" and "Yellows." Through crossing, the breeders have improved these colors to a level that I think is far superior to the birds of 30 years ago. If they continue to make the progress of the last decade, this class will be competing much more aggressively for Champion of Show. The "Powdered Blues," on the other hand, were of higher quality in the past, perhaps due to the fact that several breeders were then specializing in his color and bred them to a high standard. Thirty to forty years ago breeders usually specialized in one or two colors, but now many fanciers breed and exhibit many colors. Today's breeders are working on new colors, and have even done well establishing them as classes at the show. This kind of interest in color did not exist before. Evidently, breeders were then concentrating solely on improving the quality of just one basic color. The numbers in the "Saddle" classes were on the decline for a long time, but now there seems to be a sense of renewed interest in this color. As more breeders venture into Saddles the overall quality of the classes will improve. Forty years ago there were some excellent "Blacks" being shown, and today's breeders are still coming up with outstanding birds that are on equal ground when it comes to picking Champion of Show. The "Tailmarks" as a whole were of higher quality years ago. There were a few breeders that had done an outstanding job of bringing them to a competitive level with the other colors. Although today there is occasionally a good bird being shown, they are not yet measuring up to the past birds overall.

As far as the actual lofts themselves, there has been very little change overall. Throughout the years there have always been a few exceptions to the usual style of loft, in that some fanciers prefer a more elaborate approach. The "conveniences" of fans that remove dust, or heating systems for northern lofts, are more likely intended for the fancier than for the birds, because Fantails are fairly

adaptable to their environment, requiring only a dry place that is free of drafts. Fantails have come out of the coldest regions and the simplest lofts to win Champion of show.

Overall, Fantails are nearer the standard of "perfection" than at any time in history. The new generation of breeders are keeping Fantails a most interesting and challenging variety of pigeons. The Central Fantail Club continues to flourish and has even moved into an international position with members in Europe and Australia. Fifty years ago, US fanciers imported birds from England, but today many more Fantails are exported to other countries. Today's transportation and

communications have made the world smaller and thus Fantails will be improved and enjoyed by fanciers around the world. The big bonus is the many more friendships made with fanciers from other countries. Two years ago I had the honor of judging two Fantail shows in South Africa and saw excellent Fantails in most colors. But I also had the opportunity to make some wonderful acquaintances along the way. Without a doubt, the next 50 years will bring more incredible changes in the world, but for the pigeon fancier the joy of raising Fantails will remain the same.

"Doc"

by CHAD SPARKMAN Lexington, Oklahoma

With breeding season now over and show season upon us, we all are looking forward to the Central and the Doc and Evans Classic.

In the seven years that I have been showing pigeons, I've traveled to every pigeon show that I went to with Doc. In that time, I have become to know him very well. I have not yet had the chance to meet Mr. Evans, but what I have heard, it would be quite a pleasure.

The times I've been with Doc have been good even though his sight is getting bad, he is still one of the smartest and wisest men I've been around. Doc is not only an intelligent man, but also he is fun to be around.

I was once at the 5th District in Oklahoma and I heard from someone I respect very much (Gordon Larson) that people in the fancy are the finest people ever. I feel Doc is the smartest person ever, not only as far as pigeons, but also about life and the world.

About every person in the Fantail fancy knows Doc and he has probably helped us about everyone, or gave them advice to have better success with their Fantails.

The only fault I have with Doc is I do not get to spend enough time with him. I would know twice as much as I did before.

I would like to thank him for everything that he has done, like help me with my homework or give me tips on breeding my birds.

He is now getting into raising saddles which just about everybody is. He got his saddles by helping out someone with pigeons. Doc has been helping everyone since he began with pigeons.

Since he is always helping people, he also needs someone to help him so I try as hard as I can to help him like feed and water his birds at shows or lace up the Fantails, and I know everyone else also helps.

Not only has Doc been good friends to everybody, he also has done a lot for the Fantails. He has helped design the common Fantail that we know today and also raised some winning birds in the process.

Doc has been showing pigeons for several years and hopefully, he will be with us for many more years to come.



Chad and Ashley Sparkman with Chad's Grizzle Hen #673 and his trophies from the 5th District Show in Blackwell, Okla. 1987.

Fighting To Keep My Fantails

by ANDREW KERNS, Richmond, Va.

Due to increasing legislation which restricts pigeon raising in many areas, the future of our beloved hobby is becoming uncertain. I hope that no one will ever have to experience the results of being in violation of an ordinance.

Early last April, I found a notice on my front door when arriving home from school. The notice was a short letter that explained briefly that it was against the law under code number so and so which prohibited the keeping of "homing pigeons" in Henrico County. Since I only raise Fantails, there must have been some mistake as the birds are never let out and not many neighbors are even aware of their existence.

There was a number listed on the citation if there were any questions and when called, the trouble really began. The man on the

phone read aloud the code from the book and it was explained that it was not relevant. Instead of giving up, the man came up with another code which was supposed to make the loft illegal due to its position in the yard. Since the inspector who had written up the report which led to the citation had already checked this, there was not much problem showing that the loft was, in fact, in accordance with the code. Finally, the man dug up a code that was surefire to get anyone. Simply put, any person living in Henrico County with more than three of any animal must have a kennel permit. This would include mice, snakes, canaries, dogs, etc. There was no getting around this code. The man on the phone suggested that the pigeons be disposed of or a planning board meeting could be arranged to decide if a permit was to be

granted. The cost of applying was \$250.00 regardless of whether or not a permit was granted.

The papers were filed and a hearing date was set. My mother was a tremendous help by handling the paperwork and legal research involved. She is a legal assistant and was not intimidated by the way the employees of the Planning Commission were treating us. Hours of her valuable time were spent on the phone trying to make some sense out of all this. In preparation for the hearing, the codes were thoroughly examined and help also came from the Chief Animal Protection Officer who offered to testify in our behalf as he had seen the birds before and the conditions in which they were kept. The final preparation for the meeting was that the defendant was to get every neighbor in sight of the yard to sign a notice of the hearing date. This was done also without knowing which neighbor complained.

The day of the hearing came all too quickly but my mother, the Animal Protection Office, and myself with one of my whites arrived on time. The neighbors I least expected showed up, of course, and all there was to do was wait to be called. The meetings were taking no more than 15 minutes, that is until our meeting came up which lasted a full 50 minutes.

The neighbors were concerned about the depreciation of their property value due to the birds and also a horror story of spinal meningitis had apparently sparked the complaint. A construction worker was in the process of renovating an abandoned building which had been a haven for street pigeons for years. I took many pictures of the inside and outside of my loft which is kept very clean. The bedding is sifted once a day and the walking boards are scraped as well each day. There is also an ionizer which greatly reduces the dust. With all of this information in addition to the medication program that I used, the board appeared completely in my favor. In fact, they seemed to enjoy inspecting the live bird which I brought. The Animal Protection Officer gave his testimony which was the icing on the cake. We left in high spirits awaiting a verdict that afternoon. Sure enough, that afternoon it was affirmed that a special use permit was to be granted for an indefinite period. We were also told that this was the first case involving Fantails in the history of Henrico County.

How It All Started

by BOB FRANCE, Sterling, N.Y.

It all started in the year 1947. I was six years old at the time. I was visiting my cousin when I saw my first Fantail. We were playing in his backyard when I saw these two birds on the neighbor's lawn. They looked like wind up tin soldiers prancing around on their tip toes. I was fascinated with them and knew I had to have them. The man who owned them told me the best place to buy a pair was the state fair as all he had was the one pair and wouldn't sell them.

That same year my mother brought me to the state fair looking for Fantails. There must have been 200 of them all lined up in their cages. Carl Biddick from Buffalo, N.Y., owned most of them but was not there at the time. None of the other exhibitors were there

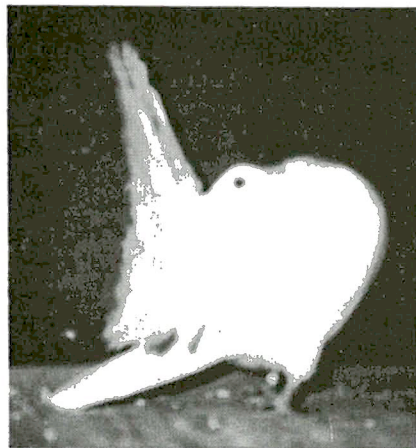
either. That meant no Fantails for me as that was the last day of the fair.

The following spring my Uncle from Schenectady, N.Y., sent me a pair of chocolate (Yellow) Fantails. (I wonder how he knew I wanted a pair). Since that time on I have never been without the fans.

In 1953, I had the pleasure of meeting Ray Ostrander who was judging fans at the New York State Fair. This was my introduction to quality Fantails. I purchased two pair of whites from Ray that fall for \$5.00 a pair. Since then, Ray has been instrumental in the development of my stud of Fantails. He has helped me many times over the years when I was in need of a bird for my breeding program. Ray is number one in my book.

Dick Greene from Hudson Falls, N.Y., was the most help in teaching me the good and bad points of the Fantail. I would visit Dick twice a year and he would set me in front of the judging pen and put bird after bird in and ask me what was wrong with them. (Dick had hundreds of birds). I got bored sometimes but never told him. He was my best friend in the fancy and I will never forget him.

I just started showing again last year after a ten year lay off. I lost most of my birds to a weasel which took the wind out of my sails. Thanks to some old friends and some new ones I have started a new stud and hope to continue showing. I have seen many familiar faces and many new faces at the shows and hope the new ones are as fortunate as I was in finding that one person who will be your teacher and your friend.



1992 White Fantail, never shown. - Bred by Bob France, Sterling, N.Y.

A Lifetime Of Fantails

by LLOYD J. GEIST, Gray, La.

Although it was January, 1926, that I first saw a Fantail, it would be many years before I owned my first one. As long as I can remember, my father had a subscription to the National Geographic Magazine and it was in the January 1926 issue that I saw a picture of Fantails in a painting from life by Hashime Murayama. There were also pictures of a dozen other breeds, Swallows, Frills, Pouters, Tumblers, Jacobins, etc., but, none caught my eyes as much as the Fantail. These paintings were featured along with an article by Elisha Hanson.

I was only five years old at the time, but for years I'd go back and look at the pictures until I just about wore that old National Geographic Magazine out.

A few years later my father helped me build a pen and, not knowing where to find any of these fancy breeds, he got me a few pairs of common barn pigeons, from my great uncle who had many of them and used them for the table. I was delighted with them and kept them until I was in high school and found a friend that raised white Kings. When I saw the Kings I had to have some of them so saved my nickels for several months until I had \$1.50 to buy one pair. Now I was in the King business and kept them until I joined the Air Force.

I finished Flying School in 1942 and flew 68 combat missions in the 9th Air Force in World War II. As soon as I was a civilian again, I had to have pigeons, and as luck would have it, I met a young man in my home town by the name of Raymond Naquin. Raymond, at that time, had several breeds of fancy pigeons, like those I had seen in the National Geographic: Oriental Frills, Tumblers and several others but no Fantails. When I asked him if he knew where I could get some, he introduced me to the APJ. Well, I couldn't wait for the first issue to come but finally it came and as luck would have it, a man in New Orleans had some for sale. I visited him and came home with two pair of Fantails, a pair of blues and one pair of whites. Needless to say, they were a far cry from Fantails of today but, at that time, I thought they were great as they were the first live ones I had ever seen. It would be sometime in the late 50's before I would be able to attend a Fantail show. I had continued getting the APJ and saw the show advertised in one of the issues. I had owned and operated my own flying business since 1947 without ever taking a vacation, so when I saw this Fantail show advertised, I decided to take a few days off and go. This show will always be the highlight of my life in the pigeon fancy.

As soon as I walked in the building, Jim Argall came up to me and introduced himself. He then took me over to meet Ray LaFleur, John Bolton and several other of the

old-timers of that era. They were a great bunch of people, even inviting me to their hotel room that night for the bull session.

I ended up getting several pairs of birds from Jim Argall, Ray LaFleur and John Bolton and bred them for at least eight years but never had the time to show any. All the shows were too far away and I just couldn't leave my business for that length of time. Finally, in 1970 we sold our home, airplanes, boats, pigeons and everything else but our automobiles and moved to Colorado to a little place my wife had bought the year before while she and my Mom and Dad were on a vacation. Little by little we got in the horse and cattle business, which I always wanted to do. There was a racing pigeon club there in Salida, Colorado and before I knew it, the members there had me into racing pigeons. After eight years and a big loss in the cattle business, we sold out again and moved back to South Louisiana where I returned to flying the oil industry.

I helped organize a racing pigeon club here and was active in it for several years but always had the Fantails on my mind so finally gave up the racers and decided to get back into my love.

It was 1988 before I attended another pigeon show of any size and this was the National Young Bird Show in Louisville. By this time, I was semi-retired and so decided to get a few pairs of Fantails again. I was constantly checking the show records in every bulletin and publication I could find and repeatedly found the name Bill Diemer always at, or near the top. I called Bill one night and ended up buying three pair of Blacks over the telephone. These would be my foundation and together with a Black cock I got

from Gary Summers and crossed on one of the hens from Bill, I think I now have an excellent start. It was my pleasure to visit with Bill and Joyce at their home in the fall of 1990 and needless to say, I learned more about Fantails than in all my previous years. He and Joyce have visited here in Houma with me and my wife Marilyn on two occasions. And to say Bill has helped me in raising and breeding and showing Fantails is an understatement.

Since that NYBS in 1988, I haven't missed one and hope to make them all from now on. The shows, the people you meet and friends you make are by far the things that give us the courage and enthusiasm to continue to try to breed that Champion Fantail.

My advice to newcomers is to find out who the top breeders are by checking the show reports. It need not be the winner but, the person whose name appears constantly in the upper four or five places in the larger classes

of say 12 to 25 entries. Contact these breeders and buy one or two pairs of the best you can afford. You will probably be eliminating many years of hit or miss breeding by investing a little more money, but getting birds more likely to produce show quality youngsters.

Another thing that turns some folks off is the tail lacing. I know I had my doubts too, but I have never attended a show where no one was more than willing to help. To name a few who helped me were Brenda and Wayne Bowman, Jerry Massorella, Dwight Crewdson, Gary Summers, Vickie Hixon, Rick Sparkman and the Master himself, Bill Diemer.

At Louisville this year, we paid tribute to Harry and Francis Hawkins at the Classic which was held in their honor. Two great people who have done so much for the Fantail hobby.

Fantails In The South

by ROY WINKLES, Powder Springs, Ga.

Fantails are alive and well in the south. The competition gets better every year. There are some really good Fantail breeders working with all the well known colors, and some not so well known colors and markings.

You can see many more good quality saddle Fantails than ever before in the south. The barred birds seem to be making a come back over the last few years, especially in leg setting. Whites and blacks are always competitive, and some of the best Tailmarks I've seen come out of the south. There are several breeders working on color projects ranging from faded blue to recessive red Tailmarks

and Mottles. Fantails in the south got quite a blow this year when Bob Roberts and Wayne Pasco left the hobby, but Bob will be back as strong as ever one day. On that note, I would like to say I feel it is up to all of us to do everything we can to promote our hobby, and get as many new fanciers as possible. If we don't promote the hobby and not ourselves, the future won't hold much for the new fanciers who follow.

If you don't show in the south, give us a try, you may be surprised by the people and the competition. Good luck to all.

*In fondest memory of
Gerald F. Champ and Earl Clark . . .*

Whose creation and continuance of
a Premier Stud of internationally known White Fantails
whose progeny have won and are still winning at major
Fantail Club Meets throughout the world.
Whose efforts on behalf of the Fantail Fancy they so dearly loved
made the world a little brighter for those of us who followed.

*Tom Pritchett
Bob Roberts*

WHITE FANTAILS



of Nationally
Known Quality
Prices Reasonable



Above: White Hen No. 15572
Winner N.Y., Chicago, L.A.

Left: White Cock No. 297.
Winner Pacific Fantail Assn.

Gerald F. Champ

3616 Garrison • San Diego, Calif. 92106

White Fantails Exclusively

TOM PRITCHETT

Fairmount, Okla.

73736

405-358-2202

Central Fantail Club
Master Breeder

National Pigeon
Assn.

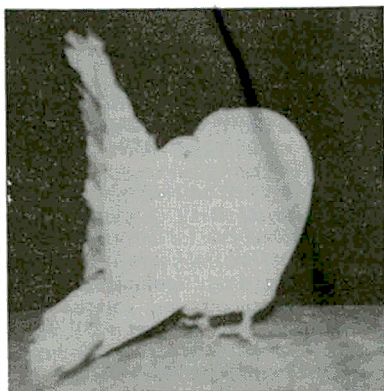
Master Breeder

I maintain a small stud of quality white Fantails that are mated and managed to reproduce Fantails nearer the ideal. I strive to place my Fantails in the toughest of competition, before the most knowledgeable and discriminating judges, wherever good Fantails are shown. When the leading Fantail breeders in the world come to you for foundation pairs and single birds to improve their present studs, there must be a reason. Consequently, this stud of Fantails and birds bred from this stud have won in every major Fantail meet in the United States, Canada, Europe and South Africa.

I have had an excellent breeding season and can supply some exciting pairs for fall and winter delivery.

Join and
Support
The Activities
of the

Central Fantail Club



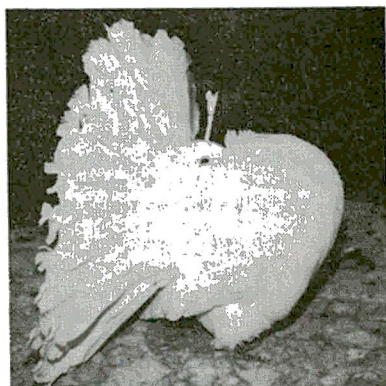
White YC #563

Grand Champion, CFC 5th District - 1988.



Compelling

Reserve Champion White, Central Fantail Club, 5th District Meet.



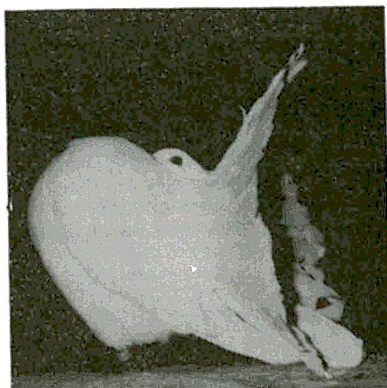
Rock

Reserve Grand Champion, Central Fantail Club 5th District Meet. Gene Altpeter - Judge 325 Fantails Competing.



Ice Princess

1st Yrlg. Hen, Central Fantail Club Meet.



Eastern Lady

Reserve Champion, Eastern Fantail Club Meet
Grand Champion, Central Fantail Club, 5th District Meet.



Rave Reviews

Three times 1st place winner. Grand Champion, Central Fantail Club Young Bird Show. 1st YH, Mid-America, 1st YH, Best YG White, CFC 5th District.

Standard & Standard Drawing

The Fantail is primarily a bird of type and action. "Type" meaning, to represent in terms of typical characteristics. "Action" meaning, behavior or method of performing. General requirements are the same for all Fantails and total 100 points. The first 75 points describe type; the remaining 25 points describe a Fantail in action (Carriage and Motion).

Fantails are to be judged by comparison. To assist judges in assigning proportionate values to the various desirable qualities, point values are listed. An advantage of 5 points may be allowed for excellence in plumage color of self and barred classes. There is no allowance for color in whites and NCC's (Non Classified Colors). An advantage of 5 points may also be allowed for excellence in marking and 5 points for color when patterns are involved, as in saddles, tailmarks and bodymarks.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

HEAD: - Small, fine and neat, free from peak or shell.

BEAK: - Thin and medium in length, the upper mandible slightly curved at the tip.

BEAK WATTLE: - Small and fine in texture.

EYES: - Clear, bright, alert. Eye cere as fine as possible.

NECK: - Thin, nicely curved and tapering well off as it approaches the head.

LENGTH OF NECK: - Corresponding with length of back, so as to enable the head to rest closely, in the center of and at the base of the cushion.

Points Allowed For Above Qualities 10

BODY: 1-Shape: - Small and round like a ball when viewed from any angle, showing a graceful curve from chest to feet. (A balanced medium sized bird, however, is preferred to a small bird deficient in other

important qualities).

2 - Chest: - Shape, round like a ball, carrying out rounded contour of the body.

3- Back: - Appearance of being slightly hollowed in center. Length of back shall be in proportion to length of neck, enabling the head to rest closely, in the center of and at the base of the cushion.

4- Rump: - Of sufficient size to balance the tail evenly.

Points Allowed For Body 20

CUSHIONS: -Front, full and massive, extending well up the tail feathers; Back, strong, wide, flaring, centered on tail.

TAIL: - Slightly concave, circular, closely filled with broad, evenly set feathers, well overlapping each other.

Points Allowed For Cushions and Tail . . 20

LEGS: - Moderately short to medium in length, not stilty, set well apart and forward so as to conform with the curve of the body line but without the appearance of buckling. Free from feathers, below the hocks.

FEET: - Small, fine, neat. Color of feet, bright red.

Points Allowed For Legs and Feet 15

PLUMAGE: - Clean, neat, hard and tight fitting.

Points Allowed For Plumage 10

CARRIAGE AND MOTION: -The bird should walk in a jaunty manner on its tip-toes with its head thrown back in a graceful manner and resting with ease, closely, constantly, in the center of and at the base of the cushion.

CHEST: - Full and round like a ball, carrying out the rounded contour of the body. Apparent upheaving of the chest when bird is in motion.

WINGS: - Neat, closely fitting to the body, showing body frontal, underbody

and part of thigh when viewed in profile. The wing butts shall be hidden so as to preserve an over-all appearance of roundness of the bird, with flights tight, not loose, just clearing the lowest tail feathers, almost meeting at the tips and not breaking away from the general line of the wings.

TAIL: - Carried well up, not being allowed to drop or incline forward, with as much top-tail as possible showing above the chest when viewed from the front and at eye level.

Points Allowed For Carriage and Motion..25

Total Points For General Requirements..100

PLUMAGE DESCRIPTIONS

EYE, EYE CERE, BEAK AND TOENAIL COLORATIONS

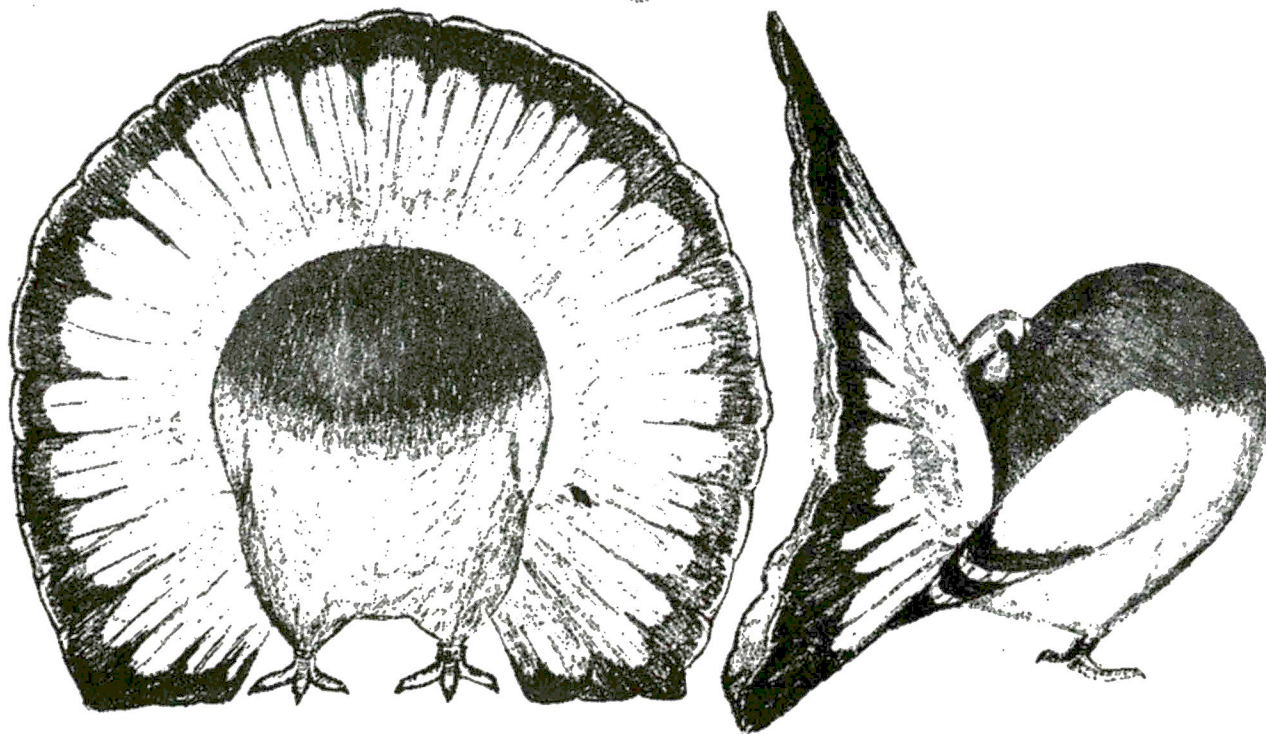
WHITE: Plumage - Pure white; Eyes and Eye Cere - Dark hazel or bull with flesh colored ceres; Beak - Flesh colored; Toenails - Flesh colored.

BLACK: Plumage - Jet black throughout. Free from rustiness or checkery appearance and covered with a rich beetle-green luster; Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with dark ceres; Beak - Black; Toenails - Black.

BLUE: Plumage - Clear, sound, gray-blue. Free from sootiness or bronzing, with no inclination to run light on rump or breast. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen. The wing and tail bars shall be black and well defined. The tail feathers shall be edged all around with the same shade as the shield area; Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with dark ceres; Beak - Black; Toenails - Black.

POWDERED BLUE: Plumage - Clear, sound, light, milky blue on body, wings and

(Continued On Next Page)



FANTAIL STANDARD DRAWING

tail. Free from sootiness with no tendency toward cream, yellow or purple coloring. Having the appearance of being lightly flecked but not checked with powder. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be slightly darker than the body and covered with an iridescent metallic sheen comparable to burnished silver. The neck and throat, like the body, wings and tail, shall be free of cream, yellow or purple coloring. The wing and tail bars shall be flat black, as near black as possible and shall be distinct. The feathers of the tail shall be edged beyond the terminal bar with the same color as the shield area.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl, red or orange, pearl preferred, with fine, dark ceres.

Beak - Horn colored.

Toenails - Horn colored.

SILVER: Plumage - A soft shade of light silver with no tendency toward a creamy color. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen. The wing and tail bars shall be dun and well defined. The tail feathers shall be edged all around with the same shade as the shield area.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn colored.

Toenails - Horn colored.

POWDERED SILVER: Plumage - Fawn colored on the body, wings and tail. Having the appearance of being sprinkled with a powdery glow. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be slightly darker than the body and covered with an iridescent metallic sheen. The wing and tail bars shall be distinct and dun colored. The tail feathers shall be edged beyond the terminal bar with the same color as the shield area.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn colored.

Toenails - Horn colored.

ANDALUSIAN: Plumage - The body and tail are to be an even shade of midnight blue, shading to black on the head and neck. The wings are lighter with dark blue edging on each feather. There shall be no tendency toward reddish or bronzy tones.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with dark cere.

Beak - Black.

Toenails - Black.

RED: Plumage - An even shade throughout of clear, rich, bright, chestnut, free from sootiness or any tendency toward bluish or plum tints. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with flesh colored ceres.

Beak - Flesh colored.

Toenails - Flesh colored.

YELLOW: Plumage - An even shade throughout of rich, bright, golden-buff with no tendency to run light on the rump. The feathers on the neck and throat shall be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with flesh colored ceres.

Beak - Flesh colored.

Toenails - Flesh colored.

ALMOND: Plumage - The ground color of the almond is a rich, golden-buff, that of the interior of an almond nut shell from which the name is derived. Rich black flecking shall be dispersed throughout the plumage. Flights (primaries and secondaries) and tail feathers are to be splotched

irregularly with distinct patches of ground color, white and black. The white splotches in the tail feathers are to be positioned in such a way that the appearance of a white terminal bar is produced.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with flesh colored ceres.

Beak - Flesh colored preferred, horn permitted.

Toenails - Flesh colored.

DUN: Plumage - A soft even shade of dull brown with no tendency toward a purple or bluish tint. The feathers of the neck and throat shall be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn.

Toenails - Horn.

BROWN: Plumage - An even shade of rich, chocolate brown throughout. The color is quite similar to dun but brown is an intense coloration whereas dun is a dilute. Brown tends to fade more readily in the sun.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn.

Toenails - Horn.

CREAM: Plumage - The body and the wing color is a very soft cream-gray blend, shading to a rich golden cream on head and hackle. The wing bars shall be a rich golden cream. Tail, a very pale cream-gray shading to ash-white with as little flecking as possible with no flecking at all preferred.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with light horn colored ceres.

Beak - Light horn.

Toenails - Light horn.

MEALY: Plumage - The body and wing color shall be a clear lavender-gray shading to a rich claret-red on head and hackle. The bars shall be a rich claret-red. The tail is an even shade of lavender-gray with as little flecking as possible with no flecking at all preferred.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Pearl or orange, pearl preferred, with drab colored ceres.

Beak - Horn colored.

Toenails - Horn colored.

CHECKER: Plumage - Checker is a pattern but is shown as a "color class" with consideration given to balance in pattern and richness in color. The pattern varies with the amount of light colored pigment base. The checker pattern is made up of light and dark colored shades of the same color. The light color appears as a "T" on the wing covert feathers. Checker class includes checkers in all basic colors (ash red, blue and brown) as well as their dilutes. It also can include checkers that have had their pigment modified by reduced, milky, pale, and the like, that leaves the checker appearance. Checkers are various patterns that range from light to dark to velvet "T" pattern checks.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Same coloration as that of basic color.

Beak - Same as that of basic color.

Toenails - Same as that of basic color.

GRIZZLE: Plumage - A peppery combination of color and white. The grizzling effect is most noticeable on the body, shoulder, neck and head while nearly absent on the wing and tail bars. Grizzle can be bred in all colors, patterns and markings as well as in conjunction with many other pigment affecting factors (dilute, milky,

etc.). The classical "dragoon grizzle" is the expression on a blue bar. Tortoiseshell effects are produced when grizzle is in conjunction with checker. Pure grizzle produces storkmark. Grizzle in combination with spread or recessive red can produce an evenly grizzled bird but most often produces black or red splashed appearing birds.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Same as that of basic color.

Beak - Same as that of basic color.

Toenails - Same as that of basic color.

SADDLE: Plumage - The wings shall be marked evenly, the ten outside feathers (primaries) being white, the rest, including the covert (shield) and scapular (thumb) feathering to be colored. The body, except for the back, shall be white. In barred varieties the wing barring shall be clear and distinct. The colored plumage shall follow the rules for color under appropriate color description for the basic color and pattern involved.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Dark hazel or bull with flesh colored ceres.

Beak - Flesh colored.

Toenails - Flesh colored.

TAILMARK: Plumage - The tailmark is basically a bird with a white body and a colored tail. It is bred in all the standard colors. The color intensity of the tail may vary from an intense solid to a delicate lace. A white back cushion is preferred. Uniformity of marking is desired.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Dark hazel or bull with flesh colored ceres.

Beak - Flesh colored.

Toenails - Flesh colored.

BODYMARK: Plumage - Basically a colored bird with a white tail. Bodymarks can be bred in all the basic colors. The body plumage shall follow the rules for that of its basic color. The front cushion shall be colored. The back cushion shall be white.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Same as that of its basic color.

Beak - Same as that of its basic color.

Toenails - Same as that of its basic color.

SPLASH: Plumage - A colored bird with between 25% and 75% of its plumage randomly dispersed white.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Varied color.

Beak - Varied color.

Toenails - Varied color.

MISMARKE: Plumage - A colored bird with less than 25% of its plumage white. A white bird with less than 25% of its plumage colored. A tailmark with less than 75% of its tail feathers carrying color. A bodymark with less than 75% of its tail feathers white. A saddle with less than 75% color in the shield area.

Eyes and Eye Cere - Same as that of its basic color or marking.

Beak - Same as that of its basic color or marking.

Toenails - Same as that of its basic color or marking.

AOC: (Any Other Color) This classification is to be used for *recognized* colors where classes are too small to be competitive. As all birds in this class will be of recognized colors, color and/or marking points will be awarded. This class is not to be used as a catch-all for mismarked birds. Rules pertaining to individual plumage descriptions, eye, eye cere and toenail colorations shall apply.

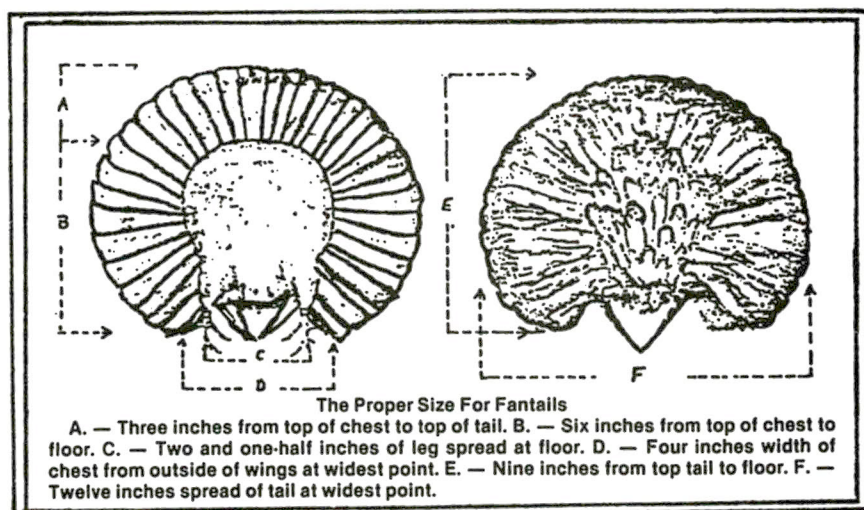
NCC: (Non Classified Color) This classification is to be used for those colors

that have not as yet been recognized. It is also to be used for marked birds of a color that has not as yet been recognized as well as for any new marking that has not as yet been recognized. There will be no allowance for color and/or marking points for birds competing in this classification.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Any sign of sickness - Coughing, sneezing, canker, diarrhea, going light.
2. Deformities - Webbed feet, crooked mandibles, pock disfigurements.
3. External parasites - Lice, mites. □

APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENTS OF THE IDEAL FANTAIL



Interviews With Past Masters

— Introduction —

As many of you know, in the mid-80's, I wrote a column in the APJ for the Central Fantail Club. In these articles I interviewed a number of our top Fantail Breeders. Of the four breeders this Fantail Special is dedicated to, I was fortunate enough to have interviewed three of the four Fantail breeders. I didn't get to interview Bob Evans and to tell you the truth, Bob and I had talked about working something up for years, however we just missed connections.

Here are the interviews with Ray Ostrander, Bill Warner and Earl Clark. I hope these interviews will bring back some forgotten memories or if you didn't get a chance to meet these breeders, maybe this will give you a better picture of who these great Fantail breeders really were like.

Earl Clark

(This interview was taken from the May 1987 issue of the American Pigeon Journal).

This month's Breeder of the Month segment is going to take a little different twist. Some three years ago when I started writing this column, I introduced the Breeder of the Month and over the last three years we have all learned more about Fantails and the people who keep them. I've had a lot of fun with this and have enjoyed the letters and phone conversations with some of North America's top Fantail breeders. To date, I've brought 29 Fantail breeders into your home, through the APJ.

Like many times when we start something new, we tend to get a little better as time passes. Such was the case with the articles you've seen in the CFC News. In the first article, I wrote on a man who has the most consistent White studs of Fantails in the world. Being he was the first to be interviewed, I thought it was time to do another interview in more detail. The first interview was short and only touched on the highlights of this great breeder and the Fantails he inherited from another of our great masters of our hobby, Gerald Champ.

The man I'm talking about, if you haven't

already figured it out, is "The Godfather of Fantails," Earl Clark. Earl is truly a unique individual and once you've had the opportunity to sit and talk with him, you'll see just how knowledgeable this man is about Fantails. Also it must be noted that he's been able to maintain the quality of this stud of Fantails, which have survived over 80 years of breeding, with only a couple outcrosses.

This interview will not be able to be printed in just one issue of the APJ. I'm going to include half the interview in this month's issue and the second part in the following issue. I hope to do this type of article on a few more breeders who just can't be handled in one issue. The following is part one of this two-part interview with Earl Clark - "The Godfather of Fantails."

Moppin - Earl, in what state were you born and where did you spend your youth?

Clark - Hatched May 24, 1924 in Elgin, Ill. Lived in and around Elgin until October of 1941.

Moppin - I know you're retired now, would you tell our readers what you did for a living before you retired?

Clark - I was in the U.S. Navy for 20 years and then after retiring I went to work for the

Navy Resole System in San Diego, CA. I retired as a manager of seven stores.

Moppin - How many children did you and your wife have?

Clark - We have four children and two grandchildren.

Moppin - What other hobbies are you involved with besides breeding Fantails?

Clark - I'm a firm believer in keeping busy and you can fool with your birds so much. So my other hobby is wheeling and dealing in electric trains. I have a nice collection of old H.O.'s and I also enjoy restoring them as well.

Moppin - That's interesting Earl. I had no idea that you were a train collector.

We all have our favorite Fantails and I'm sure someone who has bred Fantails as long as you have must have at least one that stands out above all the rest? Also what made this particular bird special to you?

Clark - That's an easy one. Black hen, band no. 504(59). She was my first good one. I've raised better ones since, but she will always have a special place in my heart and would you believe in all my years raising pigeons, she is the only bird I've ever seen lay her first egg, or any egg for that matter.

Moppin - What's the funniest or most unusual story about Fantails or their keepers you've ever heard?

Clark - John, that's a tough one. Gerald Champ was a great story teller, who I could listen to by the hours. He told me one about Havemeyer who use to rent the old Madison Square Gardens for Fantail meets.

Or there's one about Hanson, who used to send his wife (by boat in those days) to England and other parts of Europe to buy not only the best Fantails available but also show chickens, dogs and cattle.

But then those were just a couple of stories Gerald would tell. He wrote and received many letters from Fantail Fanciers around the world.

Moppin - How about the most humorous thing you've seen at a Fantail meet?

Clark - Well that would have to be on me. At the Central Fantail Meet in Kansas City, 1983. While seated, watching Dick Ury judging this meet, minding my own business, with my back to the holding cages, a White Fantail on the top cage unloaded about a weeks supply all over my neck and the back of my shirt. You talk about a pigeon putting a guy in his place!

Moppin - I remember that incident Earl. In fact, I didn't have the nerve then to tell you, but that bird was one of mine. While everyone was having fun with you over what happened, I was holding my breath hoping you wouldn't ask, "Who's bird is this that just dumped on me?!" But you didn't, you just laughed and went out to change your shirt. By the way Earl, I do remember that the chair stayed unoccupied for the rest of the day.

Back to the interview - my next question is, in what year did you assume the responsibilities of the Gerald Champ Fantails?

Clark - It was one day in 1973 that Champ called me and asked if I would come and get the birds. He wanted me to bring them to my home as it was getting too hard for him to take care of them. So we took them to my house and officially became partners. He really missed having the birds at his home and in 1974 we took a few pair back to his loft. However, Gerald only kept them for a month or so when he decided it was just too much for him. After that, I did all the matings and also selected the birds that were to be shown.

Moppin - That must have been a tough time for you to see a good friend having to give up the one thing that brought you together. Mr. Champ was truly fortunate to have someone like yourself to take over his stud. Also it must be noted that Earl not only took over this strain, but also improved this family to the quality it is today. It's one thing to assume the responsibility of someone's life work, but to improve on those accomplishments and to continue to improve on it year after year is truly something to be proud about.

Clark - I know Mr. Champ also bred Yel-

low Fantails as well as his famous Whites. Did he breed any other colors besides the Whites and Yellows and what happened to those birds?

Clark - By the time I became acquainted with Gerald, all he had were the Whites and Yellows. At one time he did have Blues and Silvers some time before we met. I'm sure he told me what happened to those birds, but I just don't remember anymore.

Something that few know about today, he also had one of the finest studs of Jacobins around, in those early years. But again, I don't know what happened to them.

Moppin - Earl, what makes your stud of White Fantails so much different than the other strains we've seen?

Clark - Probably the reason is the purity of the strain, plus the breeding. It is rare that a strain works without bringing in different birds. Up until this year it has stayed that way until I brought in a bird from outside and it was at least 75% Champ. The father of this bird I raised and the only reason I used it was for a little shot of fresh blood. However, I'll be very careful how it's used. I won't hesitate to throw it out if I don't feel it's not at least equal to my existing stud.

Also the culling is very important. Birds that are kept or sold that have glaring faults, (such as poor leg setting, off-set head position, pot lids, etc.) then you're just kidding yourself. There is only one place for those birds, "in the trash cans." Those faults will come back to haunt you one way or another, you can count on that.

Something else, this is supposed to be a hobby and those breeders who sell these birds are not only hurting the fancy, but in the long run themselves.

Remember! Cull till it hurts, then you're culling right!

Moppin - Believe it or not we have to stop for now. I went into so much depth on the interview, that due to the space allotted to this column, I had to split it into two issues.

Come back next month for the conclusion of this interview with "The Godfather of Fantails," Earl Clark. Until next month, good health to you and yours.

(The next part of this interview was taken from the June 1987 issue of the American Pigeon Journal).

Part Two of Two
"Breeder of the Month"

You will recall that last month I told you I'd have to split the Earl Clark interview into two issues. I'd encourage you to dig out last month's issue and re-read the Breeder of the Month segment to refresh your mind on what we're doing.

Hopefully you've read it by now and we'll proceed with the interview.

Moppin - Earl, how old is the Champ/Clark strain?

Clark - I have a few ribbons from 1907 that Champ won. So it's at least 85 years old.

Moppin - There seems to be a lot of talk these days on how many pair of breeders one

should keep. A few years ago the magic number was six pair, but when these small studs started playing themselves out, the number went from six pair to 12 pair. What are your thoughts on this and how many pair do you think a breeder should work up to?

Clark - I don't think it makes any difference how many pair you breed from. What's important is how it's done. If you want or have room for only six pair, then every few years you must bring in some fresh blood. Remember, I said FRESH, not NEW. And, of course, it must be a good bird which carries a large percentage of the blood you're breeding from. I've watched an outstanding stud of Fantails go down the tubes for this very reason.

I've arrived at 15 pair minimum for my program. For many years, I bred from 25 pair of Whites and now in my new loft I have room for 24 pair, which I'll get into later.

Moppin - Is there something special you do to keep track of 25 (more or less) pair of Fantails?

Clark - No, not really. I just keep a good set of breeding records, some notes and what I've stored in my head.

Moppin - How close do you mate your Fantails?

Clark - Because of the age of this strain, I never mate my birds very close. For example: brother/sister, father/daughter, etc. All of my birds are related so I won't mate close. However, I think if you have bought birds from different sources, then these matings must be made to set the good points. Also, extremely heavy culling must be made because you'll also be setting bad points.

Moppin - Our good friend Ed Karnish of Omaha, Nebraska, paid you a visit a couple of years ago and he told me you seem to like matings using the large cocks on the smaller hens. What are your thoughts on this type of mating?

Clark - This is one of my favorite subjects. Yes, I like to use what I call power cocks. I really don't think of them as large, but they do have huge tails, stand about 7 inches and have a lot of go to them. Also, they're well balanced Fantails. They may look larger than they really are because of the size of their tails and their vigor. The name of the game is overall balance. Sure I like those small ones for the showroom, but when you get them too small you start losing the legs, tails, head pocket and plus the breeding ability. So I guess you could say I like a medium bird. The real key is balance though. We, as Fantail breeders, keep going to a certain point that develops into a fad and other points suffer.

Moppin - Earl, in all your years of breeding Fantails, what one bird stands out in your mind as being the best Fantail you've ever seen and who owned this bird?

Clark - I've seen a lot of good Fantails - a few I've raised and I've judged some good

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ones. However, the one Fantail that still comes to memory would have to be a Silver hen raised by Rod Hatcher. This hen was Grand Champion at the Central, the Eastern, and he also shipped some birds to me for the Pacific. As I uncrated Rod's birds this Silver hen stood out like a sore thumb. She was just all power. I have no idea how she would do today, but she would be right there with the best.

Needless to say she won the Pacific. She was the only bird then to win the three biggies. Later I told Rod he should name his Silver and he agreed but said "What?" Then I came up with the name "Silver Belle." He liked it and agreed she'd be Silver Belle. She ended up being on the cover of his Fantail book.

Moppin - Have you or are you breeding any other breeds of pigeons?

Clark - I'm only breeding Fantails at the present, but I like a lot of other breeds of pigeons. There are very few breeds I haven't had from one time or another. I've had some pretty good ones too. In fact, my lovely wife, at one time, had the best Parlor Rollers in the country. Also raised a Roller once that the late Bill Pensom tired to buy.

When I moved to Florida I got rid of my West of Englands. I wish now I would have brought about three pair of them with me.

Also, when I go to a show, I like to look at all the pigeons and there are very few I don't like.

Moppin - Are you breeding any other colors in Fantails besides White?

Clark - Yes, I'm trying. I've always been attracted to Saddles. I picked up a couple birds here and there and I'm crossing my Whites into them. I'm also using a Black Saddle cross I got from Drew Lobenstein. So far I've made a little progress the past year. I'm seeing a little progress each year and I know it's going to be a long project.

This marking doesn't have many good ones and the last good one I saw was Bob Kinginger's that he showed at the CFC - Ray LaFleur Classic.

Today, I ask around to see if anyone is raising any good ones and from time to time, I hear about one, but then I've never seen it.

I'm probably too fussy about what a good one should look like and then maybe I'm also going at it all wrong. But I keep coming up with a couple ideas of how to make them and I'm going to keep at it.

Moppin - There seems to be a select few of top Fantail breeders who have a natural ability for mating the right birds and producing champion caliber Fantails year after year. Do you think this is mostly luck or do they do something different? You're one of those breeders that always seems to keep your birds consistent year after year. I'd like to have your views on this.

Clark - Every fancier has their own ideas on mating Fantails, but I believe the good breeders use about the same method. As for the luck side, there are those guys who raise

one Fantail that is far superior to anything else in his loft. This does happen, but to be consistent year after year you must have good birds to start with. This is accomplished by carefully selecting your matings, which there are no short cuts. It can be a long drawn out job. I don't go out one day and say, "okay, this is the day I mate my birds" and just put them together. My matings start right after the moult. I'll start a list of what I feel would improve my birds and try to find a mating that will give me this.

As far as finding a particular mate for a bird, I'll try to find a mate that is outstanding in those qualities needed to make that mating. This takes a lot of time, to do it right, and after the sight mating is completed on a pair, I'll go to my breeding records. I'll go back about three generations to see if there's any problem that would hurt the particular mating, and if there is a problem I do it all over again.

In all my years of breeding Fantails and all the colors I've had, I can count on one hand how many times I've re-mated the same pair the next year. I try to improve each year and it's just not possible if you have the same birds each year.

Also, you should breed from enough pairs so your birds don't get too close. This will give you a nice large selection to choose from.

Another point I'd like to bring up again is we all breed culls, mine all go into the trash. I'll never attempt to sell them. If a bird isn't good enough for me to breed from, then it isn't good enough for anyone else.

I enjoy the mating season; in fact, it's the best time of the year for me. I seem to always get a couple of surprises that I hadn't counted on.

Moppin - Earl, I've been told a number of times by breeders who have visited your loft that you don't show your best. Is there any truth to this?

Clark - Well! That is true for a variety of reasons. Many of you who have been to my loft have seen them. I breed from quite a few pair of Whites. I like to think that each and every one are show quality. I may show different birds at different shows, but most of my birds do have show records. However, I've had a few Fantails that I won't show. The reason is I just don't want to take the chance of losing them. I've got two cocks in my loft right now that will never leave my loft. I feel they're too valuable to me. In fact, I was offered a blank check for one of them. Some things just can't be bought. This is my hobby. I'm not in this to sell birds. I really don't sell all that many birds.

Moppin - This last question is left open for you to say whatever you'd like. If you have something you'd like to say to the Fantail fancy, now would be the time.

Clark - The subject of judging comes to mind. I've done a lot of serious thinking on this subject. We tend to put a lot of pressure on a judge when we ask him to place one bird

over half in a class. We have no major faults or disqualifications to place the birds in those lower classes. So the judge will have to decide on the 24th and 25th placing and he's getting confused, the rest of the birds are getting tired, and the rest of the fanciers are twiddling their thumbs. I think no more than five placings are needed. This will also give more room for the best birds to do their thing. This gives the judge a better chance to concentrate on a smaller number of Fantails and he'll do a better job.

I'm sure you've noticed there is better judging in the smaller class and in smaller shows. If you listen to yourself and those around you, you'll hear: "He got the smaller class really good, but he missed the big class in the placing."

Judging is no easy job and a lot of times I've felt sorry for the judge. We're just asking too much from him. I've seen some weird things happen in the show room, some intentional, but most of the time it's just because the judge gets confused. When this happens, you know he knows better.

Another pet peeve of mine is sale birds in the show room. Jamming a bunch of birds into cages and calling it the sell section just cheapens the show. Pull the heads on your culls, don't try to peddle them to some poor guy who's trying to find some decent Fantails. All this does is hurt the hobby.

Yes, I've sold birds in the show room. But they were entered in the show, with the entry fee paid!

Sale birds should be kept in your car or in your motel room. It distracts the show.

Fantails today are more popular than ever. As I finish my 28th breeding season, I can look back and see they're better in quality than ever before. The new colors that have been developed in the past 15 years has been a real shot in the arm. The Queen of the Fancy is a great hobby and takes a certain type of person to raise and show them. It's the breed in the pigeon world that really stands out above the rest.

The fellowship is just outstanding and the list of people I've met and consider my good friends would be too great to list. You know, I sure think an awful lot of all you great people who make this hobby so enjoyable.

Moppin - Earl, I've really enjoyed the correspondence and the phone calls that led up to this interview. I'd like to thank you for all your time and for giving yourself to the Fantail fancy for the past 30 years or so. The fancy just wouldn't be the same without you.

For those of you who didn't realize it, Earl and I have worked on this interview for the past 12 months. I think it says a lot for someone who is willing to give as much of himself as Earl has.

Earl has a lot of class and his White Fantails have probably done more for our fancy than any other stud in the world.

While most of the Fantail fancy has jumped from fad to fad, the Champ/Clark strain of White Fantails have stood strong

and constant in the rapid changing world of the Fantail fancy.

We are truly fortunate that there is somewhere we can go to put our own programs back on track. One has to wonder where we'd be today if we didn't have those strong and steady Fantail breeders like Earl Clark,

to fall back on when our studs need that shot of fresh blood to get things going again.

Earl Clark - A man who has mastered the fine art of breeding and showing one of the more complex birds known to the pigeon fancy. A man who has spent half his life with one thing in mind, keeping his chosen pigeon

breed as close to the standard of perfection without being drawn into those up and down fads that have destroyed the top strains through the Fantail fancy's history. The Master and teacher: Earl Clark - The Godfather of Fantails.

Bill Warner

(This interview was taken from the October 1986 issue of the American Pigeon Journal.)

This month's Breeder of the Month is Bill Warner of Bellevue, Ohio. Bill is well known by all Fantail breeders across North America as a top competitor who has done a lot to improve the Fantail. The following is an interview I gave Bill. I'm sure you'll enjoy his answers and, if you're not careful, learn something that you can use in your own program.

Moppin - List the offices you've held with a Fantail Club.

Warner - I've held the Ohio State director's job for the Great Lakes Fantail Club for five years.

Moppin - List the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions you've had at CFC Meets. When and Where?

Warner - I've only shown at three CFC Meets, as I'm not a great winter traveler. I've shown at their two largest shows, the Ray LaFleur Classic and the Altpeter Classic. In these two shows I won several classes. At the Dayton, Ohio, meet in 1981, I won Champion White with one White entry, Champion Powdered Blue and Reserve Champion Blue and also had many favorable comments by many of the other exhibitors on those two color Champions.

Moppin - List the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions you've had with other Fantail Clubs. When and where?

Warner - I had Grand Champion and Reserve Champion with the 1st Great Lakes Fantail Annual Meet in 1971 at Hartford City, Ind.; Reserve Champion in 1972 at the G.L.F.C. Annual Meet in Hartford City, Ind.; Reserve Champion at the G.L.F.C. National Young Bird Show in 1973 at Louisville, KY; Grand Champion with the G.L.F.C. Annual Meet in 1973 in Hartford City, Ind.; Grand Champion with the G.L.F.C. Annual Meet in 1975, Hartford City, Ind.; Reserve Champion at the G.L.F.C. National Young Bird Show in 1977 at Louisville, KY; Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, G.L.F.C. National Young Bird Show in Louisville, KY, 1979; Reserve Champion, G.L.F.C. Annual Meet 1979, Hammond, Ind. Most of these wins were with Blues, but I did have a couple whites and powdered blues win too. I also sold (?) one Grand Champion at another Fantail Club meet in 1982, which was a white, that pleased me as much as winning myself, even though I never received payment for that shipment of birds. I guess we all

learn the hard way.

Moppin - Who do you feel helped you in your early days of breeding Fantails?

Warner - None other than one of the greatest Fantail men we ever had, Karl Otto. I only regret I didn't spend more time visiting him. My Blues and Whites were all started from him. I also got an Altpeter pair of Whites and a Champ White cock involved also. I still have the shipping crate the Altpeter pair arrived in, in 1958. This crate I put overhead in my garage and somehow it has survived and never gotten thrown out over the years. It still has the address label on it.

Moppin - What Fantail or Fantails which you've seen at a past Fantail Meet, sticks in your mind as being near perfect? Who owned this bird and where did you see it?

Warner - This is a tough one as there have been several very good Fantails at shows I've attended in the last five to eight years. However, two Fantails that stick in my mind the most is a Blue cock #1055 (I believe) that Gordon Larson won Champion Blue with at several CFC Meets. I only saw him once myself at the Dayton, Ohio, CFC Meet, where he beat me for Best Blue and I felt he was good enough to win anywhere.

The other I would have been most proud to have raised was a beautiful Silver Hen that was shown by Ray LaFleur which was Reserve Champion at the great LaFleur Classic at Madison, Wisconsin.

Another man's birds that I've always admired through their photos is Ray Ostrander. Good Fantails are really spread around now and one never knows where the next Champion will come from. Larson is riding such a streak at the present and it will be no easy task to unseat him. He knows what a good one should look like and knows how to get them. Today you have to be good and also a little lucky.

Moppin - What faults have you personally found more difficult to keep out of a family of Fantails? How can this problem be controlled?

Warner - The two faults I had the most trouble with were leg setting and head setting. These faults seemed to pop up on those real full rounded body birds that I seemed to like most. The only way to control these faults, or any other faults for that matter, is to carefully select your breeders and not using too many of those birds in your breeding program. I will use some, however, if they are extremely good otherwise. On the other hand I have found if you look at only up front

legs then it's easy to lose the good full round body. Motion and Carriage is an important 25 points, but what good is it if all you have is a straight up and down, wing butts showing Fantail? It's the balanced combo we want.

Moppin - Bill, what part of the Fantail fancy do you enjoy most?

Warner - I enjoy the breeding season and watching the youngsters develop. I also enjoy visiting with other breeders at the shows and home. After 25 plus years of showing throughout Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, I've lost some of the enthusiasm I once had for the showing side of the Fantail fancy. After all, it is only one person's opinion on the placings on that one day, for a few too fleeting minutes.

Moppin - What colors are you presently working with and how many pair of each color?

Warner - Five pair of Blues, five pair of Powdered Blues/Powdered Silver, two pair of Silvers, three pair of Whites, three pair of Black Saddles, two pair of Red Saddles, one pair of Blacks and two pair of Grizzle matings.

Moppin - What does the term "Overall refinement" mean to you?

Warner - As close to the standard as possible, in all areas with that smooth easy, slow walking - motion and carriage. Plus neat hard tight feather quality, on a clean well conditioned Fantail.

Moppin - In looking to the future, what goals have you presently set for you and your Fantails, or is there something that Bill Warner hasn't accomplished in the Fantail fancy?

Warner - I just hope I can continue to raise some good quality Fantails that place well when I do show at competitive Fantail meets. I like raising Grand Champions as well as any serious breeders, but I have had a few in my time and if I never raise another, I'll be thankful for what I had. Some fanciers are never fortunate enough to get one. There's a lot of things I haven't accomplished yet, like breeding that Grand Champion Saddle. I'd like to beat Bob McKee and others at the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, KY, or the Central Fantail Meet. That would really put the frosting on the cake.

I have been extremely pleased that so many fanciers that have stock that can be traced back to my bloodline who are doing very well in the showroom. Some better than

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Moppin - You're considered one of the Masters at setting-down a Fantail (Preparing a Fantail for show). Is there any helpful tips you can give to the less experienced breeders that may help them to better prepare their own birds?

Warner - I don't feel I do anything different than most other veteran exhibitors when it comes to setting-down a Fantail to show. There have been several good articles written on this subject. Mostly have a clean, well conditioned Fantail, then mastering the tail lacing are the main items. Walking pen training is also very important, as a Fantail can't

be wild and do well in the show pens. This should begin when they're youngsters.

Moppin - Bill, I like to leave the last part of the interview open so our Breeder of the Month can say what he wants. Is there anything you'd like to say to the Fantail Fancy?

Warner - I feel some of the prices being asked for Fantails are getting way out of hand. After all, it is supposed to be a hobby, not a business. High prices are keeping new fanciers out of our hobby. I think extremely good show type birds deserve a good price, but some of these stock birds are priced much too high. Very good Fantails can still be bought from a few of the top breeders for

\$50.00 a bird. I've seen some \$200.00 pairs that were way over priced, for what they were. Let's not get like the auto industry and go price crazy for low quality merchandise.

Moppin - I agree with you 100% Bill. It's bad enough for a beginner to have to pay the big bucks for a Fantail, but then to pay all the money for a mediocre stock bird. What a novice needs is the best he/she can get hold of. But everyone knows my views on this subject, so I won't say anymore.

Bill, thank you for taking time to answer my questions. The Fantail fancy is very fortunate to have breeders who are willing to share what they've learned over the years.

Ray Ostrander

(This interview was taken from the February 1985 issue of the American Pigeon Journal.)

The following questions were asked by myself and answered by Ray Ostrander:

Moppin - List the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions you've had with the Central Fantail Club.

Ostrander - It would have been a gratifying feeling if I could say that I had won a Championship at a Central Fantail Club annual meet but I never did. In the late 1930's I showed saddles at Central meet with some success. When I first started in whites in the 1950's, I exhibited a few of them to ascertain the quality of what I had. I have not shown at the Central since that time.

Moppin - List the Grand Champions and Reserve Champions you've had with other clubs.

Ostrander - My first Champion at a club meet was a powdered blue hen (called powdered silver then) which won the Reserve Championship at the Eastern Fantail Club meet of 1960 held with the National Pigeon Association Show in Atlantic City. She is pictured in Hatcher's "The Fantail Handbook." My most exciting championship came in 1961 when my white cock, "Reading," won the Grand Championship at the Eastern Fantail Club meet. I moved to Massachusetts that year and have not exhibited at an E.F.C. annual meet since. I did show at one Eastern Fantail Club young bird show in 1974 when I won Grand Champion with a young hen. Since 1961, my exhibiting at club meets has been confined to those held by the Northeastern Fantail Club. At these meets I won the Reserve Championship in 1968 and the Grand Championships in 1969, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1981 and 1983.

Moppin - List any awards the C.F.C. awarded you.

Ostrander - None. I just have not been active enough in the C.F.C. to merit any.

Moppin - List any awards any other clubs awarded you.

Ostrander - The American Pigeon Club awarded me the Master Breeder designation.

Moppin - We all have one or two Fantail breeders that have helped us get started, someone who helped us in answering questions or letting us have those birds that really got us started in the right direction. Who helped you in the beginning of your involvement with Fantails?

Ostrander - William J. Onink of Buffalo, N.Y., was most helpful to me when I started breeding saddle Fantails. Col. Hugh Rose and his son, Hugh A.C. Rose, onetime top Canadian breeders, obtained their foundation in saddles from Mr. Onink. One of my red saddles is pictured in Levi's "The Pigeon." Elisha Hanson was also helpful in my early years in the fancy. In the years since Bob Kinginger has contributed more than he probably knows to my knowledge of Fantails and of Fantail breeding.

Moppin - What part of the fancy to you enjoy most?

Ostrander - I enjoy my Fans at home most. I like to watch them parade. It is a great pleasure to see the young ones develop.

Moppin - Many of the Fantail breeders know that you've retired from showing. Will you elaborate on this?

Ostrander - At the 1983 Northeastern Fantail Club meet I was particularly fortunate in my winnings in white, red and A.O.C. One has to stop showing sometime. I was beginning to feel severe physical strain in connection with my exhibiting. I noticed that Mrs. Ostrander, who is my partner in Fans, was being similarly affected. I decided that it was time to discontinue exhibiting while we were ahead both in health and in winnings. The wisdom of that decision was verified rather forcefully a few weeks ago. I collapsed at a horse show and then spent a few days in the intensive care unit of a hospital 75 miles from my home.

Moppin - Over the years I've heard about the great Ostrander whites. Have you ever used an outcross into this family and how did you use them?

Ostrander - My foundation in white Fantails came from Elisha Hanson. At that time his whites were mostly of the Jim Glasgow-

Havemeyer strain. That was in 1949 when I lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In 1953, Gerald Champ sent me a hen that proved useful. In 1958, Eugene Altpeter, Sr., let me have a good white cock that also helped me. Two pairs of Glasgow-strain birds from Wolf Dettmer of New Jersey really did get me going in the right direction. (The last that I knew Mr. Dettmer was still alive and breeding Fantails in his native West Germany). From 1961 through 1983, I did not breed from a white that I had not raised. This year I have bred from two white cocks that my good friend, Bob DeAdder of New Jersey let me have. They are descendants of a hen which Bob obtained from me hence this was not a complete outcross. One of the two sired several good ones suitable for retention in my loft.

Moppin - What colors are you working with and how many pairs?

Ostrander - In 1984, I have bred from two pairs of reds and seven pairs of whites. I left the tail completely untrimmed on two of the pairs of whites.

Moppin - How do you decide which Fantails to breed from and which ones are discarded?

Ostrander - This is a difficult question to answer in a brief paragraph. I try to match birds so that between them each pair will possess so far as possible all of the desirable qualities. Naturally, neither bird of the pair will have all of these good qualities. I spend a great deal of time thinking about the qualities of the parents and grandparents, too.

Moppin - Is there one fault that you won't breed from in your Fantails?

Ostrander - No, but I try not to breed from any with small tails, poor head setting, or poorly placed legs.

Moppin - My last question is an open question. I'd like to have you include something we newer Fantail breeders could do to help us improve our stud or how a new breeder could get started on the right foot.

Ostrander - Probably the most important single element in getting started right in the first few years of breeding is to learn what

constitutes a really top quality Fantail. I am assuming that the fancier will have already mastered a reasonable knowledge of caring for a loft of pigeons in general and Fantails in

particular. In the quest for knowledge of what makes up a really high class Fantail visiting shows and other breeders can be highly beneficial.

Moppin - I'd like to thank Ray for taking time to answer my questions. It's easy to see why Ray is so well thought of.

A List Of Interviews

by JOHN MOPPIN, Kansas City, Kansas

If you liked reading these interviews, the following is a list of similar interviews done on other Fantail breeders.

March 84 - CFC Annual Show Report, page 76.

April 84 - No article in this issue.

May 84 - Interview with Earl Clark of Summerfield, Florida and Gary Summers of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, page 31.

June 84 - Interview with Ray LaFleur of Onalaska, Wisconsin and Steve O'Dell of Ottumwa, Iowa, page 43.

July 84 - Interview with Tom Pritchett of Fairmont, Oklahoma and Ray Zamora of Arvada, Colorado, page 44.

August 84 - Interview with Gene Altpeter of Sullivan, Wisconsin and Don Vaughn of Laurel, Iowa, page 37.

September 84 - Interview with Bill Diemer given by Dr. Wm. Lynch.

October 84 - Interview with Bob Kinginger of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania and Mike Soda of Great Meadows, New Jersey, page 48.

November 84 - Article by Bill O'Dell on the CFC for the NPA Special.

December 84 - Interview with Dr. Wm. Lynch of Richardson, Texas and Gordon Larson of El Paso, Texas, page 39.

Fantails Around The World

Comparing Fantails Around The World

by BRIAN POGUE

The Fantail fancy has been very good to me. One unique aspect has been the opportunity to travel around the world judging pigeons. I have been privileged to judge Fantails in Canada, USA, South Africa and Australia. This article will deal with my travels to South Africa in 1987 and Australia in 1991.

Fanciers all over are very similar. The Fantail attracts people from all walks of life. There seem to be more female fanciers in California and Australia. Each club or area has its one or two leaders who are usually breeders that have several years experience. The best known are David Malan of South Africa and Graeme Jubb of Australia, be-

cause they have made trips to the USA and appeared in the APJ. There are some other noted fanciers in these countries and lots of relative newcomers. It is very encouraging to see the number of new people enjoying the fancy.

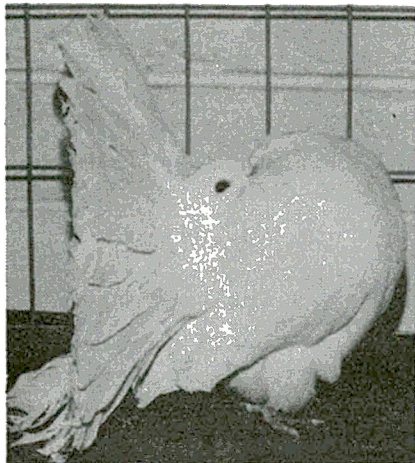
Anytime that I travel a long distance to a show, the hospitality has been great. In South Africa and Australia it was phenomenal! Much to my surprise, I was treated like a king. Of course most the time was spent talking Fantails, but some time was provided

for me to be a tourist and to check on my other interest, beef cattle.

I was very fortunate to stay with fanciers. This gave me an opportunity to meet their families and learn more about their culture. It didn't take long before I felt a part of the family. One quickly learns that football (rugby) is a major sport and one that involves the whole family.

South Africa is a bilingual country so

(Continued On Next Page)



Best White, White Hen #5961, at the 1987 RSA National, was exhibited by Frikkie Butler. The tremendous round body is one of the best bodies Brian Pogue has ever seen, viewed from all angles.



Group of Fantail fanciers at the Australian National.

there was occasionally some difficulties with language. Although they spoke English in Australia, I found that I frequently needed translations because of their accent and slang expressions.

Shows anywhere have a lot in common. One unique aspect of the shows in South Africa was the official opening ceremony which involved the mayor at one show and a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture at another. Consequently they received some coverage from the press. In both countries I judged two shows, one of which was their National all breed show similar to the NPA. In South Africa, they had a panel of judges pick an all-breed Champion. They had some LF Tumblers, Mookees and Norwich Cropers that were very impressive. Australia had some excellent LFCL and ESF Tumblers and some good Nuns.

Fanciers overseas are very keen to learn

as much as they can about Fantails. I visited many lofts that asked about loft management, breeding tips and suggestions on culling, show preparation and mating selections. Several of the lofts were in a climate similar to California, so they were open and could virtually breed year round. Although June and July, it was their winter, but I didn't see any snow. The nicest and best maintained loft I have ever seen was at Graeme Jubb's! I was frequently asked about American fanciers and their birds. They are very familiar with most of the top breeders from North America.

Some aspects of the Fantail show were quite different than I was accustomed. I explained how and why I like to handle the judging. They were very receptive and cooperative. Both countries used round cages. The method in Australia was to use one pen on wheels that was taken down the aisles and two or three birds placed in the pen at a time.

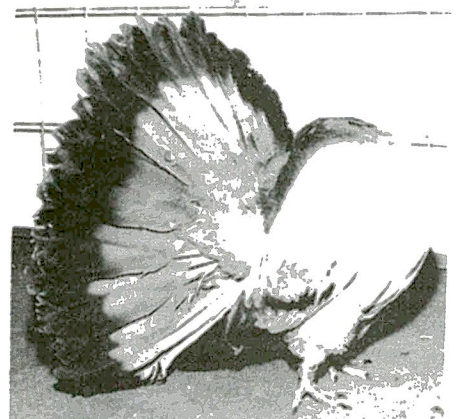
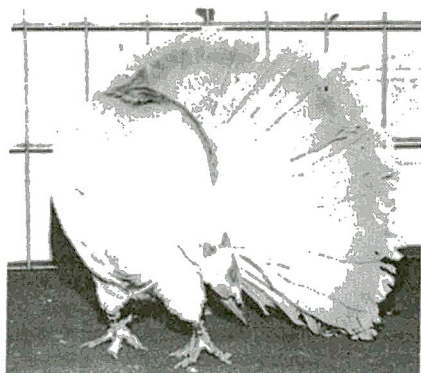
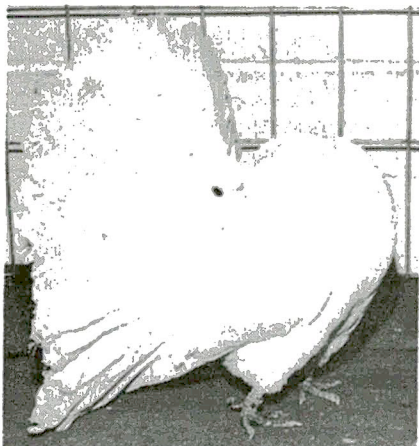
They only placed the top three in a class. In both countries we did use at least some rectangular pens that were specifically built. The walking surface in Australia was sawdust while in South Africa it was rough side Masonite. I judged in my usual fashion placing the classes from bottom to top and selecting a reserve of each colour. The fanciers huddled around the judging pens as I placed the birds and gave my reasons. In Australia there were several fanciers who did a very good job of lacing their birds aided by the strong hard tails in their birds. In South Africa there were only a few who did a real good job. Malan did show me how to steam a tail.

Previous to my visit to South Africa, Tom Pritchett had been over to judge. Between these two trips a few imports had been made

This Blue Pied Young Hen was 2nd Reserve Champion 1991 VFC, bred and shown by Royce Kierl. A nicely balanced bird showing some body and refinement.



Blue Pied Young Cock, bred by Jubb and Littman, is one of the best two Fantails in Australia, according to Brian Pogue. Note the excellent head setting and tail placement.



COMPARING FANTAILS AROUND THE GLOBE

First photo - White young hen #8808, Grand Champion, 1987 Malan Classic, bred and shown by Peter Schmidt. This bird was bred from a Karnish cock. She had good body, excellent head pocket and walked gracefully on wide set forward legs. Second photo - Powdered silver cock #7578-84, exhibited by David Malan. This is the best PS cock that Brian Pogue has ever seen. Take note of his very clean front and the roundness that is shown in wide set legs. Third photo - Blue pied hen #1340, Grand Champion at the 1987 South African National, bred and shown by K. Blaauw. This tiny bird had a large tail, great head setting and showed lots of roundness from the top and front.

and some serious breeding. I was very impressed with several whites predominantly from Pritchett bloodlines. Good whites were found in several lofts. The best of these whites would compete very favourably in the USA. I was also very impressed with the ash reds which were upgraded with whites. They had feather quality similar to good homers very hard tails and full sleek bodies. There were some very good blues including Malan's hen in the last APJ special. There were also some good Grizzles and powdered. The best powdered silver cock I have ever seen was in South Africa. In the Tailmarks there were a couple of very beautiful hens. The blacks featured a couple of very good birds but the depth of quality was lacking in the class. There was one very good white lace cock. In red and yellows there were a couple of useful birds. There was a lack of

new colours such as almond, opal, etc. Overall some excellent quality. I think I placed more emphasis on carriage in motion than they were accustomed. The white hens of Schmidt and Malan were very pleasing performers. I understand from Gene Altpeter who recently judged in South Africa that their birds have continued to improve with some real advancement in the Grizzles.

The Australians had not been able to import any pigeons into the country until last year when they received a shipment from Canada of several breeds including a few fans. I expected the birds to be downshod with poor wings, bodies and legs. Certainly there were some birds that had these characteristics, but to my pleasant surprise there were some very good Fantails. Naturally there were several whites with most of the good ones found in two lofts. Amongst these

whites were all of the ingredients to make an outstanding Fantail. One thing I immediately noticed was the excellent feather quality with tremendous wide hard tail fathers. Some birds had very large tails but frequently too low set on the body. Overall the best bodied birds were the pids. There were also some very good blues, most notably the Champion at the National. In blacks there were some useful birds and if mated with the two good bodied Andalusians, they will make some quick advancements. Australia can boast of having the best browns in the world. I judged a tremendous bar and a very good chocolate. Other than a good coloured and good bodied almond, the other colours were

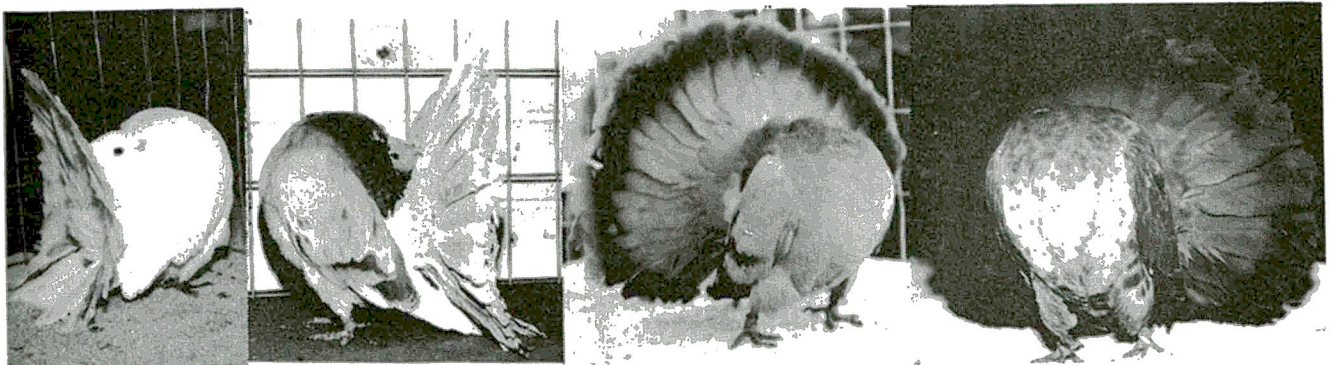
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Group of fanciers at the annual show of the Victorian Fantail Club. Front center is Lorraine Felder who had Grand Champion.



This Brown Bar Young Hen, bred and shown by Howard Piper, was Second Reserve Champion at 1991 ANPA. Brian Pogue commented, "I expect this to be the best brown Fantail in the world." This brown was sister to the Champion Blue. Note the beautiful tail, head setting and motion; just lacking the frontal to beat her sister.



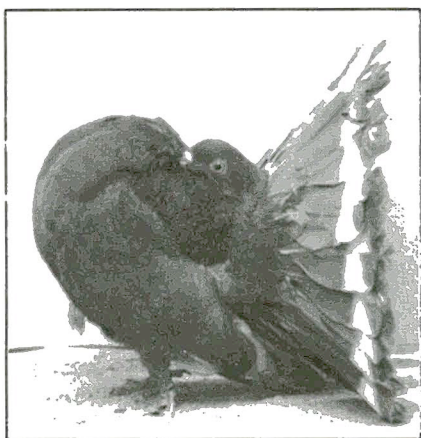
COMPARING FANTAILS AROUND THE GLOBE

First photo - Reserve Champion at 1991 ANPA, white cock exhibited by Gary Browell. This bird bred from Max Cox bloodlines. He was very low and round with forward legs and would be competitive in USA, extremely so if he had better wings. Second photo - Mealie Pied Cock, bred and shown by Frikkie Butler, is one of the best Fantails Brian Pogue saw in South Africa. He had perfect head setting, a large tail and a good chest. Third photo - Blue Young Hen, Grand Champion at 1991 Australian National, bred and exhibited by Howard Piper. This bird had tremendous wide legs with a wide refined clean fronted body, good head setting, tail and carriage. Fourth photo - Grand Champion at the 1991 Victorian Fantail Club, AOC (bronze T-pattern) hen, bred and exhibited by Lorraine Felder. An easy winner at the show with her wide body showing roundness from the front, good tail and consistent head pocket.

generally lacking in quality. There was tremendous enthusiasm amongst these fanciers. I am confident that they will make tremendous advancement in the type of their birds in very short order.

Some day I hope to return to these countries to see old friends and see what improvements have been made to their Fantails. My thanks to those who provided me the opportunity and to all the fanciers for their great friendliness and hospitality.

I would encourage anyone given the chance, to visit these countries and enjoy their Fantail fancy. It will only be a matter of time before fanciers from these countries will be over to judge some of the major shows in the USA and Canada. I very much look forward to the day when there is a true world championship show with birds competing from around the world.



Red ribbon tail cock, #17261-90, bred and owned by Bert Kaspers, was Reserve Champion of the club meet 1990 in Euschede.

Fantails In The Netherlands At The Present

by JOHN HARTMAN, Angeren, Netherlands

To make a lot of things clear, I'll first try to explain our way of judging pigeons, including Fantails of course.

At the big shows the breeders bring their birds in Wednesday evening. Then Thursday is judging day, only the judges and their assistants are allowed to be in the show hall. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the show is opened for the breeders and the other public.

Most of the shows are in combination with rabbits and chickens. The biggest have approximately 8000 entries, all animals together.

In our country every bird is judged separately. When I take, for example Fantails, the judge puts one single bird in the walking pen. He gives a complete description of the bird and his (or her) assistant writes in on a so-called "judging card." When the description is finished he gives the bird a note. We know seven notes.

"U" stands for excellent and is the highest note. "O" stands for unsufficient and is the lowest note.

Afterwards he places the birds, 1-2-3, etc., in each class. We know only 4 classes in every colour, there are no yearling classes.

When he finishes the judge, maximum of 80 birds a day, he chooses a Champion.

The Champions of all judges will be compared afterwards to choose a Grand Champion.

On every cage with a bird is the judging card attached with a complete description, so the breeders and visitors from the show can read exactly on these cards the good and bad points from each bird.

Last winter I was in the lucky circum-

stance to compare the American way of judging with the European. (Except Great Britain, they do it on the American way).

In Bremervorde (Germany) Bill Diemer judged Fantails on the American way.

I believe both systems have their advantages and disadvantages. It appeared to me that the biggest problem of "American judging" was the lack of information for breeders and visitors, one never knows why a bird is placed 1, 2, 3, while in the European system you can read it on the cards.

When Mr. Diemer was judging he only gave some comment on the few best birds in each class, the owners from the lower or not placed birds didn't know why they were placed that low.

The European system has its problems too, a judge can handle only 80 birds a day, so more judges are required.

Another problem is that when you place only one bird in a walking pen, this particular bird doesn't show as half as good as if you place more birds together in the pen, like Mr. Diemer did. We were really surprised by this effect. So far "judging and the ways you can do it."

In the Netherlands there has always been a discussion about what Fantails should look like, there was the "German Fantail" and the "Scottish Fantail," both with their advantages.

The first mentioned stood for large, often poor-typed birds with long legs, but with unbelievable beautiful and big tails, I've seen birds with a diameter of 40 cm! Feather quality of course was perfect, broad, long and solid. Winners should have this kind of



FANTAILS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

First photo - White Cock #95fu/91, bred and owned by Ben Veldhuis, was just shown twice, first time at the CFC 10th District Show Bremervorde, second young cock; second time he was Grand Champion at the Eastern District Show in Euschede Dec. 1991. Second photo - White Cock #23931-90, bred and owned by John Hartman, was bred from a "Moppin pair" and had an outstanding show career. First time Grand Champion at the Driehoek Show, second time Best White and Reserve Champion at the European Structure Pigeon Show in Wehl Dec. 1991, third time Grand Champion at the Pigeon Assn. Show Avicultura in the Hague Jan. 92. Third photo - Ash Red Bar Hen, #16276-91, bred and owned by John Hartman, was Grand Champion at the first European Structure Pigeon Show in Wehl Dec. 1991.

tails, types were often neglected.

The Scottish school was the opposite. These birds were small and elegant, with rounder bodies and shorter legs, but with much smaller tails.

This all was quite strange because the standard text talked about a combination of both and our standard hardly differs from that in the surrounding countries. All these standards talk about round and small, short legged birds with big tails.

First the "German types" were the most popular here but about 1970 more and more breeders got convinced by the "Lutgerhorst-Veldhuis" idea that standard text and birds shown didn't suit at all.

Lutgerhorst and Veldhuis, treasurer and secretary of the club at that time, were the two breeders who took the first initiative to change the Dutch view on Fantails.

At the European continent I believe the Dutch breeders were at most striving for better typed birds. They started to select more and more on types and began, of course, to adjust our judges, they were used to doing it the other way. Strange enough there was hardly or no contact between the British and Dutch Fantail breeders, though there is only a little travel distance between them, even now British Fantails are hardly known here, I hope this will change soon.

As already told we changed during the seventies our breeding trend and a big step forward was made by the import of American Fantails. Ben Veldhuis started this about 1975 and John Hartman did this several years, while last time more breeders made efforts this way. But not only our small country wants to evaluate their Fantails, the biggest Fantail club in Europe (and possibly in the whole world), the German club made a revolutionary switch to well typed birds.

Now we must hope that the breeders with these American birds will spread the young birds all over the clubs, because otherwise there's a risk that very few will win all prizes and that's fatal for every club.

We must thank breeders as Bob Given, John Moppin, Tim Burke, Rick Sparkman and Ed Karnish for their willingness to help us with useful birds for fair prices. This will certainly make it much easier to reach a higher quality level of our Fantails.

On pictures 1, 2 and 3 you can see the evolution of the Dutch standard drawing.

No. 3 is the drawing made by Martin Veldhuis and this drawing we actually see as the ideal Fantail. This drawing represents, according to me and most of the other breeders here, the ideal Fantail, without any exaggerations. Fact in the Netherlands is that we have to deal with so-called "standard commission." This is a commission appointed by the Dutch Pigeon Association. This commission decides in standard matters and till now they keep the old standard as on figure 2, though I believe that the men who are nowadays in this commission are willing to cooperate in making a new one. The old standard knows a real obstacle to a quick improvement of our Fantail. I mean the requirement that coloured Fantails in the Netherlands must have pearl eyes, yellow or orange eyes still are a disqualifying fault for the shows. I believe that the Netherlands are the only country in the world that knows this requirement in Fantails, but there is a chance that it will disappear soon, I hope so.

At our last jubilee show in 1990, 225 entries. It appeared that our breeders already reached a satisfying level, certainly the winners were real good birds. As usual there were big classes in whites with winners from John Hartman, Lutgerhorst and Jacob v.d.

Heiden. Few good blacks were present from Ben Veldhuis and John Hartman. In red, I believe we have a real fine quality, I judged them and especially the Veldhuis and v.d. Heiden stock impressed me. The yellows were disappointing while in blue and silver there were only a few fine birds from Martin Veldhuis and John Hartman. Powder blues were in fine quality present as well as the two ash-red bars, this colour was then shown for the first time in Holland, the young cock immediately got the highest note!

The saddles from Bert Kaspers were really a surprise as well as his "ribbontails." These ribbontails are yellow and red Fantails

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This Ash Red Bar cock #18103-89, bred and owned by John Hartman, has been in the very top nearly every time shown. Best result was the Grand Championship at the Western District Show in the Hague 1990, Best Ash Red at the Jubilee Show in Tiel and Reserve Champion at the Driehoek Show, Wehl 1990.



FANTAILS IN THE NETHERLANDS

First photo, Black Hen #23914-90, bred and owned by John Hartman, shown only once and was Best Black at the CFC 10th District Show in Bremervorde 1991. This photo doesn't show her 100%. It shows her with "flat feet" which she actually doesn't have. Second photo - White Hen #18157-89, bred and owned by John Hartman. She was Grand Champion at the Jubilee Fantail Show in Tiel 1990 with 225 entries. Third photo - White Hen #88-15345, bred and owned by Ben Veldhuis was shown only twice but with optimal results - Grand Champion at the club meet in Zuid-Loren Jan. 1989, Best Old Hen at the CFC 10th District Show in Bremervorde.

with a white tail bar, a colour strongly related to ash reds. Other colours as Bodymarks and Tailmarks are still poor typed, here is a lot of work to do.

Colours as Andalusian, almond, ash yellow bar and dun don't exist here, while last week I received the first Grizzles from Rick Sparkman. (How beautiful they are!)

Compared to the American birds our main problems nowadays are leg set and especially belly.

A lot of our birds show legs still set too far back and sometimes even flat footed, but I believe that we can solve this problem because we received many birds with legs up in front.

According to me the lack of belly, often in combination with thick and coarse wings is a problem that's harder to solve but we're working on it.

On the other hand I think that we have to take care of feather quality, some of the import birds show weakness in the tail feathers and some have very few tail feathers, sometimes even less than 30.

I hope that my articles and the photos from the Dutch Fantails will give you a good and positive impression of our club, the

quality of the Dutch birds and the dedication of the Dutch breeders.

Finally I'd like to thank Arie Bood and Ben Veldhuis in helping me with a photos

and of course John Moppin for all his work on this new Fantail special.

We wish Fantail breeders all over the world a lot of pleasure and success with their birds.

The History Of The Fantail In The Netherlands

by JOHN HARTMAN, Angeren, Netherlands

Modern history of Fantail breeding and the Dutch Fantail Club starts, in fact, after the second world war. During the war, it was forbidden to keep pigeons at all, just a few birds from each race was kept in a special pigeon park. Because of the fact that Fantails always have been quite popular in the Netherlands, soon after the war was over some enthusiastic breeders started again with Fantails and so the Dutch Fantail Club was founded in 1950.

The "leading men" in that period were Mr. Moezelaar and Mr. Timmers, both devoted Fantail breeders. Soon it appeared that there was a lot of animo for Fantails in that time and the number of birds shown went bigger and bigger, at the young birds show from Ornithophilia came entries from about

100 birds! Quite a lot when you know how small our country is.

Most of the birds shown during the fifties were bred from German birds, because in Germany there were a lot of Fantails and that country is easy to reach for us and the language wasn't a problem neither. The top breeders then were Moezelaar with Tailmarks and Koster with his famous Whites.

During the sixties a lot of problems arose for our club as well as race. The men who did the important work in the club and the top breeders stopped or died and the Dutch Fantail came in a deep.

It may be a well known fact that if there is no active board in a club, every club will have a hard time, so the Dutch Fantail Club too.

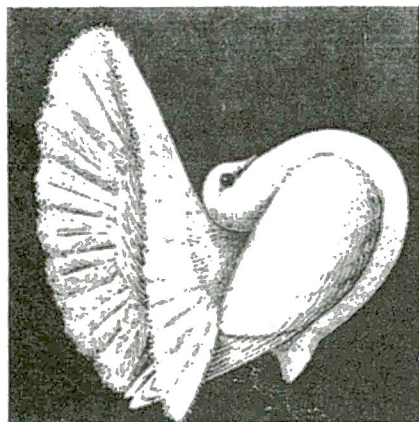


FIGURE 1

First standard drawing - Holland; it was replaced about 1900 by Figure 2.

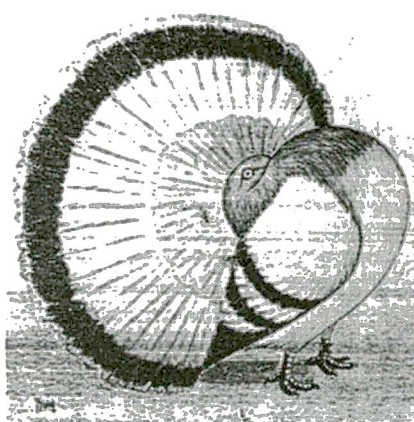


FIGURE 2

The current standard drawing in Holland. The Fantail club wants it to be replaced by Figure 3.

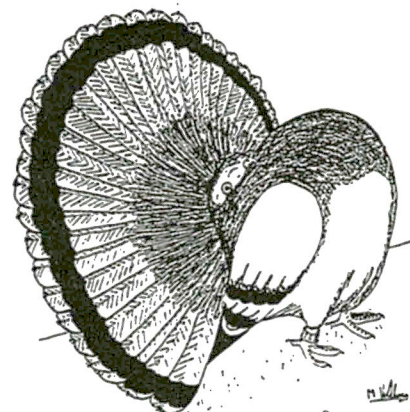


FIGURE 3

This drawing was made by Martin Veldhuis. This is the new proposed standard drawing in Holland.



FANTAILS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

First photo - Red Fantail Hen, #89/20105, bred by Ilona Veldhuis and owned by Martin Veldhuis, was Champion Red at the Jubilee Show 1990 in Tiel. Judge John Hartman. Second photo - White Cock, #16283-91, bred and owned by John Hartman, was shown only once, Champion Fantail at the Western District Show in Hague Nov. 91. Third photo - Powdered Blue Cock #91-MTO43, bred by Uwe Schierloh from Germany and owned by Martin Veldhuis, was Champion Powdered Blue at the Eastern District Show in Euschede 1991. Fourth photo - Red Saddle Hen, #91-9426, bred and owned by Bert Kaspers, was Reserve Champion at the Eastern Fantail Show in Euschede 1991.

About 1970, some breeders took the initiative to make a kind of "new start." One began organizing club meets every year and soon this appeared to be a success.

Personally, I remember my first club meet, this was in 1973 in Oss with Mr. v. Setten as Chairman, Ben Veldhuis as secretary and Mr. Lutgerhorst as treasurer. About 30 members were present again and it seemed to be the beginning of a new successful period for the Dutch Fantail.

January 1975 the club existed 25 years and the club organized for the first time our own show, 225 entries, what a success for our small country!

The winning birds were from Lutgerhorst, Hartman, v.d. Knaap, Nijland, Veldhuis, etc., but there were much more beautiful birds from many breeders.

About this time the first clear results appeared from our change of view in how a Fantail should look like. Where in the past always the birds won with the biggest tail were now the winning places given to smaller and rounder birds.

A great "breakthrough" was the first importation from Canadian Fantails by Ben Veldhuis.

A certain Mr. v. Bodegom from Canada came to Holland and brought some blacks, blues, powder blues and reds from a completely different type as we were used to seeing in Europe.

Showing these birds it was quite easy to convince the other breeders that these looked much more like the standard as the birds we were used to seeing in the past.

In this time some active men bred really good stocks in white, blue, powder blue, black and red.

Every five years, the club organized its own show and in 1980 there were again about 200 entries, the same in 1985 and 1990.

This change of view in Holland caused a quite big difference between Dutch Fantails and Fantails in the surrounding countries.

While we strictly selected on smaller,

short legged and rounder birds, in other countries this idea was hardly accepted.

In 1986, by coincidence, a certain Doug DeNeen from the US visited the Netherlands because of his interest in Pouters. He visited my loft too, though I don't have any Pouters, and so the discussion came to American Fantails.

Mr. DeNeen wanted Voorburg Shield Croppers from the Netherlands and I wanted Fantails from the States. Both wishes were fulfilled and so I received blue and powder blue Fantails from Bob Givens. I was really surprised when I saw these birds and decided to ask Bob for more birds. He sent me whites, blues and ash reds. These birds showed re-

ally better types than the birds we were used to seeing, especially in leg set.

Now, only five years later, the way the Dutch look at Fantails hardly differs from the surrounding countries anymore. A lot of breeders bought real good birds in the States and most of the breeders accepted the change in selecting and judging.

At this moment we have a club with about 65 members with our only wish that more members could show their birds more often, not only at the jubilee shows every five years.

Further, I hope that more breeders are going to try to receive real good birds, so there will be more competition.

It's A Long Way From The Filled Egg To The Show Pen

by UWE SCHIERLOH

It's not possible to show Fantails with success, by giving them shortly before judging in the hand of an experienced breeder to fix them up and lace the tail. In fact of today's quality of the birds, it is necessary to handle them out of the nest bowl. Keeping in mind the standards, the youngsters have to be supervised as soon as possible. That means: Beware of overcrowded youngsters lofts, keep them as clean as possible and give them the best feed you can get and lace the tail as often as possible! A little bit of masking tape could be a help, but I have to warn to make a good tail only by taping. Tape is only for help, but it is unable to change bad genes into the good ones we need in our breeding stock for the following years.

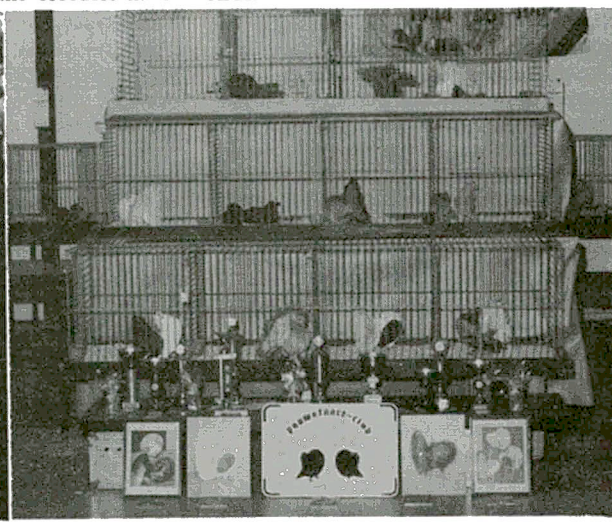
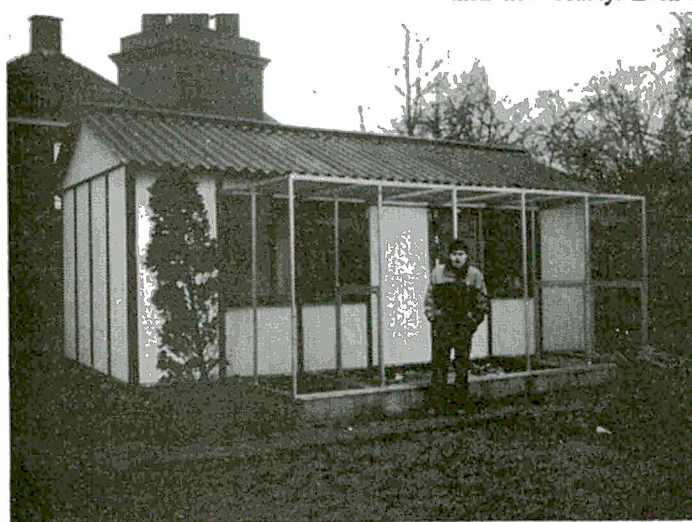
Prepared as above mentioned, the youngsters are able to have their heavy moult without difficulties. I pull out the tail feathers when the birds are in strong moult around the head. During this time you have to be careful of health. Let them have a bath one or two times a week, and put more protein into the feed. After some weeks they would show their new beauty. Even the breeders have

changed their cloth so that we all can enjoy the wonderful picture in our lofts. At this time you have to make your show tactics and make plans for the next year breeding program.

Everyone tells you not to show your best birds on any show, because they need time to retire. I admit sometimes it is hard to leave a show star at home, but I guaranty for it, he would be thankful.

In the last time before the show you have to handle the birds daily, lacing the tail, setting them down in the walking pens and learn them to eat and drink in the show pens. By doing this some birds will change from a "loftcrack" to a "mad show bird" and we have to remove him from the show team.

In the show hall we have to clean the legs and bands, lacing the tail for a last time and then set them down for judging. Now it's the Fantails part to place or to lose. Breeding and showing the Queen of the Fancy is a very exacting procedure that takes some time of your life, but it would indemnify you by giving good times among friends and lovely birds.



John Hartman before his loft on a very cold Sunday in January. The left hand photo shows the winners at the last jubilee show at Tiel 1990.

Fantails In South Africa

by DAVID MALAN

Fantail breeding in South Africa entered the last decade of the 20th Century on a high note. Last year the membership of the S.A. Fantail Club topped the 50 mark for the first time in the almost 60 years of the club's existence. Entries at our major shows also showed a steady increase, although still a far cry from the hey days of the sixties and seventies when the entries usually topped the 400 mark.

At the AF Malan Memorial Show this year, we had 319 Fans exhibited - the first time the 300 mark was reached at this annual classic show. During the "golden years," the 400 plus entries were mainly due to large entries from the late Rev. André Malan, the late Faan van der Linde and Francois Pienaar. I can still remember our club show in 1962 when my father entered 140 Fantails in all colours - winning 58 of the 62 classes and all but two of the trophies! Nowadays, we have more exhibitors with much smaller entries due to higher costs and smaller studs.

Another healthy development in recent years was that the dominance of one or two breeders over the others is something of the past. Competitive Fantails are now found in a number of top lofts and the competition is keen at most shows. This is mainly due to the generosity of some American breeders by letting S.A. breeders obtain good breeding stock, although some of our breeders unfortunately paid high prices for mediocre birds sent over here!

The visits of three top North American judges: Tom Pritchett, Brian Pogue and Gene Altpeter, also played a major part in putting our breeders on the right track.

I think the overall quality of our Fantails in most colours showed a marked improvement since the last APJ Fantail Special in 1985.

As in most countries the competition in Whites are the fiercest, both in quality and quantity. Older breeders like myself, Francois Pienaar and Pieter Schmidt still are doing our share of winning, but a new generation is really coming to the fore the past few years. Nowadays, breeders like Toekie van Biljon, Tom Ryke, Foeta Lourens and Magriet Jacobs are giving our "old hands" a run for their money! Both Brian Pogue and Gene Altpeter were of the opinion that some of our top Whites will be able to hold their own at USA shows.

In Blacks, Coen Butler and son-in-law Daan van Vuuren are still reigning supreme with their outstanding studs. Here Tom Ryke, Magriet Jacobs, Willie Schmidt and Otto Holm also built up good studs in recent years and have already beaten the two "big guns" at some shows. Our Blacks excel in colour and size and most winners have decent sized tails, but overall are lacking a bit in the all important frontal.

The quality of our Blues also showed a steady progress in recent years and the number of entries also showed a satisfactory increase. Some real good bodied birds are usually on parade and Frikkie Butler, Kobus Blaauw,

Nico van der Westhuizen and myself usually share the honours. Frikkie won Grand Champion at this year's Malan show with a young Blue cock.

On the other hand our Silvers are in a sad state at the moment. This is because we have no serious breeders specializing in this beautiful colour. Frikkie Butler and Magriet Jacobs maintain small studs and a few entries are usually exhibited at our bigger shows. In Powdered Blue and Silver, Nico van der Westhuizen is the top breeder at the moment after taking over my stud two years ago. Dirk Nortje, Nico Meyer and Ted Lunt also have some good birds in their lofts. Quality is quite satisfac-



RESERVE CHAMPION

White, YC #5024-91, was Reserve Champion at the A.F. Malan Memorial Show, April 1992. - Bred and owned by Foeta Lourens, Standerton, South Africa.

tory, but still a way to go before being able to compete for top honours. Soft tail feathers remain enemy number one in our PB's.

The real success story in recent years were our Reds and Yellows. This was mainly due to the efforts of one man - Otto Holm. He imported stock from Brian Pogue, Ray LaFleur and Jim Schneider and really bred some marvelous youngsters. He generously spread the good quality birds around with the result that there are quite a few breeders with excellent studs in our country. Coen Butler has beaten Otto already at a few shows, while Dirk Nortje,



CHAMPION FANTAIL

White YC #2754-91 was Champion Fantail, Rand Easter Show, Johannesburg, April 1992; Best Young Fantail, Northern Transvaal Area Show, Verwoerdburg, May 1992. - Bred and exhibited by David Malan, Krugersdorp South Africa.



Two of South Africa's prominent Fantail breeders, Otto Holm and Francois Pienaar in front of Francois' lofts.

Peet Botha and till recently Tom Ryke, also did their share of winning.

Some excellent typed and coloured Grizzles are now usually seen at our shows, all descendants from two pairs imported from Doc Lynch. Here Kobus Blaauw is the man to beat, with good competition coming from Frikkie Butler and Dirk Nortje.

Our Ash Reds and Yellows took a bit of a slump in recent years after usually competing for Champion in the 80's. Since last year, however, we saw a big revival with some excellent birds shown in the young classes. Frikkie Butler, Willie Schmidt and Nico van der Westhuizen are providing some keen competition and Frikkie had a "first" in June this year when his young cream cock won Grand Champion at a regional show.

Our Tailmarks suffered a big loss when our stalwart breeder for many years, Jaap Smit, were forced by circumstances to sell his stud. Fortunately the stud is now in the capable hands of Tom Honiball, who has quite a few years experience in breeding this delightful variety. Frikkie Butler also built up a competitive stud and the quality of our winning Tailmarks are usually quite high.

Our Saddles were in a sad state a few years ago, but due to imports from Bob McKee and Jim McMahon some real nice Saddles are making their appearance at our shows since last year. Ken Rosevear, Pieter Schmidt, Tom Ryke and Toekie van Biljon are working hard to improve the quality of our Saddles.

As is usually the case, some excellent birds usually appeared in our Mismarked and A.O.C. classes. Frikkie Butler, Tom Ryke and a few others are working with Almonds and some good quality birds are shown, but the correct ground colour remains a big problem. Otto Holm and Tom Ryke has some excellent Duns in their lofts and Daan Van Vuuren usually exhibits a few real good Andalusians.

Unfortunately, we only have one serious breeder of Laces in our country, Frikkie Butler. He has them in a number of colours and the quality is quite good.

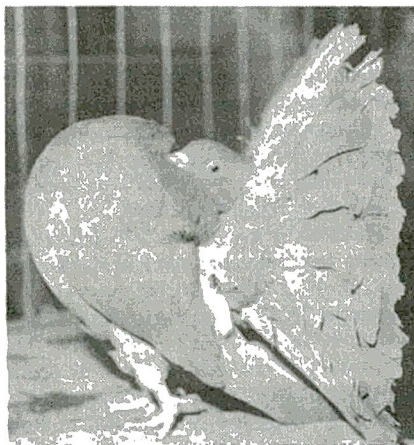
Red And Yellow Fantails In South Africa

by OTTO HOLM,
Sasolburg, South Africa

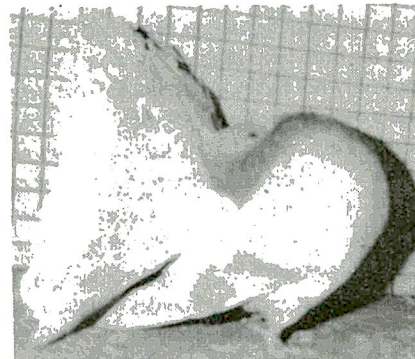
When I started breeding Fantails five years ago, there were very few reds or yellows of any quality around. I was warned by my friends that it was not going to be easy to upgrade the red Fantail. I was told that the red Fantail was not likely to win any prizes at our shows.

However, I always liked the red colour and breeding good red Fantails seemed just the challenge that I needed to get me started.

My first red Fans came from Frikkie
(Continued On Next Page)



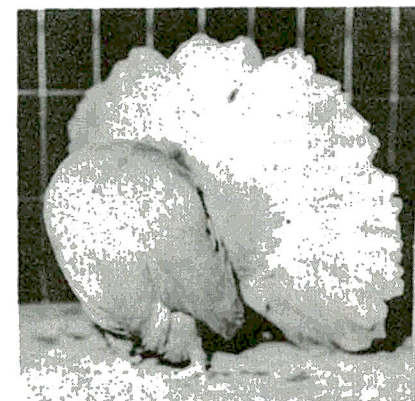
Red Fantail, OH #791763, was Best Red or Yellow and Reserve Champion Fantail at the Eastern Transvaal Show, Standoton, May 1991. - Bred and owned by Otto Holm, Sasolburg, South Africa.



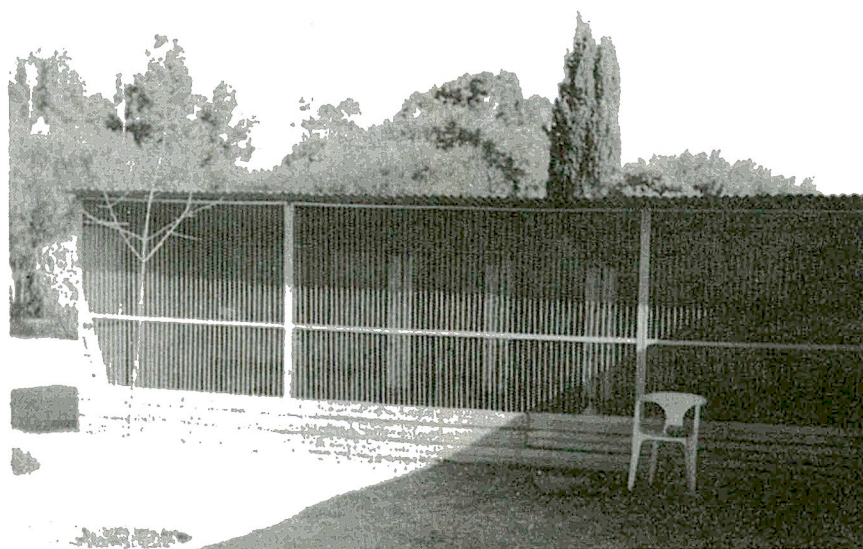
BEST ASH RED
Cream Cock #7454-91 was Best Ash Red at the A.F. Malan Memorial Show April 1992. - Bred by Frikkie Butler.



Red Fantail, OH #1892188, was Best Young Red or Yellow, A.F. Malan Show 1989; Champion Red or Yellow, Best Young Fantail, South African Fantail Club Show, 1989; Champion Red or Yellow South African Fantail Club Show, 1990 (Judge was Gene Altpeter); Champion Red or Yellow, A.F. Malan Show, 1991. - Bred and exhibited by Otto Holm, Sasolburg, South Africa.



Yellow Fantail, OC #78-241, was Best Red or Yellow and Reserve Champion Fantail at the South African Fantail Club Show, Bloemfontein, July 1991; also won Champion Red or Yellow at five other shows as well as Reserve Champion at a regional show in Kroonstad. - Bred and owned by Otto Holm, Sasolburg, South Africa.



Lofts of Frikkie Butler, Smithfield, South Africa.

Butler and his dad Coen. These two fellows gave me a lot of encouragement and if it was not for their help in the beginning I would probably not have carried on. Frikkie gave me a copy of the Fantail Special APJ, Sept. 1985. This APJ with all its interesting articles and in particular Brian Pogue's one on improving red Fantails made great reading. Next step was for David Malan to contact Brian Pogue and with the help of Rod Lysne, we imported some red and yellows from Brian. I was now set to really get going. Then the SA Fantail Club invited Brian Pogue to visit South Africa. During his stay, he gave me some valuable tips and helped me match my breeding pairs. The following season, with Rod Lysne's help, I imported some red Fantails from LaFleur and Schneider.

These birds from the USA also made a valuable contribution to my family of Fantails.

My loft is divided into four sections, each 7 ft. x 7 ft. In each section are individual breeding pens 36" x 18" x 13" with nest fronts with doors so that one can guarantee parentage.

In the past three seasons I bred from seven to ten pair and tried to raise +- 60 youngsters each season. I use feeders to get as many offspring from promising pairs as possible. If you have a lot of Fantails to choose from and you are determined to only keep the best then you can start to improve. Stringent selection and careful mating plus lots of help from friends, including Brian Pogue and Eugene Altpeter has resulted in a remarkable improvement of the red Fantails in South Africa.

I have had the best yearling, a red hen, in 1989 and a yellow cock reserve champion in 1991 at the SA Fantail Club Show. Also where five years ago only a few reds were on show and so poor that nobody seemed to notice them, now we have six breeders all competing with very good birds. The competition is fierce in the red and yellow classes this year!

My next move will be to use some black and dun on the reds. In anticipation of this, I have bred a few real good black Fantails. In particular I have an unbelievable dun which I hope will give my red family a good boost to the top.

I suppose the moral of my story is that encouragement from fellow breeders and perseverance are two ingredients for a success formula if you are taking on one of the difficult colours.

Australian Imports

by GRAEME JUBB

As a lot of you are aware, Australia has just had an import of Fancy pigeons into this country; the first in over 40 years. The only country that we were allowed to import birds from was from New Zealand and this was stopped in the late 60's.

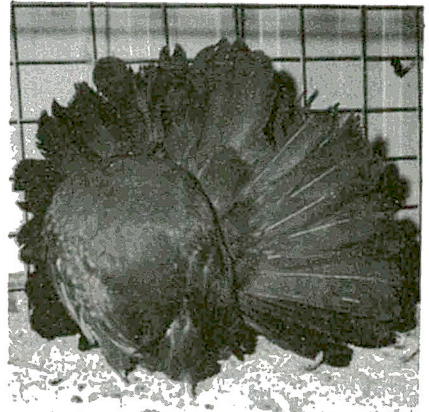
I have travelled fairly extensively overseas in the last few years to Fantail Shows primarily to gain some insight into how the other breeders of Fantails interpret the standard and how they go about breeding towards it. After visiting England, Canada and the U.S., I am quite sure we are all looking for the same thing, just going about it in different ways.

With all this in mind, I made a decision to try and establish a stud of Red Fantails. With the problem of not having a date to work towards or the importation, it was difficult to obtain stock for the four positions I had on the import. As the shipment was to come from Canada, I approached B. Pogue for some birds. He supplied me with a pair of Reds. I have supplied a photo of the Red Hen. B. Phillippo supplied me with a delightful young Dun Hen and a Black Cock, nest mate to his young Black cock that won under a visiting French judge recently.

These birds along with 170 odd other pigeons went into quarantine in Canada on May 30, 1991. They left for Australia on September 23, 1991 and were released from quarantine in Australia on November 11, 1991. As you can see, these birds spent nearly six months in quarantine. Australian Pigeon Fanciers owe a great deal to Bob Phillippo for his handling of the quarantine centre in Canada. The Fantails handled this ordeal quite well. As we were nearing the end of our breeding season, I decided to mate the imports together to build up the pool that I would draw from. I mated the Pogue Red Hen to Phillippo Black Cock and the Pogue Red Cock to the Phillippo Dun Hen. Four eggs

- all fertile! The two from the Red Hen and Black Cock, both Duns. The Cock carries dilution, an extra bonus in my imports. I raised two Black from the Dun x Red mating. Next round I produced a Dun from the Dun x Red mating, another bonus toward dilution. In all, I raised seven youngsters from three rounds. I split the birds up as we were heading into our summer months and starting to moult. I was surprised at how well they are acclimating.

David and myself are very excited about three of the youngsters that we have raised. The two Dun Hens are what we consider break-through pigeons and we intend mating them into our Blues. A Black Cock bred from the Dun x Red mating will go back to the original Red Hen. I feel this cock is the best of the youngsters. We are also going to mate the original Dun Hen into our Whites. We are impressed with the body size in relationship



Black Fantail, young cock #9250, bred from imports - a red cock and a dun hen. - Bred and owned by Graeme Jubb.



Red Fantail Hen bred by Brian Pogue imported into Australia.



Dun Fantail, young hen #9100, bred from imports - a black cock and a red hen. - Owned by Graeme Jubb.

to tail size. We would like to see better width of feather in the tail. We also like the narrow edge of wing but would like to see better legs on all imports. We are very happy with what we have and are very excited with what the future will bring us. I have enclosed photos of the youngsters for everybody to see.

We have put together a second import shipment for the middle of 1994 and it is hoped that more Fantails will come this time. I will be attending the Central Fantail Club Annual in January, 1993, and I hope to meet old friends and new at this time. All the best from Australia for the coming season.

It Takes Only 14 Hours

by UWE SCHIERLOH

Writing my first letter to John Moppin in the early summer 1990, I could not imagine to have a couple of new good friends in Fantails after six months. In his first answer I recognized a warmth and such a friendship that I decided to come to the Earl Classic to see him.

Reading everything about Fantails in the years I knew a lot of the Fantail scene in the U.S. Therefore, it takes only a few minutes to decide to go. Soon my best friend G. George, who had been in U.S. for several times, confirmed to go with me. A short call to Rudi Fenzl and we had a three person group booking our flights to Omaha via Chicago. In fact of business activities Mr. George had to cancel the trip in the last minute.

After a 14 hour flight we arrived at the Ramada Inn full of impressions and a little bit anxious about what would happen the next days.

After only five minutes in the show room we were members of the "American Fantail Family."

This is the place to say "Thank you to all of you. You gave us some of the best times we ever enjoyed."

(Continued On Next Page)

The Bavarian Fantail

by RUDY FENZL

It has been 15 years now that a young farmer named Dieter Fischer living at the foot of the Bavarian Mountains had the idea to produce a new color type Fantail.

Dieter devoted himself to pigeons since he was 10. Above all he was fascinated by Fantails and Deutsche Modeneser Gazzi. It happened by chance that a white Fantail cock mated with a blue Modeneser Gazzi hen and this was the foundation of a new color type.

This mating brought two young hens with 17 blue tail feathers. Dieter crossed these back to blue and blue check cocks Modeneser Gazzi. He had to do this to preserve and stabilize the Gazzi marking. From now on his one thought was to raise Fantails with Gazzi marking, i.e., colored head, wings and tail. Being a true patriot and devoted to his home country he called this new type "The Bavarian Fantail," although to be quite correct it should be "Fantail Gazzi Blue."

The best marked birds (head and wings) out of these pairs were crossed with good Tailmarks. Dieter also made successful experiments with black Tailmarks and Modeneser and even this type is under way.

Five years later his stock showed 18 pairs. That time every egg was a so-called "Magic Egg" filled with surprises. Any color shade and marking variety you could think of appeared. And many birds ended in the kitchen.

The difficulties in breeding were and still are enormous. Birds have perfect markings show little dig. Those having dig and Fantail style show poor markings.

Most of the cocks have strong and long bodies. However, the main problem that I see is a matter of leg length and head setting. And this is the point where I would like to support Dieter in his efforts to produce a standard Show type with the "Bavarian Fantail." However leg setting and head position on the cushion have still to be improved.

I got some birds from Dieter and I will try to improve decisively his breed by involving high grade American bloodlines.

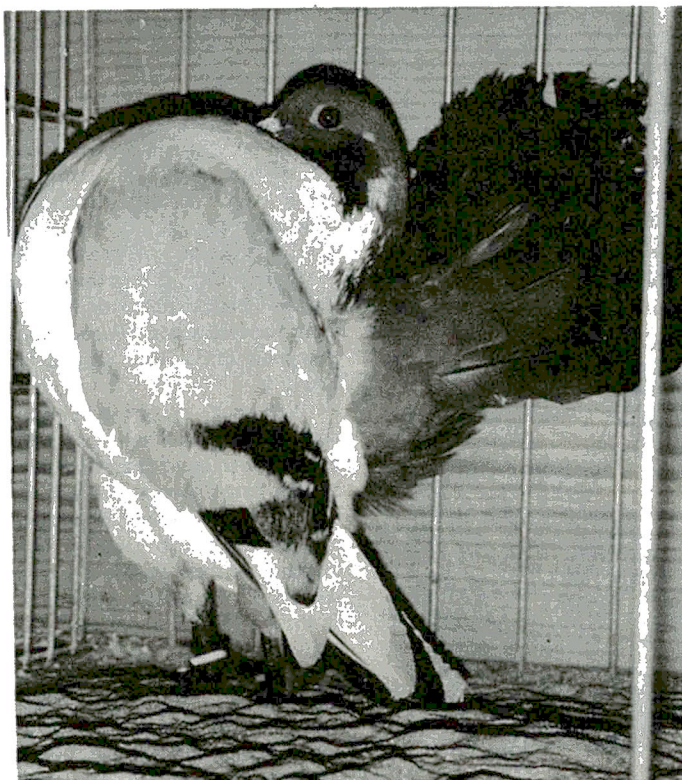
Jerry Macerolle, Bill Diemer and Jim

MacMahon let me have excellent saddles on the occasion of my latest trip to the USA. John Moppin and Tom Pritchett gave me beautiful whites. I am sure to have positive influence on Dieter's breed with such excellent material.

In 1987 Dieter presented his birds for the first time on a meeting of the German Fantail Club. The birds shown were admired, criticized and ardently discussed.

Fischer is almost obsessed by his plans to develop this kind of marking to perfection and to win recognition. He dreams about surprising all fanciers with a perfect collection of "Bavarian Fantails" on a Grand Show. Dieter is very ambitious and he is young enough (38 years) to realize his dreams.

I wish him to reach his goal and I hope that more and more fanciers will be interested in this new kind of color type and finally share Dieter's enthusiasm.



The Bavarian Fantail in development for 15 years to date.

The judging procedure at the Central is quite different to our German system. We have to write a critic on a special card for each entry and as the result we have to note each single Fantail. But I think that the judging by comparison is much more exciting for the breeders, because you are allowed to stay in the show room during the judge works. The German and the U.S. standard are nearly the same, but our German is not as detailed as yours so it allows more room for individual interpretation.

Learning the points of an ideal Fantail from the late Wolf Dittmer I recognized that my picture of the ideal Fantail is the same as yours (and now my) standard describes it.

It was a great honour for me, when Tom Pritchett during his judging said: "You have a really sharp eye."

My European friends are very happy about the new "District 10" and we are going to

have our first show on December 7th and 8th, 1991, near Bremen with American judging system. I wrote a letter to several interested breeders and it seems that we should have between 15-20 new members up to the end of

1991, so that we could expect an entry of 150-200 birds. You can see that our idea of "Central Fantail Club also in Europe" is really filled with life. I'm coming back with the show report.

Fantails In Germany

by UWE SCHIERLOH, Bremen, Germany

Breeding Fantails is very popular in Germany. Since 1906, the breeders are organized in the "Special Club of Fantails Breeders 1906." Today we have nearly 350 active members working with the Fantails. Every year we have a summer meeting, an annual show, and three special shows with the National, young birds and the German Pigeon show.

Since the last six years, the German Fantail made his steps to better body shape and legs. In former days the strong points in our

Fantails were an excellent tail with extremely strong feathers and perfect colour and marking. Breeders and the judges didn't take care too much for legs and roundness of the body. Our imports of top American birds helped to bring us forward nearly to perfection.

Our pigeon shows are quite different from the shows I saw in the United States. Our birds are settled in single pens and the judge has to write a critic on a special card fixed at the pen. The breeders have to bring the birds on Wednesday evening. Judging starts Thursday morning. No breeders are allowed to stay in the show hall during the judging.

The show officially starts on Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon.

White is the most popular colour in Germany, but we also have some good blues, blacks, red and yellows. The saddles are of fine quality in the last years. Their strongest points are perfect colour and marking. Tailmarks and Bodymarks are shown in a class of about 20 birds every show. But their quality is a consistent up and down. At least we have a special colour called Ribbontail. These are birds of yellow or red colour with a white band in the tail as similar as the black band in the blues. In fact, of catching these genes from Owl and Tumblers these Fantails are far away from the modern standard.

Our German Fantail family is a group of 350 active progressive breeders looking forward to breed a Fantail near to perfection and having friends all over the world with our wonderful hobby.

The Fantail Club Of Austria Says "Hello"

by JORG STEINWIDDER Jr., Vienna, Austria

In January 1991, the Fantail breeders of Austria founded their own club and as the secretary of this club I want to say hello to all the Fantail people around the world.

My good friend Howard Piper from Australia told me that there will come out a new issue of the well known APJ Fantail Special and so I sat down to work out a little article about the Fantail activities in Austria - the heart of Europe.

At present we are about 20 members, mainly breeders from Austria, but also Fantail friends from Germany, France, Czechoslovakia and even Australia joined us. We give three or four newsletters and our club magazine, Pfautauben aktuell (Fantail Up-to-date) to our members every year. We have summer meetings and of course club shows. Our first club show was held on January 12, 1992 in Wels, Upper Austria and the members of the club showed 99 Fans there. I am sure that you are smiling now, because we

are far away from the level of other Fantail clubs, but I think that this is a good start for such a young club.

Here in Austria we use the German standard and we also breed the same colours. Mainly white Fans, black, blue and saddled Fantails, some red, yellow and milky Fans, also Grizzles and the real rare colours like Tail and Bodymarks and ribbontails. Since the foundation of our club more breeders are working with the rare and difficult colours and our chairman, Andreas Boisits tries to produce almonds, a new colour here in Europe.

About body and type it would be better to talk again in about three or four years, because at present we are not up-to-date at all in this direction. High and clumsy birds with long legs and bad leg placement can be found in nearly every loft, but we are working hard to come closer to the international level.

Another aspect is that there are only a few serious breeders in Austria who really try to come forward with the Fantail and who try to get good birds from abroad (Germany, France).

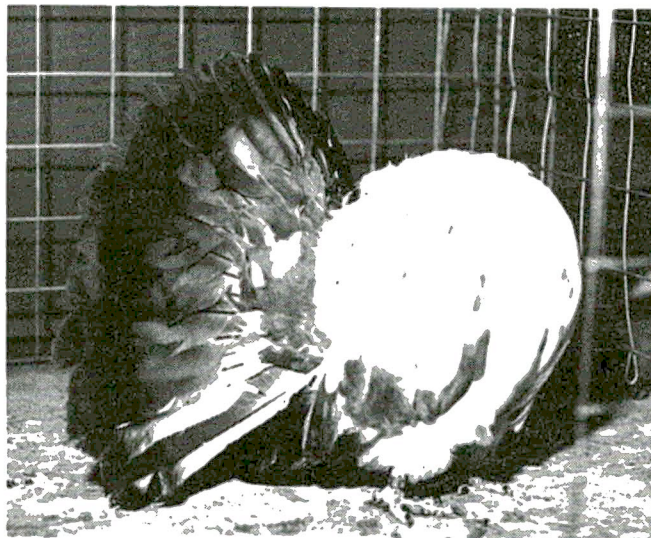
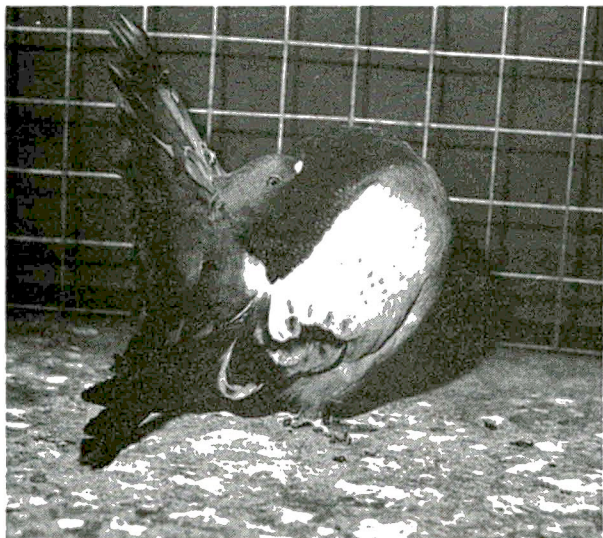
Well, that's the situation here at present and I hope to give you better news when you hold the next issue of the APJ Fantail Special in your hands. I hope that you came along with my clumsy, bumpy English language (I permanently try to become better) and I want to send the best wishes for a successful breeding season and good luck in the fancy to all the Fantail breeders in the world. Especially to Bill Diemer who gave me the APJ Fantail Special issue 1977 when he was in Germany to judge the first club show of the CFC District 10 and of course to Howard Piper who sent me the 85 issue. It's good to know that there are friends of the Queen of the Fancy all around the world.



The logo of the Fantail Club of Austria.

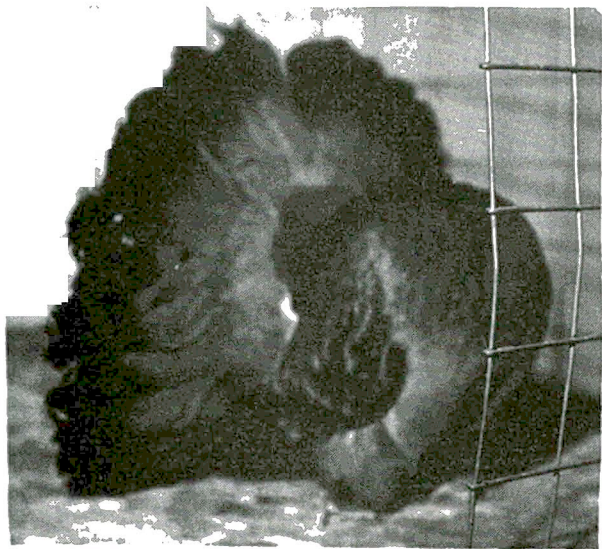


Prize winning white Fantail, YC #52, in Germany. Parents from the loft of Tom Pritchett. - Bred and owned by Uwe Schierloh, Bremen, Germany.



CHAMPIONS OF 1991

Top left: Blue cock (2147/90) bred and exhibited by Kobus Blaauw. Champion Fantail at the Eastern Transvaal Area Show, Standerton. Top Right: Grizzle cock (2141/90) bred and exhibited by Kobus Blaauw. Champion Grizzle at the Eastern Transvaal Area Show, Standerton, Champion Grizzle at the AF Malan Show, Standerton. Bottom left: Blue Check Hen (10455/88) bred by David Malan. Champion Fantail at the Natal Area Show, Pietermaritzburg, Champion AOC at the AF Malan Show, Standerton. In 1989 and 1990, she won Champion Fantail at two shows and Reserve Champion at four shows. Bottom right: Blue Mismark hen (995/90) bred and exhibited by David Malan. Champion Fantail at the AF Malan Show, Standerton.



David Malan of Johannesburg, South Africa. David displays his Champion Blue Fantail at the South African Championship Pigeon Show held in Johannesburg July 1992. – Photo by Bob Witte, Omaha, Nebr.



Fantail Clubs

Standard Fans

by JAMES KREBAUM SR., Whittier, Calif.

I have been President of many clubs over the years, the Southern California Komorner Club, National West of England Club and at present, the Western Jacobin Club and the Western Fantail Club.

Being President of a club takes organizational skills and the focus on the benefit of the club no matter what breed the club represents. This article concerns the Standard Fan.

My goal is for the Western Fantail Club to be known nationally. Although our membership is two-thirds California, we have members in Oregon, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, also Iowa, Ohio, Michigan and Canada. All

these members are not able to attend all the "Home Based" shows but they do receive bulletins and information regarding the club.

The Western Fantail Club has put in a bid to sponsor the Grand National in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This sponsorship is meant to bring Fantail fanciers together across the nation.

The Fantail is a pretty little bird which takes proper care to do well in the show cage. Not only proper food and bathing as all breeds, but the tails need special attention. Lacing the tail takes a special person that is patient and determined. I have not learned to

sit quietly and accomplish this feat. Some people look like they could lace tails with their eyes closed.

Colors I am working with are Powder Blue and Powder Silver, Blue and Dominant Opal. 1992 youngsters are looking good. I hope to bring some of them to the National.

See you at the shows. — Jim.



Jim Krebaum Sr.'s family of blue fantails.



Presenting awards at the Western Fantail Club Winter Show 92 to Lauren Dockerty. Joy Krebaum to the right helping.



On the left, watching judging are (l.-r.) D. Lawrence, Jim Krebaum Sr., D. Klatt, R. Schwartz at the 1989 Pageant of Pigeons. In the right hand photo, checking them out are: (l.-r.) Jim Krebaum Jr., Dennis Soares, Sam Maranto.

The Fantail Fancy In Canada

by MICHAEL M. BOYD

Interest in Fantails in Canada has never been at a higher level. We have four clubs that serve different regions of our country and a new umbrella organization, the Canadian National Fantail Association.

In order of age, the oldest club is the Central Canada Fantail Club. This club was reorganized in the summer of 1990 by the amalgamation of the Canadian Fantail Club and the National Fantail Club of Canada.

The Canadian Fantail Club was the third oldest Fantail Club in North America after the Eastern Fantail Club and the Central Fantail Club. The Canadian Fantail Club was formed in 1936.

Over the years, the Canadian Fantail Club and National Fantail Club of Canada have had outstanding members such as Colonel Rose from many years ago, Allan Robinson, Matt Downs, George Cheeseman and Harold Caldwell to name but a few.

At last count the Central Canada Fantail Club had just over 70 members and we feel that next to the Central Fantail Club, we host the best quality of Fantail competition anywhere.

Within a very close radius of 80-100 miles in Southern Ontario live such well known Fantail breeders as John Ferber, Bob Philippo, Jerry Macerollo, Brian Pogue, Bob Pommer, Michael Boyd, Domenic Zarlenga, Stan Racho, Jim Martin and Paul McColeman.

As well, there are a number of newer breeders who are showing a lot of promise and are coming along with some very good Fantails. I think a good part of the success of our club has been that our breeders let good birds go and they are not afraid to try new colours and experiment with matings.

A number of our members go to major U.S. meets such as the Central Fantail Club annual and the National Young Bird Show. The best measure of how successfully our Canadian Fantails compete is that for the last five years Canadian bred Fantails have been Champion at the Central Fantail Club. Five years ago, the Champion was a Silver hen bred by Paul Polly, this was followed by Domenic Zarlenga first with a Blue cock and then for the next two years with the same Blue hen and finally in January, 1992, Jerry Macerollo had Champion with a young white cock.

The next oldest club is the Western Canadian Fantail Club serving the four western provinces. This is a strong club with excellent competition. There are often over 200 Fantails in competition at their annual meet.

Notable members include, Brian Heck, Clark Landgraf, Darryl Males, Larry Maelbrancke and Bob Vincent.

The next club and one that is coming on very strongly is the Quebec Fantail Club. This club is now about nine years old and has

24 members and growing all the time.

George Guimond deserves a lot of credit for promoting Fantails in Quebec and being the driving force behind this club. The Quebec Fantail Club hosted the largest Fantail show in Canada during this past show season when 286 Fantails were exhibited November 16 and 17, 1991, in Montreal.

The youngest club is the Maritime Fantail Club serving the four provinces on Canada's east coast. This club had its first meet in 1990 and has seven members.

Beginning with the formation of the Central Canada Fantail Club almost two years ago we have tried to do something new in

forming a new organization to better serve Fantail fanciers across Canada.

The idea was the brain child of Bob Pommer who suggested forming a national association comprised of each regional club. The intention is for his umbrella national club to prepare regular bulletins to which each club would contribute reports, articles and photos. The first bulletin has already been produced by Bob and the next will be out in the Spring of 1992.

The regional clubs will still hold their own shows but it is hoped the CNFA will serve all Fantail fanciers across Canada by publishing bulletins and presenting one meeting place for the interests of everyone in Canada breeding Fantails.

The Dakota Fantail Association

by JOHN BARTLEY, Fargo, ND

A new enthusiastic Fantail club has been recently organized to include those fanciers in the North Dakota and South Dakota area. Charter members are Wayne Fischer, Arlington, South Dakota; Fred Thoeke, Crystal; Larry and Mike Berndt, Wahpeton; Darrel Scofield, Washburn; Ken Eraas, Stanley; Dave Knittel, Grand Forks, and Amy Daily, Kim Palmer and organizer John Bartley, all of Fargo, North Dakota.

The purpose of this new association is to bring together Fantail enthusiasts and their families for friendship and camaraderie and to further develop and expand the breeding and competition amongst the members of the Dakota Fantail Association.

For many years several of our charter members have been in and will continue to support Fantail organizations such as The Winnipeg Club, The Mid America Fantail Club and The Central Fantail Club.

The organization of this new association means increased numbers of breeders and birds at area shows, better quality breeding stock and more informed Fantail enthusiasts.

The kick-off of the Dakota Fantail Association will be the First Annual Young Bird Lawn Show at the home of John Bartley on September 12.

Members of the Dakota Fantail Association plan to be represented at the following Pigeon Shows: Northern Plains Pigeon Show, Winnipeg Show, Aberdeen, S.D. Show, Watertown S.D. Show, Des Moines Show and the Central Fantail Show in Omaha and others.

More information will follow as our new association develops. Watch for the "DFA" members at your next show!

We'll see you at the shows. - John Bartley, 123 19th Ave. N., Fargo, N. Dakota 58102.



Founding directors of the Central Canada Fantail Club, left to right: Domenic Zarlenga, Fred Koops, Jim Willis, Michael Boyd, Bob Pommer, Bob Philippo and Brian Pogue.

Badger Fantail Breeders Winter Shows 1985 - 1991

by EARL HELMER, Plymouth, Wisc.

In the September 1985 issue of the American Pigeon Journal Fantail Special, I listed a history of the first 20 years of the Badger Fantail Club. Now I will list the shows beginning with the November 1985 show through to the January 1992 N.P.A. show.

The Badger Fantail Club holds two shows each year. The Young Bird Show is usually held in late September or early October. Our judging is generally done by a panel of members present at the show, and seems to work out rather well. Our winter shows are usually in the first part of November. For the past several years now, we have tried to go with only one judge. I personally prefer this method over having two or three judges. Many of you Fantail breeders will recognize our fine judges as I list them - Gene Altpeter, Vern Netzow, John Heitman, Bob Given, Joe Schabert, Jack Gray, Rod Lysne, Tim Burke, Jim Cooper and Mike Smith.

The club gives out trophies at the show for the larger color classes and one for champion, 1st reserve, 2nd reserve and for best display.

If anyone would like more information on future shows, please feel free to contact me. Try the Badger for a good time and a good Fantail show! - Earl A. Helmer, Secretary/Treasurer, N6473 Riverside La., Plymouth, Wisc. 53073, 414-893-8892.

1985 - Nov. 4, at Slinger with the Milwaukee Metro Pigeon Club, Judge: Tim Burke, 130 Fantails shown. Champion - Rod Lysne, Black Old Hen #151. 1st Reserve - Dick Ury, White Old Hen #952. 2nd Reserve - Rod Lysne, Powdered Blue Old Hen #147. Best Display - Dick Ury.

1986 - At Holman with the LaCross Pigeon Club, Judge: John Heitman, 152 Fantails shown. Champion - Bill O'Dell, White Young Cock #715. 1st Reserve - Arnold Schroeder, Black Young Hen #323. 2nd Reserve - Bill O'Dell, White Young Hen #723. 3rd Reserve - Joe Schabert, Powdered Blue Old Hen #18. 4th Reserve - Joe Schabert, M/M Old Hen #848. Best Display - Bill O'Dell.

1987 - At Viola - ????????? If anyone has a show report, please forward a copy to me. THANKS!!

1988 - Nov. 6, at Slinger with the Milwaukee Metro Pigeon Club, Judge: Jim Cooper, 86 Fantails shown. Champion - Jim Emerson, Black Old Hen #122. 1st Reserve - Jim Schneider, Red Young Cock #32. Best Display - Jim Emerson.

1989 - Nov. 4, at Viola, Judge: Rod Lysne, 210 Fantails shown. Champion - Jim Cooper, Pied Young Hen #502. 1st Reserve - Arnold Schroeder, White Young Hen #10. 2nd Reserve - Arnold Schroeder, Tailmark

Old Cock #239. Best Display - Bill O'Dell.

1990 - Nov. 4, at Slinger with the Milwaukee Metro Pigeon Club, Judge: Mike Smith, 42 Fantails shown. Champion - Earl Helmer, Black Young Hen #116. 1st Reserve - Jim Emerson, White Old Cock #437. 2nd Reserve - Jim Emerson, White Old Hen #381. Best Display - Earl Helmer.

1991 - Jan. 16-18, at Milwaukee with N.P.A. Grand National, Judge: Rod Lysne, 113 Fantails shown. Champion - Gene Altpeter, White Young Hen #301. 1st Reserve - Scott Saltee, Pied Old Hen #208. 2nd Reserve - Dennis Soares, Blue Old Hen

#994. Best Display - James Krebaum.

Color class winners at this show received a plaque, each with a colored picture of their winning bird. Winners listed as follows:

WHITE - Gene Altpeter, Young Hen #301.

BLACK - Jim Emerson, Old Hen #323.

BLUE - Dennis Soares, Old Hen #994.

CHECKER - Brian Grover, Young Hen #970.

RED/YELLOW - Scott Saltee, Old Cock #433.

INDIGO/ANDALUSIAN - Earl Helmer, Young Hen #65.

ALMOND - James Krebaum Sr., Old Cock #88.

SADDLE - Jim McMahn, Old Cock #73.

TAILMARK - Mike Smith, Young Hen #920.

A.O.C. - Scott Saltee, Old Hen #208.

Europe News

by UWE SCHIERLOH, Bremen, Germany

We had our first District show on December 7 and 8, 1992 in Bremervörde near Bremen. Nobody in Europe had ever shown his Fantails under the rules of the American judging system. In Europe, it is usual to show the birds in single pens. You have to bring your birds in the evening, and the following day when the judge is working, you are not allowed to stay in the hall. On Saturday, you will find a special critic card at the show pen which shows how your birds are classified.

We were very glad to have Bill Diemer for judging in Germany and he did a great job. The entry of 205 birds was much more than we ever expected. We had breeders from Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, France, Austria and Germany showing their Fantails.

After a one hour seminar, Bill started judging and everyone enjoyed his job and his big show. He finished at 6 p.m. and the first Grand Champion of C.F.C. in Europe was the young blue cock from Ghazi George. Congratulations again. Please find the other

results in the following list:

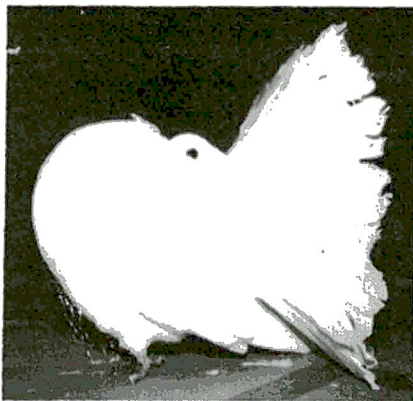
Grand Champion: Blue, Ghazi George, ES 151.

Reserve Champion: White, Uwe Schierloh, GT 120.

Black (26): Yrlg, H. Hartmann, 23914/90. Red (12): YC, Franc. Frindel, 17329/91. Bodymark (13): OH, Volker Arndt, NR 858. White (62): YC, Uwe Schierloh, GT 120/91. A.O.C. (19): YH, Francoise Frindel, 17427. Saddle (32): OC, Helmut Schieren, P 951. Blue (10): YC, Ghazi George, ES 151. Blau getigert (11): OC, Helmut Schieren, HU 961. Milky (15): YH, Francoise Frindel, 17308. Silver (6): OC, Denis Colman, 14171. Spiegelschwanz (8): YC, Erich Luetjens, VZ 109.

After judging we all had a banquet together and discussion about Fantails only stopped late at night.

As a result of this meeting, I am proud to bring more than 30 new members to C.F.C.



White Fantail, young hen #82-91, was 2nd white young hen at the CFC Show Dec. 1991 with judge Bill Diemer. - Bred and owned by Uwe Schierloh, Bremen, Germany.



White Fantail, #120-91 young cock, was Best White at the CFC Show Dec. 1991. Dist. 11, judge Bill Diemer. - Bred and owned by Uwe Schierloh, Bremen, Germany.

History Of Central Fantail Club Show Winners

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Breeder</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Age/Sex</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Show Site</u>	<u>No.Birds</u>
1926		Kelly/ Altpeter	White	OH		St Louis	100
1927	Nov	Kelly/ Altpeter	White			Milwaukee	204
1928	Nov	Hippert	Black Blue	Best Old Best Young		Milwaukee	208
1929	Jan30	Kelly / Altpeter	White			Indianapolis	198
1930	Nov	Same	White	OC		Milwaukee	197
1931	Dec	Same	White			Pittsburgh	208
1932	Jan33	Same	White	YC	31195	Milwaukee	157
1933	Oct	Same	White	YC	28703	Chicago	181
1934	Dec	Same	White	YH	546	Chicago	379
1935	Dec	Altpeter	White	YH	1022	Chicago	358
1936	Dec	Otto	Blue	OH	5156	Chicago	393
1937	Dec	Webster	Blue	YH	2117	Chicago	372
1938	Dec	Same	Blue	OH	2117	Chicago	328
1939	Dec	Kelly/ Altpeter	White	OH		Chicago	409
1940	Jan41	Boehland	Blue	YH	14114	Lansing	269
1941	Dec	Korb	Blue			Chicago	336
1942	Dec	Argall	Black	YH	12867	Chicago	250
1943	Dec	Boehland	White	OH	12507	Chicago	245
1944	Dec	Altpeter & Son	White	OH	1704	Chicago	390
1945	Dec	Same	White	YH		Chicago	248
1946	Dec	Hippert	White	YH	603	Dayton	224
1947	Dec	McKay	Silver	YH	814	Chicago	308
1948	Dec	Argall	Black	YC	5425	Chicago	342
1949	Dec	Hippert	Black	YH	856	Des Moines	380
1950	Dec	Altpeter & Son	White	OH	17263	Chicago	341
1951	Dec	Boltons	Pow Sil	OC	896	Chicago	345
1952	Dec	Graham	White	Yr1C	1166	Chicago	289
1953	Jan54	Argall	Black	OC	3258	Ind'napolis	307
1954	Dec	McKay	Blue	YC	51	Chicago	308
1955	Dec	Otto	Blue	YC	11102	Brookfield	250
1956	Dec	Same	Blue	YC	456	Chicago	251
1957	Dec	Evans/ Lynch	White	YC	799	Chicago	250
1958	Jan59	Otto	Pow Sil	YC	314	Milwaukee	255
1959	Dec	Boltons	Pow Sil	OH	6271	Chicago	213
1960	Dec	Same	Pow Sil	OH	6271	Chicago	269
1961	Dec	Boehland	White	YC	6838	Chicago	284
1962	Dec	Altpeter & Son	White	YH	1113	Chicago	305
1963	Dec	Pilgram	White	YC	44	Chicago	341
1964	Jan65	Kingkinger	Black	YC	231	St Louis	430

(Continued On Next Page)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Breeder</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Age/Sex</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Show Site</u>	<u>No. Birds</u>
1965	Jan66	Kingkinger	Blue	YH	1136	Lincoln	511
1966	Jan67	Heitmann	White	YC	3842	Milwaukee	538
1967	Jan68	Evans	Blue	OH	728	St Louis	430
1968	Jan69	Hatcher	Silver	OH	1716	Des Moines	458
1969	Jan70	Altpeter	White	OH	2512	St Paul	
1970	Dec	Altpeter	Black	OH	823	Menominee Falls	362
1971	Jan72	Hatcher	Blue	YC	520	Des Moines	436
1972	Jan73	Hatcher	Silver	YH	419	Des Moines	382
1973	Jan74	Hatcher	White	YC	976	St Paul	389
1974	Jan75	Schabert	White	YH	926	La Crosse	406
1975	Jan76	Altpeter	White	YC	651	Madison	898
1976	Jan77	Schroeder	White	YH	277	Lincoln	462
1977	Dec	Schabert	White	YrlH	207	Des Moines	340
1978	Dec	Diemer	Black	YC	1224	St Louis	439
1979	Jan80	Mendenhall	White	OH	34	Mason City	515
1980	Jan81	Pritchett	White	OC	1162	Rockford	327
1981	Dec	Diemer	Black	YH	404	Dayton	355
1982	Jan83	Simpson	White	OC	39	Lincoln	298
1983	Jan84	S. O'Dell	White	OH	880	Kansas City	186
1984	Jan85	Larson	Silver	OH	10	Ottumwa	440
1985	Dec	Larson	Blue	YC	222	Des Moines	714
1986	Jan87	Larson	Blue	YrlC	222	Ottumwa	465
1987	Jan88	Diemer	Silver	OH	278	Ottumwa	558
1988	Dec88	Zarlenga	Blue	YrlC	35	Peoria	425
1989	Jan90	Zarlenga	Blue	OH	27	Ottumwa	501
1990	Jan91	Zarlenga	Blue	OH	27	Omaha	406
1991	Jan92	Macerollo	White	YC	628	Omaha	364
1992	Jan93	????????					

Elite Of Fantails Shown At The Montreal National

by G.H. GUIMOND

(Taken from the Feather Fancier, January 1992)

On November 16, 1991, in Montreal was held the most important Fantail Show since the start of the Quebec Fantail Club in 1984. At this show Fantails from the "elite breeders" were exhibited . . . Fantails that we, in Quebec, have never seen before.

Our two judges came from France, namely, Mr. Rene Jean from Perigueux and Mr. Gerard Saurin from Marseilles. These gentlemen also came to purchase some quality Fantails. With the participation of elite Fantail breeders, the show gave us the opportunity to see real good Fantails.

Grand Champion among 271 entries was a Black cock, a real beautiful bird with a 15 inch tail, owned and exhibited by Brian Pogue and Bob Philipo of Ontario. First Reserve was a Black hen, another beauty from Bill

Diemer of Michigan. Bob Philipo of Brantford, Ont., also won 2nd Grand Reserve with an extra good Indigo young hen.

The Fantail show, held in conjunction with the first-ever Eastern Canadian National Pigeon Show, attracted 20 exhibitors and 271 quality Fantails, as well as over 30

Fantails that were on sale. It was a good gathering of Fantails as well as Fantail breeders. And we, from the Quebec Fantail Club would like to thank all those who attended and supported our show. We hope to see you each November for this Montreal National Show.

We would also like to thank our judges for a fine job, and for giving us the opportunity to see a different point of view in judging. Both judges were careful to look at the quality and condition of the birds before comparing them with others.

We regret to report the passing of one of our members, Gerard Audette, who was well-known Fantail breeder. He was one of our interesting breeders and exhibitors who never wanted to be a president or committee member, but was always there to show. I am sure he was with us in spirit at this show.



More Friends In Fantails

Master Judges

by BRIAN POGUE

There are several ingredients that contribute to the making of a good show. One of the most important is having the fans placed by a competent judge. The judge must place the birds in accordance to the points allocated in the standard. A successful show is one where there is agreement on the winners. It is also the responsibility of the judge to give direction to the fancy by indicating areas requiring improvement to achieve our goal of the ideal Fantail. The manner of judging is almost as important as the placings. Some of the manner was covered under "Judging Procedures" in the last APJ Fantail spe-

cial. All birds must be given an opportunity to perform and be handled carefully. A judge must express his opinion by providing comments on his placings. These comments are of particular interest to beginners but I believe that we have a lot to learn. A written report with photos is of benefit to those unable to attend the show. A video is even better.

In order to avoid just one person's opinion, some cattle shows have gone to a three man judging team. I did see this in effect while in South Africa for some pigeon breeds. The particular breeds allowed fanciers to

judge their own birds. The concept being that the other two judges would have to be in agreement with how any judge's bird would place. This panel system warrants some consideration.

Most clubs prefer to bring in an outsider to judge their big meet for an "unbiased" opinion. Selecting a judge often presents a problem. Who are the top rated judges in our fancy? Is it a well kept secret? Most clubs have some system of recognizing their "master breeders." Unfortunately there is not any system of listing or rating qualified judges.

The Mid-America is the only club that I know of that has attempted to have a training program for judges. Consequently most judges start with no training and very little or no direction. After completing the task, judges often receive very little feedback. If people think you did a good enough job, you will be asked to judge again.

In livestock judging, young participants in 4-H are taught on what to select and how to give reasons. Then at college, there are judging teams which compete regularly, eventually for a national championship. They have a format for scoring judges which can be adopted to anything.

Several years ago, Ray Ostrander held a judging school. I think that some sort of training and certification program should be implemented. The sequence of events should be gradual. A candidate could start as a turner and work up to an assistant judge. Certification could be done through a written exam followed by evaluating several classes. A panel of top rated (and certified) judges would score the candidates. Feedback would be provided to the candidates on what they did well at and what needed improvement. Those that display excellence would be certified. A list of certified judges could be circulated to all Fantail clubs in the world.

Judges should be provided a performance appraisal on a regular basis. As a student at University, I was given the opportunity to evaluate each of my Profs. The student evaluations were used by both the faculty and administration. This same concept could be used at shows with all present completing an evaluation on the judge and show. The feedback would be worthwhile to the judge and club executive.

Development of top judges is a necessity to the success of our Fantail fancy. Hopefully we can develop a system to produce "Master Judges."

Enjoying The Fantail Fancy

by the late RAYMOND H. OSTRANDER

When I drove into my garage, which is attached to my house a short while ago, I instinctively got out of the car and walked over to a special door which leads to what my wife used to call our "pigeon palace." As I looked in on the empty loft, in a fantasy land, as it were, I could "see" "Pavarotti" parading on his favorite platform, cooing in his distinctive voice which had caused us to name him after the famous tenor. Nearby was my pride and joy, named "Parade Princess," whose superior performance in a judging pen had suggested her name.

In reality both of these Fantail friends now, September, 1991, reside in the loft of my very close friend, John Whitesides of North Conway, N.H. When it became apparent during my wife's serious illness that I could no longer have the strength to care for my beloved Fantails I asked John to come to

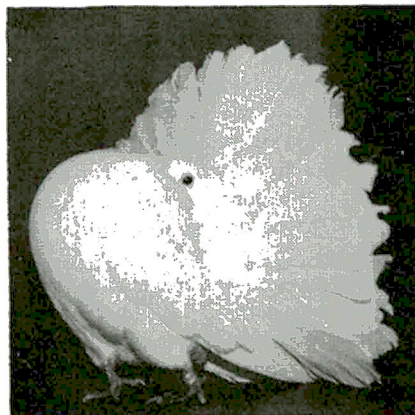
get them. This he and his wife, Kitty, did on April 25, 1989. They took all six pairs and their offspring. The trip to North Conway from Sandwich, Massachusetts, takes about six hours. The young birds were of varying ages. One, about a week old, rode to New Hampshire in its nest bowl. It spent the night in the Whitesides' house, but next morning its papa and mamma were waiting to feed it and keep it warm in their new home. John reported that it turned out to be a Fantail of exhibition quality. All of the young survived. Some of the fertile eggs, which we packed in coffee cans with shavings around the eggs, hatched and were raised by foster parents.

Eloise Ostrander has been taken from me after a long illness and I am still in too poor health (85 years old) to bring back my Fantails. I frequently, however, move back into that fantasy world and enjoy my pets.

How grateful I am for the memories of more than half a century of a wonderful hobby with your birds as I did with mine. It brought me!

While I have not exhibited Fantails since December 1983, I am sending with this article a photograph of "Parade Princess," band number M106-88. Her measurements at the time the picture was taken were almost identical with those listed as the proper size for Fantails in the September 1985 APJ Fantail Special, page 33.

My wish for current Fantail fanciers is that you may receive the same kind of enjoyment with your birds as I did with mine. Especially I hope that you form, as I have, many close and lasting friendships in the fancy.



PARADE PRINCESS

White Fantail #M106-88 bred by the late R.H. Ostrander, Sandwich, Mass.

The Beginner And The Fantail - Part II

by GARY BRONSON, Delta, Ohio

I figured since sequels are in fashion that I would write one to my article in the September 1985 Special of the A.P.J.

The first thing that you need to decide on when you choose to raise Fantails is what your goal is. Are you going to show them or are you going to just keep a few of them around for their innate beauty. "Pet" quality Fantails can usually be picked up for under \$10 - often times for free if you happen on a fancier who shows his birds and the bird is an outright cull as a show bird. Some fanciers advocate killing any bird that wouldn't meet stock bird requirements but that sounds a bit self-righteous and pious to me. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and if someone wants to keep something as a pet, so be it. After all, he's the one paying the feed bill. I do disagree with the policy of selling culls as stock birds to unsuspecting novices under the pretense of helping them out. It is out and out fraud and is detrimental to the hobby as a whole.

If you decide to obtain Fantails with the thought of showing their young, my advice would be to contact the Secretary or President of one of the regional clubs near you and ask for their recommendations on whom to

obtain stock from. A self-addressed stamped envelope is usually greatly appreciated and is only common courtesy to these usually busy men and women.

Stock bird prices can run anywhere from \$10 to \$500 per bird depending on the quality of the bird and the fancier you buy it from. It also depends on whether you want to start at the top with some of the best or if you would like to put a little more time and effort in improving the birds on your own. The latter is usually more fulfilling but then again, to each his own.

Unless you are an experienced pigeon breeder and have some background in color genetics, one or two colors is all that you should try to breed from. You can always add colors later as your skill and knowledge as a breeder increases. A whole world of color breeding is available in the Fantail fancy with new colors being added every few years. But at first, pick one color and run with it.

Once you decide on the color and the fancier you wish to buy your initial stock from, if at all possible, contact the fancier and see if you can arrange a visit to see his set-up and the birds he has to offer. That's why someone close to you is particularly

useful. Ask questions and try to learn the tricks of the trade from them. One of the greatest aspects of the hobby is the friendships that are made. Believe it or not, often times when you go to the shows, it seems that the showing of the birds takes a back seat to the renewing of friendships and the making of new ones.

Obtain a copy of the Standard and the Standard drawing and then try to fix in your mind what the ideal Fantail looks like. Then try to complete your library with the four previous Fantail Specials of the A.P.J. (March '61 - December '68 - July '77 and September '85). Then add to these Rod Hatcher's "The Fantail Handbook," "The Modern Fantail" by Tim Burke and Rod Lysne and the Central Fantail Club's 1981 Yearbook.

When you have made the decision to raise Fantails for show, don't make the mistake when you mate them of trying to do everything at once. Occasionally, you get a "nick" pair where the majority of the youngsters from a given pair produce superior birds and you may even get a winner or two or even several. It's how you mate down the road for several generations that really counts. Are the birds constantly improving or are you relying on the young from your "nick" pair to do your winning? What you want is for your young pairs to be producing your winning birds.

It's also better to work on one feature at a time and establish it in your strain and then move on to the next then to try to mate a bunch of mediocre birds together and hope for the best.

You don't make it to the top as quick, but when you do arrive, you will remain there for a much longer period. Remember, winning isn't everything. Build a base, a solid base, and then move upward from there.

Beware of fads. They come and go. You may win for a short time, but then nothing. Go for your balanced matings and strive for that little something extra that gives the bird that added sparkle, be it top tail, knife-edged wings, color or carriage and motion that puts it in the winner's circle.

There are very few short cuts to breeding champions. One of the best short cuts is the old adage of buying the best you can afford. It's better to start off with one or two pairs than with half a dozen of mediocre birds hoping that maybe with numbers will come quality.

From this start, take the best of your youngsters and then show them. You will learn more from attending the shows than from any other singular event. Talk to the fanciers present and listen to their comments made on the birds and learn from them. Then go and raise that champion yourself.

My Life With The Fancy

by CRAIG A. STEWART, Gilroy, Calif.

It was the summer of 1961 that I was first introduced to pigeons. My mother had taken my brother and me to the Fresno County Fair where we visited the livestock exhibit and the poultry area. There a young man of "class and grace" was in charge of the pigeon area. This young celtic lad was none other than Ed Bischel. I guess that we showed such interest in the pigeons that Ed convinced us and my mom, that we should raise a few birds.

Of various breeds shown at the fair, one type just immediately caught my attention. It was the Fantail that drew me away from all others to gaze in awe for what seemed to be hours. My mother had to pry me away so that we could see the rest of the fair that day. However, Ed gave us his address where my mom could take us to pick up some starter birds. In the corner of Ed's lofts was a nice pair of white Fantails which caught my eye. So, after a lot of pestering, Ed finally gave in and let me have them, thus starting what has become a great hobby full of work, fun, and happy times for me.

Through my school years, the pigeon hobby was a great past time experience and their care and feeding gave me good responsibility training. Even while in the Navy during the late 60's, I managed to say in

touch with pigeon breeders to keep up with the trends.

When I was discharged from the Navy in 1971, Fresno was my home again until relocation to the Bay area was necessary for a new job in 1973. That year I went to the Santa Clara County Fair and met a great character by the name of Jim Looper Sr. This brash gentleman recognized that I knew something about pigeons even before we spoke. Jim asked me what breed I was raising and my answer startled him some what, "Fantails, if I could find some!"

I said that there had been some short years which had gone by since there was any pigeons in my lofts. In his rough manner, he scolded me and wrote down his address and phone number, gave it to me with a hand shake, and a promise to give me a few birds if I would build some new lofts. Jim also gave me the information on the local pigeon clubs, meeting places, and times. I have been a member of the Santa Clara Valley Pigeon Club since 1974 (and proud of it) and the Western Fantail Club. Because a few great men took time to help me with this great hobby, I've done my best to help young enthusiasts to get off on a good start.

Diary Of The Iowa State Show

by JOHN BARTLEY, Fargo, ND

December 6—9:10 a.m. I'm finally on the road to Des Moines, along with me are four of my best Fantails, two black, a blue and a white.

I've been told to expect to see about 300 of the best Fantails in the country and the total number of birds at this all-breeds show to be about 3000. Actual numbers ended up being 335 fans and a total of 3400 plus pigeons. To me, a fancier of only a year and a half, this is a BIG show!

Back to the trip. Excuse my meteorological ignorance but the weatherman said to expect 20-25 mph SE winds. Does that mean out of the southeast or towards the southeast? The 20-25 mph turned out to be 33-35 mph

and yes, IN MY FACE. After 8-1/2 hours of "in your face" winds, I now know wind directions.

12:45 p.m. After 250 miles of cruise control set at 69 (max unofficial speed limit), here I am just a stand still due to a traffic jam near Burnsville, MN. I'm not happy at this time . . . I mellow considerably as I slowly inch my way past a bad accident. Soon back up to 69 with cruise set, wind in my face, scary patches of ice and 3500 pigeons about three hours away.

4:20 p.m. Arrive in Des Moines, check into a Best Western, walking distance from the show hall. Quickly as possible, I head for the show hall.

5:30 p.m. I have my four potential champions fed and watered in their cages. (Actually, I'm just hoping not to embarrass myself).

Now off to the zoo. An enjoyable walk past 3500 pigeons, something I really enjoy, and the reason I like all breeds shows.

My last stop before heading for the hotel, I spot the buy-sell cages. I've been to pigeon shows smaller than this. Lots of Fantails being sold by big name breeders. I was in hog heaven and the cash was burning a hole in my pocket.

8:00 p.m. Fred Thielke and I head to the hotel for the pigeon banquet. We shared a table with some Dragoon breeders from Missouri. We ate quickly and back to the show hall where I spent time looking at birds, and talking with fellow Fantail breeders.

North Dakota breeders in attendance were the Berndts (Larry and his sons, Mike and Chris) from Wahpeton; Fred Thielke from Crystal; Dave Knittel from Grand Forks; John Johnson from Park River; Darrel Scofield from Washburn; Ken Eraas from Stanley; and Colleen Houmann from Minot; plus some I'm sure I've missed.

I'm not going to mention all the "big name" breeders but believe me they were there from Florida to California.

12:00 p.m. Lights out and the pigeon conversation ends.

December 7—6:00 a.m. I'm laying in bed wide awake after a sleepless night and feeling rather silly. Here I am, a 43 year old feeling like a kid the night before his first day of school. What the heck, out of bed, shower and stuff and off to the show. Sleeping and eating seem to really get in the way at a pigeon show.

8:30 p.m. The Mid American Fantail Club holds their annual meeting. Lots of unanimous ballots cast.

9:15 a.m. Judging begins and runs straight through till 7:30 p.m.

Many different color classes with major league competition throughout, especially with the 60 black, 40 blues and 113 whites. The competitive peak came when all the color class winners were brought up to pick a grand champion. I'm sure the white Fantail owned by Dick Ury was everybody's pick, but the bird just quit showing. The top bird of the moment was a blue, bred by Art Prop, owned and shown by Joe Schabert of Mankato, MN. Reserve was a beautiful Qualmond owned by Rick Sparkman from Texas. All the North Dakota breeders did quite well.

8:30 p.m. Dinner with Fred Thielke, John Johnson and Dave Knittel and their daughters and more pigeon talk. Tonight I sleep.

December 8—8:00 a.m. I'm on the road again, back to Fargo.

4:30 p.m. Arrive in Fargo with plans made in my mind about the next show in Omaha, Jan. 10.

P.S. As Ken Eraas says, "We in North Dakota are in the T-ball league of the pigeon world." Well, Ken, I think the boys at Des Moines are saying the boys from North Dakota have one hell of a T-ball league.

Two Outstanding Fantails Bred By Two Master Breeders

by MICHAEL M. BOYD

Probably one of the most outstanding Fantails that has ever been shown is Blue hen, #CPF CH 27/87, bred by Domenic Zarlenga of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

This hen was Champion at the 1989 Central Fantail Club Annual Meet in Ottumwa, Iowa under judge Bill Diemer and then repeated at the 1990 Central Annual in Omaha, Nebraska under judge Tom Pritchett.

Domenic was hoping to accomplish an unprecedented third win in a row with the same bird this past year but he had a problem with some sick birds just before the show and decided he should not bring his entry. Hopefully this hen will be at the Central for the next Annual Meet.

The outstanding qualities of this hen are her refinement, lovely carriage and motion and ability to move right up to the final judging and not fall apart. There are few Fantails that possess the correct carriage and can move properly through long classes, keeping the head deep and centered in the

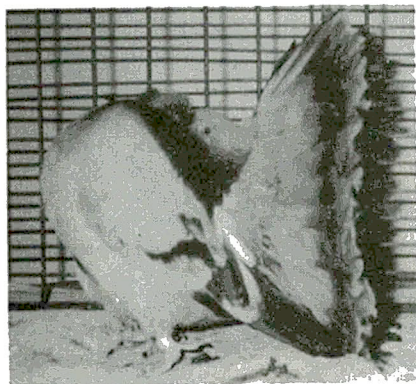
pocket and showing generous toptail.

Another outstanding Fantail bred this past year is the Champion at the 1991 Central Fantail Club Annual Meet in Omaha, Nebraska, young white cock #628-91 bred and shown by Jerry Macerollo of Kitchener, Ontario.

This Fantail was only hatched in July 1991 and had a baby tail when it was shown at the Central. Due to the late hatching date, this is the only time this bird has been shown. This Fantail also excels in a deep, even head setting and strong legs that enabled it to continue showing through long periods of being judged.

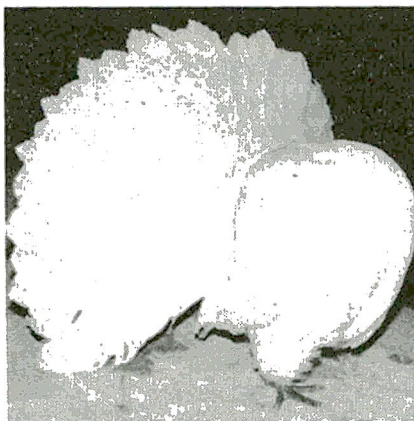
The other very strong points of this Fantail are the width of leg setting and smooth under belly that gives the bird an overall appearance of roundness from all angles.

Both Jerry and Domenic are to be congratulated on their achievement in breeding and preparing these two outstanding Fantails for show.



CHAMPION FANTAIL

This Blue Hen, #CPF 87 CH 27, was Champion at the 1989 and 1990 Central Fantail Club Annual Meets. — Bred by Domenic Zarlenga, Toronto, Canada.



CHAMPION FANTAIL

This White Fantail, #628/91, was Champion at the 1991 Central Fantail Club Annual Meet. — Bred by Jerry Macerollo, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

In Memory Of Ray Ostrander

by JOHN F. WHITESIDES, N. Conway, N.H.

The pigeon fancy lost a prominent fancier and one of its staunchest supporters, Ray Ostrander, who died May 27, 1992, in Hyannis, Massachusetts. A memorial service was held on June 8th at the First Church of Christ in Sandwich, Mass.

Ray was a Fantail breeder for most of his life. He was very active in social and church activities until his death, and was looking forward to celebrating his 86th birthday in July of this year. He will be greatly missed by his many friends. The following excerpt on Ray's life was printed in the brochure of the memorial service held for Ray.

IN MEMORY OF

RAYMOND H. OSTRANDER

Raymond H. Ostrander, member of First Church, was born in Knowlesville, New York, and died in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Ray was educated in the public schools of Albion, New York. He earned his undergraduate degree at Hamilton College. He received his Masters and Doctoral Degrees at the Teachers College of Columbia University.

He was married to Marguerite Spaine in

1936 and they lived in Herkimer, New York until her death in 1946. He married Eloise Travis in 1947 living in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Williston Park, Long Island, NY, and Weston, MA before moving to Sandwich in 1971. She died in 1991.

He taught in public schools in Livonia and Springwater, New York. He was high school principal at Springwater, Caledonia and Herkimer, NY. He was superintendent of Oak Ridge Schools, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Mineola Public Schools, Mineola, NY. He was Professor of Education and Chairman of Department of Administration at Boston University from 1961-71.

Ray was active in numerous educational organizations. He co-authored a textbook on educational administration and wrote numerous articles for professional journals.

While in Sandwich he served on several town committees including: Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, and Growth Policy Committee. He was actively involved in the Cape Cod Conservatory. Ray also served on several committees of the First Church of Christ.

Of Friends & Fantails

by RICK STOKES

Upon recent graduation from engineering college, I began to think about getting some Fantails again. I decided that if I did get some, I wanted to show them competitively. So I broke out my 1968, 1977 and 1985 APJ Fantail Specials and read them cover to cover. These specials are very important to passing information on to a future generation of breeders. Rod Hatcher's "Fantail Handbook" was dusted off and re-read again.

My search for stock began with a phone call to Rod Hatcher. To my surprise, the man who wrote the well thumbed book on Fantails was no longer in the hobby. Listen, it is too bad that someone like Rod is completely out of the hobby. So the search continues.

I discovered that Earl Clark had retired to Florida. Writing him, I found out that my post-college budget, recovering from the financial blow-out, couldn't bear the strain of the prices and the quality his birds commanded. I was looking for good stock birds to begin with but at reasonable prices. One of the problems of this hobby is the inflated prices which keep out prospective fanciers. He suggested I contact one of his friends, Bob Roberts. Bob, at the time, did not have any birds to let go of. He said to call John Moppin. Well . . . John didn't initially have any birds to spare. But he agreed to loan me some birds to breed from.

Things have changed with the way birds are shipped! This was the first live shipment of birds this little post office had ever received. The mailman was kidding my wife about the first live shipment he ever delivered. Inside the box were four beautiful white fans, none the worse for the trip. It was difficult to see that these were his 15th and 16th pair. The summer of 1989, I bred 10 youngsters from these two pair. Of these, four remain in my loft as foundation stock.

At the 1991 Atlanta Classic, one old hen

Letter To John Moppin

by G.H. GUIMOND, Longueuil, Que., Canada

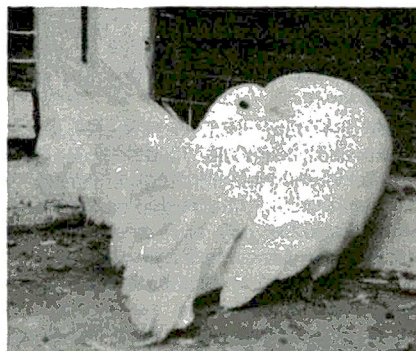
Dear John:

It has been a while now since the last letter. Remember I had some whites and blacks from you? Well, I had good young from them but they all die by poison so I had to start again and now since 1989, I purchase the whites from Ray D. LaFleur son . . . but from those birds it took me two years to come to the right mating. Most of them had a bad leg and a good one but with their pedigree on hand, I finally did find the family that give some good legs birds from his 925/84 and his yh 469/86. Both were best young birds in some U.S.A. show (Viola). I include some pictures of some of my birds good legs birds

but the pictures do not show as real . . . You may say that Ray D. LaFleur Whites will ride again in Canada for now! If you are able to use some picture and let know the Fantail breeders that Ray's birds will continue, I would appreciate. I am sending some ad at the A.P.J. for myself. I raise 17 colors but my whites and blacks and Andalusians are the best.

Quebec Fantail Club had last November in Montreal a large Fantail show.

Thank-you and best of luck in your work for that special bulletin.



Fantail bred from one of Ray LaFleur's whites, #326-91. - Bred by G.H. Guimond, Longueuil, Que., Canada.



Fantail bred from one of Ray LaFleur's whites, #776-91. - Bred by G.H. Guimond, Longueuil, Que., Canada.



First Grand Champion Fantail at an early young bird show in Sorel, Que., Canada. - Bred by G.H. Guimond.

took first place. Congratulations John on your old hen. I am tickled to have these birds in my loft.

Bob has given me a start in blacks and additional whites with such good quality that I could not even begin to afford. Roy Winkles and Wayne Bowman gave me my start in Tailmarks. Each of these gentlemen have given of their time to encourage me and help me along in the fancy. Money has not always been a prime interest of theirs. But they have been friends.

When was the last time you helped a newcomer to the hobby? When was the last time you took someone under your wing and coached them in the finer points of Fantail structure and breeding?

My hat is off to Bob Roberts, Wayne Bowman, Roy Winkles and John Moppin for their help. I am happy to number them among my friends.

If you ever vacation to Florida, stop by and see our sugar white beaches here along with my Fantails. Coffee is always on. My phone is (904) 837-0128 and address is P.O. Box 5432, Destin, Florida 32540.

My Thoughts About Fantails

by NEAL FAUSETT, Nephi, Utah

What better way to spend a summer evening than out in the loft admiring the fruits of the breeding season, those small young birds with round bodies, well set legs and big tails.

My interest in pigeons began as a small boy. Each day as I walked to school, I passed by an older gentleman's large pigeon loft. I was attracted to those lovely birds that came in so many colors and varieties. I purchased my first birds at age 12 and by age 15, I'd constructed three lofts and was working on my fourth 12 foot by 16. My parents must have been patient. I don't remember any complaints from them, but I got plenty of threats from my neighbors.

I started out with common pigeons, then went to Homers, Rollers and the fancy varieties. I remember my first Fantail, a little white hen. This was my favorite bird, though not a very good one by today's standards. I remember how disappointed I was one day when I went out to my loft and found a cat eating this hen.

Ten years later in 1980, I attended the Utah Pigeon Club Premier Show. The Fantails again caught my eye and through some contacts, I was able to purchase two pair of white fans from Gerald Champ's strain. I went to town that season and got several promising youngsters. Then tragedy struck and thieves made off with my birds. I was so disappointed I gave pigeons up entirely for nine years.

Then the bug bit again and in 1989, I was looking for fans again. At first I purchased

I have many memories of growing up with Fantails. I don't know if my experience is typical of most who start at a young age, but hopefully my reminiscing will jog the memory of some of you who started because of your parents' involvement.

The first thing I remember is that as soon as we moved from town to an acreage when I was five years old, my Dad (Don Vaughn) started talking about getting into Fantails. His enthusiasm was so great that I was immediately excited. After our first breeding season we went to shows in Boone and Perry, Iowa. Neither of these towns were far away, but to a child in the car, the ride seemed like an eternity. Eventually we got there though but shortly after arrival, I would become bored. The shows were very monotonous for

some mediocre birds. Later I had the chance to purchase some better birds from Dale Carlisle of Salt Lake City. I'd like to thank him and several other local breeders whom I probably drove crazy with my numerous questions and visits to their lofts.

The Fantail fancy in Utah is at a low right now. In the early 80's we had up to 250 entries. The last couple years however we've only averaged around 50. I'm expecting interest to grow in the future as we promote the hobby.

After four years in fans I'd like to give a little advice to beginners. It's better to have one or two top quality pairs of fans than 10 or 20 mediocre birds. Also, I've learned that breeding good fans takes a lot of time and effort so good birds are worth a good price. I feel like we need to help junior fanciers get a good start without charging exorbitant prices.

I'm really excited to be a part of this great hobby. Fantails have made great progress in the last 50 years. I'm grateful to all you breeders who have helped make this possible. I really enjoy reading the various articles that have been written on genetics, colors and so on. I'd like to encourage you experienced breeders to write more articles to put into the monthly publications of the APJ. This is my second year as a subscriber and not much has been written.

Last, I'd like to thank John Moppin, the staff at the APJ and all those world wide who contribute to our hobby.

Growing Up With Fantails

by BRENT VAUGHN

a young boy used to the activity of my childhood. Thankfully, the same enthusiasm my Dad had that got us involved originally, carried over at the shows. It was enough to sustain my interest in such a way that as soon as we left a show, I felt a certain emptiness. But even more importantly, I wanted to go to the next one!

The quality of our birds back then was exceptionally poor. Fortunately, I did not know any better, so I was proud of our birds and I told my friends all about them. This led to my second grade teacher wanting to see them, and asking me to bring a pair to school for our show-and-tell session.

After that it wasn't long until our birds got better and I got a little older. The car rides didn't seem as bad and I understood the judging better. So naturally, the quality of our birds became important to me. We joined the Central and Mid-America Fantail Clubs and I got to anticipate bigger shows in bigger cities, especially the shows in cities I had never been to. Pretty soon the faces of Fantail breeders became familiar to me. No longer was I the bored little boy at the shows. I came to look upon every aspect of the show with an unparalleled excitement.

I also have vivid memories of a lot of hard work. Being responsible for the food and water everyday wasn't bad, but every improvement to our loft that was only supposed to take a few hours, always turned into an adventure in carpentry. Usually the entire weekend would be used up, and both my Dad and I would begin to question our construction abilities. Also setting up and tearing down shows proved to be much less enjoyable than traveling to a place where show preparation could be taken for granted. All of the work was rewarding, however, because the results were immediately gratifying.

It is fun to reflect on my earlier days with Fantails. Now that I am in college, it is much harder to keep a finger on what is going on, especially during breeding season. I miss our birds when I'm at school. Now I look forward to the future, and having my own loft, with the same enthusiasm my Dad had that brought me into Fantails.

Controlling Fire Ants

by RICK SPARKMAN

As the summer heat bears down on Texas, the breeding season is winding down. We experienced a cooler and wetter than normal July, but August is as hot and dry as ever. Several breeders in the area are reporting a good year, and some have reported a few difficulties. I have heard reports of problems with fire ants. For those of you who are fortunate enough not to know what a fire ant is, I'll elaborate.

Fire ants moved into Texas several years ago, and continue to move further north each year. They are a tiny ant which inflicts a very painful bite. They move very quickly and no one is ever bitten by only one ant. In some rural areas mounds of fire ants are seen every few feet. They are very difficult to control. When you apply poison to the ant mounds, they simply move to another location.

These little creatures seem to love squabs, especially those under 15 days of age. A breeder may leave his loft in the evening with all in good condition only to find 6 or 8 squabs dead the next morning. The ants can pick a week old squab to the bone over night.

In some cases, if the parent birds do not give up the nest, they will often kill the adult. This can happen when no signs of ants were visible the day before.

We have all had to make sure our lofts are secure from such predators as hawks, owls, snakes and cats, but to try to build an ant proof loft would be impossible. Having had this problem myself three years ago and finding what I believe a good solution, I felt it would be a good idea to share my method.

First of all, any visible fire ant mounds should be treated immediately. I use Amdro Fire Ant Killer. The mounds are easy to discover after mowing the lawn. Fire ants are nocturnal, therefore a problem can often not be recognized during the day. You should inspect your loft at night on a regular basis. One ant is cause for alarm. You can safely use 5% 7-dust on any ants you find in the loft. If there are several ants, follow their trail to determine what they are after. Use 7-dust anywhere you find them. Immediately sprinkle a trail of fire ant bait (Amdro) around the exterior of your loft. As ants arrive, they

will take the bait back to the mound, killing the queen.

A couple of times each month it is a good idea to sprinkle some ant bait around the "outside" of the loft even if you have seen no signs of ants. This method of control may seem extremely simple, however, since I began using it two years ago, I have not lost a single squab to fire ants. I have talked with three Texas breeders this year who have had major losses due to these little creatures. So I hope this information will help others avoid this problem. Unfortunately, fire ants move further north each year, so be careful.

History Of The Faded Fantail

by RALPH SMITH, Jackson, Miss.

In 1986, I was over at a friend's house, Jim Ervin, and we were discussing genetics about our Fantails. I was telling Jim that I had some auto-sexed brown Homers that I had gotten from L.F. Tharp. Jim made the statement that I should put that into the Fantails, that it wouldn't take very long. So I thought why not? The Brown Faded Homer hens were very pretty. So, I took a Faded Brown Bar hen and mated it to an extra Fantail cock bird I had and this pair produced for me one Blue Faded cock bird. I thought this would do so I broke the pair up and took the young Faded Blue cock and mated it to a Blue hen. But this pair never produced. So I remated the cock bird to another hen and again never produced anything. So once more I remated the cock only to decide that the Faded Blue cock must be infertile. But in the meantime, I had taken a pair of these auto-sexed Homers over to Jim's house. Well, he liked the color so well, he decided to make the cross to Fantails. Jim used the auto-sexed cock Homer and put it with a Blue hen and produced some Faded Brown Bar hens that were very pretty. So he mated these back to a Blue cock Fantail, which produced some Faded Blue cocks. By this time Gerald Ballinger, who lives near Jim, also got in on this. I too got one of the 3/4 Faded Blue cocks back from Jim. I mated this bird to a kite hen and produced a Faded Brown Check hen and several Faded Blue Check cocks. And from all these birds we've really taken off.

In 1990, for the first time, we showed these birds. Gerald won this class with a Black Faded. Jim, Gerald, and myself showed these birds in several colors such as: Faded Blue Bar; Faded Blue Check; Faded Black; Faded Brown Bar; Faded Brown Check. Bob McKee has also gotten some of the crosses and he too is working with this. And from what I understand is doing quite well with them. We also have these birds now in: Faded Powdered Blue Bar; Faded Powdered Brown Check; Faded Dun; Faded Brown

Ole Number Nine

by TOM PRITCHETT, Fairmont, Okla.

Just about every fourth blue moon there appears in every serious Fantail breeder's loft a bird that is so prepotent that you can mate him to a Racing Homer and raise good Fantails. Over the past 20 years, I've had the good fortune to have had several of these birds, but none were more valuable than a white cock that I simply call "Number Nine."

Number Nine was an impressive youngster with a wonderful body, good legs, great refinement and plenty of good feather length. Nine was never a major winner, but always placed in the top of the class wherever shown. As a young cock he was second at the Fifth District meet and Fourth at the Annual Central Meet and Third yearling cock at the annual the following year.

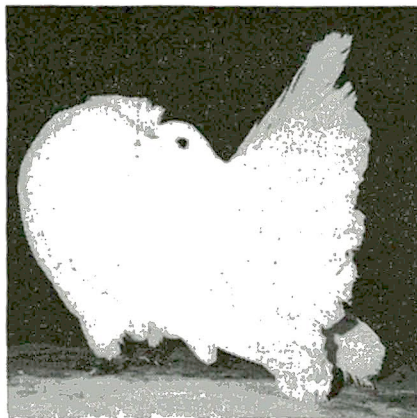
If you'll take the time to go through my breeding records, you'll find that Nine appears in the pedigree of every Fantail in my loft. This amazing white cock has produced and continues to produce every good quality a competitive Fantail needs to be a winner.

Banded in 1983, Nine still retains much of his good looks and great refinement that seems to escape so many Fantails as they age. I have always prided my stud of whites on their refinement, as I feel I have one of the most refined studs of whites in the world. The offspring of Nine have won at every major Fantail meet in the United States, Europe and Canada.

The parents of Nine was a cock that was bred by Earl Clark and purchased by a fellow fanciers, who really didn't like the bird. I

bred from this cock several years, and never got any outstanding Fantails from him, but lots of useful ones. Nine's mother was a balanced Fantail that excelled in pocket, feather quality and refinement. She was no world-beater, but a useful bird that produced refined Fantails. She was a sister to the #109 hen that was Reserve Champion White at both the Fifth District and the Central in 1983.

I've told the story of Number Nine because Fantails of his demeanor are rare, and because I thought this would be an interesting story to share with fellow fanciers.



Number Nine at nine years of age. Still a good one. - Bred and owned by Tom Pritchett, Fairmont, Okla.

Dilute Spread; Faded Brown Dilute Bar; Faded Powdered Brown Dilute; and we are working on Faded Powdered Silver and Faded Powdered Brown Dilute. I say "we" are working on these because Jim, Gerald, and myself work together on producing these birds. And by us working together it has really worked toward the progress of these birds. We have shown these birds every year with the Dixie Fantail show. The birds are

progressing quite well, and turning some heads.

If someone is interested in some of these colors feel free to write: Ralph Smith, 1979-A Davis Rd., Terry, Mississippi 39170. I have put Faded Brown into Indian Fantails in 1991 also. We are now working on some new colors such as: Barless, Frill, Stencil, Ice and Brander Bronze. Hope to hear from others working on new colors.

Sweet Memories

by HARRY LITTLE, Tequesta, Florida

As I have not been active in the fancy for a number of years, I rely on the American Pigeon Journal, the Central Fantail Club bulletins, visits to the shows and my fancy (excuse me) fancier friends to keep me abreast of what is happening in the hobby. Also, to rekindle the memories I do occasionally thumb through the four previous Fantail Special issues of the Journal. Each page, each article will start my thoughts down memory lane. Did you say you would like to hear of my most memorable experiences? I thought you did! Well, if you will just stop twisting my arm I'll get it on -

There was the time, my first time, at entering the Fantail section at Chicago's old Harmony Hall. There I was met by Bob Evans who made me, a new member, feel right at home. Bob had that friendly smile and a way about himself that created an instant friendship. He introduced me to all of those great fanciers who, until that time, I had only read about. There were the Altpeters - father and son, Argall, Boehland, Bolton, Bailey, Champ, Harper, Meeske, Otto, Racey, Watson and, among many others, Vern Netzow whose Tailmarks I admired at first sight and a marking in which I have retained an interest to this day.

Afterward, there were shows in St. Louis, Des Moines, Lincoln, Milwaukee, Madison and many other great cities throughout the country. Each has a particular memory but, for me, three of these stand head and shoulders above all the others.

First was the 1968 Central Meet in St. Louis where, with Bob Boehland judging, I had first, second, fourth and ninth in a class of 33 white hens. The first young hen, 6702, went on to be Champion Young Fantail of the show. Almost split my shirt trying to help my Fantails do their thing!

There was the 1970 Central Meet in St. Paul where my Tailmark young hen, 4968, judged by Karl Otto, was Champion Tailmark and Champion Young Fantail of the show. She put on a show there in the walking pens that I was proud to watch. I have never seen a Fantail walk any better and I am sure she walked her way into the hearts of all those who were gathered around to see. After the judging, Gerry Champ came over to offer his congratulations and said he thought she should have gone all the way.

Then there was the Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic in December 1976. As Chairman of the Show Committee it was my job to

coordinate all activities in connection with the show. We had set four goals that we hoped to meet in this show. The first was to honor one of the true gentlemen of the fancy, Ray D. LaFleur. The second was to have a gala celebration for what was the 50th Anniversary of the Central Fantail Club. The third, to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of our nation, the good old U.S.A. And fourth, to get together a show of 1000 or more Fantails. The first three were met in fine fashion and the fourth almost made it with 892 Fantails shown. What a show! The hall was all decorated in red, white and blue. I think Betty's rallying cry of "Red, White and Blue and the Fiftieth Too" must have been the final push that put us in the winner's bracket.

There were also other activities in which I became involved. It was decided that we should get together another Fantail Special edition of the American Pigeon Journal. Gerry Champ and Frank Hollmann decided that I should be the coordinator. I took the job reluctantly as I had never done this sort of thing before but it soon became a project that I thoroughly enjoyed. Before long it consumed all my waking hours and, for that matter, the sleeping ones too. It involved promotional letters and articles, raising ex-

pense funds, contacting every known Fantail club and every known Fantail breeder, soliciting for ads in the Fantail Special, collecting for them, editing and retyping the articles as they came in. After the Special was published there was probably enough material left over to put out another Special of approximately the same size. Frank told me that he would use this material in later issues of the Journal. Some of it did appear but much of it was never published and was lost forever when the office of the Journal was remodeled.

There was one thing that seemed of little significance at the time. I had decided to divide the country into sections and to assign one of these sections to each of the members of the Show Committee. This was done to make it easier to reach more people with less individual contact. When I took the job of Publicity Director and Bulletin Editor in 1979, this same system was used. It has worked out well for the Central Fantail Club.

There was one more task that had to be done - Clarification of the Fantail Standard of Perfection. Yes, you guessed it. I was up to my neck in another big project that, at times, seemed to get nowhere. It involved two years of hard work but I enjoyed the contacts that were made in trying to come to an agreement on specific items. When it was all over there was a great feeling of relief and then of satisfaction when it was accepted by the Central Fantail Club and then when the other clubs followed.

All in all these were good years, exciting years, in doing the work that I really enjoyed. The only time I had more satisfaction was when I married my wife, Betty! If you haven't fallen asleep by now you have probably moved on to some good articles in what I know will be another great Fantail Special of the American Pigeon Journal. Again, I say, enjoy your hobby and especially your associations with one another.



Chet Bailey, Dr. Jack Gray and Bob Evans at the Central Fantail Meet, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Photo by Harry Little, Tequesta, Fla.

Master Fancier: Bill Warner

by GARY BRONSON, Delta, Ohio

Unfortunately, since our last Special, there has been a great loss of some of the true masters of the breed. We have seen the loss of Karl Otto, Ray LaFleur, Earl Clark, Carl Watson and Bill Warner. They have all made enumerable contributions to the Fantail Fancy and have left behind a legacy that will be hard to top or equal. I was asked to write a little about my mentor in the Fantail fancy - Bill Warner.

Bill died in a tragic auto accident in December 1986. He left behind a legacy in the fancy that was not just based on his wins (which were numerous), but that of a fancier who was generous with his stock and helped an untold number of fanciers improve on their studs.

Bill's original stock of blues and whites were attained from Karl Otto, one of the top breeders of the time. Later he added a pair of whites from Gene Altpeter and a cock from Gerald Champ. His stock of saddles can also be traced back to Otto who had some of the best in the world at that time.

People are still asking what happened to the Warner blues, who got them, who now has them, how can I get some, where can some be located? They are looking for the "pure" Warner blues and there is a very good reason why.

Bill's birds were known as "body birds." Great deep beer-bellies with sometimes unbelievable widths. They were what "round" really meant in the standard. Something that has been lost in many of the strains today and is trying to be regained. The true genius of Bill Warner's particular strain was in the ease that they were able to blend into other strains, bringing the roundness to what was before lacking and yet retaining the best attributes of the strain being crossed to, be it toptail or action. It was not uncommon to see champions coming from the first and second generations of outcrosses.

Bill's stock has been spread across this country and Canada and into South Africa. There is very little "pure" Warner left but it has already left its mark on the Fantail fancy for the better.

Bill was interviewed by John Moppin for one of his "Breeder of the Month" articles which appeared in the October 1986 issue of the APJ. I want to leave you with a quote from the article that expresses my feelings also.

"Moppin - Who do you feel helped you in your early days of breeding Fantails?"

"Warner - None other than, one of the greatest Fantail men we ever had, Carl Otto. I only regret I didn't spend more time visiting him. . ."

Fantail Breeders Of Virginia

by ANDREW KERNS, Richmond, Va.

Fantails seem to be flourishing throughout the country and Virginia is no exception! While entries are not quite as large as a specialty meet, the numbers are steadily growing. The Virginia Pigeon and Dove Association sponsors several shows each year and can draw as many as 50 to 60 fans. Most assuredly this mark will be surpassed in the near future. At this time I would like to introduce the V.P.D.A.'s Fantail breeders as they deserve recognition for their outstanding efforts in breeding the queen of the fancy.

Claude Ziegler of Richmond has bred fans for many years and is the one responsible for my start in Fantails. He primarily raises whites but recently has ventured into blacks and reds. At one time or another, Claude raised just about every color and pattern. His whites would hold their own at any show. He once told me of a show that he placed first in the white young hens out of a class of 80.

Chris Jackson of Newport News has also developed a fine family of whites from some of today's top bloodlines. He keeps his stud in an immaculate loft and the condition in which the birds are in really shows. His whites are at or near the top at every show.

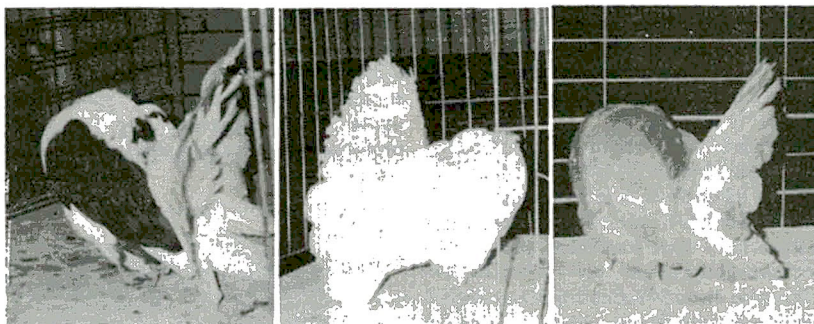
Jo Ryan of Virginia Beach is an avid breeder of marked Fantails. She raises Blacks and Bodymarks in Andalusian. Now that is a tough mark to breed in an equally challeng-

ing color. In the past, I have also seen her show Indigo and Black Tailmarks. Jo also has an exceedingly difficult task of running every V.P.D.A. show. We are all thankful the job is in such capable hands.

My name is Andrew Kerns and I reside in Richmond about three minutes from Claude Ziegler's house which means frequent visits. I breed from 15 pair, four of which are white, and the rest include most of the bars and a few Grizzles. I go to as many shows as possible and have made many truly wonderful friends over the last couple of years. I am not going to list the breeders who gave invaluable advice as well as letting go of valuable breeders to help over the years because they are too numerous to mention. You know who you are and I will be ever in debt to you.

A strong showing in the junior classes can be expected from Carlton Grizzard of Newport News. He has several fine pairs of whites and will be a definite force to reckon with in the future. Carlton hardly ever misses a meeting and offers a helping hand whenever he can.

I would now in closing like to invite all pigeon breeders, and especially Fantail breeders to come show with the V.P.D.A. See our ads in the American Pigeon Journal for details. Thank you John Moppin for the outstanding job it took to put this thing all together. See you in the Fantail section!



FANTAILS FROM THE SOUTH

First photo shows a Saddle Fantail, 92 young cock; second photo, 92 white young cock; both bred by Roy Winkles; third photo, 92 red young hen #327 (bred by Scott Saltee).

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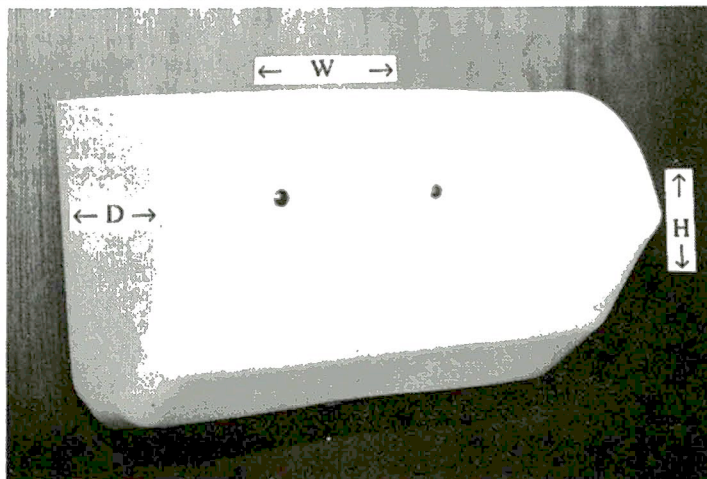
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The Tippler Is Endurance Flying

by DAVID FULLER, Central Timer, FTS

So you've got pedigreed Tipplers, the good stuff from England, they or close relatives have flown umpteen hours for their previous owners (e.g., Boden, Darnew, Davies, Fields, Hughes, Lovatt). Or, perhaps you have Tipplers from long-flying lofts in the USA or Canada (e.g., Beat, Chater, Kobulsky, Kvidera, Luke, Seabridge, Zovich), well here's your chance to show everyone what they can do in competition. Come join the fun.

There are three major clubs waiting to serve you. The American Tippler Union, Inc., (ATU) entertains flyers in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The Flying Tippler Society of the USA (FTS) serves a broader base, representing flyers anywhere in the good old US of A. And the Flying Tippler Association of America (FTA), the oldest of the three with a rich history in endurance flying Tipplers, serves flyers in this country as well as Canada. All three have ads in the back of this magazine and each will be very happy to help you fly your Tipplers in competition this year.

To give you an idea of the level of competition in the sport, take a look at the 1991 FTS fly results below. There are two systems, Official (OS) and Honor (HS). The OS requires that a timer witness and certify the fly report. Under the HS you are "on your honor." Please ask the club secretary of your choice to explain the differences, some details may vary. They'd love to hear from you and answer your questions.

Results are listed by time, flyer, kit, date and system.

OLD BIRD 1: 13:13, Richard Kehrer, 3/OB/Cs, 4/91, OS. 12:43, Michael Beat, 4/OB/Cm, 4/91, HS. 10:03, Emil Vardeh, 4/OB/Cs, 4/91, HS. 10:00, Laszlo Molnar, 6/OB/Cm, 4/91, OS.

OLD BIRD 2: 13:05, Laszlo Molnar, 6/OB/Cs, 5/91, OS. 7:41, Emil Vardeh, 4/OB/Cm, 5/91, HS. 7:20, Michael Beat, 3/OB/Cm, 5/91, HS.

OLD BIRD 3: 14:43, Michael Beat, 3/OB/Hs, 5/91, HS. 12:11, Richard Kehrer, 3/OB/Cs, 5/91, OS. 11:10, Laszlo Molnar, 7/OB/Cm, 5/91, OS. 8:42, Emil Vardeh, 3/OB/Cs, 5/91, HS.

YOUNG BIRD 1: 10:10, Laszlo Molnar, 7/YB, 6/91, OS. 3:02, Dale Reynolds, 4/YB/Cm, 6/91, HS.

LONG DAY: 15:12, Michael Beat, 3/OB, 6/91, OS. 11:22, Laszlo Molnar, 6/Mx/Cm, 6/91, OS. 6:21, Dale Reynolds, 3/Mx/Cm, 6/91, HS. 5:01, Jack McPartland, 3/YB/Cm, 6/91, HS.

YOUNG BIRD 2: 13:45, Laszlo Molnar, 7/YB/Cm, 7/91, OS. 9:05, Emil Vardeh, 3/YB, 7/91, HS. 6:30, Dale Reynolds, 3/YB/Cm, 7/91, HS. 3:47, Michael Beat, 3/YB, 7/91, HS. 3:24, Rex Leon, 3/YB/Cm, 7/91, OS.

FALL 1: 12:22, Laszlo Molnar, 6/Mx/Cm, 9/91, OS. 3:30, August Hohman, 7/Mx/Cm, 9/91, HS.

FALL 2: 7:44, Rene Asencio, 3/YB/Cm, 9/91, HS. 7:04, Don Dickinson, 5/YB/Cm, 9/91, HS. 6:43, Emil Vardeh, 4/YB, 9/91, HS. 6:18, August Hohman, 5/Mx/Cm, 9/91, HS. 4:31, Dale Reynolds, 3/YB/Cm, 9/91, HS.

FALL 3: 8:24, Emil Vardeh, 3/YB, 10/91, HS. 5:15, Dale Reynolds, 6/Mx/Cm, 10/91, HS. 4:42, Rene Asencio, 3/YB/Cm, 10/91, HS.

STOCK FLY: 5:24, Dale Reynolds, 8/Mx/Cm, 10/91, HS.

After only three flies, the competition was really tight. Four flyers, two, Laszlo of Pleasant Hill, Ca., and Richard of Anderson, Ca., flying under the OS and two, Emil and Michael of Turlock and Downey, Ca., respectively, flying under the HS, were within one good fly of each other. What a start!

With two-thirds of the fly schedule complete, the hot competition of the summer brought on sizzling changes. The HS flyers were very close. Michael and Emil were a short three hours apart. Dale, of Lebanon, Or., however, clocked the most hours in the HS during the summer. In the OS, Michael wowed us all with his 15:12 on Long Day. Meanwhile, Laszlo pulled away in the aggregate race with what was to be an unbeatable lead. What fun! This is when we watch for the guys in the back of the pack to make their last moves.

When it was all over, the honor system flyers posted shorter flies, but they flew twice as much as the folks with longer official system flies. Laszlo simply walked or should I say flew away with the OS aggregate. Because of the heat, Richard didn't fly during the summer of fall and managed to keep second place, OS. Michael's single OS fly of 15:12 on Long Day, best in the FTS last year, nailed down third place. In the HS, the flyers out west are going to keep their birds in shape, because the east coast flyers are coming on strong. Jack of Hopewell Junction, NY, was joined by August of Baltimore, Md., who we haven't seen since the fall of '88, and Rene of LaGrangeville, NY. All very enthusiastic flyers. Dale again showed the most improvement in the HS in the fall. As in the summer, his Tipplers accumulated more than 15 hours in the sky. For one reason or another, Michael didn't fly in the fall and still held on to the second spot. Emil took his time, keeping within reach of Michael's Tipplers through the spring and summer flies. Then, in the fall, his young pigeons racked up two good flies handing him the HS aggregate. Wow what a year!

The aggregate results turned out like this (listed by flyer, time and system):

Laszlo Molnar, 81:39, OS; Emil Vardeh,

50:39, HS; Michael Beat, 38:33, HS; Dale Reynolds, 31:03, HS; Richard Kehrer, 25:42, OS; Michael Beat, 15:12, OS; Rene Asencio, 12:26, HS; August Hohman, 9:48, HS; Don Dickinson, 7:04, HS; Jack McPartland, 5:01, HS; Rex Leon, 3:24, OS.

It was my pleasure, as FTS Central Timer, to prepare diplomas for all fly times of six hours or more which were forwarded after the approval of our Sec./Treas., Rex Leon of Covina, Ca., to the proud flyers of the most worthy Tipplers. More FTS flyers put their Tipplers up more times this season than ever before in the young history of our Society. These fellows flew the wings off their birds this season. And I bet those pigeons loved every minute.

Since the Long Day Fly is so special to all Tippler flyers, I would like to mention something my friend Jerry O'Rourke, Central Timer, FTA, passed on to me. During that fly last year Oskar Zovich of Toronto, Ont., flying a kit of three hens set a new FTA record of 16:49. That's 16 hours and 49 minutes. Fantastic! Michael Beat holds the FTS record of 16:03 set on Long Day fly weekend in 1990. These two guys do know how to get the best endurance flies from their Tipplers.

So, if any of you folks, with name brand Tipplers or not, have any pigeons in the air, let's see how they compare. Fly report entry fees, in the FTS, are still a bargain at only \$1.50 each. Join the club of your choice and join the fun.

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Reserve Champion Or Best Opposite Sex

by JOE CUSSICK, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

This may come to be a serious debate in your local club, as it did mine. During a recent meeting a member suggested that we have a best opposite sex trophy instead of Reserve Champion. Our club had the usual trophy line up of Best of Breed or Champion, then Reserve Champion and then best OH, YH, OC, YC, as long as there were 12 birds in each class.

The reason this was brought up was that some of the members felt that most Champions and Reserve Champions were almost always cocks, and the hens didn't have much of a chance. And also that most judge's pick the cock birds because they show better in the show cage. I personally disagree with this. I've had hens take both Champion and Reserve Champion. I admit that it takes time and effort to place high over a large group of quality cock birds, but that's why we put birds in the show. You're supposed to pick birds from your coop that come closest to the standard of that breed and have a good chance of placing.

Best Opposite Sex says "to me," let's not give a Reserve Champion trophy to the next best bird because it's probably another cock bird any way. Let's get real. If you enter a hen in a show without the intentions of being able to compete with the other entries, then you should have left the bird home. Although there are some exceptions, such as entering a bird to fill a class because it's an odd color or patterned bird that you're proud of and want it to be seen.

You should personally judge your own birds before entering them in a show. Know your standard. With flying Tippers, everyone has their favorites, Grizzles, light prints, etc. But when a judge sits behind a judge's pen and judges a breed of pigeon he should be temporarily blind to color for the most part. I've seen very nice birds overlooked because their color or pattern was very different or uncommon or just plain something they have never seen in that breed until then. For example: the standard for the flying Tippler calls for a total of three points for color, out of 100 points. And yet I see some judges time and time again pick the same type birds, such as light prints, just because that's what they feel a true Tippler should look like. But I guess you find a little of that wherever you go. That's why I greatly encourage everyone who shows their pigeons to get familiar with the standard and the other birds entered at the shows. Compare your birds to the birds of fellow fanciers and learn as much as possible so that maybe some day you may be sitting behind the judging pen.

Most shows would agree that there is never enough qualified judges on hand when you need 'em.

Just a little friendly advice for all club members out there—if a discussion comes up

with very mixed responses, don't vote on it right away. Don't jump the gun! Take some time to think it over. The meeting will still be there next month to vote on it and discuss it further.

Well, time to go. Wishing everyone a successful breeding season in '91. And keep 'em flying. Feel free to drop me a line. — Joe Cussick, 12 Corlies Ave., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601, (914) 485-8655.

A Komorner Tumbler Judging System For AKTC Shows

by ALLEN B. ZITTING, Centennial Park, Ariz.

A KOMORNER TUMBLER JUDGING SYSTEM FOR AKTC SHOWS

At all American Komorner Tumbler Club (and affiliated club) meets, the judge should be asked to pick winners for the following awards:

Champion Komorner Tumbler; Champion Magpie Marked KT; First, Second, Third, and Fourth Reserve Champion Magpie Marked KT; Best Young Magpie Marked KT; Champion Self Colored KT; First, Second, Third, and Fourth Reserve Champion Self Colored KT; Best Young Self Colored KT; and Best of Color for each recognized color class with one or more entries.

This system of awards has worked very well for the AKTC, and most fanciers have been pleased with it. It is a fair system that recognizes the best five Magpie Marked Birds the best five Self Colored birds, an overall Champion, as well as allowing for awards for the best young bird and best of each color class.

But, to obtain "true" reserve champions, and to make sure that the top five birds of each variety are truly the top five birds, a system of judging has to be used that is a little different than most fanciers are used to. I will describe a system that is pretty much identical to one I have used for the past several years with excellent results. Slight modifications have been made based on a suggestion by Brett Benham.

For this example, we will start with the Self Colored Komorner Tumblers. The birds will be judged first by color class. I prefer to start with the color which has the smallest number of entries and end with the color which has the largest number of entries. This allows the judge to "warm up" with the small classes.

Birds of each color are divided into four classes, Young Hens, Young Cocks, Old Hens, and Old Cocks, and judged in that order. I generally ask the judge to place all birds, however, in classes over 10 birds, the "one past half" system may be used.

The "one past half" system allows for birds to be placed in the class one placing past half way through the class, or in other words in a class of 20 birds, the birds would

be placed 1st through 11th (11 being one more placing than half of 10), the remaining nine birds would receive no placing. The argument for this system is that no one cares whether they placed 12th or 20th, and if they placed 20th they would rather not have it printed.

Either way, it is important that the birds are placed at least to 5th place in each class with five or more birds, as theoretically it is possible for the best five birds in the show to be all in the same class.

After placing the Young Hens in a color, the first place bird is kept in a holding pen in or near the judging area. The Young Cocks of that color are then judged, the best held aside, the same with the Old Hens and then the Old Cocks of the color.

The next step is to put these four class winners up against each other. The judge should place or rank them 1st through 4th (the secretary may wish to designate the rankings as "A", "B", "C", and "D" so as not to add confusion to the judging sheets). This process is then repeated for each color.

After all the best of color birds have been chosen, the next step is to pick Champion Self. The best bird of each color (the "A" bird) is brought up and the judge is asked to pick the best bird out of this group, which will be Champion Self. If there are a lot of birds, the judge may "thin the birds out," removing the lesser birds so he can concentrate on the top birds. I encourage a judge to keep the birds thinned down to 6 or 7 birds, so a good bird does not get lost in the crowd, but never should they be thinned down to less than five birds.

In this example, let's say the judge narrows the field down to six birds before choosing a Champion, a white, red, yellow, black, blue grizzle and A.O.C. and his choice for Champion Self is the White, which happens to be an old cock.

Once the Champion Self is picked, the next step is to pick the First Reserve Champion Self from the remaining birds in the lineup plus the two additional birds that have only been beat by the Champion bird. The

(Continued On Next Page)

two additional birds would be the "B" bird designated in the Champion birds color (Whites) and the Second place bird in the Champion birds class (White Old Cocks). Again, for the example, let's say the judge examine these birds and picks for First Reserve Champion the Yellow, which also happens to be an old cock.

Now for the Second Reserve Champion, again we must bring up two birds, the "B" bird designated in the Yellows and the second place bird in the yellow old cocks. After examining all the birds, let's say the judge picks the Second Place White Old cock for Second Reserve Champion.

Now for Third Reserve Champion we need only bring up one additional bird, the Third Place White Old Cock (the "B" White is still in the lineup so there is no need to bring up the "C" White). Now let's say the judge picks the "B" White next (for Third Reserve Champion) which happens to be a Young Cock.

To move on to the Fourth Reserve, we would need to bring up the "C" White and the Second Place White Young Cock. And for the sake of the example, let's say the judge picks the Red for Fourth Reserve Champion, which happens to be an Old Hen. Now we have the top five selfs (in the judge's opinion) in the show. The highest placing young bird in the lineup is automatically the best young self (i.e. the Third Reserve Champion White Young Cock in this example).

In the event that there is not a young bird in the top five, to select best young we must bring up the top ranking young bird in each color, and a best young is selected from this lineup. Also, in the event that there is an award for best opposite sex to Champion, and the entire lineup is same sex, the top ranking opposite sex of each color should be brought up and B.O.S. selected from this lineup. In my experience, these two situations have seldom (if ever) occurred, but are quite possible.

The above outlined procedure is then repeated for the Magpie Marked, picking the four class winners within each color, best of color, Champion, First through Fourth Reserves, and designate a Best Young.

At this point, the two Champions of Variety are placed against each other and an overall Champion is chosen. This is best done by the judge or judges who selected the birds. In the event a tie breaker vote is needed, or the judges are unable or unwilling to participate in selecting champion, I would suggest an alternative judge be selected by the ranking AKTC officer or member in charge at the show.

This might be a good place to remind fanciers that Komorners are to be judged in individual pens, never together in large judging pens. Komorners are quite feisty when bunched together in a "judging pen." All too often a well formed crest and mane was destroyed while trying to judge the birds. The individual pens give each bird a chance

to show its best without the distraction or destruction caused by fighting. The AKTC Constitution calls for individual pens no larger than 18 x 18 x 18 inches or smaller than 13 x 13 x 13 inches.

When judging large classes, usually the judging area cages will have to be double decked to accommodate all the birds. Almost without exception, birds on the bottom row do not show as well as birds on the top. In fairness to all birds, a good judge will rotate the birds as he handles and examines them, allowing all birds a chance to show their best in a top row cage. When judging the finals, if the field becomes so crowded that birds end up on the bottom row, the judge should narrow the field to a point where all remaining contenders can be viewed in a top row cage.

Before closing this article, I would like to mention a few points of show room etiquette that should be observed at all AKTC shows. During the judging, no member or observer should utter any comments on the judging that the judge may hear. After the judging, questions and comments are appropriate, but not during.

Those fanciers who wish to handle their own birds should have their wishes respected, provided they are present to handle their birds at the proper times. Classes should not

be held up waiting for someone to be located to bring up or carry back their birds.

Judges should leave the judging area while birds are being brought up and taken down to avoid any implication of impropriety. A judge should never read the band of a bird still in competition, but should leave that duty to a steward or secretary. Band color or organization should not even be considered when judging.

When judging Komorners, a good judge will note when birds are becoming tired or overworked. A good Komorner should show well for quite a while, but even the best of birds will tire in the time it takes to adequately judge a large group such as 50-60 red magpie KT's. It may be appropriate to send a bird back to its own cage after winning a class to give it a chance to rest before going into the finals. However, since time is a factor, and a rest is not always practical, the judge should at least point this out. Then if the exhibitors wish to continue, the judge has at least done his best to be fair to all the birds.

And finally, remember that judging pigeons is not an exact science, but the expression of one man's opinion in relation to his interpretation of the standard. If a man can judge several hundred pigeons and be fair, thorough, and consistent, in my book that is an accomplishment in and of itself.

Mating Lahores

by DALLAS E. DAVIS, Nekoosa, Wisc.

Over the past several years I have read about or heard about many different methods of mating Lahores in order to obtain the best results. Yet, when presented with the prospect of mating Lahores, there are some things that need to be considered before putting your birds together for a new breeding season.

In my opinion, the first thing to be considered is the number of pairs of birds that are going to be used for the coming year. After you have determined this and the colors you're using, the real matching process can begin.

Another thing to remember in mating, especially for beginners, is to mate the same colors or their dilute together. This would be the Blue and Silver Bar, Black to Dun or Lavender, Red to Yellow. After a few years studying genetics a little and getting some experience in the breeding loft, then you may want to get into some of the fun and complexity of special color or other genetic projects.

The first thing I do, after taking the number of pairs and colors into consideration, is to list all my birds into two columns, cocks and hens. Behind each band number I list the color of the bird and all of its strong points as well as its weak ones.

After I have this list compiled I study the standards to sharpen my mind on the type of bird I am trying to produce. I also go back

over past breeding records to familiarize myself with the relationship of all these birds I plan to use in the breeding program for the new year. I try not to overemphasize any one point too much. After all, we are looking for an overall balance in the Lahore.

On paper, I then mate birds with genetic qualities that will compliment one another, for example, mating a hen with a white face and medium size to large cock that as too much color on the head. One other point is to be sure one or both birds have good type! This method is used until I have mated all the birds in paper. Then past records are checked again to be sure that there are no brother-sister matings.

The final step is to look at what you have set up on paper out in the loft. I put the pairs together in show cages and see what was done on paper will work in actual practice. Sometimes I have to switch one or two pairs, but it usually works very well.

After all this has been done, the only thing to do is hope that the weather and the birds will cooperate and go to work for you during the early part of the breeding season.

Keep your loft dry and your feed, water and grit clean. You may also give the birds extra vitamins during this time.

I hope I've given you some helpful ideas on mating your birds. Just remember breed from the best stock available. Good luck with the 'Bird of Beauty,' the Lahore!

A Sense Of Loss & Reflections On The Past

by MARTY NICHOLSON, Smithtown, N.Y.

I have been in the fancy for 30 years (on and off) but due to various reasons, I have been out of it for many years. My favorite breed was the "West of England Tumblers," a fine durable breed that was used for flying and showing. I also had "English Long Face Muffed Tumblers." God willing, if I am able to get back into the fancy, I'll breed the same ones.

I was a member in good standing of the "National West of England Tumbler Club" Eastern division, "The Muffed Tumbler Club of America," and the "Nassau Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club," of Long Island, N.Y. Through these clubs I made numerous friends and acquaintances and learned many pointers on breeding and showing pigeons that I would never have learned on my own. What urged me to write this article, was finding an old A.P.J. and reading articles on well known fanciers that have passed on and the loss that was felt by their friends and fellow fanciers. I also looked at the pigeon show calendar in the back of the A.P.J. and noticed that the "Nassau Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club" was having its annual open show. I made up my mind that I was going to the show and see some of my old friends and quality birds that was always presented at the show. When I arrived, I was surprised and disappointed to see no one that I knew. Then at a glance of the show hall I realized that this show seemed to be half the size that I recalled it always being. As I walked down the rows of show cages looking at the birds, I saw an old friend, Barbara Beer. She was working on the books as usual. We hugged each other and spoke for a short while, only because she had work to do. During our discussion, she told me another friend was involved with the fancy but was out of town. That was Pete Valentine. Pete and I go back as far as the fifth grade in school and that's more years than I would like to admit to. As usual, time goes the fastest when you don't want it to, and I had to leave.

A day or two later, I started to think more and more about that day and the article in the old A.P.J. That prompted me to write a small tribute to some of my fellow fanciers that I missed seeing at the show like "The Good Old Days." Most are still with us, but have moved on to various parts of the country.

Russ Kealing, one of the first to get me started with West of England Tumblers, also bred Rollers. We used to have some strong debates on the do's and don't's of breeding.

Frank Ito, a great help in getting the Wests from the West Coast which was very instrumental in the development of the breed in New York. We went to many shows together and "Tilted" a few to celebrate our victories and losses. Frank and family moved to California. No more "importing" for Frank.

Gene Pardini, a fine breeder of English Long Face Tumblers, Show Flights, and any other breed he chooses. He was always there to advise me on developing my Muffed Tumblers by crossing them with the more powerful clean leg Tumblers. I'll never forget the black clean leg young cock he sold me. It turned out to be a powerful bird that he offered to "take off my hands" if I chose to get rid of it. Unfortunately, God got him first. It choked on a piece of corn. Gene and his wife, Arlene, moved to Pennsylvania.

Vinnie Reid, was into Show Flights and Wests. We held our "West" Club meetings at his home and had many discussions, some very heated, on the standard of the West and everything else in general. Vinnie was also a master supporter of the "Nassau Suffolk"

Club. The Reids chose Florida.

Last, but certainly not the least, Pete Valentine. His main breed was Turbits and great ones at that. He also had self Wests. Pete always has been and hopefully still is a strong supporter of the pigeon fancy. He has always been a club officer of one kind or another and those clubs all benefited from his service.

One of the points of this article is to remind ourselves of our friends and fellow fanciers and how they upset our lives within and out of the fancy. We should not take these relationships for granted as we so often do. We should appreciate each other now, not then, when it's too late.

In closing I would like to say it was and still is a pleasure to have known the gentlemen I have spoken of and all the others that I have not mentioned. I sincerely wish you all the best that life can offer and a prosperous breeding season.

Carrier Pigeons Make Comeback In War

by CAROL J. WILLIAMS, Times Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: This article was taken from the Sat., Jan. 11, 1992, edition of the Times. It was sent to us by Frank Quatrochi, Silverton, Ore. Another story which shows how beneficial our hobby is.)

Pozarevac, Yugoslavia - On missions that take him deep into war-torn Croatia, one special courier for the Serbian fighters travels to the front in a ventilated cake box.

His journey through enemy lines to meet his contact can take days of stealthy movement. But the courier, known simply as Whitehead, is usually back home within two hours after being handed his dispatch.

Whitehead is a homing pigeon and for Pozarevac fighters on the Croatian front he is the swiftest means of getting word to worried loved ones at home.

In a war fed by centuries-old hostilities and carried out with a crude vigor reminiscent of the Middle Ages, it comes as little surprise that such an ancient method of communication must be relied on for families to stay in touch.

"We began by reading the messages over local radio, because people here had no word on their boys at the front," explained Slobadan Brkic, president of the Yugoslav Carrier Pigeon Assn. "People were so happy to hear from their sons that they would come up to me on the street and kiss my hand."

The Yugoslav war that has severed phone lines, disrupted mail and blocked all inter-republic transport has bestowed new purpose to the hobby of carrier-pigeon breeders and brought fame to this provincial Serbian city renowned for rearing the fastest birds.

Brkic got the idea to employ carrier pigeons to get news from the front from reading the history of World War I, when carrier

pigeons were used to relay word of troop movements to the Allies during the liberation of Europe.

Homing pigeons, which are a special breed of common rock pigeons, were first used for racing and relaying messages by the Egyptians and Persians 3,000 years ago. They served in various military capacities up until the Korean War, after which most courier units were disbanded in favor of new electronic devices.

While modern technology allows battlefield commanders to confer with Belgrade's military headquarters, the war's disruption of all convention communication has thwarted the rank and file's best efforts to keep in touch with home.

"In this day when satellites can photograph us sitting on a beach, people are amazed that this is the only means of getting instant information from the front," Brkic said of the pigeons he began shipping to the battle zones through the army in mid-October.

The pigeons are trucked in among other supplies and handed over to Pozarevac fighters who attach messages to their leg bands and then release them.

Whitehead, the star of Radisa Radunovic's decorated flock, was the first to complete a war mission, bringing home word that brother Dragisa was alive and well and fighting with the army in the Croatian town of Mirkovci.

At least 90 successful carries had been completed by the end of November, with most of the brief messages being read on local radio.

"Dear father: I'm fine. Don't worry about me. I'll be home soon. Dule," read one recent

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missive to the Radunovic family.

Homing pigeons are known to have flown as many as 1,000 miles across unknown territory to get home, and female birds with young at their nests have posted phenomenal speed records across Europe.

Radunovic said one mother pigeon in his coop has made the 125-mile trip from Mirkovci in just over an hour.

How they find their way back from distant locations is one of the mysteries of science, as their swift flight allows little leeway for trial and error. Radunovic said the birds are known to have an unusually high

level of magnesium in their systems, which he believes bolsters the theory that the birds' homing abilities are in some way related to the Earth's magnetic fields.

Only one of the Pozarevac birds failed to return after being delivered to the local handlers on the Croatian front, an experienced racer named Big Red.

"We think there may have been foul play involved," said Radunovic, explaining that falcons and hawks can be trained to attack carrier pigeons in flight. Or maybe he was shot by a Croatian sniper."

A Possible Formula For A Better Yellow Nun

by ALEX RAWSON, Staten Island, N.Y.

I figure if you breed Nuns at least do something towards improving the show quality of them. I have attempted to improve outcrossed, with modest success to a white English L.F.C.L. Crested Tumbler. After five generations of devoted attention, I arrived at a beautiful Black Nun hen devoid of wing markings. Somewhere in my many experiments I realized that Mother Nature has a peculiar faculty for reversing itself in pigeon markings. For example, in crossing a Black Self Tumbler to a Black Nun, I raised Black Selfs with mixed white primaries. One of these mated to an Anderson White L.F. English Tumbler Crest raised me two Baldhead caps, clean, and one with a fouled tail, half black. Thinking on this I realized that since I had no Baldheads or Baldhead-bred birds in the coop it must be that the markings had reversed themselves.

Now hear this. Take a photo of a Nun, then take the negative and hold it up to the light and what do you see? A Baldhead cap! That's right! Doing some research, I discovered that a top European Capuchine breeder freshens the blood of his Baldhead marked birds with a Nun outcross. Crazy right? Wrong. It works, I did it. By F3, you'd never know about the outcross from the results you will see. The Nun markings has been replaced by the bald heads.

So then let's improve the yellow Nun by a cross to a yellow English L.F.C.L. Baldhead! I mean a really good one, no junk. For better beak substance try a cross of a yellow Nun to a yellow English C.L.L.F. Tumbler. Using only extra good quality birds the resulting F1 could be used later to an F2 or F3 Nun down from the Baldhead. By now you must be ready to scream just thinking about these processes. Please don't. If you believe me, try it. If you don't, don't do it. OK!?

Remember the purpose of all this mish mash is to produce a better yellow Nun. You don't see one now, so what can you lose? I know of a fancier who mated a yellow Nun to a "Kelly," yellow crested Domestic Flight, noted for huge shell crests. He raised a huge crested yellow Tumbler that had a very

straight beak, but not short.

If you, dear reader, can analyze what I'm proposing, it simply means let's have fun and be creative, try something.

I must also add that those of you who have tried a white L.F.C.L. must know that such a bird with pearl eyes is not really white. In the terms of a geneticist such a white must be considered a grizzle. Unless it has two bull eyes and is pure white, it then can be considered truly white. A white with pearl eyes is a concealing color.

I know this formula I propose sounds far out. I ask you who doubt to just take a photo of a Nun, then view the negative which will, in reverse, be a Baldhead. I also seriously would accept a bull eyed white Tumbler too for such an outcross.

A newer cross I'm making was a mating of a Nun and a Yellow Komorner Magpie. I was amazed to find that the F1 crosses all were Yellow Komorner Magpies. You'd never know that there is a Nun parent in these. One comment I will make is that the crosses had superb crests. Considering what I know of the Nun Capuchine matings, I do not doubt that taking these young and going back to the Nun with them will give me Nuns again with giant crests in Yellow. I have seen yellow Nuns run in great color but few with great crests. This should help if pursued further.

Brought together with young from the yellow English C.L. crosses to the Yellow Nun should give us better head frontals which is what we seek.

In working towards the shorter beaks, the type of the results will also change. While I have seen Nuns with unusually straight beak settings, I will say that I can only accept these as unusual, only because I know that two of these mated rarely produce young that way.

I will also beg the readers indulgence in asking him to listen to me explain how I enjoy my pigeons in the breeding pen. I ask no one to copy my ideas or even if they want to criticize that's your prerogative, but never forget to allow me mine. Thanks.

Pigeon People

by RANDY WILSON,
Savanna, Okla.

I would like to start by telling you all about myself. I've been raising pigeons for about 20 years and didn't even know there were other PIGEON PEOPLE! You know PIGEON PEOPLE!!!! in these parts, there aren't very many of us PIGEON PEOPLE! I've run across a few since I was a kid. But they were few and far between. As a youngster and young adult, you would cherish each one of these guys because they were like you – they were PIGEON PEOPLE!

You know people you could talk to about your hobby, people that wouldn't look at you like you were from Mars when you mentioned raising pigeons. Those guys that you would drive halfway across creation, just to visit with, see their lofts and maybe buy some birds. One of these guys was Hugh Woodall of Shawnee. He had some nice Bellneck Rollers, man what a sight to see! George Charon of Colgate is another. I think he has every kind of pigeon there is. People like these were knowledgeable about pigeons and you soaked up all you could, because you didn't know when you could get back again.

And you watched the newspaper for that once-in-a-while Pigeon Advertisement that you called in an attempt to reach other PIGEON PEOPLE! Or you'd check out those little storage buildings in people's backyards just to make sure (Hey, They Could Be Pigeon Lofts)!!!

I think a lot of us grew up the same way, PIGEON PEOPLE even as kids. Yes, even before you had any idea there were Pigeon People, you had the love of the bird. Yeah with flashlight in hand you would risk life and limb to catch those commons because maybe with lots of luck you could catch the one that you and your buds had been after for so long (that white one). Oh please just let me get my hands on him, or maybe the ultimate (you would whisper to your bud) One With A Band, Oh my gosh what a day!!

And you prized those birds as if they were the best show birds in the world. What fun I had with those birds. As a kid I kept a few Rollers off and on and read the APJ whenever I could get my hands on one. Then it happened, strictly by accident, I met the ambassador of pigeons right here in my own home town living here within ten miles of me for the last 15 years. – Crazy Bob Anderson. What a pigeon nut!! This guy will drop everything and drive across the state or the

country just to meet a new pigeon person or just because he thinks there is a pigeon person in that area, and the scariest part is I'm usually with him!!

What a new world of pigeons Bob has brought to me. While I was raising Rollers in seclusion, Bob was hot into the bird shows with his Fantails and Lahores, his Rollers in kit competition. And now, he shares his knowledge, experience and birds freely, a trait I've noticed in most Pigeon People!! He has introduced me to people all over our state and the southern part of the country on our wild hair trips!

Bob, me and our wives went to Louisville this year. I couldn't believe it - thousands of Pigeon People!, just like me and crazy Bob!! I never dreamed so many people enjoyed this hobby and were around me all those years and I guess if it weren't for Crazy Bob, I still wouldn't know they were out there. I've got Fantails now and Rollers thanks to Bob and his buds across the country who have helped me like Ben Winkelman of Oklahoma City, David Falkner of Lequire and Grover Williams of Tulsa, Rick Sparkman of Ennis, Texas.

One thing about Pigeon People I've noticed is they all try to help as much as they can, as if they've known you for years. Hey, I guess that's just the way Pigeon People are!!

Are you a Pigeon Person? Here's a little test!

1. When you are driving around and you see one of those small portable storage buildings, is your first thought, hey, that would make a nice pigeon loft?

2. Do you stay on the phone every chance you get talking about genetics, color, patterns, kitting, type, body shape, velocity, wing set, show room quality, leg setting, conformation?

3. Do you have trouble concentrating at work? Can't stop wondering what kind of youngsters this mating season will bring?

4. Can't wait till quitting time or the weekend so you can do pigeon stuff, work with your birds or go visit your pigeon buddies' loft?

5. Is your bathroom cluttered with APJs, club bulletins, show reports?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, guess what? You're a Pigeon People!!

If you answered yes to all of these, you are a PIGEON NUT and are probably a distant relation to Crazy Bob and Me!!

Thanks to all my new friends in the hobby and especially my bud Crazy Bob Anderson!

Smart People Raise Pigeons

by GLENN T. MOTZKUS, Salt Lake City, Utah

When I tell people I raise pigeons, they sometimes look at me as if to say, "You raise what?" They don't come right out and say they consider that a rather odd way to spend my spare time but it is plain they think so.

To them, a man who labors hard to knock a little ball into 18 holes-in-the-ground is engaged in a perfectly sensible effort, but a man who fusses over pigeons with no intention of ever eating them or selling them for a profit must be a bit strange, if not actually "crazy."

The truth is, though, that there is nothing more sane than the hobby of pigeon keeping, or any other good hobby, for that matter. I read some time ago the following statement - show me a person who hasn't got a hobby and I will show you a man who is headed for an early grave. I really believe that!

I'm sure you have heard people say that they weren't looking forward to retirement, because they would go crazy with nothing to do. They have not developed a hobby. Pigeon keeping is my reality - the reality of

relief from worry and tension.

Monday through Friday, I work hard in a stress filled job. Each afternoon, I am able to relax and enjoy my pigeons as I feed and water the birds, watch their personalities develop and watch how they interact with each other. Even though Saturday is reserved for cleaning the loft, it is also a time to unwind from the pressures of the week. Weekends are great for visiting with other fanciers at their lofts or mine. It gives us a chance to talk about our birds and everything related to them.

Two of my sons, during the time they were pigeon fanciers, got a lot of benefit out of the hobby too. It taught them a bit about carpentry, about genetics, biology, and the science of nutrition; it helped give them a wholesome attitude toward sex; and most of all provided them with a lot of good fun.

So I say three cheers for the pigeon fancy. It's composed of a great bunch of people and they're on the right track!

Regeneration Of New Pigeon Blood

by VACLAV TURECEK, Prague, Czechoslovakia

(Reprinted from June 1960 APJ, page 182)

I am quite sure that the reader of this article will be astonished at this heading and that he will cogitate as to what it really means. Of course, every pigeon breeder is acquainted with the blood invigoration and knows that in the case of a great blood relation among his birds, it is necessary to introduce new birds lest a degeneration of his breed should occur.

This method of blood invigoration is practiced by ninety-nine percent of pigeon breeders in the whole world. But we Czechs try to find out new methods of blood invigoration because we do not like to buy new birds.

I can say that I have practiced for more than 20 years the blood invigoration of my breed in the following way: The birds are Czech Swallows. I have two lofts, one for the birds flying in the open and the other for the birds in the cage, similar to those used in the United States. Naturally I took away the young ones of the birds in the cage and put them under the birds flying in the open.

I fed the cage breed for the most part by leguminous plants, e.g. by vetch, peas, lentil and rape seed, only a small part by maize and potatoes mixed with crushed oats. The birds flying in the open were fed the great part by barley and wheat. From time to time, mainly in winter months, when the birds cannot fly in the fields because of bad weather, rain, frost and snow, I used to feed by germinating grain. The shoots are highly nutritious and

keep the breed in good form and consequently it survives winter well and is well prepared for the breeding season in spite of cruel frost.

For this method of blood invigoration are chosen the young ones of the best quality. By replacement from the cage breed to the open field breed and by the change of food the young one's blood is invigorated and refreshed, and consequently it can be used for the most closely related breeding.

It is a great fault that the pigeon breeders do not trust one another in order to be able to form groups of breeders, help mutually, inform one another and thus improve the quality of the birds.

I have often met breeders who, unfortunately, worked only for their selfish purposes. I have been deeply disappointed by this fact.

This is also the reason why I look for new methods of blood invigoration. Here is one of the latest achievements. It is done in the following way:

Let us take into consideration a bird with pre-suppositions of blood invigoration. He must not have been affected by an infectious disease. The absolute health is urgently necessary.

This bird is placed alone in a cage in order that it may not find any food with its mates. I should like to point out that the breeder must know the daily rations of food because every sort of pigeon requires a different food

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and different rations. The invigoration is done in fifteen days:

1st day: the Swallow gets 10 grams of food.

2nd day: the Swallow gets 8 grams of food.

3rd day: the Swallow gets 6 grams of food.

4th day: the Swallow gets 4 grams of food.

5th day: the Swallow gets 2 grams of food.

6th day: the Swallow gets no food, only water.

7th day: the Swallow gets no food, only water.

8th day: the Swallow gets no food, only water.

9th day: the Swallow gets no food, only water.

10th day: the Swallow gets no food, only water.

11th day: the Swallow gets 2 grams of food.

12th day: the Swallow gets 4 grams of food.

food.

13th day: the Swallow gets 5 grams of food.

14th day: the Swallow gets 8 grams of food.

15th day: the Swallow gets 10 grams of food.

The regeneration of blood is then finished and the bird can be treated as a new fresh blood imported from another continent. I can guarantee the complete success and excellent results in breeding.

Further I call to the fact that this regeneration is of no effect upon the basic design of the bird nor upon the color of the bird. Only in the case of the Czech Tiger Swallows there follows a dissolution of the pigment. That means the formation of a new design.

If anybody does not trust this regeneration of blood, I can recommend him to make a blood analysis before and after the regeneration in the case of every bird used.

I wish good luck to every breeder who will follow my advice.

Pattern For Blood Regeneration

Days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Food In Grams	10	8	6	4	2		Only	Water			2	4	6	8	10

Breeding The Flying Performing Roller

by KELLEY D. SPURLING, Grants Pass, Ore.

Much has been written about the Roller. This like other writings is composed of the writer's opinions and only that. What works for myself, may not work for the reader.

If one notices, I refer to Rollers as Flying Performing Rollers and not Birmingham. There are basically five different breeds of Flying Rollers. These are the Birmingham, Whittinghams, Old Americans, New Americans and the color families. We will touch on each one a bit.

Birmingham Rollers are down from the birds imported by the late Wm. Pensom; one of the foremost authorities of flying Rollers ever.

They are very popular all over the world; 90% of all Rollers are of the "Pensom Strain." This being due to the fact that they produce a very high percentage of quality performers.

A craze for the show pen disrupted the breed some years ago, but the breed recovered to a great extent. However, the fancy is again leaning toward this 'fad.' If one wishes to exhibit their Rollers, a proven performer program must be used as a safeguard to prevent the breed from extinction. Nothing pleases the eye more than seeing a well-groomed, high quality performer.

I might also add that an off-shoot of the Birmingham known as "Dual-Purpose Type," is also present. These families, while good performers, tend to resemble the show birds of the Dual Purpose era.

The second family, known primarily as

Whittingham Rollers, is not as popular as it once was. In fact they are very rare. The late J.V. McAree was responsible for the bulk of the original Whittinghams in North America, having imported them direct from Thomas Whittingham of Wolverhampton, England. The first importation was made in 1905 and consisted of about half dozen pair.

Thomas Whittinghams' reputation was built mainly upon his selling of birds and not his ability.

The most popular family of Whittinghams were those promoted by the late James E. Graham. These bore the name 'Fireballs' and were most popular until the "Pensom Strain" began to take over.

In reference to 'Fireball,' it is generally assumed that the Fireballs were developed from a Red Bd. cock, a deep Roller with bull-eyes whom Graham called Fireball. This is incorrect.

The "Fireball Strain" was developed beginning in 1956 when McAree was forced to leave the hobby. Graham created this family from his 20 best pairs and McArees' best 20 pairs. However, 'Fireball' is an ancestor to every member of the strain, as his only progeny, a cock, was extensively in the building foundation as Graham lost 'Fireball' at the age of two years.

Thirdly, is the Old-Style American Roller. I am sure much of their background is Whittingham. American Roller is the name given to all Rollers in the U.S. which were brought here before the 'Pensoms.'

They were a pearl-eye bird with a flesh colored beak, often having booted legs and extra tail feathers. The latter two characteristics came about through crosses with booted Asiatic Rollers (Orientals). These crosses were made to increase the depth of performance.

Old Styled Americans were bred to fly high and long (duration) and roll depths such as 50, 75, and 100 foot in one sequence. The deeper the pigeon, the more value it had.

This breed is very rare today and should not be confused with the New Style American Roller which is common in the Pacific Northwest.

These birds, while of the same body-type and color (lacking traces of boots and extra tail feathers), are bred to roll safer depths such as 10, 20 and 30 foot in one spinning bout.

The last breed is the Color Family Rollers. These merely consist of many diverse families which are bred not only for performance but also uncommon colors.

The two best known are the Roger Baker Blue Laces and the Ouellette Almonds. Both families can be good performers. Might it be added that the author finds such families intriguing and has a family of Yellows he works with. There is nothing more rewarding than breeding an uncommon colored pigeon which is a high quality performer. It is very challenging, a real test of a fancier's skills.

There also exists a sixth group, the Competition Tumblers which are short working and highly active. Bill Pensom imported a pair of these during the late 1950's to educate his many visitors about the effects of breeding birds to roll 'competition style.'

There are two basic families of this breed; one called the Red Badges which were developed by the late Bill Langford; the other, the Mags as they were called as their markings were similar to the Wild Magpie, were developed by the late Chas. Harwood.

By rights, these competition Tumblers are not Rollers, but a variation of one.

Why The Roller Is Bred

Flying Performing Rollers are bred only for the rare ability to turn backwards somersaults with incredible velocity while descending to earth in an unbroken sequence.

This ability has no substitute in any form. So-called Rollers that are incapable of such should be regarded as Tumblers and not Rollers, regardless of pedigree or reputation.

Why Rollers roll will never be known. There are theories as to why. The two most common are:

1. Epilepsy or some sort of 'genetic' mental disorder having to do with the nervous system.

2. Voluntary; the idea that the bird rolls out of pleasure.

It is probably a combination of both. The writer has had a number of different breeds, on several occasions in my own loft I had

some strange occurrences.

I clearly remember having a 1985 bred Racing Homer cock which I flew with my Rollers and occasionally this bird would tumble.

This kit might turn and this Homer would tumble for a few feet. Some fanciers are saying at this point, "the bird must have been at least half Roller." I will let the reader know that this bird was from a well-respected Racing fancier who kept only purebred birds of the 'Trenton' strain. This bird's sire and dam were 'race proven.'

Another occurrence was with a Chinese Owl hen, who acted similarly when the kit might make a turn. I might also add that I know for sure that both birds tumbled as both birds were Blue selfs. I never owned a blue Roller until 1986. Both these happenings were in 1985.

So is performance voluntary or involuntary? It is both.

What Are The Qualities Of A Quality Roller

Velocity of the roll is of utmost importance. Velocity is the rate at which a bird turns over and not the rate of dissension as one would suppose.

Tightness is also a great factor, however; the Rollers of high velocity are 'always' very tight in tucking in. This makes the writer believe that a bird can only roll so tight, and anything beyond that point is an illusion caused by the great velocity of the roll.

Some fanciers will disagree with my theory. This is how I see it. If the velocity is right, the tightness is right.

Frequency is an important factor, frequency is not only how often a bird rolls; but also how often a bird rolls in a quality manner. Even if the bird is of extremely high quality and rolls only once or twice every 30 minutes, it is a cull. Birds can also roll so frequently that they are either very poor kitters or worse yet, land early and disrupt the entire kit. These two are culls if they do such on a regular basis. Check first to see if the bird is in the moult.

Depth is a factor, but by all means do not base a bird's merit on depth alone. Some birds will roll too deep and often 'bump' into the surrounding buildings, trees, and even the ground. Any pigeon which is of high velocity will almost always break a bone or terminate itself.

There are also 'rolldowns' which bump into the ground every time they are liberated. Some are so possessed by the roll that they are unable to fly, even if hand-tossed.

Kitting, homing and flying abilities are also to be considered when determining a bird's merit. The kit should fly in a compact unit and be free from birds which constantly disrupt the kit by weaving about the front of the group. These birds disrupt any concerted performance. A Roller when upon finishing the roll should promptly return to the kit.

A Roller should be capable of Tippler-

like flight for a long duration. This is not to say make your birds fly three hours daily. Generally, if a fancier liberates his kit very early in the morning shortly after sunrise; they may fly for hours. Especially if the kit was fed the evening before.

If one has experience with different types of Rollers one will notice there exists at least two differences in wing-action and kit formation between the older styled Rollers and the Birminghams.

While the Birmingham variety generally flies in a figure eight kit performance formation, the Whittingham and Old Americans fly in what the writer calls 'Pretzel Pattern' meaning there is no real formation of the kit. Might one also notice if the different varieties are flown with one another they will generally take on one or the other.

Most fanciers tend to ignore wing-action; the old families tend to portray a slow, very graceful action, which is generally called the 'Butterfly Wing-Action.' Birminghams on the other hand, fly much like a normal pigeon with very quick and powerful wing beats. Wing-action has little to do with the roll. The most important factor regarding wing-action has to do with endurance. 'Butterfly Wing-Actioned Fliers' will fly like a Tippler and are less susceptible to overfly losses, not to mention overflies in general. They use less energy during flight than the faster wing-action.

Homing ability has great importance because of overflies, the better the instinct, the less losses one will have. I have heard of Rollers which were given new homes 5, 15 and even 30 miles from their original loft and would escape and return to their place of flying origin.

To be a quality Roller the individual must possess the following characteristics: high-velocity performance, frequency, reasonable depth, close-kitting, endurance and good flying ability, as well as homing ability.

Performance

There exists many variations of performance among Rollers. These begin at the simple tumbling and end all the way to the no-hole Roller, which rolls with such great velocity that the birds inertia is altered. Thus causing the bird to descend to earth at a generally slow rate.

Tumbling consists of various types of performance, such as tail-riding, mad dives, twizzling and flip-flopping. The writer also regards any pigeon not of decent quality or better a 'Tumbler.'

Such types of performance would include many types of actual rolls which lack in straightness, tightness, cleanliness and generally slow pigeons.

There is little to no sense in explaining all or any of the faults to a great extent. Why understand something that is not worth the band upon its leg?

To my knowledge the perfect Roller has never (and never will be) bred, plain and

simple. There is no sure-fire method to breed champions either.

It is necessary to point a general fact of life out to the reader, in my opinion. Any fancier who is familiar with flying Rollers knows very well that flying Rollers offer the greatest challenge to breed than any domesticated animal.

The next variation of performance is the bird which rolls with decent velocity and is free from major flaws in the roll. Such pigeons are extremely common. This is the type of bird which predominates in old bird kits and is a quality Roller. However, it is just a Roller and nothing more. It is not an extremely high quality bird and definitely no where near the 'Champion' status. Value a bird accordingly.

There are many variations of high velocity, the faster the bird turns over, the greater it should be valued.

The 'hole in the side of the roll' (H. Rottenbaucher) is considered the minimum of the style of the 'Champion.' By all means do not look for it, as a fancier would drive himself to the point of insanity.

Basically, the pigeon is rolling with such great velocity that it gives us the illusion of a hole in the center of a roll. There is no 'hole,' we merely see a variety of one as there is a space left when the pigeon 'tucks in,' just like the bird itself (illusion of a falling ball shape) the space appears round. The bird is not round, and neither is the space that is left over. Extreme velocity gives us the impression that both are in fact cylindrical. But you know it is not.

When a bird rolls correctly the hole is there. However, it is not often the fancier is in the correct viewpoint. The more angle on the fanciers' viewpoint, the more distorted that space appears. You have to be in the right place at the right time, and the odds are against you.

Earlier, the 'no-hole Roller' was mentioned. These pigeons are rolling with such velocity that they may break feathers, the pressure may cause the capillaries in the eye to rupture to such a point that the eye is literally 'blown out.' Hens may roll their insides out. The variety is very detrimental.

It is this same style of Rollers which descend to earth at a dramatically slower rate than others. Thus making myself believe that the overall velocity alters the pigeons' state of inertia which would cause the bird to descend at a much slower rate.

However the fancier should set his goal on breeding and flying Rollers which roll straight, fast and tight, moderate depth and frequently. Forget the 'hole,' if one used only pigeons which showed the 'hole,' one would not have enough birds to work from and also many high quality performers would be wasted.

How They Roll

(Continued On Next Page)

Generally, there are two theories as to how the roll is executed. These are:

Wing Stroke Method: The belief that while rolling, the bird is constantly beating its wings; propelling itself backward. The faster the wing beats the higher velocity the roll is.

Wing Lock Method: The belief that upon entering the roll the bird 'locks' its wings in an upright position and suffers a nervous spasm which causes the bird to roll.

I find it quite impossible for a pigeon to roll with extreme velocity using the wing stroke method. The ever present wing beating could only produce drag upon the roll, causing a lack of velocity.

The same method would also rule out the belief that Rollers roll because of a genetic mental disorder.

Pigeons will roll in this manner, however; these pigeons are incapable of rolling with extreme velocity.

I believe that the bird locks into position, as do most of the most respected fanciers of true Rollers.

If one bred from the variety which perform using wing stroke he would have a VERY POOR family of Rollers. If such a bird even really exists. If it does, the bird which rolls in this manner is more deserving of the name 'Tumbler' rather than 'Roller.'

Feeding A Kit Of Rollers (BOLD)

The trick involved with feeding is not really what is fed, but rather how much is fed.

What to feed is up to the fancier, any grain which is low in protein such as milo, wheat, kafir, millet, and popcorn is best. The best mix is one part milo and two parts wheat. One could even feed a separate grain with good results.

The 'Amount' is of great importance. Never go by that 'one teaspoon per bird' garbage as it is a good way to starve your best birds as they will get little and the culls will get more than their share.

I generally go by one handful for every three birds, but not always. You have to know when to both cut back and add feed. What do you want them to do? The less feed the shorter they fly, more feed will make them fly higher and longer.

How did they act today? Were they seldom? Give them less. Overactive? Give them a bit extra.

It is also wise to use as little feed as possible to get them in. Let them rest an hour or so, then give them the remnants of the meal. This allows the active birds time to rest, this will allow them to get their share rather than two or three gluttons eating it.

May everyone enjoy their birds to the fullest as that is what it is all about.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following fanciers:

Everyone who has supported the best organization is this hobby, The Performing Roller Assn., despite the occasional ups and downs.

All those fanciers of great ability who

offered advice even if it were for only a few minutes of visiting. Fanciers like Bill Schrieber, Roger Baker, Frank Lavin, Jim C. Johnston and others whom I have left out.

Chandler Grover, one of my two mentors from whom one of my families of Rollers bear origin to.

Most of all, Daniel J. Ouellette, my other mentor, with whom I spent 'many' hours leaning Rollers. My other family bears origin to this loft as well.



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



Recently, I read an article written by Dr. Syed A. Bokhari, Poultry Farm Advisor, about the Paramyxovirus (PMV). This article should answer any questions one might have concerning PMV.

PARAMYXOVIRUS DISEASE OF PIGEONS

by Dr. Syed A. Bokhari, Poultry Farm Advisor

Paramyxovirus infection is a highly contagious disease of pigeons caused by paramyxovirus type 1 (PMV-1) and characterized by unsteady gait, uncontrolled flight, head tremors, paralysis of wings and legs, twisted neck, and loose droppings.

In 1982-83, a similar disease took an epidemic course in racing pigeons and caused serious problems in Europe and the middle East. In the U.S.A., PMV disease first appeared in the spring of 1984, in the Flying Tippler and Racing Homer breeds of pigeons in the New York metropolitan area (Tangredi, 1985).

No cases of PMV disease have been reported in squabbing pigeons in California. However, there is a potential danger of spread of this disease to Central Valley Squab Industry through contacts in pigeon shows, pigeon races or ranch visits. Once this threat moves closer to the home grounds, the risk to squab industry will certainly increase.

Current information on PMV disease is compiled in this article to inform you on how to guard your squabbing pigeons against the devastating consequences of this disease.

CAUSES

The disease is caused by Paramyxovirus type 1 (PMV-1) which is closely related to the virus of Newcastle disease. There are at least nine different paramyxovirus serogroups termed PMV-1 to PMV-9. The first paramyxovirus (PMV-1) of the birds was isolated and identified in 1927. The second paramyxovirus (PMV-2) was identified in 1960. Between 1967-1987, seven serotypes (PMV-3 to PMV-9) were identified.

STABILITY PARAMYXOVIRUS

Also those many fanciers who answered the many letters regarding Junior Fanciers, many of which became PRA members. This will surely benefit the breed in the future.

Anyone wishing to comment on this article is encouraged to do such, regardless of their opinion.

Yours in the Sport, Kelley D. Spurling,
Head Jr. Dir. Performing Roller Association,
1475 Sunglo Drive, Grants Pass, Oregon
97527.

VIRUS

Stability of PMV in the environment is dependent on the medium in which the virus is present. Organic matters including decaying carcasses, droppings, and mucus droplets are not only protective but may make disinfectants ineffective.

All activity of paramyxovirus is destroyed within one minute at 100 degree C, in six hours at 56 degree C, and in months to years at 20 and 8 degree C. Virucidal chemicals kill the virus within seconds. Paramyxovirus is also destroyed by exposure to ultraviolet light rays. All known viricidal chemicals can destroy PMV in a short time.

Environmental conditions such as warm temperatures and solar radiation (sunlight) help in destroying the virus by chemicals. When disinfecting pigeon lofts make sure the premises are thoroughly cleaned and are swept free from any organic matters.

SUSCEPTIBILITY

In natural infections individual serotypes of paramyxoviruses show a marked affinity for specific groups or types of birds. Artificial infections indicate that most of the paramyxoviruses are able to infect a wide variety of birds. Therefore, the affinities for any group of birds may be more a result of lack of intermingling of different groups rather than any particular host specificity or "species barrier."

INCUBATION PERIOD

From 4 to 18 days. In the field, disease may appear in an infected loft up to 35 days after the onset of the disease.

OCCURRENCE

Pigeon PMV-1 strains have been isolated in Mediterranean countries and the Middle East. Infection has also been reported in Japan and the USA. Wild pigeons are one of the most significant sources of natural transmission of PMV infections.

COURSE

Paramyxovirus infection can be so mild as to be almost undetectable, whereas in other situations it can kill as much as 80% or

more of the infected birds.

Tangredi (1985) reported that the incidence of infected flocks in the New York outbreak of Paramyxovirus infection subsided after the spring racing season ended, only to increase dramatically during and following the fall racing season. All affected young pigeons continue to die, but many of the adults completely recovered after two weeks of illness.

SPREAD

The most important methods of spread of PMV are associated with the complex series of interconnections which are a part of the modern squab industry. The wide avian host range of PMV, its resistance to adverse environmental conditions, and its persistence in dead birds and offal, contribute to its ability to spread. Airborne transmission through wind and contaminated pests also occurs.

The Paramyxovirus spreads by direct contact from pigeon to pigeon or indirectly through virus-bearing dust. This dust is also spread by humans, equipment and pests, etc. Pigeon breeders play a significant part in the spread of disease during handling as well as at races and fairs, etc.

The incubation period has been reported as being 7 to 14 days with virus being shed as early as two days after infection. Thus, infected pigeons have ample opportunity to expose other pigeons to virus either at shows or, in the case of racing pigeons, in transport vehicles. This may account for the rapid spread of Paramyxovirus disease during previous outbreaks.

Infected pigeons excrete virus in the nasal secretions from the second to ninth day after infection and in feces from the second to the fourteenth day. Infection is spread through direct and indirect contact with nasal secretions and feces.

PMV is eliminated in the feces only during the acute phase of the disease. The virus may persist in the lungs and in the trachea as long as 28 days and in the brain until the end of the 35 days after infection.

Recovered birds do not become carriers of infection.

SIGNS

Signs of PMV disease are somewhat similar to neurotrophic Newcastle disease in chickens with:

- Unsteady gait and uncontrolled flight;
- Head tremors;
- Partial or incomplete paralysis of legs and wings;
- Muscular incoordination;
- Head tilt;
- Twisted neck (caused by spasmodic contraction of neck muscles drawing the head to one side);
- Inability to peck feed;
- Loose droppings.

Respiratory signs are usually absent.

At the onset of disease infected birds show loss of condition and appetite and excessive drinking. This is usually followed by

profuse watery diarrhea, frequently green in color. Soon birds may show nervous disorder. Diarrhea may persist without any nervous signs.

The nervous signs may persist for a considerable period in the more severe cases, resulting in complete paralysis and death. Usually the affected birds are culled by pigeon producers.

In a mild form of Paramyxovirus disease droopy wings may be the only sign. In other cases, signs of severe sickness like diarrhea, which is often bright green color, and twisting of the neck may be apparent. The severity of the signs usually progress rapidly and sick pigeons may die within four days. It is not unusual for mortality to exceed 50%.

If pigeons are infected during molting, poor growth of coverts with fragile rachis, poorly developed barbs and barbules, and broken feathers may be observed.

LESIONS

Lesions can vary from bird to bird within a flock and from flock to flock within an area. At necropsy, few lesions are visible except for hemorrhagic enteritis during the acute phase of the infection.

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

Morbidity varies between 30 to 70%. Mortality may not exceed 10% in the absence of stress or other complications. Due to heavy stress or secondary infections mortality may go as high as 30% or more.

During the initial spring outbreak in New York, Flying Tippler flocks experienced virtually 100% morbidity and mortality. Among the Racing Homers, nearly all young pigeons were affected and died, whereas only 10-40% of the adults acquired clinical signs and died (Tangredi, 1985).

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis will depend on serology, history of the flock and possibly virus isolation.

Contact your local poultry pathology lab for proper diagnosis.

DISEASE OUTCOME

Valuable racing pigeons suffering from this disease can be saved. According to Vindevogel and Duchatel (1985) many pigeons, even those showing severe nervous troubles, can recover entirely after a convalescence of 2 to 6 months and their orientation sense will not be damaged. But diarrhea may persist as long as several months, in which case the flying performance of the bird will be diminished.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

A. Prevention of disease can be achieved through strict isolation and sanitation measures. In high risk areas the susceptible flocks can be protected by vaccination. Check your veterinarian or poultry diagnostic laboratory and seek their advice in this matter.

B. Control in racing pigeons (Schrag, 1985):

1. When paramyxovirus disease is suspected in valuable racing birds (which you want to save as much as possible) the follow-

ing steps will help you to slow down or prevent the spread of infection until the problem is diagnosed:

a. Establish quarantine immediately. Take sick birds to the lab for proper diagnosis.

b. Treat at once all diseases found, in addition to paramyxovirus disease. The progress of the virus infection is reduced by the elimination of concomitant disease.

c. Separate all the pigeons with visible signs of disease from the healthy birds in the loft. Move them to hutches built for sick birds. Hutches will restrict free flight which has some beneficial effects.

d. In the hutches for sick birds, provide fresh water in a pan with a large surface because pigeons with nervous signs are often unable to take up water from regular drinking equipment.

e. Feed the pigeons showing pronounced signs individually. Such birds need a very long time in order to take up sufficient grains. If you do not remove them from the loft with other healthy pigeons, they will not be able to feed at all.

f. Do not allow any visitors to enter your loft or the areas for the sick birds.

2. If paramyxovirus disease is diagnosed by the poultry lab, follow their instructions completely.

a. Isolate and destroy all pigeons with severe central nervous disorders and dispose them in an appropriate manner to eliminate the risk of spreading the infection.

b. Vaccinate (if legal) the healthy birds to prevent the spread of the virus infection. After vaccination, it will take 14-21 days until sufficient antibodies are formed. During this time more cases of the disease may appear. Vaccinate all pigeons in lofts in the vicinity of the affected loft and having contact with them.

c. Carry out a super sanitation program to support vaccination. Remove droppings, left-over feed and water daily when cleaning the loft. Disinfect the cleaned surfaces with a suitable disinfectant.

d. Carry out an integrated pest control program concurrently. Isolate your loft from wild birds by screening them out.

3. Take the following supportive measures to help the pigeons survive paramyxovirus disease more easily and to minimize any damage and debility caused by other organisms that are present at the same time.

a. Provide them with vitamins and electrolytes in the drinking water.

b. Treat the secondary infections with appropriate medication.

c. Provide them with comfort, quiet and peaceful surroundings. Provide them with plenty of fresh water and feed at all times.

C. Control in squabbing pigeons:

1. If you suspect an outbreak of PMV infection, contact your poultry diagnostic lab or veterinarian immediately for a conclusive diagnosis and suggestions for control

(Continued On Next Page)

and prevention.

2. Control the source of infection. Prevent all wild and feral birds from coming in contact with your birds.

3. Place new birds under sanitary conditions. Protect them from contact with other birds.

4. Accept only clean birds from known disease free loft.

5. Isolate your pigeon loft from other farms.

6. Quarantine all sick birds. At the first sight of a suspected case, segregate the pen or loft from the rest of the flock and cull them as soon as possible.

7. Monitor flock health closely.

8. Prevent stress and other subclinical diseases.

9. Eliminate culls as soon as possible and dispose the dead birds properly.

10. Select disease-resistant breeding stock. Save squabs for your future replacement needs from clean parents only.

VACCINATION

Initially, vaccines and application procedures were used which were developed and approved to control Newcastle disease (ND) in the domestic chicken and turkey. It soon became evident that mass vaccination procedures, which are effective in chickens, failed to induce uniform and long-lasting protection in pigeon lofts.

In areas where PMV disease in pigeons has been confirmed, all pigeons that still appear to be healthy should be vaccinated. Vaccination provides immunity up to six months. Young pigeons should be vaccinated at least 4 weeks before young pigeons are ready to fly.

Inactivated oil emulsion vaccines:

Inactivated (killed) oil emulsion vaccines are not well tolerated by racing pigeons and have some side effects such as (Vindevogel and Duchatel, 1986; Kaleta et al, 1986):

1. One pigeon in 10,000 may die of shock;

2. Two percent of birds may develop granuloma at the site of injection;

3. Vaccination may reactivate herpesvirus (Pigeon herpesvirus-1), of which the majority of pigeons may be latent carriers;

4. One percent of birds may consequently show 2 to 3 weeks after vaccination with severe conjunctivitis or sinusitis.

Inactivated aqueous vaccine for racing pigeons:

The vaccine contains purified inactivated LaSota strain suspended in an aqueous adjuvant. Subcutaneous injection of the vaccine does not provoke any secondary reactions. In vaccination trials, (Vindevogel and Duchatel, 1986; Kaleta et al, 1986) antibodies were detectable as early as 7 days and reached their maximal titers on day 21. Antibodies persisted at least 6 months after vaccination.

Ninety-five to a hundred percent of vaccinated pigeons resisted a severe challenge performed after one and six months after vaccination. In comparison with control pi-

geons, vaccination also significantly reduced virus shedding in the laryngeal secretions and feces after challenge.

The efficacy of the inactivated aqueous suspension vaccine was compared to that of a commercial inactivated oil emulsion vaccine emulsified in an oil mineral adjuvant. Sero-conversions were higher after injection of the aqueous vaccine than after injection of the oil vaccine. After 1 month post-vaccination, the morbidity and mortality rate reached 30% in the pigeons vaccinated with the oil vaccine and 100% in the control group. In contrast, no pigeon vaccinated with the aqueous vaccine developed signs of the disease (Vindevogel and Duchatel, 1986; Kaleta et al 1986).

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Hope you enjoyed this article. If there's anyone out there who would like more information about the NBRC, or would like to become a member, contact: George Valiska, RD 2, Box 437, Delta, PA 17314.

National English Carrier Club

by DEREK DeBOER

After deciding to raise English Carriers, you must decide on which color or colors are for you. There are many colors to choose from and I will attempt to describe some of them for you.

Blacks should possess an ebony shade with a deep green luster. There should be no sign of fading or smoky feathering. The deep rich black coloring should cover the entire body. A properly colored Black really brings out the beauty of a powdery white wattle.

Blues should have a dark shade covering the entire body, including the rump, with distinct even wing barrings free from breaks or checking. Along with wing bars, there should be a single bar across the tip of the tail. A nicely shaded blue with correct black barring is truly a sight to behold.

Silvers should be a rich even shade of silver-gray covering the entire body including the rump. As with the Blue Bar, the Silvers should have distinct even wing barrings free from breaks or checking and a

matching bar across the tip of the tail. I have seen many Silvers that do have wing checking and this is something a true show quality Silver should not have.

Whites are to be as pure as possible with satin-like luster on the hackle and breast. They should be free of any grizzle or flecking and should be cottony white throughout their wings, rump and tail. Nicely colored Whites possessing a quality wattle are truly breathtaking Carriers.

Reds are a rich solid color throughout and the same shade as the modern Carneau. The color should be free from dark or smoky feathers in all sections. A common fault for Reds is a smoky or an ash-shaded rump and tail that are different from the red coloring of the rest of the body. Reds, with a correct Carneau coloring throughout, are unquestionably beautiful birds, especially with the white wattle enhancing the rich red feathering.

Yellows should be as bright and clear as

possible. They should be free from faded or smoky feathers in all sections. As with Reds, the Yellows often have an off-colored rump and tail which are common faults and should be avoided. The same bright coloring should cover the entire body.

Grizzles are to have an even peppery combination of base color and white throughout the entire body. Wing bars should be as dark as possible. The base color may vary, but the peppery combination of base color and white throughout should hold true to whichever grizzle color is being bred.

Checks are to be a light even ground color throughout with dark even check patterns on the wing shields and showing two distinct bars. This pattern should stay the same for whichever checker color you are working with.

A.O.C. includes Splashes, Pies and all other color combinations. Anything and everything pretty much falls into this category. However, too much mingling of colors is not favored. A.O.C. birds winning over solid color birds must be extremely high grade in general type. I believe there are a number of Pies out there that are equal to, if not greater than the solid-colored birds. I hope in the near future we start to see a lot of Pied Champions.

Which is my favorite? It is hard to say. I like them all. A quality Carrier in any color is always going to be a favorite of mine. Whether you choose one color or all of them, I am positive you will enjoy the world of Carriers.

I would like to welcome two newcomers into the world of Carriers. Dr. Lewis A. Miller of Underwood, Iowa and Ritch Jaques of Sioux Falls, South Dakota have joined the elite group of Carrier breeders. I invite these two fine gentlemen, as well as all other Carrier breeders and APJ subscribers, to join the NECC. Dues can be sent to Robin Neil, whose address can be found in the classified ad section of the APJ under English Carriers.

On behalf of the NECC, I would like to thank the American Pigeon Journal for their support of the NECC and for granting us the opportunity to provide their subscribers information on the English Carrier. Thank you, APJ!

3rd Annual F.D.B. Fun Fly

by DON PISOWICZ, Porter, Ind.

The "1992 F.D.B. Fun Fly" was held on Sat., June 27. What a weekend. I hated to see it come to an end. I left home (Porter, Ind.) Friday around 10 a.m. and arrived in Akron, Ohio around 3 p.m. Not a bad drive for me (uh) I mean my wife. She's the better driver. Some were on the road a lot longer than that. Don Little and Robert Fisher drove 12 hours from the Atlanta, GA, area. Hall of Fames George Valiska and N.B.R.C. Publisher-Editor Bruce Flaughner drove seven hours from Delta, PA, and Darlington, MD areas. Joe Bob Stuka of Waxham, NC, drove a seven passenger van full of Roller fanciers. Gee, I wonder what they all had in common enough to talk about on a 12 hour trip. Ha! Ha! Sounds like that's the only way to go! Jerry Selinger made it down from Canada. Roger and Joyce Baker drove up from Rose Bud, Arkansas. So you can see Roller fanciers will go to any length to visit with each other, have fun and at the same time watch some good Rollers perform. And also pay tribute to three fine gentlemen: Wally Fort, Frank Dallas and Roger Baker. The good members of the C.A.R.C. are to be commended for holding this annual event in honor of these gentlemen. Why pay tribute when it's too late? Do it now when it counts not when it's all over with.

After the late Friday night tour of Canton-Akron area with Robert Fisher at the helm, we finally arrived at Wally Fort's place for a short visit. And thanks to Jimmy Sherwood for guiding us back to our motel.

After a good nights rest, I met Don and Robert in the motel lobby. We got our bearings, then went and ate breakfast with the Triad gang from NC and Tom McDaniel of Bristol, Tenn.

We arrive at Wally Fort's place around 8 a.m. After the usual introductions and signing the guest book, the fly began. Wally turned out several kits. After Wally's we went over to Jim Miller's. After the crowd gathered, Jim turned out his kits. Here's where the winds started to gust up and blow the birds off. Then we left for Jimmy Sherwood's place. Just after Jimmy turned his birds out "Mr. Hawk" appeared. He didn't seem to be after the kit, but drove the kit up and away from the loft area. After a while we left for the Frank Dallas loft to watch his birds perform. At Frank's place I got Roger Baker to recite his witty poem for me like he did last year, but this time I captured it on my video camera. After that we left for a lunch break at McDonald's. There I had a nice visit with George Barnosky of Brunswick, Ohio. George is an ex-flying Roller man. He got tired of feeding the hawks so he went into the Parlor Rollers. In fact, I visited George the next day on my way home. Talk about performance. Mercy, it was too awesome! After lunch we went to Fred Schneider's loft to

watch his Rollers perform. Here at Fred's place last year he gave me some seed pods off of his beautiful Chinese Wisteria Vine. This spring I planted the seeds and Fred and I are the proud grandparents of five baby seedlings. Also at Fred's I got a chance to interview Benny Hargrove of Lexington, NC. Benny gave me a run down on what a Georgia cracker is. Me, having somewhat of an inquiring mind, I wanted to know what a Georgia cracker really was. So, Joe Bob Stuka, Don Little and Robert Fisher told me to ask Benny. They said he would tell me for sure! Well he did! Benny, I think you and I were set up, don't you think? From Fred's we went to Harold Beall's. Harold turned out a great big bunch. Someone said seven kits, WOW! I was worried a couple of times. At Harold's place he is bordered on one side by high voltage wires and a few times the wind pushed them pretty close to the wires, but no casualties. Harold is handicapped by them wires, but I guess if you want to fly Rollers you have to do the best you can and live with what you got to contend with!

After this we headed for Walter Harter's loft. Walter didn't turn his kits out Florida style like he usually does, but the conventional way instead. After Walter's birds were up and performing someone in the crowd asked Walter if he knew the band number of the white flight bird that was doing all the spinning. Walter's reply was, "Do you mean the Bull eyed one or the other one?" Boy, the crowd went wild on that one! After a bit we headed for Charlie Reisdorf's place. I have a story here to pass on. After Charlie released his birds one of them rolled down into the neighbor's yard who by the way has four or five yapping Chihuahua dogs and one of them went over and retrieved the roll down unharmed. Now an idea struck me! I thought, boy you could get one of them dogs to fetch your roll downs out of the neighbor's yard and they are so tiny no one would even notice anything unless the bird actually smacked them right on top of the head. Anyway, I was just about to offer the lady who owned the (mutts) I mean dogs, \$20 when I heard Jerry Selinger tell the lady the dog is worth \$500. The lady kept saying, "You bet, you bet." I just put the \$20 back in my pocket and walked away. I just don't know about them Canadians. I wonder what a "hot dog" goes for in Canada? Anyway I heard Jerry went back that evening and gave the lady \$200 for the dog.

From there we headed for Ned Aquino's loft. Ned has an attractive set up. His lofts and landscaping and gardens, etc., have to be seen to be appreciated. It's just nice to see pigeon lofts, a vegetable and a flower garden and shrubs and rock garden and statue, etc., all in harmonic balance. My wife saw the

(Continued On Next Page)

Southern Illinois

Pigeon Club

"The Friendly Club"

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pictures and said why can't you do that with our back yard and I quickly said Ned hires a professional gardener at \$35 an hour. She said no more. See, a little white lie now and then don't hurt. Ned released his birds Florida style. After a bit we left for the banquet, raffle, auction, etc. Upon arrival at the lovely country estate of Wade Lukers, I right off the bat noticed the good women folk of the C.A.R.C. had a food spread fit for kings. I hope they realize that we "appreciate" what they did for us!

After the feast the crowd gathered around the auction birds. Some of them were gawking in disbelief at Jimmy Sherwood's bird he donated. Our Auctioneer "Colonel" Richard Miller and his assistant Ron Banks gave all the particulars on this thing (uh) I mean bird. There was a ferocious battle among the bidding crowd. Jimmy, you should have been there. Your buddies took good care of you. They kept saying "Paybacks, Jimmy, paybacks." After Jimmy's bird, they auctioned off the rest of the donated birds to help defray some of the expenses of putting on a "Grand Event" such as this. Then the winning raffle numbers were picked out of the bucket. Earl Grover won first prize, but chose

the \$50 instead of the young bird kit. There were some beauties in the kit. Al Graham won the kit. Good going Al. I understood you could use them Al. The next prize was a copy of the video I did of this event. It was won by Robert Koehn. Robert should have received it by now. Hope you enjoyed it Robert. Well if you couldn't make it to the this year's fly, maybe next time. I noticed some new faces this year. I hope to see them again. Missed some that were there last year. Missed Joan Valiska's smile and we missed Joe Quinn. I had some questions for Joe. Maybe next time. Sure missed the good ole boys from the Southern Indiana Roller Club. Some of the P.F.R.C. and Backspin members didn't come up this year either, but the attendance was about the same as last year. The last count was a little over 60 people that signed the guest book. I sure hope and pray the good members and wives of the C.A.R.C. are not burnt out and can muster up enough energy to pull off the fourth annual F.D.B. Fun Fly - "it's a winner." And a special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Wade Luker for opening up their lovely home to us for the banquet, etc. It was truly a "fun time!"

Eastern Tumbler Club News

by DENNIS HAVRILLA, Pub. Dir., Williamsport, Pa.

Hello once again to all of our Eastern Tumbler Club members and fellow Tumbler fanciers. I recently received another first class bulletin from our able secretary, Gene Pardini, and will use it as a basis for this column. By now, most of us will be looking over our young birds very closely, trimming and filing the beaks, and getting them into top show condition, as we are entering the show season full swing. This is a very enjoyable time of the year, time to renew old friendships, and time to also make new friends. The spirit of competition is high, and all of us Tumbler fanciers are hoping to come through with the designated champion.

We have had reports of many fanciers continuing their breeding seasons longer than usual due to the mild weather in our region. We all at one time or another continue to breed that certain pair, looking for that certain show stopper.

Sylvia Thompson, wife of the late Tom Thompson, contacted Gene concerning Tom's LFCL Tumblers. Sylvia enjoys the Tumblers very much but has no place to keep them. If you are interested in purchasing high quality barred CL Tumblers in blue, silver and mealy, please contact: Mrs. Sylvia Thompson, RD #2, Box 726, Jersey Shore, PA 17740. Tom was a longtime member of the Eastern Tumbler Club who was known for his stud of barred Tumblers. I spoke to Sylvia recently, and she still will continue to support the Eastern Tumbler Club shows whenever possible. Our regards to Sylvia and her children, you are doing great.

Our Eastern Tumbler Club patches are still available at this writing. The cost is \$3.50 for club members and \$4.00 plus postage to non-members. Gene stated that we only have 85 patches left, they are selling quickly so you should order yours today. Also, if you are a non-member, why not send along an additional \$10 and join our club. You will be very surprised at the wealth of information you will receive, along with the friendship and the best of competition from our fellow members. We have a great group of members, all of them are willing to help a new member. Give us a try today, we would be glad to add you to our roster.

Our member and friend Jack Houseman exhibited the Champion CL Tumbler at the White Rose Summer Show, in York, PA., which was held at the end of July. Also our member and friend Lou Spahn exhibited the Reserve Champion Tumbler at the show. Jack won with a red self CL, and the Reserve Champion shown by Lou was a white CL Tumbler. Congratulations to Jack and Lou on their achievements. Lou, get your knee back into shape, we need your help at the National.

Our member Jerry Wissler is handling the band sales for the United English Tumbler Club. Cost of the bands are 20¢ a piece, and the bands will be available the last week of December. Send your order in early as to reserve your series of bands. If they aren't available, Jerry will select the series. Jerry's address is: Jerry Wissler, 2041 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.

I would like to welcome our three new members to our fine organization. Larry Deckert, from Orange, CA., who is our current president of the United English Tumbler Club. Larry is also known for his famous stud of white muffed Tumblers. Welcome aboard, Larry. How about sending me a few lines so I can relay them to our members?

Our next new member is also a well known CL Tumbler breeder, and his name is Paul Splain, from Columbia, PA. Paul breeds from a few pairs of red and yellow selfs. Glad to have you with us, Paul. Drop me a few lines that I could use in our column.

Our third new member is also a well known CL Tumbler breeder, and his name is George Duemig, from Maspeth, NY. George is breeding barred cleanleg Tumblers, and was a partner of the late Eddie Steinmann. Great to have you with us, George. Please drop me a letter and introduce yourself. If any one of you may have questions or need assistance, please refer to the membership list for the member living closest to you. Our members are a terrific bunch and will help a fellow member in need.

Don't forget about the National Championship Tumbler Show, which will be hosted by the Eastern Tumbler Club, in January of 1993. Make your preparations as early as possible, and take some time to consider offering your assistance at the show. We will be in need of recorders and stewards. Remember, our shows are dependent upon you. Let's all make this the best National to date.

I would like to hear from two of our members in the near future, this time being Bill Dorsey and Gil Ricci, both from Foster, RI. Bill was a dominant force in muffed Tumblers, but had to give them up for a while. Bill also was a promoter of the Andalusian Muff, and it is always a pleasure to talk to Bill since I breed Andalusian muffs. Gil Ricci, really does not need an introduction, most everyone knows Gil and what he has done for the muffed Tumbler over the years. I personally am proud to know these two fine gentlemen, and it is a highlight of my vacation to see these muff breeders at our annual show and spend some time with them. So how about it guys, send me a letter stating how things have been going for both of you.

The main purpose of our club is to promote the English Tumbler, the breed which we all have a special love for. The friendships that can be made can far outweigh the stress of competition. So if you are looking for an organization which will provide outstanding fellowship and excellent competition, look no further. Join the Eastern Tumbler Club today.

I would like to leave you with another one of my favorite quotes, this one from my friend Jack Houseman. "It doesn't matter to the Man upstairs who wins or loses, it's how you play the game that counts." Thanks, Jack.

If you are interested in joining the Eastern

Tumbler Club, please contact our secretary, Gene Pardini, 960 Hilldale Rd., Holtwood, PA 17532. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

If you would like to submit any news that our members would enjoy reading in this column, or would like to contact me concerning your assistance at the National Show at Reading, contact me at: 721 Poplar St., Williamsport, PA 17701. I would appreciate hearing from you. Until next time, best of luck to all the upcoming show season.

Bits & Pieces

from the
research notes
of Joe Quinn

"The beliefs of the hill-tribes in north-eastern India is curiously supplemental by Cripps' note in the 7th volume of Stray Feathers, where he writes (1807) that the natives . . . in Eastern Bengal say that whenever this bird (Bengal Green Pigeon) descends to the waters edge for a drink, it holds a twig in its claws. It prices itself on living altogether on trees, and in order that it may not be accused of perching on the ground when it descends to drink, brings down with it a twig to stand on." - Baker, 1913

"Nearly all pigeons whose behavior in this respect is known are fond of sunning themselves. The wing-lifting movement shown in rain bathing is used also when sunning." - Goodwin, 1983

"Fanciers of the present time are in debt to the determination of the members of the Philopeterston Society to engage the interest of the public and stage the first public show of pigeons in this country. It took place at the British Hotel, Cockspur Street, in January 1848. From then on these public shows progressed." - FWSH, The Racing Pigeon, London, 1986

News Flash: "Atwater's only 'Mind Reader' died Saturday. Starvation!!"

"As we have often said, and shall always think. A pigeon judge who cannot give his reasons is no judge at all." - Robert Fulton, 1878

"Very often seemingly insoluble problems that confront the breeders of one particular kind of animals are not really problems at all; they have been solved over and over again in very similar instances in other animals, and often in plants." - A.L.

Hagedoorn, Dutch Geneticist, 1939

"Owls can open one eye at a time and close either eye by lowering the top lid or raising the lower." - (Sneaky little devils!) Joe

"The modern concept of disease recognizes the interdependence of three variables . . . the inherited capacity of the host, the innate characteristics of the disease producing agent, or pathogen, and the environment which may materially influence the interaction of the host and pathogen." - (The conditions of the loft you can control) JWQ, Bywaters, 1952

Atwater Curse: "May a flock of Sick Swans roost in your GAZEBO!"

Just-in-case-you-wanted-to-know! "There are approximately 150,000 kernels of oats in a standard size sack." - Haskin, 1927

At The National: Art: "You sure have a gorgeous wife." Bill: "No, just a real weakness - STRAY HENS!"

"The single pigeon feather under scrutiny may have several hundred thousand barbules and millions of barbicels and barblets." - Armstrong & Kroll, 1967

"What is not a color. White is the absence of color. The phenotype white, does not alter the basic sex-linked color genes or other mutants present in the pigeons' make-up. White is that unusual form of epistasis, which masks all mutant color expression by preventing pigment formation, and thereby, preventing phenotypic expression. Matings of white to wild type will usually unmask the hidden basic color and pattern, at least in some feathers, to permit identification . . . We know less about a given white, than we do about any other pigeon phenotype." - Quinn, 1971

"Pigeons with short beaks have small feet." - Charles Darwin, 1859

IT HAPPENS: "The Atwater Police were in a desperate chase to capture a holdup man who had just robbed the local gas station, when the Pursued and the Pursuer were passed by two pickup trucks on their way to the feedmill."

"If it were possible for nobleman to know the amazing amount of solace and pleasure derived from Almond Tumblers. When they begin to understand their properties, I should think that scarce any nobleman or gentleman would be without their aviaries of Almond Tumblers." - Preface, Treatise on the Almond Tumbler, 1851.

"One day, we will convince the ornithologists that the anatomy of all birds is not the same. Though we accept the necessity of comparative anatomy studies the breast muscles of pigeons are 10 to 15X as powerful per unit mass as the chicken - now, that's a real difference." - PGNL 65:10

"The Ostrich is the largest of living birds, an adult male standing nearly 8 feet high, and weighing about 300 pounds." - Haskin 1925

Up go the pigeons - Up go the coops! "Well not quite, but in Java, almost every native household has one or more cages of turtledoves or ringtailed pigeons. Every morning, the cages are pulled up on poles to be brought down and placed in the house each night." - Quinn, 1962

Logic: "The basic reason we buy expensive pigeons is we can't get them for nothing."

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As I See It

by HOWARD KOGAN
Stephentown, N.Y.

Pigeons??!!??

How many of us have mentioned to friends and family outside the fancy that we raise pigeons only to be met with disbelief and derision? No such reaction is attached to those who raise dogs, cats, horses, or for that matter canaries and budgies. Why is this? I think the answer is ignorance and we have only ourselves to blame. To most people pigeons mean racing homers or "park rats." The beauty and charm of our many fancy varieties and their long association with man is completely unknown. With show season here we all have a great opportunity to correct this problem.

This year let's do something about it and try to share our small world with everyone else. All pigeon shows should be extensively advertised in local papers. Include some photos of our more unusual varieties and let the public know that they would be most welcome to attend the show. When you place the ad many local newspapers would be happy to run a small story in advance of the show to stimulate interest further. It is the sort of story they often do as a service to advertisers.

Have the show hall nicely decorated and set up. Have each breed clearly identified. Have a pile of xerox copies of the various show standards and ideal pictures for each breed shown, so your visitors know what they're looking at. Designate certain club members to serve as hosts to escort visitors through the show and answer any questions they may have. Explain the judging procedures and encourage the visitors to watch and the judges to explain as they go through the judging process. Have a packet of information on the club with the name of someone to contact for further information. All of which adds up to making the visitors feel like you're happy they came and that the club and the fancy is open and eager for new members. Beyond this clubs should let local

schools and social or fraternal organizations know they exist. We could offer these groups slide shows and talks about our fancy. I think many club members would enjoy talking to these groups and it is an excellent way to promote our hobby. County fairs offer another opportunity to promote our pigeons. Not by sticking a few birds in the poultry house, but by taking a booth at the fair with perhaps 10 pigeons of different varieties on display. Club members could take turns working at the booth and answering questions. Old copies of the APJ could be given away, books and photos could be displayed along with trophies and ribbons. If garden clubs and the 4-H have booths at these fairs, why can't your pigeon clubs?

This year let's all get together to promote our hobby!

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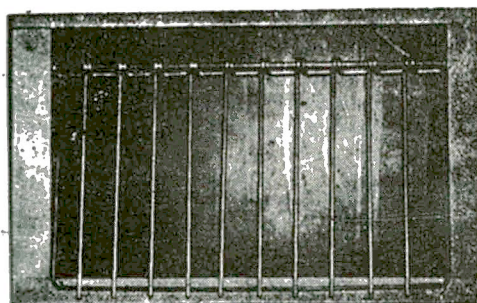
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Over the years some super pairs have been found. Many of these are now in my loft. In fact I have most of Dick's best stock birds. Dick placed these birds with me as he knows I care for them as he has. I'm always looking to improve my own stock and I do this by being very selective when taking a bird into the breeding pen. This year I have together the best team of breeders I've ever had.

Since I've just purchased a place in Archbold, Ohio, and will be moving at the end of the summer, I'll be selling all 1992 young birds.

Dick has suggested to those that would ask his advice on starting into the roller hobby that buying a round of young birds off the best breeders, then fly them and pick the best for your breeders and you should be on your way to a pretty good start.

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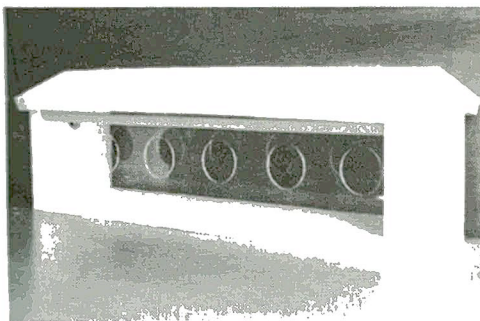
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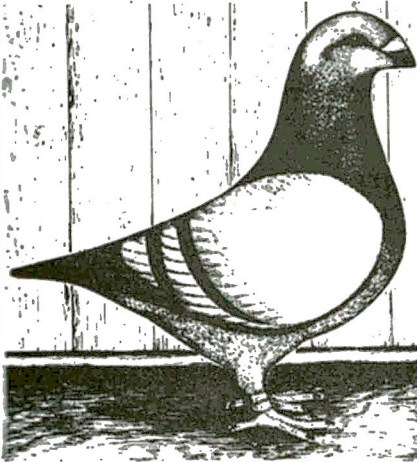
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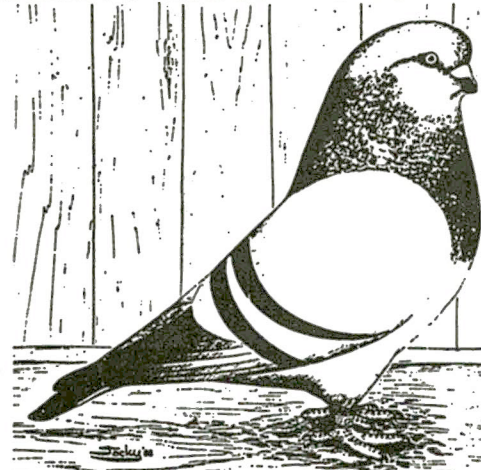
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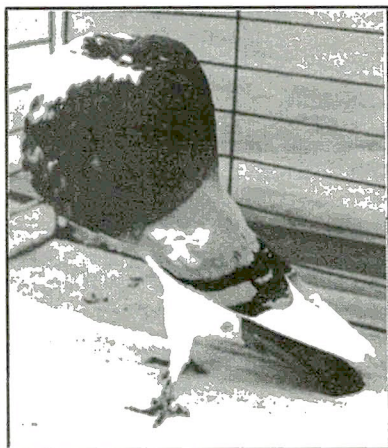
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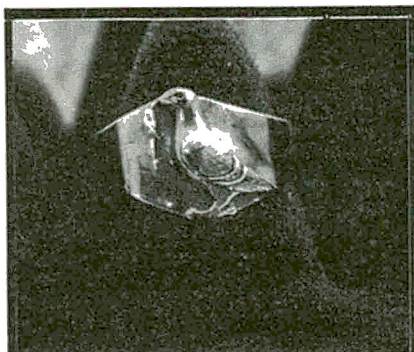


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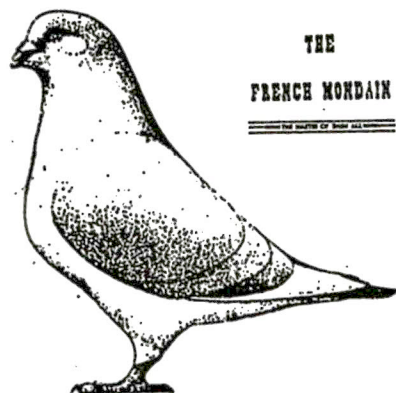
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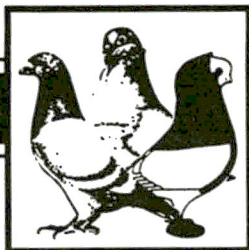
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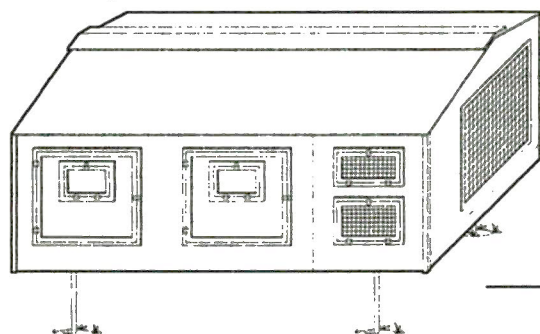
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ROLLER VIDEOS - #1, "Fla. Suncoast Roller Club Winter Flys." #2, "2nd Annual Southern Performing Roller Classic." #3, "Louisville 1990 - National Young Bird Show and Kit Flys." #4, "ATLANTA CLASSIC 1991 Convention and Kit Fly." 2 hrs. - excellent footage! All extrmeley well made videos! \$20.00 each. All FOUR tapes, \$75.00, includes shipping and insurance. - Stephan R. Wolf, 2060 Estey Ave., Naples, Fla. 33942. (992-293)

VIDEOS - Of Performing Roller Flys and Conventions. "91" and "92" F.D.B. Ohio Flys, "92" Owensboro, KY, National Birmingham Roller Club Convention Fly, approximately 6 hours of viewing on 1 tape in VHS SLP, \$25.00 PP, USA Funds. - Don Pisowicz, 85 Ed McDashowicz Dr., Porter, Ind. 46304. (992-1192)

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PIGEON SHOW CALENDAR 1993

Jan. 21-23 - National Pigeon Assn. 71st Grand National Show and Convention at the Host Farms and Convention Center, Lancaster, Pa. Host Clubs: Reading Pigeon Assn. and the White Rose Pigeon Assn. Show Secretary: Muard Naugle, Tier Haven, Strausstown, PA 19559.

Jan. 21-23 - The Eastern Saddle Homer Club Meet and Meeting held in conjunction with the NPA Grand National, Lancaster, Pa. Contact: Secretary Ray Morin 203-647-0089, Bob Stover 717-427-9641 or Rick Orr 410-760-8766 for information.

Jan. 21-23 - Rare Breeds Pigeon Club Annual Meet held with the NPA Grand National at Lancaster, PA.

Jan. 21-23 - NCOC Annual Meeting with 1992 NPA Grand National, Lancaster, PA.

Jan. 21-23 - National Exhibition Tippler Assn., 1st Annual Meeting and Grand National Show. Hosted in conjunction with the NPA Grand National at Lancaster, PA. Contact the show Secretary or Michael Richardson at 302-653-9136 for further details.

Jan. 31 - Long Island Domestic Flight Club Futurity Show. Contact: Steve LaSala, 516-563-8223.

Feb. 5-6 - Central Jacobin Club 48th Annual Meet, Bay City, Mich. Judge: Owen Kalland. Contact: Tom Reich, Sec., 19441 Holiday Dr., Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66218. 913-441-0902.

Feb. 7 - Nassau-Suffolk Pigeon Fanciers Club Annual Futurity Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y. For information: Barbara Beer, 194 Lido Prom. West, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 (516-226-3534) or James Price, 1358 Richland Ave., Bay Shore, N.Y. 11706 (516-MO6-8389).

March 20 - Spring Show (One Day Show) in conjunction with the Virginia Poultry Breeders Association "Dixie Classic." For show information contact: Mrs. Jo Ryan, 3028 Bowling Green Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. 804-340-0162.

April 18 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club, Swap and Trade Day. Dane G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntington, Ind. 47542.

June 27 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club, Summer Show. Dane G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntington, Ind. 47542.

September 23 to Oct. 3 - Virginia State Fair. Show information: Ed Brooks, 19091 Meadow Drive, Smithfield, VA 23430. 804-255-0121.

Oct. 3 - Lincoln Hills Pigeon Club, Fall Show. Dane G. Dougan, Sec., 4923 W. 900 S., Huntington, Ind. 47542.

November 20-21 - Fall Show - NPA State Meet, in conjunction with the Virginia Poultry Breeders Association. Show information: Mrs. Jo Ryan, 3028 Bowling Green Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. 804-340-0162.

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If you need assistance contact one of the AAC coordinators.

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