

# AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL

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## Champion Fantail

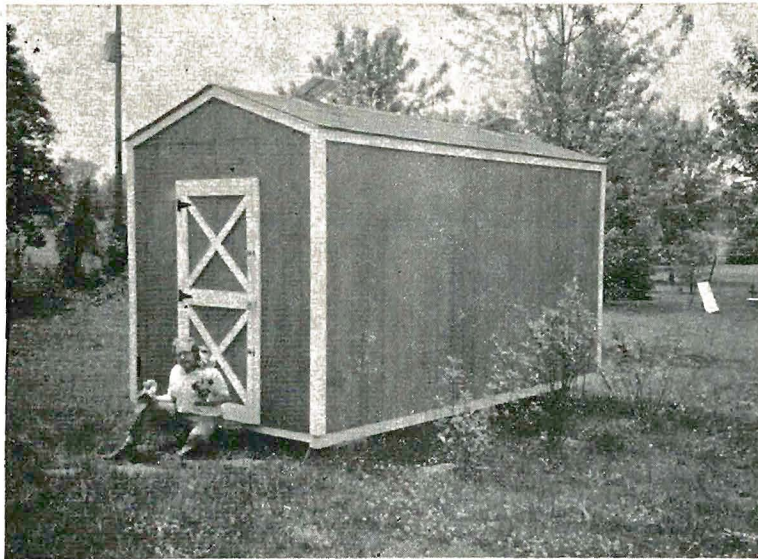
This Tailmark Fantail Hen, Band No. 4968-'69 was the Champion Young Fantail at the Central Fantail Club Meet at the 1970 St. Paul National Show, with over 500 Fantails competing, Karl Otto serving as judge. It was also the Best Young Tailmark Hen, Best Young Tailmark and Best Tailmark at the same show. No other Tailmark Fantail has ever approached this record. — Bred and owned by Harry L. Little, St. Louis, Mo.



This Issue Devoted Especially to Fantails

Devoted to the Breeding and Promoting of Pigeons for Pleasure and Profit





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Publicity: Wm. Hart, 65 Brad St., Rochester, N.Y.

Secretary: John McClanahan, 5014 James St., E. Syracuse, N.Y.

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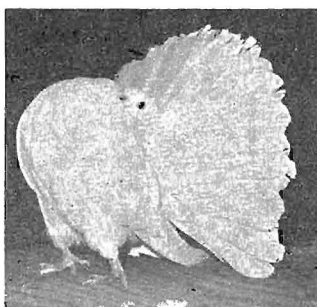
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# Thank You Fantail Fanciers

By HARRY L. LITTLE, St. Louis, Mo.

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# American Pigeon Journal

With Which Has Been Consolidated The American Pigeon Keeper and The Pigeon Loft  
Devoted To All Branches of Pigeon Raising --- Fancy, Utility, and Racing

FRANK H. HOLLMANN, Editor and Manager; WILLIAM L. WORLEY, Assistant Manager

Volume 66

July, 1977

Number 7

## Our Fantail Special

We are pleased to present to our readers the big Fantail Special — the largest Special issue ever published. Fantail breeders completely surprised us with their liberal support in the form of advertising, articles and pictures, making it possible to publish an issue of 132 pages — twice the size of our regular 68-page issue.

We were surprised and pleased with this generous cooperation, and we congratulate the Fantail breeders on the excellent material submitted for this issue. The credit for this big issue goes to Harry L. Little, our Co-ordinator, who spent many hours work and much expense in writing letters to Fantail breeders everywhere. The Fantail Fancy really appreciates his splendid work in helping to make this issue an outstanding achievement for Fantails.

We sincerely regret that even though we added many additional pages in this issue, we were not able to print all of the many fine articles received, especially the various articles about the history, growth and development of the various Fantail clubs. These articles will appear in later issues. Likewise, many other articles as well as club news had to be held over for our August issue.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped to make this issue such a big success.

## Am. Pigeon Fanciers Council July 29-31

A most interesting program has been arranged for the 8th Annual Convention of the American Pigeon Fanciers Council to be held in St. Louis, Mo., Friday evening, July 29 till Sunday noon, July 31.

A total of 15 speakers will participate in the pigeon seminar. A wealth of information will be presented, each speaker being well versed in his subject. The question and answer period following each talk will be most beneficial.

The list of speakers and full information appears in Tanner Chrisler's article on page 498 of this issue. To this must be added the name of Clair Hetland of Minnesota who will discuss "Pigeon Medications."

Ralston Purina Co. will host the dinner on Saturday evening for the pigeon fanciers and their wives. It will be held at the Kings Inn, next door east of Ramada Inn. A recent fire damaged part of the coffee shop and meeting room of Ramada Inn and therefore the various sessions will be held at Kings Inn. However, special rates for rooms still prevail at Ramada Inn.

So plan your vacation trip accordingly. See you in St. Louis.

## World Roller Happenings

We are in a receipt of the first two copies of World Roller Happenings, published bi-monthly by Joseph D. LaFauci and John C. Phillips of Redwood City, Calif. It is devoted exclusively to the progress of the Birmingham Roller pigeon.

The magazine is printed on good quality enamel paper, with many excellent illustrations, featuring interviews with various Roller breeders. The magazine was started with the January-February issue and the second issue was the May-June issue. Size 8½ x 11 inches. Subscription is \$15 per year. Single copies \$2.75 per copy.

## Open House At Hummel's Loft

An open house will be held at the Hummel residence near Bonne Terre, Missouri, beginning Friday morning, July 29, and lasting until four o'clock that afternoon, and then again on Sunday afternoon and continuing through Monday. The pigeon loft is the largest in the world devoted strictly to the breeding of Saxon Color Pigeons and there are some twelve breeds in all colors and markings with a total of some 1500 pigeons, which includes some 1,000 Swallow pigeons. A new loft 60 feet in length has been added since the Pigeon Fanciers Conference last year.

The Hummel residence is located on Highway 67 one mile (first road) after St. Francois State Park (approximately 20 miles south of the intersection of 55 and 67), second house (brick) on the left, or three miles north of Bonne Terre exit (doubling back) second road (second house on right). Road leading is black topped.

The purpose of the open house is for good fellowship and the idea is not to sell birds. There are many good restaurants and motels in the vicinity all extremely reasonably priced. Everyone is welcome!

## From the Editor's Desk

Ken Walling of Lincroft, N.J. has given us additional information on the picture appearing on page 270 of our May issue. He tells that Stan Plona's Jacobin friend is Jim Ecker holding his Grand Champion Jacobin, Red Cock, No. 1207.

Ron Hampton, of Cahokia, Ill., writes: "I would like to thank Bill Haudrich, Tanner Chrisler, Ivan Choi, and Joe Sterkis for all the help I have received from them getting started raising Kings. I don't think I would have made it without their help."

Guenther Wenzel of Grant Park, Ill., writes from Hamilton, Bermuda: "I am here judging a pigeon show. It is like heaven on earth. Yes our feathered friends have found a most wonderful home here. The welcome and hospitality the people give you here, can easily leave you speechless."

Dick Wagner of Forsyth, Montana, writes: "We sold our business and our business property and have retired. We will be dividing our time between our home in Dragoon, Arizona, and Montana and will be doing a lot of traveling. For the first time since 1938, we have no pigeons. We plan to keep in touch with our many friends in the hobby through the shows, etc. Fanciers are always welcome at our Forsyth home in the summer and at our Dragoon home in winter months. The coffee pot is always on."

John D. Johnson of Park River, N.D., writes. "I have been raising pigeons ever since I was 14 years old. I'm now 34, that's 20 years. I had never heard of the American Pigeon Journal or pigeon clubs until two years ago. That's 18 years without it. This shouldn't happen to anyone. I always tell new and old beginners about it. It's a fantastic Journal for all pigeon raisers and breeders alike. I enjoy it tremendously, but I would like to see some colored pictures in the Journal. If the rates go up it would still be well worth it."





## FEATURING:

### Prime Competition

Two Annual Meets:

- Young Bird Show
- Winter Show (all age)

Impressive Array of Trophies and Awards

Regular Bulletins:

- Informative Articles
- Breeder's Guide
- Show Reports

New Member Benefits:

- Packet of Materials with "Fantail Standard" and "Comparison and Study of Fantail Points"
- MAFC Constitution, Button, and Membership Card

### MAFC — "The Progressive Fantail Club"

Membership Coast-to-Coast and Canada and Growing

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Encouragement of its Members in the Hobby

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**Don Buhr**

Rt. 4, Box 120, Cresco, Ia., 52136

Vice President

**Gary Swanson**

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Publicity:

**Steve May**

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Secretary-Treasurer:

**Rod Lysne**

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# American Pigeon Journal

With Which Has Been Consolidated The American Pigeon Keeper and The Pigeon Loft  
Devoted To All Branches of Pigeon Raising --- Fancy, Utility, and Racing

FRANK H. HOLLMANN, Editor and Manager; WILLIAM L. WORLEY, Assistant Manager

Volume 66

July, 1977

Number 7

## Our Fantail Special

We are pleased to present to our readers the big Fantail Special — the largest Special issue ever published. Fantail breeders completely surprised us with their liberal support in the form of advertising, articles and pictures, making it possible to publish an issue of 132 pages — twice the size of our regular 68-page issue.

We were surprised and pleased with this generous cooperation, and we congratulate the Fantail breeders on the excellent material submitted for this issue. The credit for this big issue goes to Harry L. Little, our Co-ordinator, who spent many hours work and much expense in writing letters to Fantail breeders everywhere. The Fantail Fancy really appreciates his splendid work in helping to make this issue an outstanding achievement for Fantails.

We sincerely regret that even though we added many additional pages in this issue, we were not able to print all of the many fine articles received, especially the various articles about the history, growth and development of the various Fantail clubs. These articles will appear in later issues. Likewise, many other articles as well as club news had to be held over for our August issue.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped to make this issue such a big success.

## Am. Pigeon Fanciers Council July 29-31

A most interesting program has been arranged for the 8th Annual Convention of the American Pigeon Fanciers Council to be held in St. Louis, Mo., Friday evening, July 29 till Sunday noon, July 31.

A total of 15 speakers will participate in the pigeon seminar. A wealth of information will be presented, each speaker being well versed in his subject. The question and answer period following each talk will be most beneficial.

The list of speakers and full information appears in Tanner Chrisler's article on page 498 of this issue. To this must be added the name of Clair Hetland of Minnesota who will discuss "Pigeon Medications."

Ralston Purina Co. will host the dinner on Saturday evening for the pigeon fanciers and their wives. It will be held at the Kings Inn, next door east of Ramada Inn. A recent fire damaged part of the coffee shop and meeting room of Ramada Inn and therefore the various sessions will be held at Kings Inn. However, special rates for rooms still prevail at Ramada Inn.

So plan your vacation trip accordingly. See you in St. Louis.

## World Roller Happenings

We are in a receipt of the first two copies of World Roller Happenings, published bi-monthly by Joseph D. LaFauci and John C. Phillips of Redwood City, Calif. It is devoted exclusively to the progress of the Birmingham Roller pigeon.

The magazine is printed on good quality enamel paper, with many excellent illustrations, featuring interviews with various Roller breeders. The magazine was started with the January-February issue and the second issue was the May-June issue. Size 8½ x 11 inches. Subscription is \$15 per year. Single copies \$2.75 per copy.

## Open House At Hummel's Loft

An open house will be held at the Hummel residence near Bonne Terre, Missouri, beginning Friday morning, July 29, and lasting until four o'clock that afternoon, and then again on Sunday afternoon and continuing through Monday. The pigeon loft is the largest in the world devoted strictly to the breeding of Saxon Color Pigeons and there are some twelve breeds in all colors and markings with a total of some 1500 pigeons, which includes some 1,000 Swallow pigeons. A new loft 60 feet in length has been added since the Pigeon Fanciers Conference last year.

The Hummel residence is located on Highway 67 one mile (first road) after St. Francois State Park (approximately 20 miles south of the intersection of 55 and 67), second house (brick) on the left, or three miles north of Bonne Terre exit (doubling back) second road (second house on right). Road leading is black topped.

The purpose of the open house is for good fellowship and the idea is not to sell birds. There are many good restaurants and motels in the vicinity all extremely reasonably priced. Everyone is welcome!

## From the Editor's Desk

Ken Walling of Lincroft, N.J. has given us additional information on the picture appearing on page 270 of our May issue. He tells that Stan Plona's Jacobin friend is Jim Ecker holding his Grand Champion Jacobin, Red Cock, No. 1207.

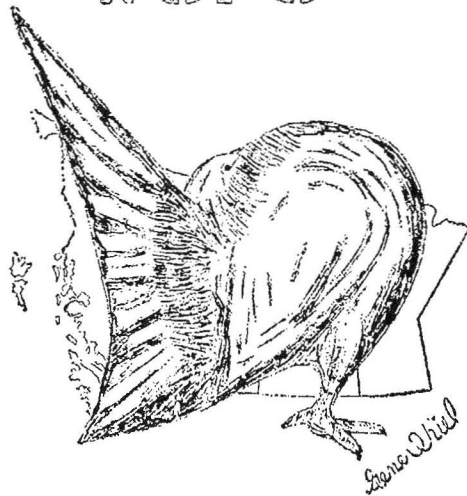
Ron Hampton, of Cahokia, Ill., writes: "I would like to thank Bill Haudrich, Tanner Chrisler, Ivan Choi, and Joe Sterkis for all the help I have received from them getting started raising Kings. I don't think I would have made it without their help."

Gunter Wenzel of Grant Park, Ill., writes from Hamilton, Bermuda: "I am here judging a pigeon show. It is like heaven on earth. Yes our feathered friends have found a most wonderful home here. The welcome and hospitality the people give you here, can easily leave you speechless."

Dick Wagner of Forsyth, Montana, writes: "We sold our business and our business property and have retired. We will be dividing our time between our home in Dragoon, Arizona, and Montana and will be doing a lot of traveling. For the first time since 1938, we have no pigeons. We plan to keep in touch with our many friends in the hobby through the shows, etc. Fanciers are always welcome at our Forsyth home in the summer and at our Dragoon home in winter months. The coffee pot is always on."

John D. Johnson of Park River, N.D., writes. "I have been raising pigeons ever since I was 14 years old. I'm now 34, that's 20 years. I had never heard of the American Pigeon Journal or pigeon clubs until two years ago. That's 18 years without it. This shouldn't happen to anyone. I always tell new and old beginners about it. It's a fantastic Journal for all pigeon raisers and breeders alike. I enjoy it tremendously, but I would like to see some colored pictures in the Journal. If the rates go up it would still be well worth it."

**WCFC**



# Western Canadian Fantail Club

**President — Egon Thiel**

**Secretary-Treasurer — Casey Vandermeer**

**Bulletin Editor — Trevor Code**

**B.C. Director — Tom Young**

**Alberta Director — John Taupert**

**Manitoba Director — George Anderson**

## Compliments of

### **Joe Blakemore**

6707 Bow Crescent,  
Calgary, Alberta

### **Egon Thiel**

Site 22, Rt. 2, Box 16,  
Sherwood Park, Alberta

### **Bob Vincent**

9701-87 Ave.,  
Grande Prairie, Alberta

### **John Taupert**

610 Spencer Street,  
Medicine Hat, Alberta

### **Trevor Code**

14 Millikin Road,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

### **Peter Pauls**

Oakbank,  
Manitoba, R0E-1J0

### **Harold Junck**

Swan Hills,  
Alberta

### **Casey Vandermeer**

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Sherwood Park,  
Alberta, T8A-3K4

### **Dave Loewen**

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Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
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### **George Anderson**

748 St. Anne's Rd. S.S. 5,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
R2M-4A3

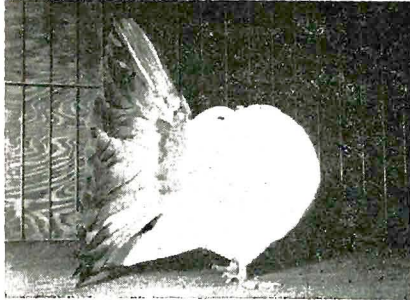
### **Victor Payjack**

4890 Henderson Hiway,  
Box 6, Group 342, Rt. 3,  
Moral, Manitoba

### **Fred Schneider**

677 Church Ave.,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
R2W-1E1





4968



4968

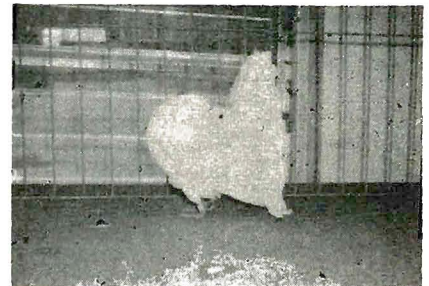
## Harry and Betty Little

4533 Ringer Road,  
St. Louis,  
Missouri  
63129

Whites — Blacks  
Tail Marks  
Lavenders



505

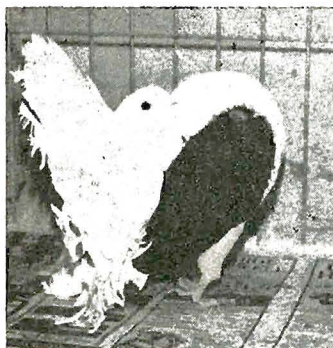


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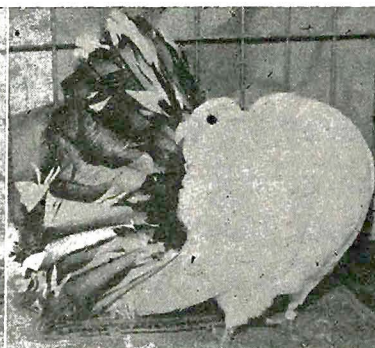
## FANTAILS

Saddles: (all colors); Tailmarks; Bodymarks  
Solids: White; Black; Blue-Silver-Powder Blue; Grizzle  
Rares: Cream; Almond; Andalusian; Powder Red and Black

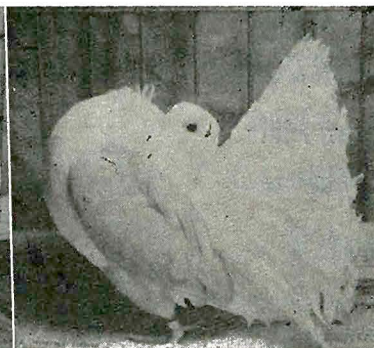
(A special "thank you" to Harry Little for co-ordinating this APJ Special)



Best Black Saddle at  
MAFC and CFC — No. 61



Best Young TM Hen CFC;  
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5 Times Best Yellow Saddle at  
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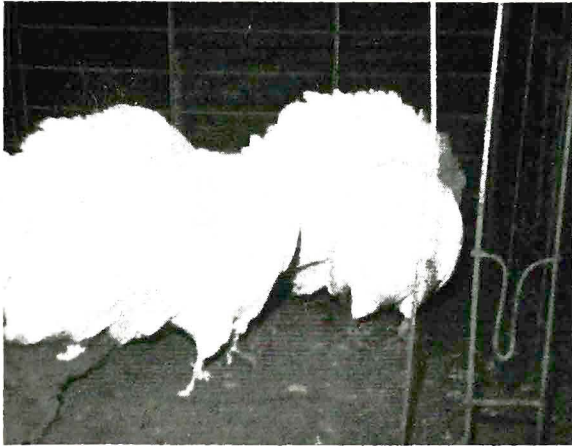
Raising —  
Showing —  
Enjoying —

F  
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N  
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S

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life." John 3:16

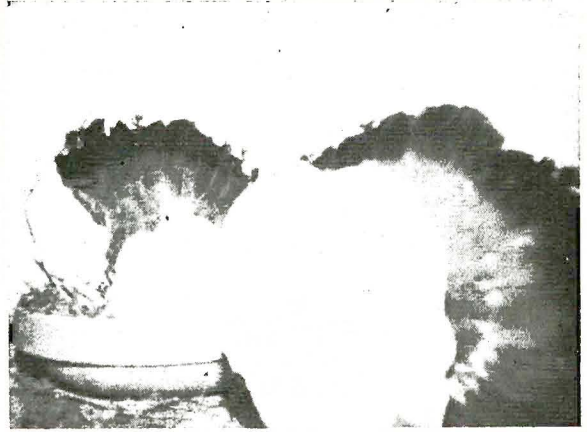
Rod Lysne

Ferryville, Wis., 54628 — Phone: 608-734-3178



Cock 642  
Best Old  
Champion White  
Canadian Fantail Club Show Jan. 1976

Hen 7244  
Best Young  
Reserve White



Blue Tailmarks Cock 1600 — Hen 1610  
Two of my best Youngsters From 1976  
At or Near the Top Whenever Shown

## **Robbi's Roost**

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**Tailmarks — Winners Whenever Shown**

**Jerry — Tailmarks In**

**Blue, Black, Bronze, Lavender, Red**

**Betty Robitaille — Whites**

**Jerry and Betty Robitaille**

**625 Grand Marais West,**

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**Visitors Always Welcome**



# Good Luck To All In The Fancy

## Jack and Bill Gray



'75-930 Ch. Blue CFC, Madison

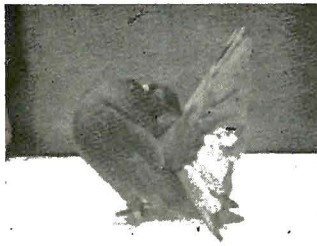
Richland, Michigan

Breeders and  
Exhibitors of

**Whites — Blacks  
Blues**



'76-923 Ch. Blk. GLFC, Louisville



Other Breeds: Indian Fantails,  
Flying Tiplers and  
Pheasant Pigeons

## Tip-In-Tail Loft

Quality Red Fantails since '64

Five Times Champ Red at Fantail Meets  
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To All Fantail Breeders

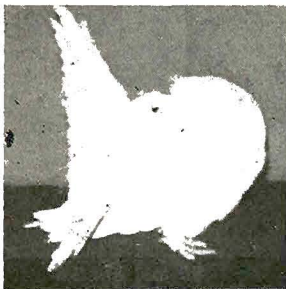
## Compliments

From

Big Daddy

## Chet Bailey

Omaha, Neb.



Band No. 38  
Grand Champion Fantail  
MAFC 1973

## Fantails

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**White, Powdered Blue, Blue**

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early orders.

## Fantails

**and Jacobins**

Quality Birds From  
Excellent Bloodlines

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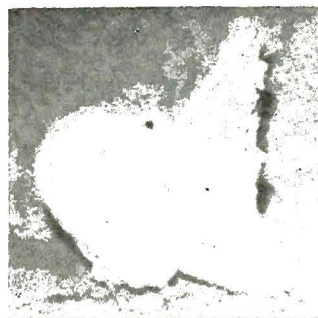
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White — Powder Blue

Blue — Grizzle

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277 Grand Champion  
MFC-CFC 1976

## Michael M. Boyd

Member:

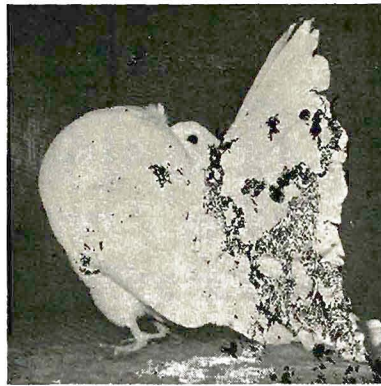
Canadian Fantail Club

Central Fantail Club

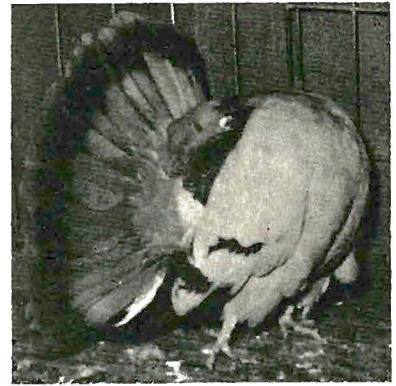
National Fantail Club



Band No. 52-75



Band No. 132-74  
Bred By Doug Boyce  
Owned By Mel Kirk



Band No. 238-77

## Show Type Fantails In

**Blue, Powder Blue, White**

Visitors Welcome

**Jo and Mel Kirk**

118 Normandy Dr., Lufkin, Texas, 75901

## Fantail Valley Farms

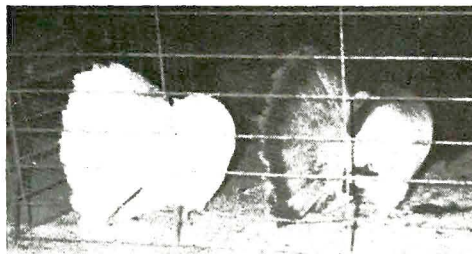
Several Champions At National Shows

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Visitors Welcome

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Blacks  
Powder Blues  
Blues  
Silvers  
Reds  
Yellows



Champion Silver and Reserve Champion  
National Young Bird Show 1976

Andalusians  
Almonds  
Bodymarks  
Tailmarks  
Checkers  
Splashes  
Duns

Saddles in Black, Red, Yellow, Blue, and AOC

Grizzles in Blacks, Blues, Reds, and Tortoiseshell





=====  
**FANTAILS**  
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**With Excellent Show Records In Strong Competition**

**Whites — Blacks**

Carefully Line Bred, All Tracing Back To Havemeyer Whites  
Argall Blacks Originally From Dettmer

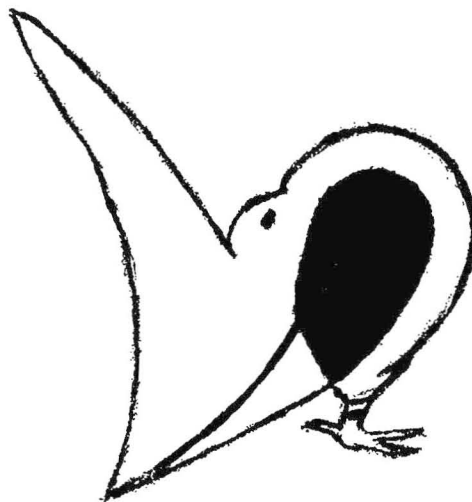
**Ernest A. Graupner — Christopher T. Graupner**

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**The Finest Quality  
Saddle Fantails**

Bred To The Standard

- Black
- Dun
- Blue
- Powder Blue
- Red
- Yellow
- Powder Red Bar
- Powder Yellow Bar



Working On:

- Silver
- Mealy
- Cream
- Brown
- Lavender
- Almond
- Indigo
- Reduced
- Laced
- Grizzle
- And???

**Bill Shekleton**

Rt. 3, New Hampton, Iowa, 50659



# FANTAILS



**Tail Marks In Red, Yellow, Blue, Dun, Black, Silver  
Body Marks In Red, Black, Blue**

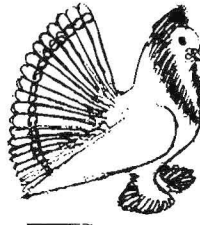
## Introducing The New St. Louis Arch Crested Fantail

The Fantail Special gives me a wonderful opportunity to let the Pigeon Fancy know about the new breed of pigeon I have been working on for many years. I started with what I thought were two of the most beautiful birds there were and combined the two — the Jacobin hood put on the Indian Fantail. After over ten years you would never believe the beautiful birds I am now getting.

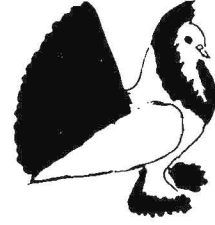
I am hoping to be able to display some at the show this fall. I believe the beauty of this new Fantail will catch on fast and go on to be the most popular Fantail of all — the new St. Louis Arch Crested Fantail.



Blue Marble



Arch Marked



Mottled

Parlor Rollers and Indian Fantails

Breeding Most Popular Colors

Erv. Beyrau

Pioneer Pigeon Ranch

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## Blue and Silver Fantails

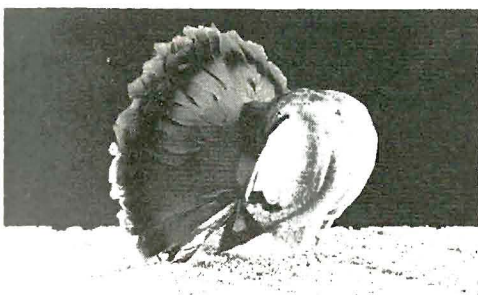
In Appreciation To  
**The Central Fantail Club**

And

**The Mid America Fantail Club**



Young Silver Hen No. 315-75 Champion  
Young Bird of Show — Dec. 1975  
MAFC at Des Moines, Iowa



Old Blue Hen No. 297-73 Reserve Champion  
and Best Old of Show — MAFC at  
LaCrosse, Wis., Dec. 1976

## Bill and Marge O'Dell

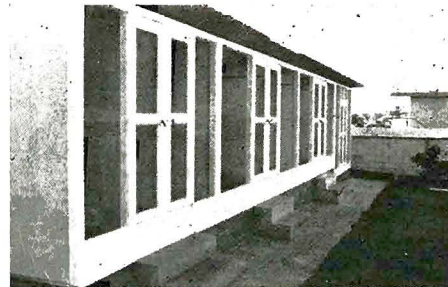
138 So. Webster St.,  
Ottumwa, Iowa, 52501

Phone: 515-682-3983





**Best Wishes From  
Australia For A  
Great Fantail  
Special**



**David Littman**

**34 Douglas St., Greenslopes, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia**

**Phone: 3974566**

**Breeder Of White Fantails**

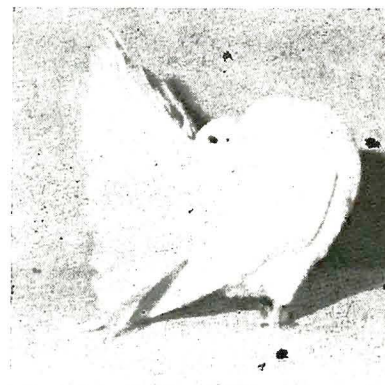
**Modern Show Fantails**

**“Internationally Known Quality”**

**Robert B. Stephens**

**67 Ninth Street,**

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**In Addition To My Fantails, I Have Select Small Studs Of:**

**African Owls – Oriental Frills – Turbits – Modenas**

# The National Fantail Club of Canada

(Established 1973)

Every Fantail Fancier should be a member of  
The National Fantail Club of Canada

Trophies and Rosettes are issued at the CNE, Royal Winter Fair  
and NFC Annual Show.

Show Reports and Bulletins are sent to members.  
The Breeders Achievement Award is being introduced in 1977.

Dues:

Seniors \$3 — Juniors \$1

Two Senior Members of One Family \$5

Pres.: Ross Cheesman Vice-Pres.: Paul Polly

Sec.-Treas.: Bob Pommer

Directors: George Cheesman, Stan Hockett, Robert Bennett, Jan Koops

Bulletin Directors: Jan Koops, Fred Koops

Publicity Director: Fred Koops

Contact: Sec.-Treas., Bob Pommer, Box 941, Stayner, Ont., L0M-1S0



1976 NFC Champion Fantail  
Young Black Hen 1753  
Larry LaDouceur

## The Sherwood Lofts

Rt. 2 Site 22, Box 16, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada



Bred and owned by Egon Thiel



1976 WCFC Grand Champion  
and Best Young  
Bred and owned by Egon Thiel

## Fantails

White, Silver, Blue, Powder Silver, Black



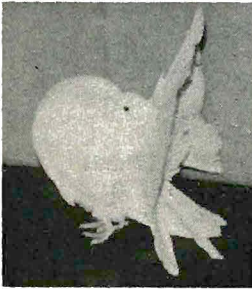
# White Fantails Exclusively



**"Penelope"**  
 Champion Old White  
 PFC 1973; Champion  
 Yearling White  
 CFC 1974;  
 Best Old, Best White,  
 EFC 1975;  
 Grand Champion



**"John"**  
 Champion Young White  
 Champion White  
 Champion Yg Fantail  
 PFC 1973



**"Sugar"**  
 1st Yearling Hen  
 CFC 1977



**"Little Brother"**  
 Reserve Champion  
 White, CFC 5th Dist.  
 Nov. 1976

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 discriminating judges from coast to coast and Canada to Texas. My entry has been to nearly every major Fantail Club Meet in the United States.

## Tom Pritchett

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Enid, Okla., 73701

Phone: 405-237-5077

Visitors Always Welcome

Join and Support The

### Central Fantail Club

# FANTAILS

## Breeders — Exhibitors — Winners

Blue Cock 5107-73



Grand Champion Northeast Fantail Club. Judges Doyle and Ostrander

Black Hen 436-74



Reserve Grand Champion Northeast Fantail Club. Judges Ostrander, Tibaldi, and Kinginger

Powder Blue Cock 53-76



Grand Champion East Fantail Club Judge Frank Tibaldi

Jim Mitchell

Box 197, Chesapeake City, Md., 21915

F. Riefsnyder

421 Green Terrace, Reading, Pa., 19601

In 5 Years 17 Champions Of Color At Club Meets Only

# "Nest Egg Loft"

**Jerry Macerollo**

Breeder and Exhibitor  
Modern Show Type Fantails — Exclusively  
Specializing In The Following Colours:

- **Black** -

- **Blue** -

- **Silver** -

- **Red** -



107 Mercer Street, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1H-2E9  
"One of Canada's Leading Fantail Lofts"

Have you thought about the National Young Bird Show this October? Well, we've been giving it a lot of thought, and we feel that it's time for us to get on the ball, so let's get it rolling! We will have our fine premium book with advertising again this year. The rates are as follows:

Front section —	Whole page	\$40.00
	One-half page	\$25.00
	One-fourth	\$15.00
Back section —	Whole page	\$35.00
	One Half	\$20.00
	One Fourth	\$12.00
	One Eighth	\$ 6.00

The inside front cover and second page is \$50.00 each.

(This will be on a first come, first serve basis.)

All print is standard print, unless furnished.

Pictures and logos are \$5.00 extra.

All information for the premium book must be received by the show secretary by August 15th, 1977.

If you have any questions or wish further information please contact:

Show Secretary

**Rita M. Courtney**

P.O. Box 21, Milton, Ky., 40045





Did You Say  
**Fantails?**

**1961**

**My Daddy —**

**Reed W. Kinzer**

2556 Creek Hill Road,  
Lancaster, Pa., 17601

**Raises Fantails In:**

**Powdered Silver**

**Blue**

**White and**

**Yellow Saddles**

**and Jacobins in White**

**P.S. Mommy Raises**

**Show-Type White Kings**

**1977**

**My Daddy —**

**Reed W. Kinzer**

2556 Creek Hill Road,  
Lancaster, Pa., 17601

**Raises Fantails In:**

**Powdered Blue**

**Blue**

**White and**

**Black**

**and Jacobins in White**

**P.S. Mother Raises**

**Vegetables**



Did You Say  
**Fantails?**

**Black and White**

**FANTAILS**

**Bob Vincent**

**9701 87 Ave.,**

**Grande Prairie,**

**Alberta**

**Many Thanks**

To Guelph and Harley,  
Ontario, Canada,  
Fantail Fanciers.

**Cox and Diemer**

**Qualified Fanciers**

**Phila. South Jersey Pigeon Ass'n  
1977 Show Dates**

**September 18, 1977**

**Annual Young Bird Show**

**November 18, 19, 20, 1977**

**Annual Fall Show**

**Specialty Clubs Invited**

**Generous Paybacks**

**For Information Write:**

**ROBERT HARTMAN**

330 Willow Grove St.,

Hackettstown, N.J., 07840

Phone: 201-852-0673

**LES HEISSERMAN**

211 Stokes Ave.,

Mt. Holly, N.J., 08060

Phone: 609-267-4604

**A and A Lofts**

Need Room, 1977 Old Eng. Game Spangle Bantams. Deep purple, mahogany hackle, sickle, feathers. 1977 Doves, pids and fawns. 1977 Rollers that fly and spin. Also breeders. Only the best bred and fed. Can now spare top show quality bloodlines in Norwich Croppers, Pomeranian Pouters, Brunner Pouters, Bohemian Pouters. Act at once. I have stamps. Phone: 616-944-1316. Birds will be as described.

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## Inverted "V" Perch



The most popular Perch sold. Design is ideal for easy cleaning and keeps your birds cleaner.

Postpaid

12-\$14.75

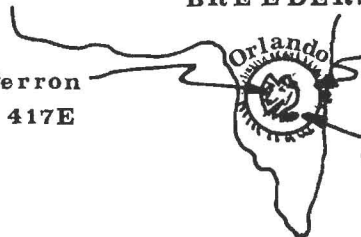
24-\$25.00

Gagne Bros.

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Allison Park, Pa., 15101

## GREETINGS FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA BREEDERS

Bonnie Ferron  
Rt 8 Box 417E



Roland Racey  
14418 Daring Ave.

Fred Chesser  
1405 Park Lake St

OUR APPRECIATION TO  
Doug Boyce  
Sarasota, Fla.  
and Guy Lambert  
Lady Lake, Fla.  
FOR GETTING US STARTED  
IN  
FANTAILS



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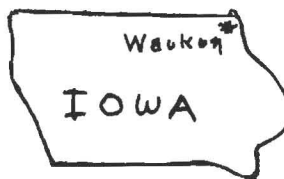
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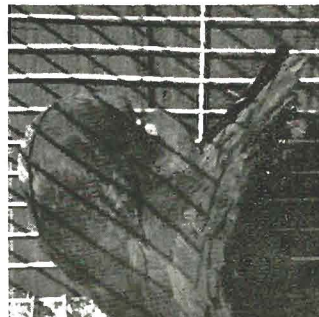
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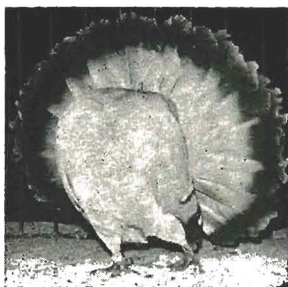
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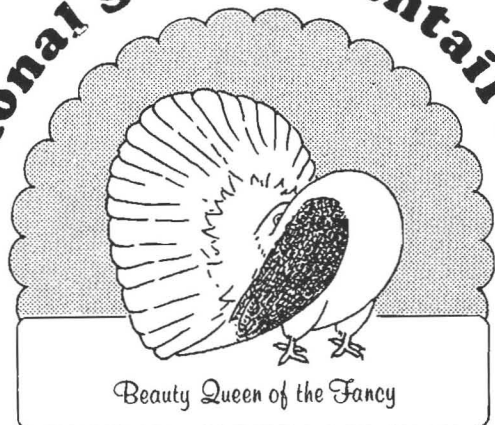
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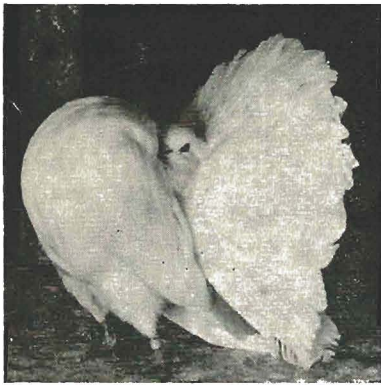
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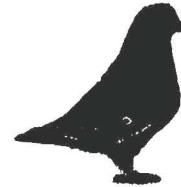
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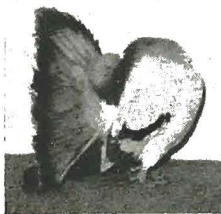
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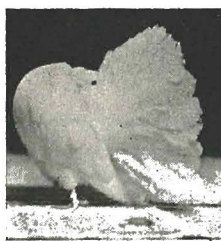
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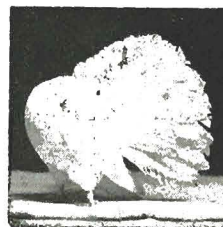
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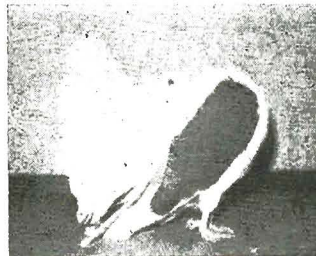
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October 22, 1977

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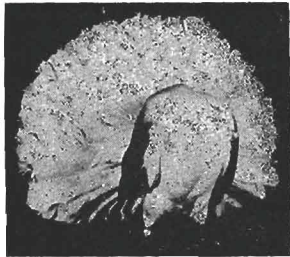
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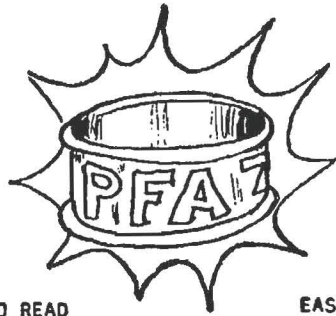
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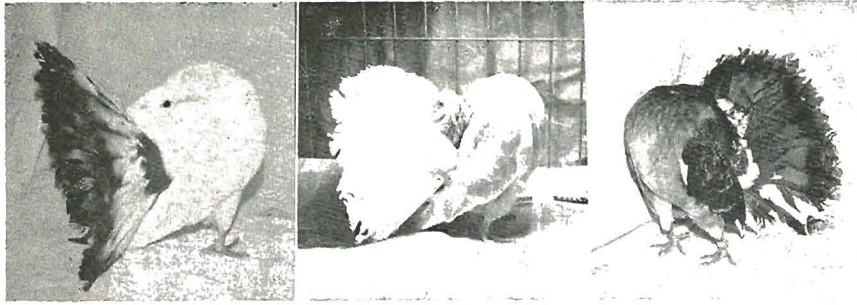
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## The Cream Fantail — A Challenge To Breed

By ROD LYSNE, Ferryville, Wis.

With its softly contrasting tones of pale cream and rich yellow, one would think that the Cream Fantail would have many ardent followers. This is, unfortunately, not the case; for while nearly everyone who sees them attests to their beauty, few are willing to take up the challenge of this relatively new and most beautiful Fantail color. This is probably due to two reasons: 1. Difficulty in acquiring breeding stock due to scarcity, and 2. Lack of knowledge concerning the basic genetic principles involved in working with and reproducing the color.

It is difficult to put into writing the whole realm of data concerning the breeding of Cream Fans, but perhaps a few paragraphs in relation to the basic genetic factors and a little about my own experiences would aid in encouraging others to take up the challenge.

Genetically speaking, the Cream Fantail is an Ash Yellow, the dilute of the Mealy or better-termed Ash Red (domin-

ant). This color comes in barred, checker, and spread, the latter being less striking than barred or light checker due to the fact that it often looks more like a poorly-colored Recessive Yellow. The barred Cream is the most striking of all, with the pale, tawny cream color of the body accentuated by the rich yellow bars. The open-checker pattern is also very "easy-on-the-eye".

Being a member of the Ash Red family, the Cream is easily worked into a breeding program consisting of the Blue family members, Blue, Silver, or Powd. Blue; the first two being best. Providing that one can locate a Cream or two with which to begin, the easiest way to reproduce them and upgrade on type at the same time is to mate them to good Silvers. I have found that the Cream tends to be somewhat dominant to Silver (just as Ash Red tends to be to Blue), resulting in a ratio of two creams to every one Silver bred from a Cream-Silver mating.

Since this color is a dilute and sex-linked, a cock will be of more benefit than a hen in producing more Creams in matings to intense colored birds such as Blues or Ash Reds. A Cream cock when mated to a Blue or Ash Red hen will produce all dilute (Cream or Silver) daughters and all intense (Blue and Ash Red) sons. About two-thirds of the young will be Cream or Mealy-Ash Red. From such a mating one will acquire some Cream hens and some Ash Red cocks which will all carry the dilution factor from the hen. The Cream hens can then be mated back to good Silvers and the dilution-factor Ash Red cocks to either a Blue or, better yet, a Silver hen. With a Blue hen such a cock should produce about 25% dilute daughters, some of which will be Creams; with a Silver hen such a cock will produce about 50% dilutes, some being Creams.

Producing Cream cocks, is, then, an important factor in establishing a family of birds to the point where one can start

breeding straight Cream matings. Now, breeding cocks in this color is a little difficult, but eased somewhat by the applicability of another sex-linked mating involved in breeding together a Blue cock and Ash Red hen. From this mating all Reds will be cocks and all Blues will be hens. Since Silver and Cream are the dilutes of Blue and Ash Red, the same holds true for them. When a Silver cock is mated to a Cream hen, all resulting cocks will be Creams.

I have personally found it easier to get cocks from this mating than from any other mating save straight Cream to Cream. Since Cream hens are more readily found than cocks, it is probably one of the more common matings with which one can begin. The only problem here is that Silver cocks, good ones that is, are also a rather scarce commodity. Should one have difficulty locating a good Silver cock, then a dilute-factor Blue cock can be used (coming from a Blue cock-Silver hen mating).

The first Cream I bred was more or less unexpected. She came from the mating of an Ash Red Checker cock (carrying dilute factor) and a Powd. Blue hen. The resultant Cream hen was an open-pattern checker of surprisingly good type and style, large tail and body with short, well-set legs. I feel lucky to breed such a bird and have something of this quality with which to start a line of Creams. She was hatched in 1973, and by the time I retired her from showing in 1975 she had been Champion Cream five times at CFC and MAFC, as well as taking the Best of the then AOC class. She has transmitted her type on to offspring now in the fourth generation. Since retiring the old hen, a granddaughter has taken Champion three times. I attribute this to the type of the old Powd. Blue hen in the background and the introduction of good Silvers and Blues in the following generations.

I also used the old Ash Red cock on a Silver hen for a season and raised a good Cream checker hen from this mating. She was shorter in tail feather, but more refined on wings and with a better body. Her offspring have followed the same type. At this time I have two distinct, although line-related families. In the future I hope to bring these two families together as they should complement one another nicely.

I do not wish to give the impression that I'm up to my eyes in Creams. On the contrary, they are difficult to breed. If I breed one or two really good ones in a season from two or three matings, I then feel satisfied. This is due to the fact that a good number of the offspring from Cream matings are other colors such as Silver, Blue, Ash Red. I have hesitated in the past to mate straight Cream due to their scarcity and because they needed the improvement in type which the Silvers and Blues provided.

This season I kept back four Fantails in this color, two cocks and two hens. Both cocks are mated to good Silver



JOE and DONNA SCHABERT

Joe and Donna Schabert of Mankato, Minn., Past President, Secretary-Treasurer and active supporter of the Mid-Western Fantail Club. — Photo from Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wis.



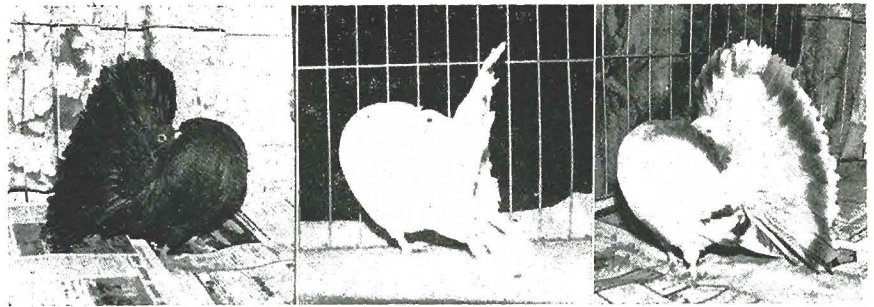
hens; one hen to a Silver cock, and one to a Dilute-factor Blue. They all seem to be off to a good start. Should they produce a good number of young Creams I would hope to start some straight Cream matings next season, Lord willing. I think the type is such now that I can allow for this.

Since the Ash Reds I used in starting my Creams were all checkers, many of their offspring have been open-pattern checkery too, although coming from mating with barred birds. About half the young have been checkers and half barred. The checkers have consistently been the better birds for some reason, so I use them rather than discard them in favor of all barred. As the number of good barred birds increases I think it will be advisable to mate without hesitation to the open-pattern checkers as I have found that this preserves the dark, wide yellow bar which is so beautiful in contrast.

Following are some matings I have used to produce Creams: Ash Red cock (dilute factor) Powd. Blue hen; Ash Red cock (dilute factor) Silver hen; Silver cock-Cream hen; Cream cock-Blue hen; Cream cock-Silver hen; Blue cock (dilute factor) Cream hen.

The most common faults to be seen in today's Creams are as follows: 1. Lack of frontal-round body, 2. Tall, with poorly set legs, 3. Lack of depth in pocket. It is best to avoid such birds in choosing matings, but when nothing else is available they should be used with Blues and Silvers as strong as possible in these weak points.

There are a few other Cream enthusiasts hidden away here and there. Most I know personally, a couple by letter or word-of-mouth. They are Don Buhr



### Three Champion Fantails

First bird, twice Champion Black Fantail at the CFC Meet 1974-75, old hen Band No. 1398-72. Second bird, Reserve Champion White at the CFC 1975 Meet. Yearling hen, Band No. 1118. Third bird, Champion Silver and Reserve Champion of Show at the CFC 1975 Meet. Old hen, Band No. 94-73. All three birds bred and owned by Ray D. LaFleur, Onalaska, Wis. — Photos from Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wis.

of Iowa; Rod Hatcher of Iowa; Emery Schwartzendruber of Colo.; Earl Helmer of Wis. and Rev. Schuyler Batson from La. have been working recently with this color too. Gus Waldusky of Calif. bred a very good one which he showed at CFC last January.

It is a shame that there are not more fanciers working with this color and showing them. Their beauty makes them such an appealing bird. If you have good Blues and Silvers, there is no reason you cannot work in a Cream or two as a start. Powd. Blues can be used in place of Blues, but I would avoid this as the Powd. factor does not lend itself to giving the desirable richness to the Cream color.

I hope, if nothing else, to have at least stirred up a little interest in this rare and little-understood Fantail color. Why not take up the challenge. The field is wide open. The Cream Fantail is one of the most beautiful of the solid-colored Queens of the Fancy.

basis rather than the other way around.

However, the fancier wants to make progress in his breeding operation. I have found that six pairs of breeding Fantails of a particular color provide the necessary genetic pool yet that number of breeders plus their offspring are easier to care for and otherwise meet the requirements and advantages of maintaining a small stud of Fantails.

In view of the above, I would like to describe what I have developed as the ideal loft. The outside measurements of the loft are 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and 6 feet high. Imagine that you are facing one of the long walls, i.e. 6 feet high by 8 feet long. In the middle of the wall is the door which is approximately 2 feet wide by 6 feet high and covered by 1/4 inch wire mesh. To the right of the door the space 4 feet by 6 feet high is also covered by 1/4 inch wire mesh. To the left of the door the space 2 feet by 6 feet is solid. The other long wall 6 feet high by 8 feet long has one solid panel 2 feet wide by 6 feet high (this corresponds with the piece mentioned on the other long wall). The balance of this second long wall is solid except for a piece of 1/4 inch wire mesh 6 feet long by 2 feet high near the top. Of the two remaining walls 4 feet by 6 feet, one is solid and one is 1/4 inch wire mesh.

The roof of course is solid as is the floor. Actual construction in this case was 2' x 4's for the framing and the solid wood is 1/4 inch plywood except for the floor which is 1/2 inch plywood.

The nesting area is at the end where solid pieces come together. There is room for eight nest boxes 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet. In my case the top two are used for an extra hen or two that I keep against possible losses. An alternative plan is to have six up off the floor and thus provide a little extra floor space. For litter both on the floor and in the nest boxes, I use "Kitty Litter" replacing as necessary.

This system works well for me. I don't have problems with odor and even with the youngsters kept with the adults, there is little over crowding. In fact, the space limitation provides a strong reason for culling early on.

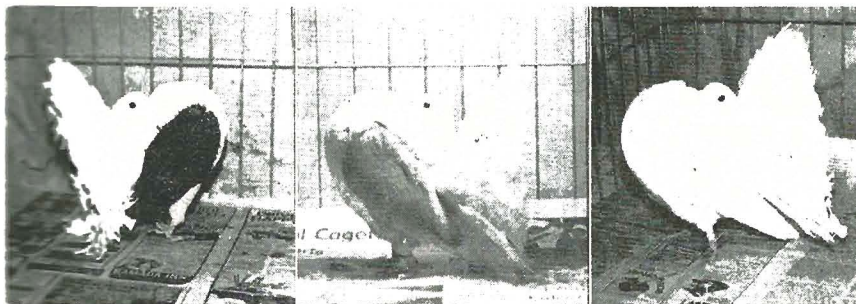
Subscription \$6 per year; 3 years \$15.

## One Fancier's Fantail Loft

By RICHARD M. DROUGHT, Jacksonville, Fla.

I have long been an advocate of a small pigeon breeding operation. There are many reasons for this attitude, but primarily a small operation lets the breeder know his birds better both from the standard point of view and from a health point

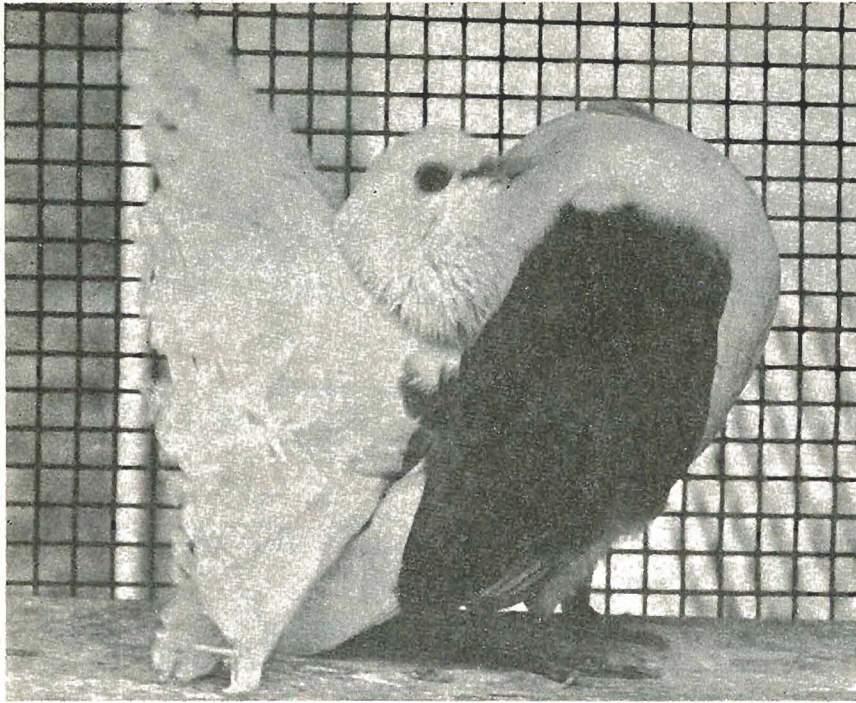
of view. Also, a small operation permits higher standards of cleanliness and less physical space devoted to the birds. Finally, of course, a small stud means the fancier can decide how much time he wants to devote to his birds on a daily



### Three Prize Winning Fantails

First bird, Champion Black Saddle at both MAFC and CFC Meets. Old Black Saddle Hen, Band No. 73-61. Second bird, Yellow Saddle hen, Band No. 360-74. Five times Champion Yellow Saddle at MAFC and CFC Meets. Third bird, Best Young White, class of 42 at MAFC Meet 1975. White Hen, Band No. 2317. — All three birds bred and owned by Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wis.





### Winning Yellow Saddle Fantail in England

Winning Yellow Saddle Fantail at the 1976 Show of the Fantail Club of England. — Bred and owned by Conrad M. Burch, Kidderminster, England.

## Looking For The Fine Points When Judging

By ROBERT R. KINGKINGER, Sinking Spring, Pa.

Frequently a Fantail judge, because of the "look alike" quality of the class, is required to look for the fine points when striving to eliminate some of the birds when judging for best of color or Champion Fantail.

Let us take for example the young white hen class, which has been narrowed down to 10 birds from a much larger class. This was done by eliminating the birds with the most obvious faults such as cowhocking, wry tails, weak tail center, oval body, long legs, head off dead center, evidence of a head crest, etc.

Scrutinizing the ten birds he has to "knit pick" to further decrease the size of the class. The judge will have to look for coarse wing butts, flights that are too long, flights that are broken at the secondaries because the bird is too short in the back or has too long a neck and has to push in order to get its head centered on the cushion. Some of these listed faults may eliminate four or five more birds, but he still has to go further.

Next he'll look for head held too high, coarse eye cere, and at the appearance of the head. This latter factor is very often overlooked by many judges. It isn't of the utmost importance, but when looking for something to eliminate some of the contenders for best of color, this factor may be the deciding one when choosing the first bird in the class.

Many Fantails do not have a head that is snake-like in appearance. Instead they

have a Tumbler shaped head. Therefore, when a judge has several that are equal in appearance a Tumbler shaped head may be the eliminating factor.

Judging a color class is somewhat easier as you have the additional quality, or lack of quality of color. You can also look for stained beaks or dark beaks as in the case of reds, yellows and powdered blues.

When judging blues, powdered blues, or silvers watch for traces of white at

the hocks, underbelly or cushion. Silvers sometimes have a yellow cast on the feathers. Whites sometimes are grouse legged or have small boots. Look for evidence of feathers having been plucked from legs or feet. Very often these faults can be a deciding factor.

A colored bird may also have a cracked iris, or as in the case of saddles, eyes of two different colors. The standard calls for bull eyes in saddles but sometimes one or both eyes are colored which should be an eliminating factor. All other points being equal.

Many times a saddle marked bird may have several or all colored toenails. This must be taken in consideration when picking for best saddle. The Standard doesn't mention, but should call for flesh colored toenails. Many saddles (especially black saddles) do have dark toenails. I mentioned this fact to several saddle breeders at a recent club meet and found out that many fanciers weren't aware that the toenails should be flesh colored and weren't watching for this when breeding.

To me one of the worst faults is "cowhocking" or buckling of the legs at the knee joints. When judging, this is one of the first eliminating faults I look for. I well recall an incident several years ago when a well known judge was passing on the blacks at the annual meet at one of the Fantail clubs. Lo and behold he picked a beautiful, very ttypy, excellent conditioned hen for best of color; but would you believe, she was cowhocked! I pointed out this fact to the person sitting along side of me and we both couldn't believe our eyes.

Some strains of Fantails have a tendency to have a crease in the chest. Very often a full crop will eliminate this appearance but not in all cases. So weigh this fault when looking for something to eliminate birds from a class.

Judging is a matter of common sense, balancing one point against another and a thorough knowledge of the Standard. If those who haven't attempted to judge to date would keep these points in mind, it wouldn't be an insurmountable task.

## Characteristics of the Ideal Fantail

By HARRY L. LITTLE, St. Louis, Mo.

Yes, you might have seen some of what is written here in the 1968 Fantail Special Issue of the American Pigeon Journal. Some of that article will be repeated but with some elaboration as to the qualities that I consider to be ideal in the Fantail.

Upon becoming actively interested in the Fantail, I made a pencil sketch of what I thought the perfect Fantail should be. Many changes and alterations were made over the next few years. Even today, I still have this sketch among my Fantail momentos and it still represents the type of Fantail I have been striving for over the years. My goal is to present to you a word picture of my ideas of the characteristics that are essential in

the makeup of the perfect Fantail as reflected in my drawing of so many years ago.

The perfect Fantail should be small in body and round like a ball. Everybody knows what "round" means when the word is applied to our Fantails. But how about "small"? How little is "small"?

The word "small" is a relative thing but according to the dictionary it means "little when compared to others of its own kind". According to this definition, a measurement isn't needed. However, as it seems that we are being pressed for measurements these days, my opinion is that the body of the Fantail should be approximately three to four inches in diameter with hens running toward the



smaller side of this measurement and cocks toward the larger side. There are good Fantails in all sizes, small, medium and large but the Fantail Standard of Perfection states that a small bird is preferred. This part of the Standard, I believe, is overlooked more than any other.

The length of back and the length of neck should correspond. A Fantail too long in neck or too short in back cannot get its head in the pocket. It will usually carry its head high on the cushion or push its head off center. Some Fantails, at first glance, appear to be in the pocket but turn the head to one side or the other. They cannot be comfortable there because of one or both of the faults mentioned above.

When an imaginary line is drawn through the line of the legs, when the Fantail is in the show position, it should intersect the middle of the chest. There was a time when it was thought that this line should run through the center of the eye. When this is so, the Fantail will usually stand flat-footed. The legs, instead of having the forward look we like to have, will appear to have legs going straight up into the body thus destroying the desired graceful curve from chest to feet. The legs should be moderately short to medium in length. The long legged bird would serve a better purpose in the soup kettle. A bird with legs that are too short will drag the full length of its flights on the floor. This can cause the wings to open and will destroy the ball like appearance of the body when viewed from the front. It will also cause a break between the primary and secondary flights when viewed from the side.

The wings should be set high at the shoulders and held closely to the body. The wing butts should be thin and should blend with the chest feathers. Prominent wing butts have no place in the Fantail Fancy. The sweep of the wings should be a gradual curve with no noticeable break between the primaries and secondaries.

The tail should be shaped like a saucer with wide, overlapping feathers, well equipped with shoe feathers and a strong, wide, flaring back cushion. A one and a half to two inch wide tail feather is considered to be the ideal but this will depend greatly on the size of the Fantail. A good quality, hard feather is desired, not only in the tail feather but also in the body plumage. The Fantail should have a tight, smooth appearance and not that of a fluffy ball.

A 12-inch tail, measured across the flat of the tail, is good on a medium sized bird, excellent on a small one. Few of the smaller Fantails can carry more than 12-inch tail. Anything larger than this makes them look out of proportion. Remember, we are looking for a balanced Fantail!

The tail should make a full circle with the flights having just enough room to pass under the lower shoe feathers thus

completing the full circle. The ends of the flights should just meet and should not crisscross. The tail should extend well above the chest when viewed from the front and at eye level, giving the Fantail good toptail. A three inch toptail is desired but here again, the size of the Fantail should be taken into consideration. A tail with a high center looks more circular when the Fantail is in the walking pen as some height of tail is lost by the pitch of the tail.

When in the show position, the Fantail should be well up on its toes. The feet, the ends of the flights and the lower shoe feathers provide three points of balance. The head is deep in the pocket. I like to see a Fantail with its head resting deep but comfortably in the pocket with no demarcation line between the neck and cushion. In other words, the back of the head and the back of the neck just seem to blend into the cushion with no indentation or distinguishing line as to where one ends and the other begins.

A Fantail should be able to walk gracefully in a proud manner while maintaining the show position. Some just seem to have a natural sense of showmanship or, to keep pace with the times, show-womanship. They will walk gracefully to the center of the walking pen, showing no fear and will move about at the urging of the judge, still maintaining the



GENE ALTPETER

Gene Altpeter of Brookfield, Wis., standing by his Grand Champion White Young cock, Band No. 651 at the 1975 CFC Club Show. — Photo from Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wis.

show position. A bird of this type is invaluable and can usually be depended upon to put on a good show.

It seems to be a trait of human nature that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently. So it is with our Fantails. Sometimes too much emphasis is placed on a particular quality, (Continued on page 432)

## Important Points of a Fantail

By EUGENE ALTPETER, Brookfield, Wis.

Fantails are a complex wonder of the pigeon world. If you stop to think about it, every property or point of a Fantail must play its part in the total conformity to give the Fantail that rhythm of action these points all conform to each other to give the Fantail that rhythm of action we desire in a perfect Fantail.

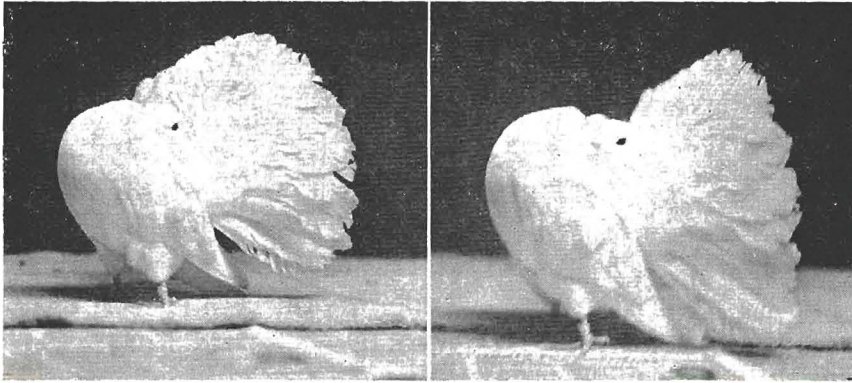
Let's discuss a few of these points in this article. Assuming our Fantail has that body that is round like a ball when viewed from every angle, we don't want to spoil the image with bad wings. The wing butts should not be protruding from the front of the body. They should give the appearance of being buried in the body and being part of that ball-like appearance, emerging very gradually from the side of the ball. Coarse, thick wing butts are a fault to breed out of our Fantails. Usually birds with this fault have a coarse appearance in general, as many times this fault is accompanied with a coarse head and neck and big feet. Fantails should be of a refined nature, like a thoroughbred race horse, and not like a draft horse, or a utility breed pigeon. The wings should be of sufficient length so that the flights just meet, but do not cross. The flights, if they just touch the ground, will absorb any extra weight when the bird is forcing its head down on the cushion and not force the wing butts forward. Wings can also be a nuisance

when the young birds are developing, as many will tend to catch their wings in their tails. If this is not corrected, a gap in the tail will result. If it is catching on one side only, the bird's tail will eventually become wry or pulled over to that side. Many fanciers will attempt to break this bad habit in young birds by placing a piece of tape across the tail feathers where the bird constantly catches his wing in the tail. However, if the tail is slightly concave, the bird usually will not catch its flights in the tail.

Proper head position is another point of great importance to the overall picture. The head should lie on the center of the cushion and not on either side. It should remain in the center at all times and not slide off to the side. The head should rest on the base of the cushion and not on the top of the cushion. A small finely built head should be slightly tapering from the top of the neck down to the nose, so that it can lie in the center of the slightly convex cushion. Then our Fantails will have their chins up with the appearance of looking to the skies.

Right legs are the foundation on which everything else about the Fantail relies heavily. Legs should be of moderate length, wide set, and in a slight straight slant to give a smooth line appearance from the body. One or both legs being (Continued on page 465)





## Prize Winning White Fantails

First bird, White Fantail young cock, Band No. 1787-74, 1st Young Cock, Central Fantail Club Meet, Jan. 1975. Second bird, White Fantail young cock, Band No. 796-76, 1st Young Cock in a class of 36 at the Central Fantail Club Meet, Jan. 1977. — Both birds bred and owned by Dick Ury, Des Moines, Iowa.

## Thoughts On Promoting The Fantail Pigeon

By RON SCHWARTZ, Paramount, Calif.

I am glad to see the interest in saddle-marked Fantails growing. However, I'm always "turned on" whenever I see a top quality Fantail regardless of its color or markings. My favorite is the solid white and I find nothing more satisfying than to study a display of good birds in the judging pen.

Recently I visited the home of Earl Clark to discuss plans for the Fantails at the NPA Grand National Show which will be held in San Diego, Calif., January 1978. At that time, I pledged some cash awards from the National Saddle Fantail Club for saddle-marked Fantail winners. One of the highlights that occurred during this meeting was the decision to hold the competition for the Fantail section as a commemorative for Gerald Champ who was recognized over the years as an outstanding Fantail breeder and exhibitor from this area. With the possibility of 1000 Fantails being present at this show, several Fantail clubs have already pledged special awards in memory of "Champ".

Speaking of clubs, here's another subject I'd like to remark about. During my visit with Earl, he mentioned that there is a growing interest to organize a national body to increase the unity of our various Fantail Clubs. I agreed with the idea because I think the Fantail hobby would benefit from such an organization. Here are a few of my thoughts on the subject:

First of all, let's not form a new breeders-exhibitors club. We have a lot of these doing a very good job already. Instead, offer to link all of the existing clubs as participants in a nation-wide federation of Fantail clubs. This "Mother Club" would be supported by the clubs and not by individual breeders and exhibitors. Sponsoring clubs would collectively contribute an annual fee adequate to cover expenses for our national endeavors. As an example, I'll suggest an

amount of \$25 per club and out of the total amount paid in, 90% (or more) would be paid out as cash awards for Champion, Reserve Champion and Best Young. The rest of the awards could be supplied by the club sponsoring the show.

Another possibility would be to develop a National Standard with rules and by-

## Fantail Reflections Through The Years

By DAVID BLACKADDER, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, England

That I have been requested to furnish notes for the ensuing Fantail number is the misfortune of the reader. After some 40 years subscribing to the Fantail scene in Britain, it is not unexpected that I found myself demanded of fresh material. If the reader finds this effort a strange mixture of autobiography, reflections and plain homely nostalgia, I would ask him to bear with me.

Since I was born to a family of Fantail breeders, in a small town that could boast of seven major studs, it is not at all surprising that my interest as I grew up, far from being inhibited was indeed intensified by the close proximity of our contemporaries. Rivalry was intense yet friendly by virtue of the difficulties that existed in the common effort to perfect the rough prototype bequeathed by a previous generation to men void of ineptitude but never abstruse in their approach or production. Unaided they toiled to mould that which today we recognize as the exhibition Fantail. The exalted theory of Mendel had no part in their efforts, yet they succeeded in transforming the ugly creatures that arrived in Scottish ports enshrouded in ambiguity by "coming from foreign places". Luckily indeed was their generation. They never suffered from insecure egos or a dearth of patience since hard on their heels was the equally proficient

laws to be observed at all Fantail shows. The training of judges would be done in the individual clubs. To form such a national body, a representative (possibly the club secretary) from each Fantail club would meet as an organizing committee to write whatever articles and by-laws that may be needed, and select an appropriate title for the "new born"!

The national organization would compile a list of judges qualified to work at the national Fantail shows. Individual clubs interested in sponsoring a national Fantail show would place their bids and all member clubs would vote for a decision. Bulletins would be issued twice a year listing results from the shows throughout the country along with other reports of national interest. Identification of officers would include the name of the club from which they came.

These are just a few suggestions on how a union of Fantail clubs could function. For instance, I'm thinking back now to when a standard judging surface of naugahyde was adopted by most clubs and how well it has worked out. With ideas such as these, just visualize where our hobby could be five years from now if all Fantail clubs were able to unite and promote our birds in a national effort. Think of the quality of the birds that would be shown at national meets when generous cash awards could be given. Let's organize. It would be good for the hobby.

good men of England whose end product proved slightly at variance with that of Scotland. Whereas they preferred the larger bird carrying flat tail of considerable size with action a dominant feature. The North had long since set their sights on a smaller Fantail, much rounder but carrying less length of feather and slower. Eventually the best of both types were merged and so they are today.

With the passing years and consequent maturity, I was afflicted by a yen to visit the "Mecca" of all pigeon exhibitors, held each year in the London Crystal Palace. Its four miles of individual pens was something I had to see. Wonderful was the day when together with my much revered local friends, I crossed the border to behold for the first time this colossal glass building comparable only to its own interior for an incredible atmosphere. Little did I think, as I gazed in awe down the aisles that stretched far into the distance, that one day in little more than a decade I would mount the same stairs, not as a bewildered stripling but as a judge. Nor did my imagination embrace the absurd prospect of going to Europe's Arctic Circle and as far south as the Low Countries and then to the New World. Had anyone made such a suggestion I would have questioned their stability. Yet, it was to happen. Came World War II, with Fantails eradi-



cated completely from my mind, with an official note advising me that a nice new uniform was awaiting collection and a return ticket was quite unnecessary.

So the Pigeon Fancy virtually ceased to exist. VE Day, and I found myself invalidated out, returning with high hopes of once more resuming where I had left off. But fate decreed this was to be no happy homecoming for my old friends had known the icy touch of the Grim Reaper and all was gone. The only tangible evidence that they had ever existed was a tall granite headstone in the local cemetery. Emblazoned on its smooth polished surface was a large Fantail, the work of a clever sculptor. In its shadow slept my friends of yesterday.

With the Peace emerged a new generation of breeders. To my gratification they were to prove worthy successors of their forebears in whose steps they walked with a strength of purpose that was to resuscitate our flagging and diminished ranks. So the Fancy had survived even in the face of adversity. Hereabouts, the urge to visit the United States of America and the grand children I had never seen, prompted me to also contact Fantail breeders in the Los Angeles area where I was to stay. Quite blatantly I asked if I might visit them. A warm affirmative answer assured me I had not bruised ethics irreparably. Indeed, their kindness was overwhelming.

Vividly I recalled years before when I had judged the Fantail Club show at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, when a very sporting exhibitor from the Americas had brought over a team. It was with mixed feelings I learned, when the day was over, I had awarded a solitary fourth place to his entries, a poor return for such effort. In my earlier days the name of Havemyer and Jimmie Glasgow were synonymous with all that was good in American Fantails, yet these birds bore no resemblance to the stock that Glasgow had taken back from his forays in Scotland. So I assumed Havemyer was not a seller, and stock not easily acquired. Such being the case, it was inevitable that I should wonder, where had they gone? But subsequent contact with American stock that I was to see, posed an almost paradoxical query, where had these come from now?

Later the answer proclaimed itself when I met the man who had produced this extraordinary transformation. For with all the urge that emanates from the fertile brain I saw the work that bespoke their achievements, inasmuch the conception acquired that day in Manchester was completely shattered and replaced by unstinted admiration. Type was superb and showman qualities unrestricted. From the nucleus of the indifferent had emerged creatures as shapely as their predecessors were incult.

Geographically, my families home was, by American standards, next door to my first host. So I had been warned to expect the sight of a veritable Fantail farm. My informant had not exaggerated



## Fantail Breeders of England

Here is a picture over 70 years old of Fantail breeders of England. Bottom row left to right: Tom Cathcart, Hugh Gordon. Walt Cathcart. Top row: Boyd Park and Charles Blackadder. See accompanying article. — Photo from Cy Harper, North Hollywood, Calif.

for the stud of Cy Harper was bewildering in its magnitude as its inmates were in quality. While powder silvers were first favourites, silvers, reds, yellows and blacks were cultivated with precision. I am now well aware it is fashionable to refer to the former as powder blues but since I lived with the men who first produced them, and from them bred the variety myself, I don't worry too much if the scientific approach deems them as having masqueraded under a misnomer. In any case I had lived too long in the red hot competition to want its past or prospects in genetics to become a major factor. For mine had never been inhibited by an academic attitude to the ultimate.

I know not what had been employed in the Harper stud but I was convinced that this breeder, far from being satisfied with producing good ones, aimed rather at perfection. The most discerning would have to admit, the bodies and legs left little to desire. Poor tails were unknown, yet in the scrutiny of this perspicacious owner, minor faults prompted a reversion to Cavil. Silvers were a beautiful collection with quality uniformly created by the obvious relationship of the birds, which served to underline that, as with other colours, this was an established strain as opposed to the all too frequent hit or miss efforts.

Reds and yellows had never been my favorites but suddenly I was deeply involved for I never could resist a Fantail that was good whatever the colour. And here was plenty that demanded attention. Now, I had been enlightened as to why America had closed the gap in Fantails. For this satirical view of flaws, however infinitesimal, was not peculiar to Cy Harper but general in America's breeders, the evidence made manifest in the stock they penned. This had been the first of my many visits to America's Pacific coast. They embraced visits to

San Diego and the splendid stud of Gerald Champ, the comprehensive stock of Earl Clark, which held grizzles that are still unknown in Britain, and the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Gus Waldusky who, besides producing powders of delightful standard and shown to perfection, invariably found much to admire in the Harper exhibits. This I found was fully reciprocated by his rival in powder silvers. In the younger school was apparently yet another generation perfectly qualified to maintain the work of their elders. In Schwartz and Pierson was the potentials to further establish that which had already been done. Despite their protests of inexperience, there existed a punctilious adherence to the principles of the desired creations. To

(Continued on page 469)

### Reciprocity In Fantails

By CY HARPER, North Hollywood, Calif.

A number of years ago David Blackadder of Scotland, got in touch with me when he was here in Calif. to visit his daughter and grandchildren whose home was nearby.

Mr. Blackadder made several visits to Calif. in recent years and we have spent many happy hours extolling the virtues of the Fantails. We have corresponded over the years and I have sent Fantails to Mr. Blackadder on several occasions which brings me to the story behind the picture.

Mr. Blackadder's father, Charles Blackadder and Hugh Gordon shown in the picture were two fanciers who first supplied our Jimmie Glasgow with Fantails for Mr. Havemyer's lofts in America. While I am sure there have been many shipments of Fantails back to the British Isles since that time I feel it is quite a coincidence that I should have shipped Fantails back to a loft that helped supply America originally.



# Ray D. LaFleur — An Example In Perseverance

By ROD LYSNE, Ferryville, Wis.

Perseverance in something good is commendable. It is an outward manifestation of a faithful, "sticktoitive" attitude, revealing that a person is not easily discouraged or willing to give up soon. Now hobbies are often a reflection of a life style, and perseverance in them can be linked to the manner in which one perseveres in the other things of life. A hobby which lasts for 10 years might seem to reflect strong interest; one lasting for 25 years would speak of keen interest, but one which spans over 50 years must show true determination and reflect enjoyment.

When I think of the most enduring name in the Fantail Fancy, and I am sure most other fanciers in the Midwest feel the same, one name comes to mind. This is Ray D. LaFleur who has persisted in the hobby for over 50 years, enjoying himself and making life a little more enjoyable for those who are lucky enough to know him.

A brief look at CFC, MAFC and BFC show records attests to the fact that Ray has not only persevered in the hobby, he has excelled! There are very few colors in which his birds have not placed a Champion at one time or another, or several times for that matter.

When I stop to think of Ray's line of various colored Fans, two colors come to mind which best show his persistent, patient attitude, these would be his Reds and Yellows. Ray has probably been working consistently with these two very difficult recessive colors longer than any other Fantail fancier. There are very few who do not find these Fantail colors to be most eye-catching, and many have

even experimented breeding them for a time; however few have persisted. They are very difficult birds with which to work as their recessive color makes it difficult to breed in other colors to improve on type while retaining the rich, clear red or yellow color. After a few seasons showing little or no improvement in their birds, many fall by the wayside and either drop from the hobby or go back to strictly breeding the easier colors.

Now I doubt that Ray's Red and Yellows were much different from anyone else's when he began with them. They were "decent stock birds with the same faults as other Fans of the same color", to quote Ray. The key to success lay in a good "eye", in correct matings, and in a careful boldness to introduce better type birds of compatible genetic background; this plus lots and lots of perseverance.

The results are obvious as one looks back at the show records now in Reds and Yellows. Ray's birds have placed on top more often than anyone's. Ray recounted to me how many years ago he crossed in some good Duns of his own breeding into the Yellows. From these matings came several birds evidencing real improvement in type, around which he then based his matings. The offspring of his birds have now gone into many fanciers' lofts to give their own birds a boost.

Success in any matter is an ongoing thing, requiring constant upgrading. So this year after evaluating his Yellows, Ray again thought it a good time to make a few bold but sound matings in hopes of improving the Yellows in a few particular points. The results will be interesting to observe in his loft and in the show pens. This reflects the kind of positive perseverance Ray has shown.

Ray's patience in developing his outstanding lines of Fantails in all standard colors is something which has impressed me and many others. Year after year he has stuck-to-it. There have been those seasons when he has had bad luck in one color or another or a setback due to an illness, but the next season he is back in the loft planning, evaluating, re-mating, forgetting about past disappointments.

While some newer fanciers today want only the "perfect" specimens when beginning work in a new color or marking and sometimes revealing a critical attitude when they can't find them, Ray has shown his expertise at developing fine quality Fans the way he wants without going out to buy everyone's "best bird" in the loft. I have had the pleasure of watching his now famous line of Blacks develop over the last few years. He started with a few decent stock birds, having potential, but weaknesses too. As he bred from them year to year, I saw the potential developed and the weaknesses

eliminated. This didn't happen overnight; it took time and patience.

Now this should lend a certain feeling of accomplishment to Ray (though you'll never catch him bragging about it), and it should give heart to others in the Fantail Fancy who might have occasion to get discouraged. It goes to prove that if one is willing to work with stock birds showing potential and make the right matings with both judiciousness and boldness, then success can be attained if one is willing to stick with it.

On the occasion of this third Fantail Special if there is one man in the Fantail Fancy who should be an example for others to follow when it comes to breeding the Queen of the Fancy, it should be none other than Ray D. LaFleur. His is probably the finest loft of Fans in existence and he is the Grandest Man in the Fancy. Who else better deserves to be called Mr. Fantail?

## Characteristics of the Ideal Fantail

(Continued from page 429)

so much so that all others are excluded. Therefore, one person's appraisal of a Fantail can be quite different than another's, depending entirely upon where they place their priorities! It takes more than a good tail or a good round body or well set legs. All these qualities, plus many more, must be blended together for the creation of the ideal. We must be forever conscious of the fact that we are looking for a balanced Fantail and that it must be good in all these qualities. Perfection in one feature means that the total number of points for that feature should be allocated. If it is less than perfect there, the points should be prorated according to quality.

Just as with a beautiful piece of jewelry, any imperfection takes something away from the appearance of the whole. Everything must be in perfect balance to create a thing of beauty and perfection. Preparation, condition and training play a great part in getting the Fantail ready for the showroom but these are of little value if we do not have a basically sound Fantail with which to start!

The popularity of the Fantail has taken a tremendous stride since publication of the 1968 Fantail Special issue of the American Pigeon Journal. There is no doubt that this Special was largely responsible. More Fantail specialty clubs emerged. Memberships in the various Fantail Clubs grew larger. However, it was not until January of 1976 in Madison, Wis., at the Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic, that we were able to break the 600 bird barrier. When it happened, it not only exceeded the 600 bird mark but went far beyond. Eight hundred and ninety two Fantails were on display there by exhibitors from the United States and Canada. It will take some doing but there is no doubt that someday this record will be broken. When it is, I for one want to be there!

Subscription \$6 per year; 3 years \$15.



RAY D. LAFLEUR

Ray D. LaFleur of Onalaska, Wis., holding the Argall Cup for Champion Black Fantail which he won. — Photo from Rod Lysne, Ferryville, Wis.



# Fantail Pigeons In West Germany

By ERICH MUELLER, Frankfurt, Am Main, West Germany

I am happy to know that through the courtesy of the American Pigeon Journal we will be able, through this special issue, to promote the breeding of the beautiful Fantail pigeon among the international fraternity of pigeon breeders. Valuable support of the breed can be secured through a better understanding of the various characteristics of the pigeon.

In order to better understand the Fantail as bred in Germany it is helpful to understand the historical background of the bird. The oldest known picture of the Fantail pigeon was published by Willughby (Willoughby?), an Englishman, in 1678 and it is now a known fact that the pigeon came originally from India. In 1669, a German doctor F. Horst described the pigeon in a German book (Detailed Bird Book, By C. Gesner) in detail. J. L. Frisch showed a beautiful picture of the Fantail in the book called *Introducing the Birds of Germany and Some Foreign Species* in 1763. This picture and the article was used by many authors over a long period of time. After 1850 breeding for various markings was started. More attention to color and design was also given than before.

It was the English breeders that laid the foundation for the perfect type. In size and elegance, compared to the original Fantail pigeon from India, the development of the Fantail was greatly influenced by breeders from Scotland, France and Germany. Around the year 1900 the best traits of the Fantails from the various countries were beginning to be found in the various pigeons.

In 1906 a special German club was founded to establish certain rules for the breeding of the ideal Fantail, but the American breeders were responsible for the production of the extremely low profile of the Fantail as we find it today.

After 1950 A. Bortels (Germany) imported fine typed birds from America from W. Detmer. Bortels was able to produce offspring from crosses of the American and the German bloodlines in which the best traits of the birds from both countries was combined. One of his goals was to improve the American blood lines through improving the type, and producing longer and stronger tail feathers. The blood of the Bortel birds still flows in the studs of all serious German pigeon raisers.

After Bortel's death E. Lindemeier and W. Hartl continued the work of improving the Fantail, as did many other breeders. The crossing of the white Fantails of superior quality with those of other colors and markings has greatly improved the breed, and today the breeding stock in our country is better than ever, and so is the showing of these Fantail pigeons.

Main points in the judging of Fantails in Germany are as follows: overall appearance, carriage, tail (fan) with cush-

ion, stance, breast, throat, head, color and marking. The recognized colors are white (widely bred and in the best quality), yellow (at this time there aren't many good specimens), red (they are getting better with time, and greatly improving), blue checkered and silver checkered (the same as blue), black (the last specimens shown were of fine quality with excellent color and fine body) and ribbon tails (Spiegelswanze) red and yellow (these relatively recent colors are not found in profusion, but they are of real good quality). Saddles in yellow, cream, red and ash, blue, blue check and black (very good specimens are to be found in yellow, red, blue and black). Some of the breeders could put forth a little more effort with the markings). Tailmarks (white body with colored tail) are bred in yellow, red, blue, and black. One must make a big allowance in evaluating these birds since they lack elegant posture and distinctive layering of the feathers. The markings are found best in the black ones. Bodymarks (white tails with colored body) can also be found in yellow, red, blue, checkered and black. These lovely varieties are not too widespread, but are becoming increasingly popular. A good example is the blacks. Checkered Fantail pigeons are being raised again with great success.

The work of some 200 members of this

special club helps promote the Fantail pigeon. Good managed special shows, summer meetings and the valued work of a special judge are also helpful in increasing the popularity of these birds.

One is quite impressed with the popularity of the Fantail pigeons in mid Germany and in East Germany (German Democratic Republic), but in other European countries Fantail pigeons are not too well established. The types produced in other countries tend to follow the examples of the birds bred in Germany. As we said before, thanks to the American breeder, we can compare the types today and they are similar. Present signs seem to point to a successful development of the pigeon.

Literature on the Fantail Pigeon is available to the reader both in editions from America, and also from Germany. In 1976 a book, *The Fantail Pigeon History, Breeding and Care* was published. This contained among other things 127 pages on the breeding of the Fantail pigeon and included many good pictures of the breed. All of the types of modern Fantail pigeons are discussed and the writer is the author of this treatise. It can be secured from Verlag Oertel and Sporer, Postfach 35, 7410 Reutlingen, Germany. The price is 12.50 DM (about \$5.00).

Leading breeders of Fantail pigeons are found all over the world. With our fast transportation why wouldn't an international show be of great advantage to all of us? Think it over! — Translation courtesy Dr. L. E. Hummel.

## Will It Be Saddle or Fantail?

By JOHN McCLANAHAN, East Syracuse, N.Y.

While I cannot claim to be an authority on Fantails, not even saddles, I have attempted to breed them off and on for about 20 years. Having also kept solids for most of that period, I can understand and appreciate the problems associated with both varieties.

That there is a different set of rules for judging, no one can deny. There is also a different set of problems associated in the breeding pen. Thus, we might by this reasoning consider the saddle and the Standard bred (Solid Colored) Fantail an entirely separate breed. Why? I shall try to answer.

When we read the written Standard for Fantails, we find 100 points allotted to all colors and whites alike. At the end of the Standard, we find ten additional points for outstanding color, and the same for exceptional markings. All well and good, but.

I ask the reader, when is the last time this section of the Standard was properly interpreted? I have never seen it applied to saddles.

There have been, in the past few years, a few rare, very high quality saddles bred, and the marking as a whole has begun to make great strides toward perfection. Unfortunately, I have also seen

a few instances where the best Fantail entered in a class of saddles was soundly defeated by a lesser quality in all normal "Fantail" characteristics, primarily because the bird was overmarked.

Meanwhile, the same judge at the same show will place highly a smutty colored blue or an off colored black or red or yellow because it was slightly better in these "Fantail" characteristics.

And then, as the finals are being judged, all the so-called "edge" for markings and virtually all those for color are forgotten and a white emerges victorious more often than any other color.

Realistically, I know that at its present stage of development the saddle has little chance of competing with the solid varieties (with a few exceptions), but also, realistically, there is a definite double standard being applied to the marking.

It is up to the Standard writers, the various Fantail clubs, the fanciers, and most of all, the judges. They must decide what breed this is. If the saddle Fantail is truly a Fantail, then it must be treated accordingly. If, however, the current double standards continue, the saddle must be considered a separate breed that only shares part of the Fantail Standard.

What will it be? Saddle or Fantail?



# Views On The Fantail Standard of Perfection

By R. H. OSTRANDER, R. T. McKEE, BUD HAGAN, H. L. LITTLE

Coordinator's Note; — Much comment has surfaced, over the past few months, in reference to a change in the Fantail Standard. Because of this, it was thought that fellow Fantail fanciers would be interested in some of the views that have been expressed in letters and in articles received for publication in the Fantail Special. As these articles are all on the same subject and some refer to others, they are grouped together for a better over-all understanding of what is involved.

## Some Comments On The Fantail Standard

By RAYMOND H. OSTRANDER,  
Sandwich, Mass.

Recently, Bob McKee, Publicity Director for the Eastern Fantail Club, has written some interesting statements concerning the Fantail Standard, inviting comments upon his expressed views. His remarks in respect to the relationship between roundness of body and "dig" are well taken. There is a danger in a fanciers placing so much emphasis upon roundness of body that he may breed for short-legged birds that will not be able to get their heads down in the center of what Gerald Champ used to call the "pocket". Bob is completely correct in stressing the point that the head should not rest upon the tail. The Standard states that "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 in the center at the base of the cushion".

For many years the North American Fantail clubs accepted the Standard adopted by the Fantail Club of England. Then at the annual meeting of the Eastern Fantail Club, held January 7, 1956, it was decided that the Eastern Fantail Club should take the leadership in revising the Standard. A committee composed of Elisha Hanson, Clinton H. Wilber and Raymond H. Ostrander coordinated this effort. Since I actually carried on most of the correspondence in this matter I feel rather confident of the intent of the various provisions proposed and accepted in the Standard. The Central Fantail Club also appointed a committee whose members worked closely with us and, of course, I was then and still am a member of both clubs. After some 30 months of exchange of views among the members of all the known clubs in the United States and Canada the proposed Standard was adopted by mail ballot of the members of the Eastern Fantail Club in the fall of 1958. The other clubs adopted the proposed Standard shortly thereafter.

Among the changes approved at that time were the addition of the words "with ease" and "in the center at the base of". We felt that it should be clear that the ideal Fantail will get its head down to rest at the center of the base

of the cushion rather than rest higher and press against the tail. Bob McKees point as expressed in the March issue of the American Pigeon Journal is right on target with this concept.

It has been my experience in breeding that it is desirable to retain several cocks that are strong in the above mentioned quality even though they may be a bit taller than judges usually choose for first prizes. This practice tends to insure the retention of good dig among the young Fantails; it also facilitates obtaining more fertile eggs. Some of the short-legged cocks have proved to be poor breeders for me.

Bob McKee also wrote about another element of the Standard. He is concerned about the interpretation of the number of points to be allowed for saddles when they are judged against white and solid colored birds. Both Elisha Hanson and I had been breeders of saddles so that we were deeply concerned about this matter. The intent of the wording of the Standard was to provide a general guide for judges. We tried a draft with different points for saddles throughout the Standard but that was not acceptable to the majority who communicated with us. We finally settled for the wording currently in the Standard, recognizing that judges do not actually score the birds point by point, anyway. What we tried to say was that a saddle should have extra credit for the markings when competing with birds in which no marking patterns were involved. We also recognized that breeding for color in self and barred varieties adds an element that should be rewarded when the colors compete with whites. Thus we came up with the reasoning, which was accepted at the time, that when the various varieties are competing, as for championships, the self and barred birds should be granted approximately a ten-percent advantage over whites and the saddles should be given a fifteen-percent advantage. This means that a black, for example, with superior color is granted a ten-point advantage. A black with poor color would be granted little advantage. Likewise a saddle with perfect markings would be granted a ten-point advantage. If its color is superior it would be granted another five-point advantage. The actual points mentioned here are the same as those in the older Standard. After much discussion and attempts to make some changes we had to come back to the original with what we then thought was clearer wording. I am hoping this explanation proves to be less ambiguous than, apparently, our wording in the Standard has turned out to be.

## The Fantail Standard

By BOB McKEE, Vanderbilt, Pa.

I have received various comments concerning my APJ article printed in the March '77 issue. After attending many

shows, it is my belief that many a fancier does not understand some parts of our Fantail Standard. While sitting in on one meeting I learned that some were going to re-write the thing; mostly misunderstanding on the part of those involved. I support no move to re-write the Standard. I feel that the Fancy at large should understand the need to clarify some sections. I do not feel that this reflects on those who prepared the revised Standard in the year of 19 and 58. But only that, like myself, many do not understand the exact meanings set forth therein. Articles by Don Buhr have reflected some of the same feeling from the Mid-America Fantail Club. Whether this reflects only his personal opinion or the beliefs of others in that portion of the U.S. is important. I write what I hear; I report, so to speak! So, when I write, I am reflecting ideas of more than myself. At any rate, this reveals a need for some sort of action. Whether this be clarification, additions or other modification of the present Standard, then this needs to be discussed. By no means should we change a well written Standard on our Fantail.

The problem partly lies with color and marking points. As I note this is something in which Don was concerned. I think the reader should take note of Ray Ostrander's article entitled, "Some Comments On The Fantail Standard." I think we can stand corrected and I feel that I can understand, now, just what is meant by extra points. I had consulted many fanciers, one would say 105 total and another 115. Bob Kinginger went with the latter. It is 115 total points for good colored-well marked saddles, tail-marks or body-marks. The blacks, reds, yellows and bar colors would be a total of 110, if they excell in coloration! Ray's analogy is what we needed here. This is my opinion. Possibly there are others that feel there is yet more clarification needed. I suggest they write their thoughts.

There are still other areas that need additions; such as the definition of AOC. The National, at Dayton, proved this. I feel that a bird should be put in the class of its predominant color, to a point. If we have no splash class, then let anything that is near 50/50 in white and color be classified as AOC. I do think a class could be made for the rare colors, either combined (where low entries dictate) or separately (where entries dictate separation due to sufficient entries to warrant such a rare color class). I think this could be left to the Secretary at the individual shows. But something is needed to delegate these choices in various situations. Should it be stated in the Standard? Other points may need clarification but it is up to people to come forward as Don Buhr has. Don was a strong advocate in the powdered blue controversy and changes were made. As to what Ray Ostrander discusses, I think clarification has been made.

Ray mentions that his experience in



breeding requires the use of cocks taller than normally picked as Champion or for first place. This goes along with Gerald Champs theory of point blend matings. If we were to breed them down and continue such breeding of "likes" we would soon find our style and proper carriage all but lost. (Ray, I believe is saying this) The Canuck who lately said, "Likes produces like" is right in what he says; but what he hasn't realized is that a point can be reached where balance is lost, the blend is not there, just likes. And if like produces like, why can't I produce a Champion from Champions? Would not the challenge be lost? Alas, most breeders know it's the proper combination of show points which produces the Champion. Joe Quinn once said that the Pollocks keep a cull and breed it as a Champion would be bred so as not to lose some variation within the family, thereby preventing the loss of certain points and the need to out-cross. Also Ray says "cocks a bit taller" than those picked by Judges. I would give my personal opinion further and say that a cock must have sufficient leg but not excessive length of body (lowest to top of chest distance). These are invaluable in the breeding of show Fantails. My description of body, as high as wide as deep, coupled with the proper leg length will give a ball shaped body on a Fan that shows good wing line, frontal and proper style.

Ray's article is a welcome analogy of several portions of our Standard and I feel honored that he took time to spell out some of the things that had a young judge confused.

Any other comments on the Standard should be discussed by the separate clubs and so reported. Analogy should then be made and judgements made by the Fantail fanciers at large.

#### Color In Fantails

By BUD HAGAN, Louisville, Ky.

Within the last year we have heard more and more about color in Fantails. I do admit that there is plenty of room for growth in the color field but not at the expense of giving it precedence over structure which, of course, is the controlling factor of type and action in the Fantail.

Throughout my lifetime I have raised and shown dogs and almost all of the farm animals. I have yet to see the top prizes go to any animal because of color. I feel that a 5 to 15 point advantage for a marked or colored bird would reverse the trend of action over color. The top prizes for Fantails and Kings usually go to the whites. Why? Because they are generally superior in structure. The reason for this is that there have been more breeders taking an active interest in them and over a longer period of time.

The different markings and colors of the Fantail can be improved in the same way. I believe that any serious breeder, that has the grit to stay with it, could take any of the markings and colors and breed it to the same stage of perfection that we have in the whites. The color

line can be established just as strongly as body conformation. If anyone thinks he can convince me that marking and color are any more difficult to attain than body structure, I am ready to sit down with him and talk about it. It is time we stopped looking for cheap wins.

As an example of what I am trying to say, we might take a look at the grizzle. I predict that within the next two years, a grizzle will take some of our bigger shows. This has already been done but it will take more than one win to convince the Fancy. The grizzle will soon have the true Dragoon color. The tail-mark is advancing right with the grizzle. Great strides have been taken with this bird.

Over a period of years the blue bar, powdered blue, silver, and the black have made it to the winner's circle. I would venture to say that the judges that picked them didn't give color points a thought. My whites have been beaten by them and, believe me, color points had nothing to do with it. They were good enough in other qualities and didn't need color points. To me, this proves one thing. That our marked and colored birds have been improving steadily without extra point considerations.

Personally, I can't believe we have as much of a problem as some people seem to think. If we discuss it with our friends, and at club meetings, and between clubs, we might find that it is quite easy to work things out. These things come up between fanciers of all breeds but the Fancy has survived and, in fact, has never been healthier.

I am not the only one who sees things in this way. Let me pass on to you some of the thoughts of other fanciers:

Rod Hatcher, page 70, The Fantail Handbook "We must first breed the proper typed Fantail, and think about the color second. Type and action first, color second".

John Bolton, page 91, The Fantail Handbook "The main thing to bear in mind first in Fantails is type. The Master Breeder Hanson and highly skilled Robinson, set solid foundations for type in both their strains. Unfortunately, 10 or 15 years ago there was a brief 'color craze' on powdered silvers which caused a temporary setback".

Rod Hatcher, page 104, The Fantail Handbook "The Fantail is primarily a bird of type and action. These come first. Good color and markings add much to beauty. Yet, too much emphasis on color has held back many a breeder".

Wendell Levi, page 315, The Pigeon "Newly arising color patterns in a breed are relatively easily fixed compared with type or head and body structure and offer an interesting field for one desiring to create something new and not too long to attain results".

There is probably some wording of the Standard that could be changed. Still, no matter what the change might be there will always be those who do not agree. This is the human element which we will always have, even in our judging.

#### Wording Change? Clarification? Re-Writing?

By HARRY L. LITTLE, St. Louis, Mo.

As Co-ordinator of the Fantail Special Issue of the American Pigeon Journal, I have received some interesting letters and articles but none more interesting than those of Dr. Raymond Ostrander, of Sandwich, Mass., Bob McKee, of Vanderbilt, Pa., and Bud Hagan of Louisville, Ky. Why do I consider them so? Principally because they concern our Fantail Standard of Perfection and suggestions of a change in this Standard.

First, a little background music, if you please. While in attendance at the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Fantail Club, which was held in conjunction with the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Ky., a suggestion was made that there should be some changes made in our Fantail Standard. Upon questioning this, we were told that some of the wording, as used in the Standard, was just not good grammar. As is usual in such matters, the subject was turned over to a committee for investigation and evaluation.

So, you see, there was no intent to change anything but the wording in some parts of the Standard. A complete re-writing of the Standard, or for that matter, a simple clarification of the Standard had never entered the picture!

Now, all of a sudden, we have had a snowballing effect with suggestions that vary from a simple wording change, to clarification, to a complete re-writing of that Standard. Why? It looks as though it started with a lack of understanding, with a simple problem of lack of communications!

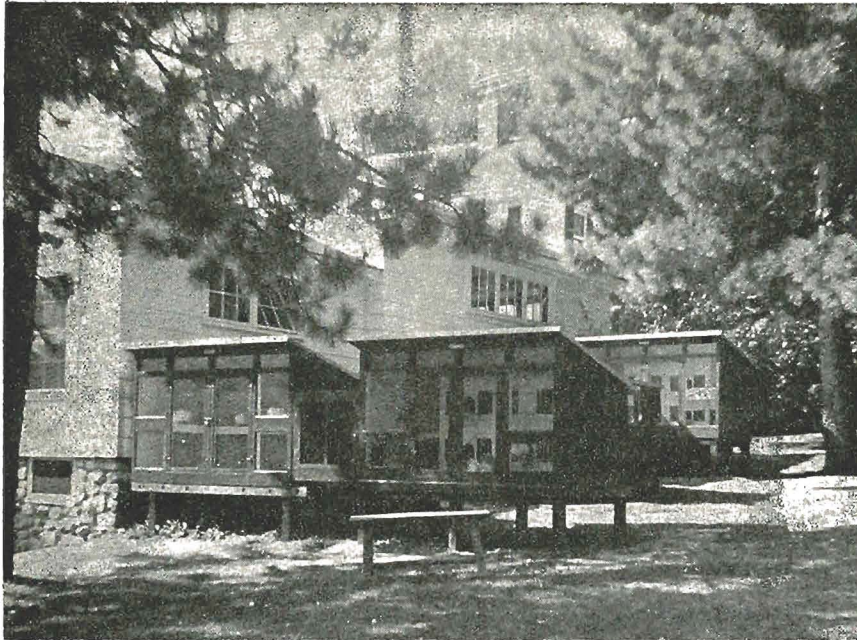
It does no harm to periodically appraise our Standard to make sure it is doing the complete job for which it was designed, in fact, this is as it should be. However, we must use extreme caution in making indiscriminate changes in a product that has served the Fantail Fancy so very well and which has brought the Fantail to its present state of popularity!

Over the years there has been some changes in the Fantail Fancy. For example, the addition of several new colors and the change in the name of the color formerly known as powdered silver to that of powdered blue. Along with this we still have some of the same old problems. What about disqualifications? The Standard doesn't give specifics on disqualifications. What is an AOC? What do you do when a black Fantail with one white flight is shown in the splash classes? However, these are not serious problems. We have lived with this AOC thing for years. Just about the time we think we have it worked out, that everybody understands, another black with one white flight shows up in the splash classes.

Alright, what should we do? The most logical thing to do would be to get a committee together to update and clarify the Standard! Preferably, one made up

(Continued on page 439)





## Fantail Lofts, Home and Garage

Loft in left foreground next to tool house is referred to as the West loft in the article by Mr. Reardon, loft at the right is South loft used for breeders, loft at extreme rear is the North loft and loft in between is for young birds, also used for cocks after matings are broken up at end of breeding season. (Only end of fly pen shows in picture.) For complete explanation see article by Harriman Reardon.

## Neat and Easy To Build Fantail Lofts

By HARRIMAN REARDON, Hudson, Mass.

Note by Editor: — Due to continued interest in building these attractive Fantail lofts this article, which appeared in both the March 1961 and December 1968 Fantail Special Issues, is being reprinted in this issue.

Since I wrote the article on Fantail lofts which appeared in the March 1961 American Pigeon Journal Special Fantail Issue, I have built two more lofts; one an additional breeder loft almost an exact replica in size and plan as a loft made by converting a 2-family Bantam house when I was starting with Fantails, (the only difference being the addition of 9½" x 17½" plate glass windows under the end shelves and the use of plywood instead of matched boards), and the other the same in size but with a different interior arrangement and with corresponding changes in the window and door measurements for use in housing young stock, females when the sexes are separated after the breeding season or spare females during breeding season.

When I decided to build the first of these two lofts I consulted a long time friend who was an architect to see what I would need for framing. He figured by using plywood and plycore I would need little framing except for the floor, one roof rafter in the center, and the door posts. He also figured where I would need exterior plywood, regular plywood and where I could economize by use of plycore (cheaper than plywood because

only one side is clear and free of knots) and the thicknesses needed in each case.

The result was an attractive loft that could be built for the least amount of labor with almost no waste and which by years of experience I had found to be most efficient and convenient.

Since then many people have been attracted by the loft and it has been duplicated by such eminent and seasoned Fantail breeders as Raymond Ostrander, Guy Lambert and Dan Doyle (the latter connected with the telephone company in the management end of construction referred to it as the best engineered pigeon loft he had ever seen which shows that the advice I received from my architect friend was evident in the final product).

When Gerald F. Champ wrote me to see if I would write something for the December 1968 APJ Special Fantail Issue, I recalled several cases where I loaned information about building this loft to people new to pigeons and new to Fantails and they went right ahead while the iron was hot and built a loft and became fanciers whereas without the means of proceeding easily they might have cooled off and never have joined the fold. One man I think more or less set a record. He worked Saturdays and had Mondays off. Late on a Friday evening he saw my lofts and birds by floodlight. Saturday he ordered the materials for duplicating my breeder loft. Sunday and Monday he built the loft and Tuesday

bought his first Fantails. It therefore seemed to me that perhaps that the greatest contribution I could make to this special number would be to provide a picture of these newer lofts and tell something about their construction and use.

Starting from the ground up in building this breeder loft known as the North Loft, I secured some discarded utility pole crossarms for posts and for the frames on top of the posts upon which the loft stands twenty inches above the ground in front but of course less in the rear as the ground slopes.

Although these crossarms had originally been impregnated with creosote I brushed on two or three additional coats and dipped the ends in creosote as a further protection.

Holes were dug so the posts would go down below the frost line and the frame on top of the posts was cut to extend eight inches beyond the loft to serve as a bracket to support the sun porch, 32" x 48" by 38½" high. The outside measurements of the frame on top of the posts exclusive of the eight inch extensions serving as brackets for the sun porch is seven feet wide by four feet deep, exactly the size of the framework, floor and sub floor of the loft which allows the sides of the loft to project ¾" beyond the frame upon which the loft stands.

The floor of the loft which I have said is 4' by 7' is made of 5/8" plywood nailed to a 2" x 3" frame laid flatside down with 2" x 3" cross members 17½" apart. A sub floor nailed to the bottom made of ¾" exterior plywood has ½" holes bored in it to make possible the circulation of enough air to avoid dry rot in the space above.

The loft is 4' 6" high in front and 3' 6" high in the rear with a 6" overhanging roof front and back and a 2½" overhang on each end.

The two ends are obtained by taking a piece of exterior plywood 4' x 8' and ¾" thick then measuring up from one end 4½" on one side and 3½" on the other side and cutting the piece in two on the diagonal line from one point above mentioned to the other. This gives the two ends of the loft.

The back is obtained by sawing 10½" off the end of a 4' x 8' piece of exterior plywood ¾" thick and then sawing 6" off the long side of the larger piece. The small door to the sun porch can be made from the 10½" x 4" piece and the long 6" pieces can be used in the front. The large piece 7' x 1½" long and 3½" high nails on to the two ends in the back and to the floor frame.

When it has been decided upon which end of the loft you want the sun porch a door 10" wide and 12" high is cut out (4" from the front and 1" above inside floor level) leading to the sun porch. The floor of the sun porch which is covered with ½" hardware cloth is on the same level as the floor of the loft. The sides and top of the sun porch are covered with 1" chicken wire.



Two pieces of plyscore 4' x 8' and 5/8" thick should be purchased for the roof and then 32" should be cut off the end of each piece. The two large pieces will make the roof 90 1/2" long and 64" from front to back and the two smaller pieces will make the nest ends and partition between the nests on the interior.

The nests referred to are 20" deep and 18" high placed against the center rear of loft. Stock nest fronts obtainable from APJ advertisers at a reasonable figure button in at the front of the nests.

At each end between the ends of the nests and the ends of the lofts there is a shelf 16" wide and 17" above the floor running from front to rear of loft.

Under the nests is a 5 1/2" crawl space for squeakers or birds new to the loft needing protection from aggressive loft mates. With Fantails I have found this is seldom needed so I have this closed off with plywood pieces buttoned in place containing several half inch holes to vent the space and prevent dry rot.

In building the front of the loft there is a 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" upright in center and one 21 1/8" to each side. These uprights are set out 3/4" in front of floor to save room inside the house and save a facing board in each case. Between these uprights and the 1 3/4" verticle strip at each end of the front there is a plate glass window 9 1/2" x 17 1/2" above a 6" bottom board and then another 6" board above which is a 17 1/2" x 22" plate glass window, then a 1 1/2" board across the entire length above which are four ventilator openings 6" high and 17 1/2", 21 1/4" and 17 1/4" wide respectively above which is a 3" board next to the roof boards.

In the door openings there are wire doors made of stock 3/4" thick and 1 3/4" wide and there are screens made of the same sized stock covered with a glass substitute that fits in the doors in stormy or windy weather.

The two end ventilating windows under the 6" overhanging roof have plywood shutters that button in in case of blizzards or hurricane weather and the two center spaces have similar shutters except that in the center of each there is an adjustable ventilator.

The back of the ventilating window is covered with 1/2" hardware cloth nailed to the inside of the studs. The space between this wire and the front of the 3/4" strip against which ventilator shutters about makes a shelf handy upon which to put your feed can when you have to open the door and the other hand holds the water dish. I always keep a spoon on this shelf to use for clearing off the gravel or sand that gets in between the door and the door jamb and which might warp the door if door was forced shut when buttoned.

In passing I think I might as well note that plate glass vendors usually have small pieces of glass they are glad to cut and sell reasonably. These make a house very attractive as you can see all the birds all the time to the greatest advantage but low cost glass substitutes

can be used if every penny counts and you want to cut corners.

I use sheet steel metal roofs but here again other materials could be substituted although in that case thicker pycore might be desirable for boarding in the roof.

Before I start to speak about the loft used for housing young stock or spare birds of one sex, I think I should speak about the use of the sun porch other than for a place to set the bath pan (so any water overflowing will go through the cellar window wire and keep the loft itself dry).

A nesting material rack is placed in the center of the rear half of the sun porch, containing pine needles. It has a cover that keeps the needles from getting wet and which serves as an ideal place for the birds to mate as the males wings cannot hit anything that will knock him off and prevent him from filling the egg when mating.

This rack was made from left-overs and here are the measurements in case you want to build one. Take two pieces of plywood 10" wide and 11" high. Beginning 1" down from top draw a line to the center of the bottom on each side and apply a 1" cleat inside the line on both sides. Then 1" up from the bottom of the V on each side nail on a slat 2 1/2" wide, then leave a 2" space and above that attach a 2" slat then leave another 2" space and then apply the top slat, all slats being about 1/4" thick. All slats are 15 1/4" length making the overall size of the nesting rack 12" x 18" when you take into consideration the lip on cover made of 3/4" stock 1 1/2" deep.

Incidentally, before I forget it there are two things I want to mention that may prove helpful to anyone building such a loft. In ordering the 2" x 3" material I think you will find it will cut to the best advantage if you buy one 2" x 3" and 18' in length, one 16' in length, two 14' in length and one 8' in length. The other thing I'd stress is the importance of applying something like Wood-life to the edges of the subfloor where water might seep back and cause rot and to be sure and apply a filler before painting so the plywood grain will not show. Speaking of painting you don't have to paint the interior but it adds a lot to the attractiveness of the loft. I put on a coat of primer and then a coat of exterior trim which being enamel-like is easy to wash.

Now in regard to the other loft known as the West Lofts. As already suggested it is the same in construction except for the interior arrangement and front measurements.

Through the years I have found that maintaining 3/4" of fine gravel on the floor of the lofts made cleaning very easy by using a rubber rake with tines 3/8" apart and raking the droppings off. (I use an old fashioned sink scraper to scoop up droppings when raked in pile. By shaking my hand slightly any sand or gravel goes through the holes in sink

scraper leaving just the pigeon droppings to go into pail.)

In contemplating this last mentioned loft I feel that its capacity would be increased if I put shelves on three sides of the loft with a provision for 3/4" of fine gravel or coarse sand on each shelf to be raked off periodically the same as on the floor of this and the other lofts.

The top of each shelf is 22 1/4" above the floor and the width of the end shelves 17 5/8" and the rear shelf 18". A 2" x 3" piece rabbetted out to hold the bottom of the shelf with 3/4" space above the shelf bottom to the top of the 2" x 3" which also acts as the edge of the shelf, runs from the front of the loft to the rear at the right and left of the doors and a similar 2" x 3" piece connects the two side shelves. Opposite the 2" x 3" shelf supports there are light cleats to the ends and back of the loft to support the other sides of the shelves. These shelves incidentally support and stiffen the structure just as the nests and shelves do in the breeder loft and that is one reason why a 2" x 3" roof rafter in the center of the loft and the framing in the front is all that is needed. The framing of the front of this West Loft is about the same as on the breeder loft except that the door posts are 1 5/8" wide and the doors 21 1/8" wide and 39 1/4" high. Beneath the door is a bottom board 4 1/2" wide above which at each end there is a plate glass window 15 3/4" high and 16 5/8" wide between the door posts and the 1 3/4" verticle strip on each end. Above these lower windows there is a 6" board topped by windows 16 5/8" wide and 17" high which are again topped with a board 1 1/2" wide across the entire front. Between this last mentioned board and the board 2 9/16" wide next to the roof boards there are four ventilator spaces the same as on the breeder loft only 16 5/8", 22" and 16 5/8" wide.

Some people understandably prefer a pigeon loft they can enter. Personally, I like the lofts as pictured for the following reasons:

They are off the ground as a protection against rats.

They bring the birds up to nearer eye level where they can be seen to the best advantage.

They make doing the work easier and you don't have to breathe a lot of dust as in an enclosed loft.

Not having to walk into the lofts you do not track the droppings on your shoes.

Your friends and fellow fanciers who might not like to go into an enclosed loft and get all dusty and get their shoes dirty will enjoy viewing the birds close up in clean neat little lofts like these.

Being small and tight on three sides with an air space between the floor and sub floor water is much slower to freeze in cold weather.

With lofts like these the birds are much tamer than if confined in larger lofts where you walk in. Also easier to pick up.

(Continued on page 440)



# Standard of Perfection For Fantails

As Adopted by Central Fantail Club of America

**Head:** — Small, fine, neat and snaky, free from peak or shell.

**Beak:** — Thin, and of medium length, the upper mandible slightly curved at the tip. Flesh color in whites, saddles, reds, and yellows; black in blacks, and blues; horn color in silver, black or horn color in powdered silver and duns.

**Beak Wattle:** — Small and fine in texture.

**Eyes:** — Dark hazel or bull, with fine flesh-colored cere in whites and saddles; pear or orange, with fine dark-colored cere in blacks and blues; orange or pearl, with fine flesh-colored cere in reds and yellows; pearl or orange, with fine drab-colored cere in silvers; pearl, red or orange with fine dark cere in powdered silvers; orange, with fine drab-colored cere in duns. In blacks, blues, silvers, and powdered silvers pearl eyes are preferred.

**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 at the base of the cushion.

**Points allowed for above qualities .... 10**  
**Body:** 1. 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 body.

3. **Back:** — Appearance of being slightly hollowed in center. Length of back: In proportion of length of neck, enabling the head to rest closely at the base of the cushion.

4. **Rump:** — Of sufficient size and strength to balance the tail evenly.

**Points allowed for body ..... 20**

**Cushion:** — Full and massive, the feathers at the front and back extending well up the tail feathers.

**Tail:** — Slightly concave, and circular, closely filled with long, broad, evenly-set feathers, well overlapping each other.

**Points allowed for cushion and tail .... 20**

**Legs:** — Moderately short, 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 and neat.

**Color of Legs and Feet:** — Bright red.

**Points allowed for feet and legs ..... 15**  
**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 in the center at the base of the cushion.

**Chest:** — Full and round like a ball. Apparent upheaving of the chest when bird is in motion.

**Wings:** — Neat, closely fitting the body with wing butts well hidden so as to preserve an over-all appearance of roundness of the bird and with flights tight and 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 to incline forward, with as much too-tail as possible showing above the chest.

**Points allowed for carriage and motion 25**

**Plumage:** — Hard and tight fitting.

**Color:** — Pure white in whites.

**Blacks:** — Jet black throughout, free from rustiness, or a checkery appearance, and covered with a rich, beetle-green lustre.

**Blues:** — Clear, sound lavender blue, free from sootiness or bronzings, and with no inclination to run light on the rump or breast. The feathers on the neck and throat should be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen. The wing and tail bars should be black and well-defined. The tail feathers should be edged all around with the same shade as the body color.

**Checkers:** — Checkers is a pattern. Pattern varies with the amount of dark color pigment showing on top of the light pigment base color. The checker pattern is made up of dark and light shades of the same color. The light color appears as a "T" on the wing covert feathers.

**Duns:** — A soft even shade of a dull reddish brown, without any tendency to a purple or bluish tint. The feathers upon the neck and throat should be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

**Grizzles:** — Gray or streaked with gray, appears streaked with white, a peppery combination of the base color and white. Grizzling effect to be most noticeable upon the body, shoulder, neck and head, while it is nearly absent on the wing and tail bars. Head and neck should have a frost-like appearance. Faults: Too much white or other basic color upon the body, neck, head and shoulders.

**Powdered Silvers:** — A neutral silver gray on body, wings and tail, but with no tendency towards cream, yellow or purple color, and having the appearance of being very lightly flecked, but not checkered, with powder. The feathers on the neck and throat should be slightly darker than the body and covered with an iridescent metallic sheen comparable to the luster of burnished silver. The neck and throat, like the body, wings and tail, should be free of cream, yellow or purple color. The wing and tail bars should be of a much darker shade than the body, dun or black being permissible, and well defined. The tail feathers should be edged all around with the same shade as the body color.

**Reds:** — Even shade throughout of clear, rich, bright chestnut, free from sootiness or any tendency to a bluish or plum tint. The feathers upon the neck and throat should be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

**Silvers:** — A soft shade of a light silver, with no tendency to a creamy color. The feathers upon the neck and throat should be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen. The wing and tail bars should be black and well defined. The tail feathers should be edged all around with the same tint as the body color.

**Yellows:** — Even shade throughout of rich, bright, golden yellow with no tendency to run light on the rump. The feathers upon the throat and neck should be covered with an iridescent metallic sheen.

**\*Points allowed for color and plumage 10**

**Markings (Saddles only):** — The wings should be marked evenly, the ten outside feathers being white, the rest, including the covert or scapular feathers, to be colored; the body excepting the back, to be white; in the barred varieties, the wing bars to be clear and distinct.

**\*Points allowed for saddle markings 10**

Fantails are to be judged by comparison. To assist judges in assigning proportionate values to the various desirable qualities, point values are listed. General requirements are the same for all colors and markings, and total 100 points. An advantage of 10 points may be allowed for excellence in plumage, color of self and barred classes. (There is no allowance for color in whites and AOC's.) Also an advantage of 10 points may be allowed for excellence in marking, and 5 points for color, when patterns are involved, as in saddles and tail and body marks.

## New Colors Added To Standard

### Description

**Grizzle:** — Webster's dictionary lists Grizzle to mean; gray, or streaked with gray, such as gray hair. This meaning best describes the perfect Grizzle. The marking appears streaked with white, a peppery combination of the base color and white. In the correctly marked Grizzles, the feathers have a frostlike, or frosted appearance. The ratio of the basic color to white varies in different birds and their appearance varies according to the amount of the base color in combination with white. An evenly distributed uniform grizzling is desired.

The Grizzle factor can be introduced to all colors and markings. It can also be bred in combination with other factors such as dilute, powdered, and others. A sub-variety if the Grizzle marking is the Stork Mark. This is a pure (homogous) Grizzle, which appears almost white except for the colored white flights and terminal bar on the tail. These areas show the basic color of the bird.

**Checker:** — Checker is a pattern. The Checker pattern varies with the amount of dark color pigment showing on top of the light pigment base color. The combination of dark colored feathers arranged on top of the light ground color is what makes the pattern, appearing as a checker board, hence the name. Checker, or Check.

The Checker pattern is made up of dark and light shades of the same color. The

light color appears as a "T" on the wing covert feathers. The light color shades along the feather quill and spreads out as it reaches the end of the covert feathers, forming a light shading in a "T" pattern. Checkers can be bred in all the known colors, and in combination with other factors. The terminal bar on the tail found on Blue, Silver, Black, and Dun Checkers is not present on the Ash Red and Yellow Checkers.

**Splashes:** — The term "Splashed" designates a disorderly patch-work mixture of white and another color. It is difficult to set down a specific description on what a Splashed Fantail should look like, because of the varying patchwork pattern. Birds that are basically all white with a few dark feathers in their color make up, should not be judged in the Splash class, nor those that are all one of the other colors with a few white feathers. These are not Splashed Fantails, but are mismarked, and should be shown in their proper color class. By no means should the Splashed class become a "catch-all" for mismarked Fantails.

The Splashed marking can be bred in all known colors and markings, and in combination with the various color altering factors. The color patterns will show up on Splashed Fantails if the colored area is large enough.

**Ash Red Bar:** — The body and wing shield should be ash or gray in color, shading to a claret or wine colored red on the lower breast, neck, and head. Distinct, deep, red bars are desired, or wine color iridescence is desired on the neck hackle. The tail is Ash or gray in color, and lacks the terminal bar. The term "Mealy" refers to Ash Red Bar with the presence of the Sooty factor.

**Ash Red T-Pattern and Checker:** — The identical patterns in the blue series. The combination of red colored feathers arranged on top of the ash ground color produces the pattern. The T-pattern appears darker or more red in color with less ash under color showing. The Checker is lighter in color, especially on the wing shield where the Checker board pattern is found. In both patterns the head, neck, and back should be a rich, claret or wine red color. The under-body and the tail is ash gray. The tail lacks the terminal bar. Wine red iridescence is desired on the neck hackle.

**Ash Yellow Bar:** — Dilute of Ash Red. Bar Pattern, the under-body is ash or gray in color, shading to a rich, golden yellow on neck and head. The wing shield should be a light ash yellow with deep, rich gold bars. Iridescent gold dust is desired on the neck hackle. The term Cream Bar refers to Powdered Ash Yellow Bar, and Cream to Powdered Ash Yellow Spread.

**Ash Yellow T-Pattern and Checker:** Dilute of Ash Red, the under-body is ash or gray, shading to a rich, golden yellow coming up the breast and on up to the neck and head. The same pattern as in the Ash Red T-pattern and Checker. Here again, the combination of yellow colored feathers arranged on top of the Ash Yellow ground color produces the pattern on the wing. The T-pattern appears darker, or more yellow in color, with less ash under-color showing. The Checker is lighter in color especially on the wing shield where the checker board pattern is located. In both patterns the breast, head, and neck should be a rich, golden yellow. Iridescent gold dust is desired on the neck hackle. The tail is a soft ash yellow and lack the terminal bar.

**Indigo:** — The genetic Indigo factor can be introduced to all colors and in combination with all known color altering factors. The factor can also be expressed in the complete range of patterns, including Bar, T-pattern, Checker, and Spread.

**Indigo Bar:** — The correct color is similar to the standard blue bar, but with bronze bars. Deep, rich bronze bars are desired.

**Indigo T-Pattern:** — Bronze body color similar to the color of the bronze Schietti Modena. A bright, rich, bronze is desired.

**Indigo Checker:** — Bronze body color with checker pattern on wing shield. Blue wing flights and tail.

**Indigo Spread:** — Andalusian is the term given to the Indigo factor in combination with cream blue or Black. An even shade of midnight blue over the entire body, head, and tail is desired, but the wings usually appear lighter with dark blue edging on each feather.

**Almond:** — A factor which alters any color it is introduced to, producing flecks



of Black on a rich, dark, yellow ground color, similar to the color of the Almond nut, hence the name. Flights and tail feathers should contain three colors, the yellow ground color, along with Black and White. The black flecking should be spread out evenly over the entire birds body. Many different factors combined with the Almond factor are needed in each birds color make up to produce the ideal Almond. For this reason birds in the Almond class will vary considerable in color and marking. It should also be kept in mind that the Almond changes some what in color with each moult.

**Powdered Silver:** — Dilute Blue. Powdered, is a very soft pastel color compared to the color of talcum powder or ground lime stone. The wing bars and terminal tail bar should be as dark as possible to give the bird contrast in marking. The color of the neck hackle should be a shade or two darker than that of the over all color of the body and tail. Some birds will show a small amount of light, very soft silver iridescence on the neck hackle. A crescent shaped area of light iridescent gold usually appears around the lower front neck hackle in the area of the crop.

**Note:** — The above description of Powdered Silver is the suggested description of that color offered by Don Buhr. It has not as yet been accepted by the Fantail clubs of America.

### Wording Change? Clarification?

(Continued from page 435)

of a member, or two if necessary, of all the major Fantail clubs of the United States and Canada. Still we must remember that no matter what is done to the Standard, it will not solve the whole problem. I have said it before and will say it again. There are probably as many different interpretations of the Standard as there are people that read it. We all see things just a little differently. Maybe this isn't so bad. If this wasn't so, all the men of the world would be pursuing the same woman. I'm sure this wouldn't work out as there would be an awful lot of unsatisfied women!

One of the problems of most concern to me is the one pertaining to marked birds, tail-marks, saddles and body-marks. What advantage should they have over a white or an AOC which impose no added problems of marking and color upon the breeder? What about the barred Fantails? The Standard simply states, "An advantage of 10 points may be allowed for excellence in plumage color of self and barred classes. (There is no allowance for color in whites or AOC's.) Also an advantage of 10 points may be allowed for excellence in marking, and 5 points for color when patterns are involved, as in saddles and tail and body-marks." Does this mean that a white or an AOC, right from the start, has a 5 to 15 point handicap?

As you might or might not know, I am a tail-mark breeder. It would be a plus in my favor to receive an extra 5 to 15 points the moment I set a tail-mark down in the walking pens. Still, there are many of us who have always been under the impression that marking and color are secondary considerations and that first and foremost the bird must be a good Fantail!

To support this theory, let me quote an article that appeared in the 1961 Fantail Special. It was written by Robert Kingkinger and the late John Bolton, two of the Fantail Fancy's finest, entitled, "Study and Comparison of Fantail

Points". (Page 106, Pgh. 5) "Requirements for type and action are exactly the same for all colors and markings." (These) "Impose an extra problem on the breeder and if type and action are equal, a well colored or marked bird may receive consideration beyond say a white or an AOC where the breeder has no color or marking problems. This does not mean that a bird of splendid color and or marking can be placed over a white or AOC of better type and action."

Maybe you are muttering and saying to yourself, "But that is just an opinion." Yes, it is, but our Standard, our judging, in fact our whole system is based upon opinion. There are many others whose feelings echo the thoughts of Bob Kingkinger and John Bolton. For only a few of these, let me refer you to Bud Hagan's article, "Color In Fantails".

Yes, I do feel that there were times when a tail-mark could have been Grand Champion if it had had an advantage of 5 to 15 points with which to start. Then, why do I look at it in this way? Simply because I feel that if this advantage is

given to marked, barred and colored birds, we will start to breed too seriously for these considerations. In my mind, the quality of these birds would start to decline and before too long they would be back in a world where they could no longer compete. Oh yes, we would have beautiful markings and color but possibly very little else.

This subject was brought up at the Central Fantail Club's annual meeting at Lincoln, Neb. The majority of those present agreed with this point of view. Still, if after all is said and done, and it is decided that marking and color should have such an advantage, I will do my very best to produce the most perfectly marked tail-marks you ever saw and of a color that will knock your eyes out!

**Coordinator's Note:** — As you can see, there is a difference of opinion expressed in the articles of these fanciers but, surprisingly, they all come to essentially the same conclusion, Yes, the Fantail Standard could be clarified but as to a complete re-writing of the Standard, definitely and emphatically No!

## "The New Ones" In Fantails

By WILLIAM DIEMER, Brighton, Mich.

It seems that most articles are written about people that have been breeding Fantails for 20 years or more and never on the new breeders of the last 10 years even if they seem to be doing exceptionally well.

There is a new image taking place in Fantail breeders. One of the most important parts of that image is that most of the good, new breeders have four different colors or more and are doing well and improving every year. I'll name 10 of these breeders that I know in North America.

1. Jerry Robitaille of Windsor, Ont., Canada, who breeds tailmarks, whites, bodymarks, and splashes. Robitaille is usually second to the great Harry Little and as of 1976 is taking a couple of firsts.

2. Jerry Macerolla from Guelph, Ont., Canada, has blacks, silvers, blues, and whites. At the 1977 National in Dayton, Jerry had best young black cock, second in silver young hen and placed very well in 80% of what he showed.

David Cox in Pontiac, Mich., has silvers, blues, blacks, saddles, and whites, and in 1977 or 1978 will be one of the best in the country.

4. Steve May in Iowa, has silvers, blues, saddles, duns, bodymarks, and about 10 other colors. The results of his 14 or so colors are obvious if you look at the Central show reports in the last two years.

5. Leon Stephens in Calif., must have every color of Fantail there is, and in the showroom his birds do what we all like to see, "win".

6. Gus Waldusky, Calif., everybody thought that Gus had powdered blues. Well he not only wins with powdered blues, but at the Central in 1976, he won Champion saddle. He also has cream

and mealy Fans.

7. Jim Mitchell in the Baltimore, Md., area has saddles, whites, blues, silvers, blacks, powdered blues, and in the Eastern Fantail Club area in the last three years has won several classes and in different colors.

8. Bud Hagan and Cecil Noel in Louisville who have 12 different colors are doing very well. Hagan's whites have been winners for three years and his other colors are doing well, especially saddle and grizzle.

9. Rod Lysne in Ferryville, Wis., had several colors of saddles, whites, silvers, blacks, and duns. Rod also does his share of winning at the Mid-America and Central.

10. Last but not least, William I. Diemer, Brighton, Mich., breeds from 16 colors. Whites, blacks, blues, powdered blues, silvers, reds, yellows, almonds, grizzles, splashes, duns, andalusians, tailmarks, bodymarks, checkers, and four different colors of saddles. Won the 1976 National Yearling Grand Champion with a white, Reserve Champion with a young silver hen. At the National in Dayton, 1977, won best bodymark, best almond, best silver, and Reserve Champion with a silver at the National Young Bird show in 1976.

In summary, we, "The New Ones" are not going to let the old ones down. We will endeavour to improve the "Queen of the Fancy". I feel sure I can speak for all 10 in this article and all "The New Ones" in the world when I say, "Thank you" for letting us into your hobby which has given you much happiness and is sure giving us the same. The rewards that all of us get out of the "Queen of the Fancy" cannot be put on paper, but inside we all know.



## News From Australia

By DES SANDERS

Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

Before getting on with the main purpose of this article I must thank your editor Frank for the opportunity to write this. As he has pointed out there are over 200 subscribers "down under" who are keenly interested in the jottings of this Journal, and perhaps this column will satisfy their needs.

Being the first article I would like to outline to those of you who are not familiar with our country, our own particular set-up. Firstly, we have very strict control on the importation of birds with a view to preventing Newcastle, and other associated diseases, which means that we are absolutely banned from importing any pigeons. This results in fanciers having to improve what strains they have by using their own know how. It also means that we are denied many breeds which are just not available here. As a result if we would like to own these we have to start on a massive program, hoping, that if the crosses we make might just give us what we are after. It takes a master breeder to improve his stock, so how much harder it is for some one to aim for a new ideal? This is not in the realms of impossibility as occasionally one does see the odd bird crop up but it would need a lot of heart breaking work.

Australia is a vast country and most clubs tend to flourish in the main cities, with the larger clubs being in the capital cities. This means that when you wish to attend a show at these places it can easily mean a trip of 500 miles or more, and as a result, it follows that most fanciers rarely get to see their counterparts in other states to find out what is going on. Unfortunately each state due to its isolation tends to think about only its own affairs, and is thus not in touch with the feelings of all. In the past, moves have been made to bring all clubs into an Australian organization whilst still retaining their own autonomy, but unfortunately after a few stumbling blocks, such as the use of standard rings, the idea seems to be forgotten. Although we are isolated geographically it should not be thought that we feel inferior. From what I have been able to glean from visitors and those who have travelled, it seems that certain of our breeds are as good as any, and would hold their own in world company. To my knowledge most clubs judge to the English Standard except in the utility breeds such as Kings which are American in origin. All major towns and cities have an Agriculture Society which conduct a show once a year most having a special section devoted to pigeons. As well as these shows, clubs conduct their own annual and young bird shows, these shows being held during the winter months, April to August, and draw

entries from 300 to 1500 depending on the size of the club.

As this column is to be about Australian news I want to ask all those other clubs especially those not in N.S.W. to pass on to me any interesting stories so that I can cover the whole of the continent. Most will realize that I am the secretary of the Pigeon Fanciers Society of N.S.W. and I do not want this column to be biased in any way to only my home state. There are plenty of shows just now, so how about a few of the results and general club news.

Years ago through the APJ I made some very good friends, some who have been over here on holidays, and others to whom I write, and I must say I am thankful for their friendship. I do not want to turn this into a lonely hearts club, but if any readers would like to drop me a line, then I would be willing to pass your interests on to other fanciers here.

### Proposed: An Almond Fantail Society

By JOHN R. STEVENS, Malibu, Calif.

Since the first of the year I have made a concerted effort to contact Fantail breeders who have been working with the Almond. Visiting the lofts of Leon Stephens, Treasurer of the Pacific Fantail Club, I had the opportunity to view an outstanding group of Fantails, which included some excellent Almonds. Corresponding with Rod Lysne, Sec.-Treas. of the Mid-America Fantail Club, I gained a greater insight into the many facets of Almond breeding based on his many years in the Fancy. Don Buhr of Cresco, Iowa, was most helpful in providing data on the "Almond challenge" as an experienced Fantail breeder. During the early months of the year I had the pleasure of corresponding with Ray La Fleur of Onalaska, Wis. His Almonds are truly handsome specimens of this color variant.

My purpose in submitting this short commentary on the outstanding work contributed by several fanciers in the area of Almonds is to propose the establishment of an "Almond Fantail Society". Its prime purpose would be a means by which fanciers interested in the almond might exchange views and observations. Should there be an encouraging response I would be most willing to prepare a quarterly newsletter which would include the names and addresses of all contributing members; how many years they have been working with the almond and perhaps listing alternate colors which have proved to work well as mates for the Almonds; devices to improve the yellow ground and specific techniques to intensify the flecking; to name only a few facets that challenge us all. The newsletter might include references to the literature dealing with the Almond, as J. W. Quinn's "Pigeon Breeder's Handbook", Wendell Levi's "The Pigeon", Rod Hatcher's "The Fantail Handbook" and an outstanding article by Tim Kvidera of the Mid-America Fantail Club. Interested fanciers are encouraged to contact: John R. Stevens, 29135 Cliffside Drive, Malibu, Calif., 90285.

### In Memory of Joe Heslop

By RICHARD KRUEGER, Orange, Calif.

Did you know that I never bred Fantails? OK, I had a couple when I was a kid. I know you're probably wondering what's the guy going to tell us about Fantails that we already don't know; and doesn't even have Fans!

When I was about 12 years old, I lived right around the corner from a very noted Fantail breeder in California, Joe Heslop.

I first visited Joe in December 1949 and the first bit of pigeon paraphernalia was a premium list of the 1949 Pageant of Pigeons Show, held in Glendale, that Joe gave me. And Joe said, "Here, you just missed a great pigeon show last week-end".

I also got my first pigeon book from Joe; "The Performing Tumblers" by W. Brenner. I only wish now that I had Joe autograph it for me!

I used to go over to see Joe and his Fans quite regularly and one of the things that sticks out in my mind, is this can-with-a-hole-in-it, that sat on Joes' work bench in his garage. It had a wooden handle attached to it, so as to mount it in his vice.

Then he would go into the loft and catch a Fantail and bring it back to the garage. He would put the Fan in the can so its head stuck thru the hole. Then Joe would proceed to lace the tails with a string. This just fascinated me! I remember years later, while in a conversation with Gerald Champ. Champ remarked that, "Nobody could lace a tail like Heslop."

He would lace a tail and leave them like that until he took the bird out of his crate and removed the string just before he put the Fan into the exhibit coop!

Joe, wherever you are, you're not forgotten!

### Neat and Easy To Build Fantail Lofts

(Continued on page 437)

Well I guess that is about it. Back prior to World War I when I first went into business for myself my much older partner built a house at the shore to live in about eight months of the year. He showed me the plans by a prominent Boston architect and being somewhat familiar with plans I looked them over and asked my partner where the chimney was. He said he didn't know plans too well but he was sure it was there as an architect of such eminence would never leave out such an important feature. A check-up however revealed the chimney was missing on the plans.

If an architect of the standing of the one employed by my partner could omit a chimney, I am sure that it is possible that in trying to use words instead of blueprints I may have omitted something so if any of you readers decide to build a loft like one of these and you find you need more information, just write me at my home: No. 2, Brigham Street, Hudson, Mass., 01749 and I'll try to give you a prompt and clear reply.



# Questions and Answers

By DR. JOHN T. ERVIN, 487th Medical Detachment (V.S.),  
APO, New York, N.Y., 09102

Author — A Military Veterinarian stationed in Germany,  
previously Secretary for Rare Breeds Pigeon Club for 3 years.

## Eggs Not Hatching

Question: — I tried the "Combination Commercial Pigeon Mix" and it did great. I have a few questions I would like answered, if you please. (1) I have a pair of Homers who laid the first egg and it was chalky and shrunk to the size of a kernel of corn. Could it be egg binding? The second egg was normal. (2) A pair of Helmets laid an egg and it had a hole in it. They never laid the second egg. (3) I have a pair of Gazzi Modenas and when they lay their egg, only one, which is not very often laid, it is gone after about the 5th or 6th day of incubation. (4) I bought Home pigeons from a fancier and they were, so it appeared, healthy. But soon all the pigeons could hardly fly and stayed on the floor, resulting in their death by an unknown animal, I still don't know how it got in. What could be wrong? (5) My Fantails always lay eggs but they are also always infertile. What should I do? My one loft is tight and one is airy and has a flight. I feed a mixture of peas, soybeans, wheat, milo, and some other wild bird seed mixed in. I give water out of a bath pan, which at times gets dirty, but I change it morning and night. A little rain gets through the roof and on the floor but I can't stop the leak. Please answer my questions because I am a junior and need some professional advise for the health of my birds. — C. J., Ill.

Answer. No. 1. The first egg perhaps did not stay in the oviduct long enough for the shell to be placed around the yolk, it passed too quickly. Another possibility is the egg shell gland was not functioning properly. Since the 2nd egg was O.K., perhaps the problem is solved. No. 2. I think the egg with the hole may have been caused by a toenail of the bird. Perhaps you should provide the birds with some oyster shells, free choice, to help strengthen the egg shell. If you removed the first egg early it is possible the hen was interrupted during her egg laying, brooding cycle. You should have replaced the egg with a dummy egg. No. 3. Seems to me you have a problem with rats, a weasel, or a snake. In fact the hole you mentioned in Question 2 may have been caused by an animal who sucked the contents out and at the same time frightened the hen so that she didn't lay but one egg. No. 4. Many times fanciers buy healthy birds that become sickly after being in a new loft for a few days. This is due to the stress of the new environment which causes them to come down

with a disease. I suspect your birds had coccidiosis and became "light", and were visited upon by a weasel or rat. No. 5. If your eggs do not hatch you need to open up a few to see what they look like on the inside. After about 20 days if there is no growth whatsoever then perhaps the males are infertile. If there is some growth then one can suspect death of the embryo for some reason. Your problem seems to stem from unwanted night visitors which could be disturbing the birds. I suggest you vermin proof your loft to get rid of the wild animals and in addition, trim the vent area of both males and females (Fantails) to increase fertility. Good Luck.

## Egg Problems

Question: — My pigeons when they lay, usually one egg is sterile and after the other egg hatches when the squab is about three weeks old I find it dead in the nest. Also my pair of Rollers which are 1 year old will lay a pair of eggs but won't sit on them. — D. M., Mo.

Answer: — Several possibilities exist here; probably the birds are carriers of a Salmonella infection and are passing it on to the eggs, since one egg didn't hatch and the other died at 3 weeks of age. You failed to mention if the embryo was developed in the unhatched egg. Another possibility is the male may not be at his peak fertility in late winter and therefore the one egg was not fertile. Another possibility is one of the eggs may have been chilled prior to the hen becoming broody with the 2nd egg. I suggest that you treat the birds with nitrofurazone (NF 180) in the drinking water for seven to ten days. As to why the pair of Rollers will not sit on eggs after laying, puzzles me. My thoughts on this display, fall in two areas. One, something may be disturbing them, like mice, lice, mites, etc. Two, they are obviously poor

## Answer These Questions

In correspondence for this column please answer the following questions:

1. Loft size: Height, width, length.
2. Actual floor space — do not include nests.
3. Size of fly pen.
4. Type of litter used.
5. Type nests, and nesting material.
6. Number of breeding pairs (or total birds in loft).
7. Type feed used, grains or pellets, and feeding schedule.
8. Do you belong to a pigeon club, or show pigeons?
9. How many perches, and nests?
10. Is the loft dark or well lighted?
11. Kind of pigeons raised?
12. How long have you raised pigeons?

parents incapable of caring for young and should be disposed of. I note by your answers to my questions that you have two small lofts approximately 4' x 3' each and that you raise Homers, Rollers, and Doves with 11 pigeons in all. I fear your loft space is too small even though your fly pen is considerable. You have loft space in reality for about two pair in each loft. The diet you feed your pigeons (rice, popcorn, peas and wild bird seed) may not be giving enough protein for good hatchability. I suggest you feed a good special pigeon grain mixture of at least 14-15% available protein.

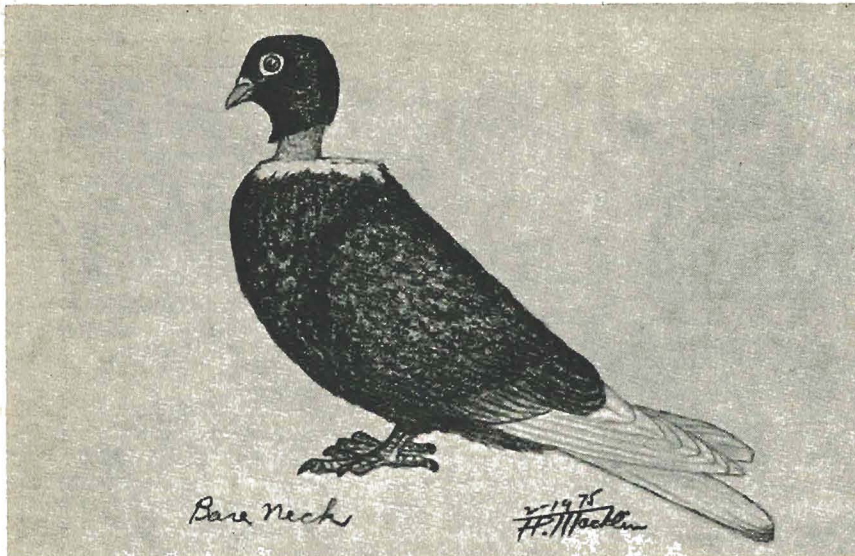
## Cock Not Aggressive

Question: — After forty years of breeding and developing one particular variety I have finally bred what I believe is a super-specimen. This is a yellow Plain Head Domestic Flight of such good quality it shakes me up to see it. He is rich in color, beautiful head neck and body, his legs are perfect as is his proper tipping. My problem with him is that I can't breed him in a room with other cocks. He always loses his hen because he is not aggressive enough. Last year his first breeding season I raised three young from him by keeping him in a coop full of hens and young only. I know that he breeds and is fertile but I have never seen him coo! He does get into a bowl and calls to the hens but never seems to coo! This year it is near impossible for me to give him last season's conditions. So I can't breed him unless I help him another way. If you could give me your valued help as to how to use any testosterone like chemical to stimulate him hormonally and make him aggressive that would do it I believe. I have fed him concentrated wheat germ but that is not the help he needs. He is in perfect feather and perfect health. If he were not that good standardwise I might not bother. His young are very good although I had no hand in choosing his mate. That had to be a very sexy aggressive hen which I no longer have. — A. R., N.Y.

Answer: — Congratulations on breeding a super pigeon, unfortunately in our efforts for breeding type, color, and quality we overlook some basic requirements for reproductive ability. The poultry industry has it over us in that reproductive ability is one of their prime goals. Alas, we are finding this out through personal trials and errors. You may note that the second breeding season may improve the male, if not may I suggest that you visit your local veterinarian and ask him to treat your bird for lowered male libido, he will probably use 10 mg/ml testosterone phenyl propionate in oil for injection. The dosage he can calculate for you. Probably injection under the skin of the neck will be the best site. Since the hormone is in oil it will be slowly absorbed. Only as a last resort would I suggest using the hormone. As stated above, the second year many times solves the problem.

Subscription \$6 per year; 3 years \$15.





## The Bare Neck Tumbler

Sketch by H. P. Macklin, Pacific, Mo.

### The Rare Ones — Bare Necked Tumblers

By H. P. MACKLIN, Pacific, Mo.

There are two varieties of Bare Necked Tumblers, one from Romania and the other from Spain. The first originated in Moldavia in the district of Muntenia, Romania. Around 1900 and it may be descended from the Golosenia, an old Russian Naked Neck pigeon.

Except for the lack of neck feathers, the breed is similar to the ash-red Tshoong Tumbler (Ciung pe rosu). This bare neck feature occurs in no other color of the Tshoong Tumbler or in any other Romanian breed.

In size the pigeon is small, 9 to 11 ounces. It is plain headed and clean legged, the bare neck being the outstanding feature. It comes only in red with ash-grey primaries, rectrices and tail coverts. It is noteworthy that the Spanish Bare Neck (Coll Pelat) also occurs in this same color as well as in yellow, its dilute. The variety is not too popular in Romania and is neglected so consequently it is very rare there.

The Spanish Bareneck originated in the Iberian peninsula, probably brought there by the conquering Arabs during their domination, which existed from the 8th to the 15th century. The Spanish name "Pigeon of Barbary" (Paloma de Berberia) supports this theory. The breed is first mentioned in Spanish literature in 1910. How the breed originated is not known.

The Spanish variety is an excellent flying pigeon. The wings are always carried upon the tail. Small, average weight 8 to 10 ounces and about 10 inches in length. It is plain headed and clean legged and the neck is entirely free of feathers. The white base of the chest feathers forms an attractive white color or garland around

the neck and reduces the shock to the eye of its bareness. It formerly came in red and yellow in selfs or white white tails. The breed has become very rare and only white tailed yellow is now found. What colors other than red and yellow occurred in the past is unknown. The bare skin, which is of normal color when covered by feathers, turns very red from exposure to the sun. The eye is pearl with flesh or pale-red eye cere. The nose cere is powdery white.

In Spain the breed is rare to the probably point of extinction. In a cross with normal Tumblers, the first generation (F-1) has the back of the neck bare of feathers, while the throat and fore part have a more or less profuse growth of normal feathers covering a conic-shaped area starting from the bottom and running up towards the head, maintaining absolute symmetry.

Following is the German translation on the Romanian variety of the Bare Neck Tumbler:

This variety was described in a breeding stock publication in 1899 but in spite of this was not noticed until Prof. Peterfi's writings in 1952. The pigeon originated from the Romanian Ciung-Tumblers. It was bred mainly in Bukarest and surrounding country.

The Bare Neck is a good highflyer. They are medium sized and show a robust body. The head is round with a relatively highly arched forehead and always without crest. The beak is medium sized. The eyes are pearl colored. Neck is medium long. The tail slants downward in line with the back and has from 12 to 16 feathers. The legs are medium long, or, on

the short side and unfeathered.

There are two kinds of Bare Necks. One has the wings carried above the tail, the other shows a dropped wing carried at the side and beneath the tail. The latter are very well liked and show a somewhat shorter leg. The colors are the same in both varieties.

There is red with white-grey flights; also with belly and undertail a white-grey color. Mostly the color is red-fawn. Other colors are not yet developed. The most important feature, naturally, is the bare-neck characteristic. This bareness starts at the under half of the head and reaches down to the breast. The neck skin is wrinkled in a longitudinal direction, coarse appearing and lightly grained. The hens usually show more bareness of neck than do the cocks. The exposed neck skin is dark brown to red in color.

In crossing Bare Necks with normal feathered Ciung Tumblers the offspring usually show a percentage of bare necks. Transmittal of the featherless neck is always intermediate when outcrossed. The bare necked pigeons differ from the bare necked chickens in that in the chickens it is a dominate characteristic.

Personal Comment: The accompanying illustration is of the Romanian variety of Bare Neck Tumbler. The picture I have of the Spanish variety shows a very intense color of yellow (deep color in the flights also) and a white tail. The skin of the neck is turkey-red and with the white fluff showing at the base of the neck, makes a rather startling contrast of "ugly-pretiness". When these Bare Necks stand at attention the whole neck right down to the body is bare.

The Ciung Tumblers, which are referred to above, are on the order of the Oriental Roller pigeon. Practically the same type with dropped wing and colored body with off-white flights and tail.

Probably part of the rareness of this variety lies in the fact that most people are repelled by so much exposure of the red, crinkly, skinny neck. I just wonder how these little fellows react to zero temperatures?

I am under the impression that a few pairs of the Bare Necks are in a California loft. Don't ask me where, California is a big place!

### Turbit Topics

By E. L. ZICKER

Chico, Calif.

Hello again, to all fanciers of this grand old breed of pigeons. It is satisfying to note that the club membership remains in a healthy condition with a number of new breeders. Last summer while visiting Les Williams of black clean leg Tumbler fame, I had the privilege of meeting Arch Taylor. Arch is the secretary of the Turbit Club in Britain. He had some very nice birds including a few imported from Phil Roof. The English are crossing the



American type into their stock with great success. In general a bird with somewhat less reach seems to be preferred in Britain.

This month I am pleased to write a few words about our club secretary, Pete Valentine. Pete and Carol and their six-year-old daughter Jennifer live in Islip Terrace on Long Island about 40 miles from New York City. Pete breeds from about six pairs of standard colored Tumblers and from about four to six pair of the rare colors. He uses flying type Flights for feeders and reports that they seem to stay with the youngsters longer than most breeds. Pete also raises West of England Tumblers.

Carol breeds and exhibits Lhaso Apsos dogs. This is a breed from Tibet which is small in size and long coated. In addition to the pigeon hobby Pete also enjoys sailing and fishing on Long Island's Great South Bay. Pete is a self-employed painting contractor by profession.

While attending the annual club meet in Odenton, Md., last January it was my very great pleasure to meet and visit with Pete. I hope that I will get the opportunity to know him better.



#### St. Louis Time

Time for making plans to go to the Pigeon Fanciers Conference in St. Louis is about due. It seems that more Tumbler breeders are making it a yearly date and we have quite a get-together there. I am sure that if you have never attended this affair that you would enjoy the talks and discussions that are held there. As far as I am concerned it has advanced the understanding of different groups of Fanciers and has brought them closer together. If you are the least bit interested in genetics, color breeding, or just have an interest in pigeons it will be well worth your time and trouble to attend. See you there.

#### News From Gary

Gary Gammel says that he has several young in the nest and has hopes of raising some good ones this year. Genie, Gary's daughter has had leg surgery and is doing well, hope you are riding your horse again Genie. We plan to visit Gary and family and Dennis Roberts will be in Des Moines that week-end also so the Tumbler talk will be about three feet deep then.

#### Bob Smith Moves

I seem to remember that last month I said I didn't have Bob's new address but in case you are wondering it is 245 Verbena Lane, Brea, Calif., 92621 or call him at 714-933-5439. Bob has been very busy getting new lofts into production

but has fifteen banded from the first round and by now should have a batch of good ones out.

#### Henry Report

Henry Jaeger has his final report to the committeemen of the National Championship Committee. Henry gives a run-down of the Baltimore show and says as I feel that a lot of problems were ironed out and the only way now is up. Russ Schoen is the Chairman for the 1977 show and please give him your support and help with this show. The host club will be the Western Tumbler Club and the show will be held in Dayton, Ohio, January 6, 7, 8 (I think). This promises to be a great one so try to attend and see the world's finest collection of Tumblers on exhibit. New clubs and old clubs make up the list of committeemen for the NCTS committee. They are: ABBC, Bill Meyer; MTCA, Ray Kirchen; PTC, Bob Smith; ETC, Henry Jaeger; WTC, Russ Schoen; CTC, Charlie Sheetz; USBC, Johnnie Blaine; ATC, Felix Sablack; Phoenix TC, Jim Bush; Utah TC, Dennis Stay; Badger State TC, Joe Pozorski; Michigan TC, Paul Budnick; Canadian (ETCC) Robert Wilson. Heap lots of luck Russ.

#### Jim Bush

Jim Bush, Sec. of the United Self and Barred Club has sent out the latest ballot for judges and if you haven't voted and mailed it in please do so. Jim reports eleven new members in this bulletin so it looks as if the Self and Barred club is growing by leaps and bounds.

#### Jim Wilson Visits

From time to time I am woke up early in the morning by Jim Wilson already an hour or so into his work day and I never mind getting up and talking Tumblers anytime. Jim says he has some nice balds and Black selfs.

#### Bob Baruth

Bob Baruth says his Black Beard Muff project is coming along fine and hopes to have some ready for the showroom in a couple years. Bob is still working on the Yellow Muffs and is now doing some work with the Bars.

#### Tip-Y-Toe Report

Here at the loft on "D" street things are moving along and have some interesting results so far like, an indigo Grizzle, Indigo Checker, some Qualmonds and Reduced are out now. Only one brown bar that has hope and it seems that the newer colors are making real progress in type. I am sure that soon these so-called rare colors will be an everyday thing at the shows.

#### Another In A Series

Origin of Reduced in CL Tumblers, By Al Westling. My idea of introducing "reduced" came from Dr. W. F. Hollander who suggested it as an alternative when I professed an interest in introducing recessive opal to Tumblers in about 1955. My records show my first reduced Tumbler-Roller bred 1955. The bird actually was three-fourths Tumbler and one-fourth Roller.

I had gotten the reduced factor from a Baldhead Roller hen from Carl Graeffe

of Ohio. Being sex-linked it was easy to breed reduced hens, then mate them back to blue Tumbler cocks and keep only the best cocks from each mating to get more reduced hens. Every other year I would have blue cocks bred from reduced hens and always about 50 percent of their daughters would be reduced.

The first real bird of show quality was a reduced blue hen bred in 1962 and pictured in Levi's book "Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds". The following year I bred two reduced-dilute barred hens. My reduce blue hen never produced an offspring. I believe she laid soft-shelled eggs. The two dilute-reduced hens were both good breeders but I could not seem to separate the dilute from the reduced. I bred numerous reduced birds in many color combinations and actually got reduced-dilute Indigos before I bred straight reduced Indigos, but it was my matings with Indigo that I finally got the dilution separated from reduced, this being accomplished in the breeding of a reduced black hen. This hen mated to a blue cock produced a slate black cock with faint bars which when mated back to a blue hen, again put me back into reduced blues. Last year I was lucky enough to breed reduced blues from two matings and this year (1977) I hope to increase their numbers again. 1977 is also the first year I have ever mated two reduced birds together. Of course this mating will produce only reduced offspring. So far three fertile eggs out of four and all three hatched and the last two are about to leave the nest at this writing.

To anyone who has never seen a reduced color, it is difficult to describe. A reduced blue is nothing like silver. The basic body color is a dark beige maybe more grey than tan. Wing bars vary from whitish to reddish and have a dark edging which makes them two-tone. The breast and hackle feathers usually show a light pinkish cast. When a silver is reduced the color is something between silver and cream in hue and again with the two-tone bar, a very delicate color indeed.

A reduced black is a grey ground color with a dark edging on nearly all feathers giving a delicate laced effect. Combine spread indigo and reduced and you have a bird much the same color as a new silver dollar. Add dilution and you have a fawn color. The reduced factor is one of my favorites. Being recessive and sex-linked it is easy to work with. The combinations with other colors are just as numerous as the colors that exist and most of the reduced colors are beautiful or at least unusual when compared with the old standard colors. Someday a reduced color will win a top award in Tumblers, then watch their popularity soar. In the meantime I am afraid that only myself and a few others will continue to enjoy them and understand what they really are. — A. W.

Thanks Al and I am sure that this beautiful color will do much for the beauty of our Tumblers. Very Best Wishes. Johnnie.



## Beauty Homer Scene

By SAM PEAVEY

Louisville, Ky.

This is the second of a series of responses from Beauty Homer breeders to some questions commonly asked about the breed. Fanciers throughout the U.S. and Canada were asked:

All breeds of pigeons present certain problems to their breeders. What problems can a newcomer expect in breeding Beauty Homers that he might not encounter so often in another breed?

The following are some of the answers given to that question by Beauty Homer breeders. Richard Okeson writes:

The Beauty Homer is not an easy breed. Newcomers are challenged from the start. Many lose interest quickly and drop out of the breed. The Standard states, 'Appearance of a vivacious and keen breeder and flyer.' The Beauty Homer's breeding habits may well be vivacious and keen in appearance only. Most beginners associate the Homer with a prolific breeder. Each year as the skull and the mandibles become more developed the birds' breeding ability decreases. Some birds of excellent show quality are also good prolific breeders, but the percentage of these birds is not high. There are too few of these birds available even to the beginner.

Robert Larochele speaks of the relation of production to the nature of the Beauty Homer's structure.

The biggest problem to expect in Beauty Homers is the viability of the youngsters. Birds with a narrow and pointed beak and also with a small head hatch better. Then comes the feeding of the squabs. Young birds with huge beaks can hardly be fed by the parents, and often necessitate hand-feeding. And of course, there is always the problem of raising birds that conform to the Standard. Good Beauty Homers are harder to raise than a lot of other breeds, because the Beauty Homer is a much newer breed.

Jim Rice levels with the beginner as to the difficulty and challenge of producing a top Beauty Homer.

Newcomers can expect the German Beauty Homer to be a much poorer breeder than the Racing Homer. Possibly the size of their heads may make it difficult to feed their young but on the average they are not the breeders Racing Homers are, and it is a challenge to breed a good one.

The current president of the American German Beauty Homer Club, Lyn Helmus, shares similar experiences with Beauty Homers.

I have experienced two serious problems in breeding Beauty Homers. First, I have lost many youngsters that died as they were picking out of the shell. I am told that iodine in the drinking water will help solve this problem. Secondly, I have had some breeders that simply do not feed their youngsters adequately. I think this is caused by the size and shape of their beaks. They just don't line up as well as breeds with a regular beak such as Modenas and Rollers.

Bernard Raby and Jim Hayward affirm the foregoing difficulties while Gary Vandermolen adds the following:

I have somewhat neglected productivity in favor of quality. Consequently, I do have problems with poor performance of parental duties such as sitting on eggs, feeding the young, and, in some instances, forgetting to mate. I have used my Modenas as feeders in some cases. When one manages to produce a youngster of better than average quality under these circumstances, it is indeed rewarding.

This writer recalls that in his earlier years with Beauty Homers he did not find that the types of problems mentioned above were particularly serious. However, as the breed has made vast strides

toward the perfection of Standard qualities, especially in the head, there is no use denying that Beauty Homers present their own breeding problems just as many other breeds do. The true fancier, of course, views such problems as challenges to face and overcome.

This year for the first time, the writer is breeding Giant Homers and is currently switching youngsters between the breeds to try to minimize the difficulty of the Beauty Homer parent in matching up its prominent muzzle with that of its offspring. The first few cases show some promise, but let us reserve judgment until later on. In the meantime, I shall keep my can of soaking pellets in the refrigerator and my ear syringe handy to make sure my youngsters get a full meal at least once a day. As Gary Vandermolen says, "It is indeed rewarding."

## News From Belgium

By CONSTANTIN APOSTOL  
Brussels, Belgium

This issue being the so eagerly awaited Fantail Special, I'll try to say a few words about the Fantail situation over here. We do not have a special club in Belgium; there is one in Holland. We see quite a number of Fantails in the shows but only a few of them are of very good quality. C. Box is one of the very best in white. Mr. Hellemans is one of the faithful fanciers and also a judge. MM Vandevijver (who improves every year but keeps many varieties so it is not so easy to succeed), Vueghs (who bred them for 30 years), Van Hulle, Laevers are well-known. C. Moreno has been breeding them for six years, he tried to secure the best strains, took 4 pairs with him to Colombia, South America, did not have the opportunity to breed there. He left part of his Fantails there and came back with one pair only, the one he thought best. However, they could not re-enter their house now, had to live in a flat, so I agreed to keep them for a while (already 8 months). He had 7 youngsters this year, two of them seem to be promising. He does not pretend of course to have reached perfection. We are very thankful to Mr. Hollmann, his staff, the co-ordinator and the numerous fanciers who sent articles and photos, for making this issue possible.

Pigeon Club Fantaisie (Fancy Pigeons only) held their 1st salon at Le Roeulx on Nov. 19-21. A total of 47 exhibitors entered 660 pigeons of 51 breeds. The breeds most represented were French Scandaroons, English Magpies, Archangels, Barbets Liegeois (64), various breeds of Tumblers, Modenas (109). Many birds were of very good quality. Best bird was a red Komorn Tumbler (honorary), then a white Barb.

Read in Le Soir dated 3-5-'77: Hospital pigeon. The Devonport hospital in Great

Britain decided, for efficiency and economy reasons, to use from now on Racing Pigeons in order to carry to their laboratory the blood samples to be examined. According to a spokesman of this hospital, the interest of such an initiative is double: on one hand, a pigeon takes five minutes to fly from the hospital to the laboratory (a little more than 2 miles) while a taxi takes 10 minutes. On the other hand, the maintenance of 12 pigeons will cost 25% less than using taxis.

Waterloo held its annual show with participation of the Brussels Frilled Pigeons Club on 4-5 Dec. with 818 animals among which 336 pigeons of 33 breeds were entered by 85 exhibitors. Entries were limited to 10 birds per exhibitor in order to give a chance to small breeders. Breeds best represented in quality or quantity were Runts, French Mondains, 30 blue Strassers, all shown by the same fancier and his family, Oriental Frills, African Owls, English Magpies, Jacobins, Belgian Homers and 38 Modenas.

Geflugel-Borse No. 8-'77 informs that the West German 59th National Show is scheduled in Frankfurt a. Main on Dec. 2-4, '77, Halle I, Messgelände, organized by the 1867 Frankfurt Club. Show leader. Klaus Dieter Stork, Alter Weg 47, D-6054 Rodgau, West Germany. Deadline for entries: Aug. 1.

Same number 8-77 of Geflugel-Borse gave the new wording of the standards of various breeds of Trumpeters.

The judges annual meet is to take place this year at Quevaucamps on May 14. These will be two lectures: one on Antwerp Smerles by MM Tweelinckx and Horemans, the other on Schmalkaldener Moorheads by C. Box.

On April 24, I saw H. Guislain at the Brabant Province Federation meet. He wrote me a short note on the Importation of Galatz Rollers in Western Europe. In 1974 a few fanciers from the Deutsche Flugroller Club (DFC) imported 12 Galatzer Rollers directly from Rumania (Galatz is a port there). In spite of the fact that veterinary certificates of good health had been secured, the West German customs wanted to stop these pigeons; after 2 hours of discussions (and loss of one pigeon when "controlling" the baskets), the fanciers were exceptionally allowed to go. The Galatz Rollers have a flight style very similar to the Birmingham but are more "near nature" than the latter: better orientation sense and much better parades when attacked by birds of prey, so that these pigeons are very much appreciated by fanciers living near big forests. Since 1977 the Galatz Rollers are also bred in Belgium; they have a very "short" type, square head and a short beak implanted straight on the face. As any pigeon bred in the first place for the flight, the design is not very fixed but the most frequent is the white-flighted one with the white collar round the head (see Rzhaver design). There are two strains: a Roller and a Highflier. Inbreeding gave in the 2nd generation a great number of



"bombs" (Rollers which cannot stop in time anymore and smash on the ground). Now the situation is stabilized by better balancing the matings.

The problem of the "bombs" should be studied genetically more thoroughly and scientifically so as to guide the fanciers who encounter such "degeneration". We suggest that all the fanciers gather all the genealogical data which they have on this subject. The Belgian Roller Club is willing to take part in this study but we should try to find a biologist interested in this problem. Couldn't he be found in the States? Note: It is a pity that the Customs regulations restrain so much the exchanges of birds through the borders. This hinders us too in Europe when organizing Roller competitions starting from movable lofts. (H. Guislain's address is: Remerstratt, 2, B-3130 Begijnendijk, Belgium).

Belgian Roller Club bulletin No. 3 contained a study of the Birmingham Roller type by J. Tober, the flight regulations for competitions and H. Guislain's report of his visit to U. Reber.

## Pigeon Medications

By CLAIR HETLAND  
Golden Valley, Minn.

Question: — Maybe you can help me with a problem I have. I have used Terramycin egg formula, Nitrofurazone and Sulfa but my birds seem to be sick all the time. This is getting to me because this has been going on for two years. The birds appear listless and have green diarrhea. When one gets really sick I take it in the house and they get better but never quite well. Some of my birds seem to do OK but my Fantails seem to be sick all the time. I feed good grain, have clean water and use kitty litter on the floor of my pen (the kitty litter is a red clay material). The birds eat this kitty litter for grit. For nesting materials I use leaves and feathers. My loft is dry and free of sparrows or mice or anything like that. — A. B., Calif. . .

Answer. — I can see some problems. The first is the absence of grit. The red clay (kitty litter) you use is not grit. Your birds are eating it out of desperation. They need minerals and are trying to get them the way pigeons naturally do it. The problem is there are some there but not the correct ones. The other problem with having your birds eat their litter for grit is they are picking up "germs" from the litter. You are never going to have healthy pigeons until you do the following things.

1. Get some kind of litter that the birds will not eat.
2. Get some health grit where you buy your feed. I don't know what brand is best in your area but pigeons are very popular in California and I am sure you can buy grit.
3. If you cannot buy grit then buy pel-

lets.

As far as medications are concerned no medicine is going to help until you correct this problem.

You mentioned that you use leaves and feathers for nesting materials. These your birds are using because there is nothing else. In California you might go up into the woods and find some pine needles. Or use some kind of hay. Do not use straw. Straw is hollow and lice do very well in straw.

It sounds to me (and looks) like you have a nice place for pigeons. I think if you correct the problems I mentioned you will be like the rest of the California breeders. You have everything going your way. Good luck!

## Chinese Owl Chatter

By FRANK CAHOY  
Ithaca, Nebr.

In keeping with the past several columns of "Chatter" we are going to continue to cover those subjects which may prove boring to the oldtimers, but which will, I'm sure, be of prime interest to the novice breeders amongst us. In not too many weeks we'll all have that most unpleasant task of culling out the undesirables from our young bird lofts. A very often asked question by beginners is, "What is the proper way and time to cull?" I'll attempt to relate here what has worked well for me and a large number of other breeders in the NCOC.

I believe the first thing one should do before even attempting a single culling session is to be absolutely sure you are as familiar with the written Standard as is humanly possible. If one breeds and culls by it religiously, the "keepers" will definitely have much more potential as future breeders and/or show possibilities. However, if a youngster shows an obvious major fault or two, then the time to cull is now. There doesn't seem to be any good reason for feeding a youngster that will never be a keeper. I'm also of the opinion that baby feathers are, generally speaking, loose, and very unattractive. So therefore, a Chinese Owl, to be given a fair shake at life should probably not be culled until after the first real moult is completed, usually not much before six months of age. The most obvious place to check for the moult completion is in the wing flights. The moult progresses from the secondary through the primaries. If you inspect a youngster and find two or three primary flights that are shorter or of a slightly different color shade, you'll be able to determine immediately that it has not yet completely moulted out. If all of the primaries are even in both color and length, then one can assume (if the bird is about six months of age) that the moult has been completed and you are seeing typically and basically the pigeon as he will appear as an adult bird.

Now that the youngsters are fully developed, you can get down to the nitty-gritty hard part. Formulate a picture of the ideal bird, keeping in mind Ron Davis' article in a recent newsletter about balance. We are all, generally speaking, too frill conscious. Of course, a good Chinese must have an even distribution of the "big three". By the same token, we cannot cull on the frilling alone. The whole and entire bird must be viewed with that picture of the ideal clearly in mind. Also keep a little space way at the back somewhere for what your stud will be needing in the way of future breeders. Perhaps, for instance, your stud is weak, overall, in head qualities, and you find a youngster that has a better head than your present breeders, but lacks in several other aspects. Jot his band number down, indicating he's not a show specimen, but has what you're looking for in a good headed bird. Give each individual youngster a complete and thorough going over, and if possible seek the help of an experienced breeder. Whatever you do, keep sentiment and personal preferences away from your culling procedures.

I speak from a good lesson of experience in the personal preference department. I liked very small Chinese so much, that by selective culling and breeding got my entire stud of breeders to produce only small well frilled birds. That's just fine if all you want are typy hens! Even my cock birds were becoming small and "henmy" in appearance and action. This in turn led to extremely unaggressive breeder cocks, and as a result a very low number production. So you can see that my advice about personal preferences comes on good authority. Sentiment, too, can play havoc with a proper culling session if you let it. Cull your youngsters as though you were the Grand National judge. Do not inspect band numbers until after the job is completed. If, when you have the good and the bad finalized as best you can, and find that the worst of the lot came from your most promising pair of parent birds, get alarmed and dismayed, if necessary, but, nevertheless, do what must be done anyway. Do it with as little hesitation as possible, because what's put off until later may very well never get done.

Work with your youngsters from the time of weaning until that fatal culling day. Cage train them all from time to time, so that when you've decided that this shall be the day, the young birds won't be put into a show pen for the first (and maybe the last as well) time in their lives. Allow the birds plenty of time to settle, relax and give you their best profiles. Remember, if one is quite "iffy" pretend that you are showing him in the district meet. Pluck those fouled feathers, etc. Allow him to look his best before you lower the axe. Culling is also a gradual process, as you'll have youngsters of several age groupings all summer long. If you have really serious doubts about one for legitimate reasons,

(Continued on page 447)





Your secretary will again ask our members to just take a few minutes of their time now and then to send in any information that will help fill this space each month. Just remember without publicity a variety will soon wither and die and our variety is no exception. In fact I have seen the Muff Tumbler relegated to a position that was pathetic and believe me it took years to build up what was lost in just a short period of time.

Our variety is riding high now but that position will soon fade if our members don't get off their duff and do their part to hold the position we now enjoy. Just about every week we receive requests from new fanciers asking information, and members' names living in their area who breed the variety and color they are most interested in, so they can write to our members and in many cases ask to visit their lofts to see first hand what they have to offer. The interest is still there, so let's not let it slip away because some of our members are lax and do not take the proper interest.

At the recent Baltimore meeting your secretary was requested to publish a new directory of with the up-to-date membership and correct address of each member. At that meeting all members that have moved to new locations were requested to send in all corrections to the secretary, and once since that time a reminder was published asking again that we receive this information. Well nothing has happened and we will not have a new listing printed until such time that we have an up-to-date listing of each member. Incidentally, the Baltimore show report has not been received at this writing. They were contacted months ago and not even the courtesy of a reply. I am sorry but until such time as I receive a full report of our annual meet, I am unable to pay out any monies due our members.

I just received a letter from our good friend Les Williams of Birmingham, England, informing us of the death of our dear friend and honorary life member of the Muff Tumbler Club of America, George Fundell.

Quoting from the letter from Les: "Sadly I'm writing to tell you the news that George Fundell died in his sleep. George was 79 years old. A muffed Tumbler fancier all of his life, never swerved to any other variety, and whites were his favorites. He was very proud of his membership in the American Muff Tumbler Club and the highlight of his career was his visit to Baltimore, meeting all you good fanciers, seeing the good Muff Tumblers and attending the Annual Meeting of the Muff Tumbler Club of America. I'm glad he managed it. Always more of a

showman than a breeder, but the birds brought him much pleasure."

Many thanks Les for letting me know of the passing of this great fancier friend and fellow member of our great club.

Yes, George Fundell was a great fancier and a very warm and friendly man and I was delighted to meet him at Baltimore where we spent much time talking Muff Tumblers. He was a very knowledgeable fancier and told many interesting stories of the golden days of the British Tumbler Fancy. We spent considerable time walking down Tumbler alley and he was amazed at the quality of the American birds. He was stunned when he handled some of the top Bald-head Muffs, saying they are the equal of any clean leg I have ever seen. We were all very happy with his much too short visit, but I am sure he had many pleasant memories of the hundreds of fanciers he met at Baltimore.

We are all saddened by the news that George passed on but we are much richer for knowing a great Muff Tumbler fancier of his stature.

## The Modena World

By RICK BARKER  
Santa Ana, Calif.

A letter was received recently by a young man who lives in St. George, Utah. He has a problem that I'm sure others share when living in rural areas. Since he has not met any experienced pigeon fanciers in his town, all information regarding the care and upkeep of pigeons is received from the APJ. The problem results when he reads conflicting information and then becomes bewildered as to which is the best avenue to pursue. We now have close to 15 monthly columns in the APJ and with the addition of the individual articles one can see how a complication can result.

The problem this fancier has is one with feed and conditioning practices. Over the past year many columns have reported the "right" way to feed and what to feed. Unfortunately, there is no right way to feed, for each fancier has his or her own set of circumstances in the method or feed they use. In "Kings 'n Things" for the month of May, the author of the column reported a fancier that has had tremendous success using grain and pellets in various amounts. The article went on to proclaim this was all that was necessary to really keep one's birds in fit condition. However, this is the problem, the young fancier stated above uses pellets and grain and his birds are not in the condition he would like. Why does this occur?

What the column "Kings 'n Things" alluded to but didn't stress enough is that the fancier that was successful did not become successful by reading something from an article. He probably experimented for quite awhile with different diets

until he was satisfied. To go further, regardless of what this fancier fed his birds, would probably make no difference. What makes him successful is something intangible, something you just can't pick up from an article. Guidelines can be set, information can be given, but each fancier must apply a certain management program before he is successful. Outside of quality stock, loft management is the most important element for a successful loft, whether it be for personal pleasure, show or squab production. One must establish some sort of goal, establish a program and then experiment until satisfied. Simply because one man is satisfied with grain and pellets, does not mean that this is the answer. There are many answers, as many as there are pigeon fanciers. Again, the successful fanciers are not successful for what they feed, it is the whole spectrum of their animal husbandry.

In discussing feeds, do not be lulled into thinking one feed is better than the other without investigating. In my own locale, Southern California, the quality differences between the feeds is amazing. Ironically, the labels on the sacks compare with others, however, the differences are apparent. Even in cities the size of San Diego, there seems to be problems with quality feed. I know of two fanciers that travel to Los Angeles once a month from San Diego just to buy feed. That's a distance of 250 miles round trip. Imagine the plight of those living in rural areas where the supply of feed is monopolized. The point is, feed only the best quality available. In my opinion, I would not hesitate in feeding foodstuffs not designed for pigeons, but meeting nutritional requirements, if the quality is found to be better. One fancier I know feeds 75 per cent hog growth pellets, 25 per cent grain because the quality is better and the cost per sack of pellets is five dollars cheaper per hundred pounds. He is successful, he's been feeding this for five years and come show time he is very competitive.

I can hear the comments now, the above is all O.K., but what do you feed and why is your system better? The feeds that I use are perhaps no better than anyone else's. But for my situation I am convinced that the birds are eating the best quality that I can give them. Extremely high fertility and hatchability, low mortality in the nest is what I experience. I have been breeding since January and am averaging seven and a half youngsters per pair of Modenas. My Turbits have only bred four young per pair, I do not blame this on feed however. The above record is not great, but the birds have been moved to three different locations in the last five months. By the time breeding season is over nine or ten young per pair will have been produced. Incidentally, I never medicate my birds for any reason, other than worming twice a year. My feeding program is as follows. During breeding season, 30% grain (race Mix), 30% pigeon pel-



lets, 30% Salf manna (pellet form), 10% game bird pellets. The grain and pigeon pellets are understandable. The calf manna is fed for I have found that the pairs produce pigeon milk much longer, the game bird pellets are fed for the high amount of protein. (3%) During non-breeding, grain is fed 60%, pigeon pellets 20%, and game bird pellets 20%. I use game bird pellets (actually crumbles) because the young birds like the smaller size pellets. Ever notice what seems to be the palatable grains to the older pigeons, such as peas, corn, wheat, safflower, etc. the very young leave alone. The young birds tend to eat the milo, kafir, etc. the same grains the older birds leave. The very young also leave the pellets alone for I feel the large grains or pellets are just too large to consume. Not that they can't eat that but they won't. One may also notice the weight lost on young birds after they leave the nest. They usually don't eat as much as they should and the grains they do eat are the one's lowest in protein. (10%) For me the game bird pellets fill that void for they are half the size of pigeon pellets and extremely high in protein. Incidentally, the calf manna and game bird pellets are cheaper than pigeon feed. The whole point of this is, the above system is successful for me, you must find one that is successful for you. Experiment, run comparison tests, and fine something you are content with.

#### San Diego National

It seems if there ever was a time to take a trip to a pigeon show, this next January will be the time. I recently spoke with Ole Olson, the superintendent of the show, and he assured me that this will be one great National. This particular show will have quite a bit to offer. They are hoping for the largest entry of any past National, and may possibly get it. The weather will definitely be a plus, for when I left for Dayton this year, it was in the high seventies in So. Calif. Besides a great pigeon show, there will be interesting trips for those non-fanciers in the family. Trips to Sea World, the San Diego Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Tijuana, Mexico, Disneyland, etc. may be arranged by the show committee. It will mainly depend on the demand. So plan your vacation this year around the San Diego National, this will be the show not to miss.

#### Grizzle

Quite a few Modena breeders have expressed an interest in this color lately and good quality can be found in all the grizzle colors. Grizzle is controlled by a dominant gene, an autosomal dominant, producing a blue grizzle in blues, a brown grizzle in browns and so on. The actual mechanism of grizzle is depigmentation of color. The grizzling is not very uniform, usually much more white in the head and neck. In show grizzles we wish not to see patches of white but sort of a salt and pepper shade. Most grizzles are heterozygous (one grizzle gene), thus when mated to a non grizzle  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all

young will be grizzle. A homozygous grizzle, (two grizzle genes) mated to a non grizzle will produce all grizzle young. This homozygous grizzle will appear white in most cases. Two heterozygous grizzles mated will produce 25% homozygous grizzle, 50% heterozygous grizzle, and 25% normal color young. One should note that spread areas of the bird, i.e. bars, will be much less grizzled than clumped areas such as the wing shield of a barred bird. This is why one might see a barred Modena that is quite grizzled but still have wonderful bar color.

## Junior News

By TOM ROOD  
Shelbyville, Ill.

With the breeding season at its peak now (May), many juniors are writing in with positive results. I imagine many of these fanciers already have high hopes for one of those youngsters in the young bird pen. A large percentage of junior pigeon fanciers are very serious about their hobby and I'm sure you'll be seeing their names in this year's show reports.

#### Motivators

I have always billed our United Jr. Pigeon Club's Special Awards as our number one motivator. These Special Awards are based on a point system where the members earn points by writing bulletin articles, donating awards, hosting shows, etc. Well, I still stick with my original opinion — our Special Awards are our number one "motivator." To give you an example. What is the biggest gripe of a lot of pigeon clubs who send out bulletins? Not enough articles from the membership, right? Since the UJPC's point system was established (approx. 3 years ago), we have never had trouble getting the members to submit articles, news, information, etc. for the Bulletin. I've just mailed out the May Bulletin and still have 30 to 40 articles on file yet to be published. The Junior members really work to earn their points. Our Special Awards give the members something to work towards all year long.

#### Junior Clubs

The Junior Pigeon Fancy is still progressing with new jr. clubs being formed every year. Larry Fooks' San Joaquin Pigeon Club doesn't need any introduction, not does the National Jr. Pigeon Club headed by Randy Boschee. Both of these clubs have been publicized in this magazine for some time now, and I'm sure you will read about them in the future.

The May APJ (p. 298) featured an article by Bryant Wilson of Kearns, Utah, on the Utah Jr. Pigeon Club. Bryant is a new member of the United Jr. Pigeon Club and sounds like he will be very active. If you take a look at Bryant's article, you will see he has a good thing going for the juniors in Utah. Anyone interested in contacting Bryant can write

him at 4556 W. 4775 So., Kearns, Utah., 84118.

There's also another junior pigeon club trying to get off the ground. This club is being headed by Jeff Bunyard of Vandalia, Ill. Jeff is trying to form a jr. club for Fantail and Indian Fantail fanciers. He has his ideas down on paper in the form of an Information Packet, and is anxious to send one out to interested juniors. Jeff's address is Rt. 2, Vandalia, Ill., 62471.

#### Belleville Show

The following report of the Belleville Show held April 24, 1977 is being submitted by our District 3 Director, Jeff Bunyard.

April 24th turned out to be a great junior show with 145 birds shown by a record breaking 28 exhibitors! Just about a year ago the average for the April show was 60-70 birds by about 14 exhibitors.

Because of space, I'll just give Champions and Reserve Champions. Some of the smaller classes only have Champions listed.

Rollers (49), Champion and Reserve Champion to Scott Jones. English Trumpeters (4), Champion to Scott Jones. Show Racers (8), both awards to Jenny Beck. Racing Homers (14), Champion to Kenny Mueller and Reserve Champion to Jenny Beck. Fantails (8), Champion to Dave McIlravy with Reserve to Bob Morietta. Indian Fantails (3), best to Rich Sheedy. Modenas (27), Champion to Rusty Tallant and Reserve to Brad Hartwig. Lahores (10), Champion to Dave McIlravy and Reserve to Chuck Harter. Kings (7), both awards to Tim Henington. The AOV class included Dragons, German D.C. Trumpeters, Chinese Owls, Elster Purzlers, Helmets, LFCL Tumblers, Giant Homers, Pouters, Komorners, Runts, and Norwich Croppers. Champion went to Scott Durbins Norwich Cropper and Reserve Champion went to Ron Ward's LFCL Tumbler. The Champion of Show was Dave McIlravy's Black Lahore cock. It was a surprisingly good show considering it was an old bird show.

I'd like to thank Jeff for this report and I hope to hear from other junior pigeon fanciers. My address is 702 N. Morgan, Shelbyville, Ill., 62565. Until next time, "Friendship thru Pigeons".

#### Chinese Owl Chatter

(Continued from page 445)

put him back and give him, so to speak, a stay of execution until your next session.

In closing I would like, again, to stress that all important work, Balance. Always keep in mind that a nice, evenly balanced Chinese Owl is much more pleasing to the eye than a super frilled one that is long, flat headed, and has side boards an inch high. Keep a mental picture of that ideal in front of you at all times, and things will just have to evolve out for the best.

Subscription \$6 per year; 3 years \$15.



## The World of Jacobins

By HARRY ALEXANDER

Culver City, California

### IJC-CJC Meet at Dayton

At the 1977 Dayton National, the International Jacobin Club hosted the Central Jacobin Club in a combined annual meet. A total of 301 Jacobins were entered and judged beautifully by Stan Plona of Connecticut.

The Dayton people put on a wonderful show and the accommodations were fit for a king (and priced for one, too!). Two dollars for three pancakes and no powdered sugar in the house! Really!

At the CJC Annual Meeting the Jacobin Standard rules regarding Splashes and the AOC classes were adopted to conform to the Pacific Jacobin Club rules as set down in the World of Jacobins Column, May 1976. Louie Christener said it was time for the Central club to follow the lead of the Pacific club. Mr. Christener was honored by the American Pigeon Club with the Master Breeder's Award and I was proud to make the announcement and be first to congratulate him. That gives us two living Master Breeders in the Jacobin Fancy, Mr. McNorgan having received the Award at the 1974 Pageant of Pigeons where it was my personal pleasure to make the presentation for the American Pigeon Club.

### A Good Gathering

At Dayton were many of the Fancy's finest. Louie Christener won the AOC and White Cups. There seems to be little question who has been dominating the Whites these last few years. Jim Ecker, who was re-elected Sec.-Treas. for the CJC, won the Red Cup. This yearling cock No. 1207 was Grand Champion of the Show. LeRoy Traub, who was re-elected CJC President by a locomotive vote, took best Splash with one of the few truly Splashed Jacobins exhibited. This bird was pushed hard by a new genetic creation of Ken Walling's, a white with Black bars. Ken has been working over a decade on this project and is to be congratulated. Garry Perkins was notably absent, and missed by all, but took best Blue with an OC. Ed Bachmann won the Cups for Black and Silver.

However, teaching everyone a lesson in how to bring the birds in for the show, Dick Haukoos brought his birds in frozen Saturday morning and had the smoothest feathered young Yellow hen taking Reserve Champion, BOS, Best Young bird and Best Yellow. A grand accomplishment for the little gal.

Others attending were Fred Siebel of Denver, myself from Los Angeles (Mr. Siebel and I were not exhibiting any birds), APJ columnist Mary Walling with her husband Ken, along with Ray, Roy and Diane Stepnowski, all of the Garden State, Charlie Pearson and LeRoy Cox from Texas. Incidentally, Mr. Cox lost

two of his finest Yellows, a young cock and a young hen at this show before judging. Should you see any suspiciously outstanding Yellow Jacobins in the wrong place, banded or not, be kind enough to make note or inquiry on his behalf. Mr. Cox will go a long way to get these two Yellow Jacobins returned. Should the culprit guilty of removing these birds be reading this, I believe Mr. Cox would gladly replace the birds with a nice pair of stock breeders for the return of the two show birds. Honesty is a cleaner way to live. I'm sure the details of a transfer could be arranged.

Mrs. Christener, Mike Ecker, and Jim Ecker's beautiful wife all accompanied Jim and Louie to the show, as did the graceful Bihla Bachmann. Ed Jureki, Bernie Thompson, Roger Robertson, Howard Fox, Drew Lobenstein and Dennis Soares from the Los Angeles suburbs of Simi and Chino, respectively, Sy Kautzer, Frank Fischler of New Jersey, Cheryl Smith and her husband Larry, Al LaMarre, Ed Kirkpatrick, Tom Reich (hope I spelled it right), Mr. Poplawski, Mr. Bray, Mr. McCaplin and Mr. Young, all showed at Dayton.

Those absent and dearly missed were Paul McNorgan and Bill Lawson, Bill Quinlan (it was only minus 62 degrees with the wind chill, Bill), Al Taylor and his family, Ron McLean, Joe Kortus, Dick Riemer and of most concern to us all, past president Gale Vandenberg, who is convalescing from a very severe operation and illness. Good luck, Gale. Other names fail me now, but no one need feel slighted.

### How About Next Year

Next year the Central Club will likely return to Dayton and the International Club will likely go to Bay City. These should be two outstanding shows. The National will go to San Diego, California, where Bill Quinlan and the Pacific Jacobin Club will be your host for another great Jacobin show. These show dates will be arranged to fit everyone's schedules (I hope) and the Eastern Club will co-ordinate with the rest of us for one of the finest show seasons a fancier could ask for. Incidentally, I have heard from others and experienced personally that TWA and Continental Airlines are the most helpful and co-operative airlines for travel with pigeons.

### Is Travel Worth It?

This year I have been fortunate enough to visit the International Club Annual Meet, Central Club Annual Meet, The Pacific Club's two sectionals, their Annual Meet at the Pageant of Pigeons and the Pacific Club Winter Show, and the Eastern Club Annual Meet in Lebanon, Pa. Ken Walling won Champion with a beautiful Yellow OC, Reed Kinzer won Best Young bird with a White YC. I felt every moment I spent at these shows was worth the time and expense in gaining knowledge, experience and most of all, friendships.

For the past several years I have been very fortunate in being able to travel to

see many of the best Jacobin shows in the country. I have learned a great deal about the birds, the breeders, the judges and personalities. I have also learned some of the various modes of travel not suited for travel to the North Country during the Winter. The first IJC-CJC combined meet I attended, I hitch-hiked from Los Angeles to a little town just outside Cleveland, where I decided I would splurge on a bus ticket up to the McNorgan residence in Canada. On the way there, Albuquerque had a snow blizzard they still talk about, and it never got too much better the rest of the way. Coming home I decided to live dangerously and drove a "drive-away" pick-up truck back to L.A. ran out of gas in Illinois and walked about two miles (seemed like ten) in about minus 20 degree weather plus the wind-chill. You really get the impact of "wind-chill" on a day like that as the semi-trailers whiz by you at 65 miles per hour! Nowadays I mostly fly to the shows and I love every minute I'm there.

One show I have greatly missed seeing is the Southern Jacobin Club, and I hope to make this show too, someday soon. I am a native Texan, and as much as the SJC is a part of the World of Jacobins, I really ought to get down there and see ya'll.

## Indian Fantail Views

By TONY BRANCATO

Santa Maria, Calif.

Tracing the early development of the Indian Fantail to India and the introduction to the United States as stated before is not all fact nor all fiction. The breed has been in the United Kingdom as early as the 18th century.

Interest in the Indian Fantail did not begin to take impetuous until a fancier in California, Harvey Gatlin begin to breed for certain colors, and promote the breed. On the East Coast the breed had its counterpart of Harvey Gatlin, then a lad of 14 who began an ambitious promotional campaign of the Indian Fantail. That young fancier went on to work on saddles and the perfection of whites and became the writer of a monthly column on Indian Fantails!

The first Indians exhibited on the East Coast were shown at the Danbury Connecticut Pigeon and Poultry show causing little excitement and a lot of snide jokes (1959). In 1962 this writer moved to California and sent all 150 of his Indians to Harvey Gatlin, who then selected the very best and used them in his stud to develop our present day strain of Indians.

A club was organized and the promotional campaign has never ceased. However, in fairness to the Indian Fantail, the breed itself is responsible for a lot of its popularity; simply because it is attractive, gentle, easy to breed and challenging to say the least. Madison Avenue



advertisers could not accomplish a popular breed if the breed just doesn't have it. The Indian Fantail sells itself in that it attracts a wide spectrum of fanciers each year. The strong hold being the West Coast and Middle West; the East and South are still not Indian Fantail country but there are some breakthroughs.

In conclusion, a lot has been left out of this article, simply because of space. Others deserve recognition as taking the Indian from the early 1960's and pushing it to new heights of popularity; I hesitate to name some for fear of leaving someone out unintentionally. Perhaps in another column we can look at the modern day champions of the breed who have contributed to make the Indian Fantail an exciting pigeon to breed, exhibit, and keep.

## German Trumpeter Review

By TONY BRANCATO  
Santa Maria, Calif.

In this month's column, the discussion will be about the elegant Bernburger Trumpeter. Prior to 1965 little if any one had heard of the Bernburger. He was there in lofts throughout this great land, but seldom mentioned or exhibited for reasons unknown to this writer. My experience with the Bernburger began by sheer accident. I was visiting a friend and noticed an attractive bird that he was using for some crossing experiments. The bird was a poor quality Bernburger, even at that the more I looked at this individual bird the more I liked it.

I placed an ad in the APJ and received one letter stating that he had one pair of blues for sale. I purchased this pair from Omaha, Neb. and to make a long story short continued to purchase Bernburgers wherever I could, always trying to up date mine. The first birds were poor quality and after five years of buying birds and breeding I was nearly ready to give up as the birds were still inferior to what the Standard called for. I imported Bernburgers from England and nearly fell over. They were worse than ones I cull!

The breakthrough occurred when I was able to purchase some quality Bernburgers from the East Coast, some of Wenzel's imported stock, and with what I had, developed a top notch stud. Just recently I was fortunate to import with the help of Dr. Robert Durig some excellent Bernburgers from Germany. The colors were fantastically deep and the birds were exceptionally beautiful. What was a surprise and a shock was that my blacks were actually a wee bit better than the blacks from Germany's top breeder! It is my opinion that the search to Germany will soon end and they will be importing from American breeders sim-

ply because of the dedication of American fanciers.

Besides the traditional colors of blue, red, black and yellow, several Bernburger fanciers are embarked on some unique projects such as barless blues, silvers, duns, and of course as written before my interest in developing laces and white barred birds.

The Bernburger commands a lot of attention at the shows and even at the Pageant of Pigeon shows where the lovely English Trumpeter is king, the Bernburger courts the eye, and gains in popularity!

## Giant Homer News

By PAUL STEIDEN  
Louisville, Ky.

If you are trying to breed the Giant Homer to look like and be like the ideal which is illustrated and described in the official AGHA Standard then you have no doubt studied long and hard to get into your mind just what is wanted for an ideal Giant Homer. Unless you are kidding yourself you soon realize that you don't have one bird to come up to the qualifications completely. Further study of the Standard reveals that there are 15 major points to breed for and 11 disqualifications to breed away from. At this point you are probably somewhat confused as to what your flock needs and what should be culled out to increase your chances of getting youngsters to more nearly match the Standard of perfection.

In my opinion, the first and foremost thing needed in a good Giant Homer is body. It's possible to have a good head, neck, legs, wings and tail, but if the bird lacks body it won't get to first base. Body can best be gauged and evaluated in the hand. With practice you can quickly learn to handle a bird and check such items as depth, broadness, length, condition, keel, back, breast, tail and weight. While holding the bird, get in the habit of checking it out for its strong and weak points. The body should feel broad at the front and taper back, sort of funnel shaped to the rump. The keel should feel deep and straight and run well back into the rump area. The condition of the bird should feel firm and strong, with the feather finish slick in your hand. Look down over the back and see that it is not sway back and the rump not too wide. Look at the tail, its feathers should whip in together to continue the wedge of the body. The tail length should be short, not extending very far past the tips of the flight feathers. Try to guess the weight of the bird while holding it. A double-check with the scales may be needed to see what weight range your birds are in. Usually you will find the medium compact bird in condition will fall into the correct weight range.

The back, breast, keel, body, and condition take up 60 of the official Standard's

100 points. When your birds reach the showroom the judge is going to pick them up and check these points. Be sure your birds have a chance to satisfy him.

## Dove Doings

By ART R. MODLER  
Dayton, Ohio

Things seem to be back in the groove again by this time of the year for Dove fanciers. After a poor start with breeding activities earlier in this year, reports indicate that the doves have settled down and youngsters don't seem to be lacking either in quantity or in quality in spite of the extremely cold winter and abnormal patterns of winter weather. Another good indication is the interest already shown by fanciers in the coming show season. This may be considered as a favorable barometer as to the attitude of fanciers, since the pay-off for our efforts lies in the showroom.

Word has been received that the Annual Meet of the American Dove Association will have an additional 50 new dove coops available at Louisville, Ky. come this Fall. This means more room than ever for a greater competition. So start grooming your birds, both the old and young birds; at least, we can do some of that "wishful thinking" about them and see that "Winnah and Grand Champion" right there in our loft! And as of right now, too!

Since there has been such a healthy increase in the popularity of those lovely little "lovelies" the Diamond Doves, how about it, you Diamond fanciers, why not get together and do something special at the show next fall that will emphasize this popularity? Of course, there is this problem of special cooping for this little dove, but that shouldn't really be a hindrance. Fanciers at previous shows brought their own coops, many of which were quite novel and encouraged many others to build their own. Let's give it some thought; such a lovely little dove deserves more consideration, since we are finding out more about its hardness and ease of care. We might add, perhaps the same may be said for many of the other rare doves, too.

From time to time we hear of interesting experiences from fellow Dove fanciers with their doves and the odd behavior patterns exhibited by them. For example, all of us have noticed among Ringnecks the devotion of birds to their nesting and breeding partners. Quite often, while the hen is sitting on the eggs the cock bird will fly to the edge of the nest and try to squeeze in along-side of her, trying to assure her that all is well and wants to pitch in and help. Often, he will bring a piece of nesting material as an offering and tuck it in where he feels there is a need of it. Finally, the nest gets to be a stack of nesting material and gets to the point where

(Continued on page 456)



## Bokhara Trumpeter News



By AL GRACE  
Lackawanna, N.Y.

The old saying is, we should never be carried away by surging currents of emotion. Of course it is true. Yet when our baby Bokhara Trumpeters are ready to leave their nest, we cannot help but feel a smiling exhilaration, over our fondest grouchy moods. Young Bokharas with their various colors and markings, bring joy to our efforts, warming up our hopes in sparkling scintillation, the very essence of central charm of what our hobby consists. Ever present realization that being everyday sincere work and effort partners, we can make our mutual pigeon friends happy!

Our desire to accomplish through truth and study of genetics, the ever hidden secrets of nature and to accomplish the impossible dreams ever nurtured by man (and ladies) since the conception of Egyptian hieroglyphics. When we, through example, instill in others the continuation of producing the hither to superior and majestic, Bokhara Trumpeter. This is the purpose of the IBTC and has been ever since the Bokhara Club has had its humble beginning.

Standard point allotment has had only five replies. It looks like most of the members are not to anxious to change for a while. I believe Egan Thiel has submitted the most intelligent allotment. His idea suggests an almost equal importance to all main characteristics of the modern Bokhara. We all know in the show pen a well balanced Trumpeter gets the nod from the judge. As Egan Thiel's allotment denotes, all physical attributes are of equal importance. Let's keep it this way.

Leroy Radley has been in the hospital again. A nice letter from him tells us he is on the way to recovery. We all appreciate the fine job you have done as our Sec.-Treas., Leroy. Due to Mr. Radley's capable character, we now have \$280 in our treasury and all outstanding bills paid in full! Leroy asks to have a rest for awhile, so Dick Herman of Stacy, Minn., will be our new Sec.-Treas.

Now is the time to select our next show site. Mich. and Minn. are centrally located. Both states have several good all-breed pigeon shows. Late in the season shows are good, but winter is in its full glory in January. We believe Nov. shows would be better for all concerned.

All members of the Western Bokhara Trumpeter Club must be very busy banding their 1977 champions. We wish you good luck WBTC! Clair Hetland attended their Bokhara meets last year. He was so impressed with their cheerful hospitality and ever-present enthusiasm. Yes, we have a wonderful group of Bokhara fan-

ciars in Calif., who know how to produce outstanding strains of Trumpeters in all colors. The IBTC is proud of your Bokhara accomplishments. Let us hope an Eastern Bokhara Club is formed in the near future.

Lee Johnson writes he has a healthy successful breeding season. His chief interest this year is to produce a few good yellows. We have a few very big body yellows, still crossing them to black selfs to produce a richer round rose. All our yellows have pearl eyes and a very loud booming voice.

Hetland writes he would like to band a few good blacks. Seems like he is producing some nice mottles, that is my favorite markings. Joe Albrecht had five outstanding black mottles bred from the No. 220 mottle hen with the 2 5/8 round rose. We got only one cock and the No. 142 Mottle Molly out of No. 220. We now have three granddaughters and one grandson out of Mottle Molly, but not her almost flat rose.

### New Members

Again this month we have two more new members. Edward Glomski, of Rockford, Ill., joins our ranks. Let us know what colors you like best, Ed. From a far away country we have Geir Nikkelsen of Egersund, Norway. Mr. Nikkelsen believes he is the only breeder of Bokharas in Egersund. He is the manager of Zoologiske Flora and has added to our International or World membership of the IBTC. Nice to have you men with us!

In closing I would like to say when we fancy a whim, and it gains a voice, we find ourselves on the road to progress. As our energies restless, leaves us breathless, raising our pigeon dreams skyward to sail! Invite a neighbor to join us in the fun!

## Helmet Happenings

By FRED SMITH  
Henderson, Ill.

Showing the bird you buy: This month I'll scratch the surface of a controversial topic in the Fancy as generally every fall we receive two or three letters stating someone's dissatisfaction with a bird he bought that didn't place well or someone showed a bird and won a meet with a bird he just bought from a competitor. By talking about this in the mid-summer maybe we can help this situation a little.

There are pros and cons in showing a bird a fellow buys. Let us look at it from the breeder-seller standpoint first. As a general rule the fellow that sells the bird had no further use for it in his breeding program anyway, and that is why he sold it. Many fellows think that if a bird is bought from them and shown, and proper credit is given to the rightful breeder then it is good advertising for him. This is logical and practical thinking, when

the proper credit is given. On the other hand if a breeder knows that he must compete against a good bird that he will sell it isn't likely that the buyer will get as good of bird as he would have, had he told the breeder. "I do not plan to exhibit this bird but keep him as a stock bird." The buyer's chances of getting a better bird to start with is much greater. I have found this to be particularly true in buying Tumblers in recent years. Finally there are some fellows that create a stigma of "buying your way into a championship," or, "He's a buyer not a breeder." Candidly it doesn't take too many years in the Fancy to see who the buyers and who the breeders really are, so buying one or two birds and showing them would not necessarily constitute a title as this.

From the buyer's standpoint, I could see exhibiting a bird you buy providing you are doing so as a test of evaluation with competition, and providing you did not break a promise of not showing the bird when you purchased it. Likewise full credit to the breeder is a must. If we think about it that is a lot of responsibility but it would avoid the problems that might come up. As for showing a bird one buys simply for the sake of gathering Master Breeder points this is silly. For one thing the title Master Breeder is exactly that, not Master Buyer. In the past we had divided points between breeder and buyer on wins in this area but quite candidly who knows where a bird finally ends up when the trading sessions get hot and heavy at the shows. It is impossible to keep track after a two-year period.

Showing a bird you buy should be good advertising for the fellow that bred the bird but there seems to be little value for the buyer with the exception of a test of quality for the bird he bought.

An enjoyable visit to Topeka; May 20, 1977 our family packed up a few things in the car and headed west to Topeka, Kansas, for a week-end visit with the Al Westling family. My daughter Elaina and I had visited them in 1973, and we had told the wife how impressed we were with that visit that she could hardly wait to get there. The week-end was most enjoyable with the iris flowers in full bloom, another hobby Al and I share. His Tumblers were in high gear, and as usual the Westling hospitality was simply wonderful. A new swimming pool was the main attraction for the daughter, while a cook-out, a state dog show, and an artist show all took up a portion of a very busy week-end. In the loft Al said things had been a little slow but I saw plenty of young birds coming on nicely. A bird that really impressed me was a mealy cock bird he raised last year. Before we had to head home Sunday I found myself the heir to Al Westling's Andalusian Tumbler project, a group of Tumblers that are excellent as the Tumbler world knows, and a gift I am deeply grateful for. I want to take this time to thank the Westlings, Al, Charlene, and their boys for a



memorable week-end and we look forward to their visit with us next May when the flowers are in bloom again.

Bill Preston, thanks for the memories: A couple weeks ago I received a warm and interesting letter from Bill Preston in Newburgh, N.Y. I've known Bill and his son indirectly for a number of years, probably over 20 if we stopped to think about it, and every so often Bill

drops me a line and talks Helmets. Looking back I shipped some birds out that way when his boy was about 10 years old and he is a senior in College this year, so the time really flies. I guess what I'm trying to say more than anything else in the paragraph is that good friends are forever seems like, and our breeding pigeons seem to be secondary toward that end. Til next month Happy Helmeting.

chance of an understanding on either.

Being as I was raised a pure southern lady, I asked my owner to please put me back in my cage as I was ashamed I had ever been born. Now if you are different in color or in other minor ways, you know just how I feel. Being just a dumb bird and not a smart human, I think the whole thing is asinine but I do believe our owners should try to work things out for the good of the Fancy. I have grown a lot in knowledge this year. I found out that my being different in color is no different than some of those owners. At least we don't have all the other troubles they do. As my owner explained to me, I am still a Champion even though, when being shown as an AOC, I didn't get those extra points for color that they are all talking about. He told me he was a dirty old man and he liked my body and loved my tail and he darned if he wouldn't put me with his best grizzle cock and he would be back next year.

From what I heard at the showroom, there would be a lot of discussion and in time, all would be O.K. In the loft, we Fantails have always thought we had more sense than most of our owners, but if they will settle down, we believe they could at least be equal to us. Maybe their God will get tired of the whole bit and get one of our Dear Friends up in the great Loft, Saint Francis Assisi to help! If they pray as hard as they worry about my color, everything will be O.K.

## "Miss Lonesome" — The Story of a Fantail

By **BUD HAGAN**, Louisville, Ky.

When my owner began to call me that name, I thought he was just trying to be funny. If you know him, then you know what I mean. Little did I know what was in store for me at the shows.

As I have found out in my travels to several shows this year, it just doesn't pay to be a little different in looks from the norm. Basically I was born a Fantail, a very good Fantail, I thought. Even from the very first steps I took, I knew that my legs were on in just the right position. This made me very proud and I threw my chest out as far as I could and did I strut! As I grew, all the rest of my body began to fill out in just the right places. The only thing wrong was my color. At first I was very worried but soon my owner was picking me up more often and setting me down in the training pens. My owner is getting on in years and has the same habit that my grandfather has, he talks to himself and also to all his birds. He began to show me off to his friends.

This is where my troubles began. I was not a true blue bar in color. I have white on my rump and white flecking on my head. I soon learned that this made little difference to my owner as he stated to me so often, "ain't any of us perfect". He just kept saying to throw out my chest and hold that beautiful tail right and to dance like a ballerina. He trained me well and I responded. Soon it was time to hit the shows. This is where I was to learn that it doesn't pay to be a little different. In one show I would be shown as an AOC; in another as a blue. There seemed to be a lot of confusion as to what classes I belonged in. I knew I was different and guessed my owner was upset because I was. He explained that he thought it best to show me as an AOC and that AOC meant "Any Other Color" and was for mismarks and all other Fantails that are not of a Standard color. Besides, he said, the people that run the shows couldn't have a separate class for just any color, like me, that happened to come along.

I began to feel a lot better because this generally put me in the judging pens with a lot of pure colored birds that just didn't have enough breeders to breed them in numbers. This made me very proud when I won the Central District meet and the big Central meet. Even at these shows I began to hear crying and complaining that I should be shown in

this class or that class. I guess I was just an ignorant young Fantail as I thought all these humans knew what they were doing. This is where I was wrong! If I heard one opinion, I heard at least a dozen different ones. I called my owner over and asked him if they didn't have a Standard to go by. Yes, he said, but the best he could find out was that either there were different Standards or the fanciers were interpreting it differently. I asked him how this could be. He answered like this, "You know, there is only one God but there are different ways that people look and pray to God. They have different names and different forms but all pray to the same God". This made sense for a while but soon tempers were showing and I thought to myself, if they get as hot about their different religions as they do about our different colors then they don't have a

## Systems Approach To Fantail Fanciers

By **DR. SAMUEL ZENTMAN**, Southfield, Mich.

Until three or four years ago, nobody in pigeon breeding circles had heard of Bill Diemer. However, in the past few years, Bill's small farm outside of Brighton, Mich., has become the center of a new scientific approach to Fantail breeding. Bill has adapted the systems approach, which is one of the standard tools in the data processing world where he earns his living, to the fine art of Fantail breeding.

The secret of his approach is a set of complete, standardized, well organized records. Detailed information is kept regarding breeding history, special characteristics, and such show details as temperament of the bird in the show cage and how loose or tight the lace should be by bird. Bill feels that no one can remember all of the mating and breeding details even for relatively few birds, and haphazard record keeping is almost as bad as no record keeping at all.

Bill breeds from 50 pair and shows birds covering a rainbow of colors including whites, blacks, blues, silvers, powdered blues, reds, yellows, and almonds. His breeding techniques have also been used to produce striking birds in bodymarks, splashes, saddles, tailmarks, duns, andalusians, and grizzles.

The proof of any approach to pigeon breeding is in the showing and Diemer's

birds have done very well. He first attracted attention at the 1975 National Young Bird Show and at the Ray D. LaFleur classic of the same year. In 1976, his birds did extremely well both at the state and national levels. At the '76 National Young Bird Show, he took best silver and reserve champion and also placed in the upper half with 6 out of his 10 birds. At the January '76 National in Dayton, his showing was even more impressive. He took best silver, best bodymark, best almond, best powdered blue young hen, and best old black saddle. In all, 23 of his 32 birds placed in the first half.

Based on his information system, Bill changed many of his matings last year and feels that these changes have produced some exceptionally promising youngsters.

Others, such as Dave Cox from Pontiac, Mich., have adopted Diemer's methods and has already begun to reap the benefits of the systems approach.

As more and more breeders adapt these methods to their own use, there is no doubt that the results will become evident in the showroom. As Bill says, "Whether in business or in hobbies, good documentation is essential", and the products of this philosophy have elevated the hobby of Fantail breeding in Michigan.



# Racing Homers

## The ARPU Announces A Giant Step Forward

By MRS. EDNA SCIFRES, Pub. Dir., Greenville, S.C.

A special and important message from your AU President, Edward Tatum. A giant step forward has been made by the American Racing Pigeon Union with the establishment of a Special Aid Department to serve its members. The Department is headed by Harold L. ("Hack") Stanford of Bakerstown, Pa. The Staff is comprised of Alvin A. Becker, Stanley P. Biesiadecki, Dr. Edward Bland, Dr. Annelda Brauchle, Andre Gobert, Dr. Willard F. Hollander, Dr. Jack Hylton, Dr. Bruce Ostler, Dr. Charles Selman, and Harold Stanley. Experts all!

The purpose of this new Department is to serve the members who have problems or need answers in any area of the sport. The staff will cover all phases of the sport including: Loft construction, management, breeding, feeding, conditioning and health care. This Staff can also give expert advice in Chlamydial Infections, which is the organism which causes Psittacosis which is seen in the pigeon, and in pigeon breeders lung disease.

Without a doubt this special aid department will be a boon to Racing Pigeon fanciers wherever they may be located. It will be a great help, not only to the novice flyers, but to the veteran flyers as well.

For years people have asked: "What is the National Organization doing for us?" Here is your answer! If you do not avail yourself of the benefits which this department has to offer, then who do you blame but yourself! All requests for assistance in any area must be directed to the Chairman, Harold L. Stanford, Box 154, Bakerstown, Pa., 15007. Your letter must state exactly what your problem is. Mr. Stanford then directs your letter to the proper Staff Member for handling.

The American Racing Pigeon Union wishes to express its gratitude to the above mentioned individuals who have so willingly agreed to serve. They are truly pioneers in opening the way for the Advancement of our sport.

AU Hqs., Tampa, Fla., November 10-13 at the Tampa International Holiday Inn. The Greater Tampa Bay Center and host Chairman for the 1977 AU Convention sends Richard Parrino greetings to all and writes: "The Center is striving to make this year's Convention a most enjoyable and memorable one, and to achieve this end, many of our members are working diligently with their various committees.

Robert Herrick heads the Convention Book committee, and we certainly hope we can depend on your assistance through an advertisement from your club, as an individual with birds and interests, your business or personal greetings. The Who's Who at \$1 per listing is an ideal directory bargain and your support is vastly appreciated by the host city. For advertising rates: Full page \$60; ½ page \$35; ¼ page \$20, photo and special cuts \$5 extra. Publication deadline is August 15. Please send all ads with checks or money orders payable to Greater Tampa Bay Center to Robert M. Herrick, 12806 No. Boulevard, Tampa, Fla., 33612.

The Convention Agenda will be finalized and ready for publication in September, and hopefully the registration information will be included. Please note, the AU Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at 9 a.m. therefore all board members should make reservations for the evening of Nov. 8.

AU President Edward Tatum writes: "Busy is the word here, and we have been undergoing a rough time with the shock of John Nolan's passing. I just recently learned of Tom Peacock's trouble and hope is on the way to a speedy recovery. The weather has been so bad with rain, hail and tornadoes that to date I have not had birds in one race; hopefully will get to fly the last 400 and 500m later on. The information on 'Bronco' is enclosed, BCC-73-ACF-919, winner of AU Hall of Fame Honorable Mention in the 1976 OB Awards, with thanks to the HOF Committee Chairman and staff."

Congratulations to the Texas Center on their fine monthly publication forwarded by the PD Otis Thomas, thank you. The 1977 Convention will have Hqs. at the Hilton Inn in North Austin, IH 35 and US 290 E. on July 8-9th and best wishes go to all in "Bob Will's, and Ray Price Country" for a most successful event.

A nice note from Sec. Bill Morrow: "Sorry I am late, and thanks for your efforts" along with the information on his AU Champion "Miss America" Hall of Fame Awards for 50 and over lofts in the YB class. A fast and beautiful one. Congratulations Bill.

The Pittsburgh Center Newsletter from Pete Barry expressed the loss felt by all in the death of John Nolan recently. Of special interest was an article remembering among other strong experiences was time spent together in Australia dur-

ing World War II where the same dedication in service became a way of life in later years. Among happy photos a 55 year old classic of some "AU Greats", and Pete's lovely lady Charlotte. Bless you all.

To all Officers, Board Members, Appointed Chairmen and Program Directors. The Board of Directors have voted to appoint Russ Teller, 22701 56th Ave. W, Mount Lake Terrace, Wash., 98043. Phone: 1-206-778-9515, on the Board of Directors to replace John Nolan, Defiance, Ohio, who passed away on April 20, 1977. Russ Teller is a credit to the sport and the Union, having been very active in the growth of the Pacific Northwest Center of the ARPU and the Washington State Racing Pigeon Organization. The membership is fortunate to have Russ serve on the Board. — Charles Herin, AU Sec.

### Russ Teller

Russ Teller, active in the sport as a flyer and leader for 18 years is presently serving as President of the Northwest AU Center, 2nd Vice Pres. of the Washington State Concourse. He was honored as Man of the Year in the Evergreen Concourse, and for outstanding service for the Sno-King Combine. Active in WSRPO Show programs, and served as Chairman of the Show Judge's Selection Committee, and honored as Man of the Year in 1976 in the Washington State RPO, Russ Teller writes: "The record in part of my activities in the sport will shed some light on my interest and desire to serve our sport. I do not seek membership on the Board for any personal gain, but rather the sincere desire to serve the sport which has been so much a real part of my life over the years, and very rewarding to me also. In the last election in 1976 though losing by a scant 96 votes, I considered it a moral victory for an unknown 'first timer.'

"I consider it a high honor to serve on the Board of Directors, and will do my very best to serve our sport which we all desire to see grow, proper and gain in favor with the public. Sincerely — Russ Teller."

## Florida Flashes

By JACK KEEN

Orlando, Fla.

Central Florida Pigeon Fanciers Association has become a strong and compatible organization that must be recognized by all Fancy Pigeon buffs and Racing Homer people alike for their capabilities in the fields of constructive entertainment in the Orlando areas.

The CFPFA celebrated its first anniversary on May 15 at Downey Park off east Hwy. 50 with a meeting and entertainment with open barbecue and swimming under Florida sun skies.

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# Vincent D. Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund

By MORRIS COHEN, Pres., Philadelphia, Pa.

## Merit Band \$1000 Jackpot Subscribers

In April, the VDS Fund received the following entries for the many cash prizes to be awarded to young birds bearing the VDS Merit Bands. \$1000 in cash has been set aside, and selections will be made from outstanding race performances in regular club scheduled races. Dave Smith of the Woodside Flying Club of Waukesha, Wis., registered Merit bands on behalf of many of his members who donated \$40 and are now eligible for the \$1000 Jackpot prizes. In the Bay State RPC of Mass., Gerard LeBeau recorded \$20 in entries for 8 of his members. Fred Hunsinger of Berwick, Pa., signed up 9 members and sent \$30 to VDS Fund. Ed Dickey of the Valdosta RPA in Ga., paid for 10 members to compete in the Merit awards with a \$25 check. John E. Townsend of the Bountiful Utah RPC, has six Merit band contenders in the running with a \$6 contribution. Randall Berky, registered 25 VDS Merit bands for 9 members of the Lenape Pigeon Club, Bechtelsville, Pa. Lora Neufeld of the Antelope Valley RPC in Palmdale, Calif., recorded \$11 in Merit band sales to Jack Clutter and his son Bret, and to loft of Lee and Lora Neufeld. They both fly from the same loft in that beautiful part of Calif.

## Other Contributions For April

Frank Mellon of the Cape Cod HPC in Mass. \$10, for his many members, and \$10 more from W. P. Bunnell, Sec. of the Elizabeth City HPC in N.C. A. S. Venezia of the Indianapolis RPC contributed \$10 on behalf of 10 members. The Adams Racing Pigeon Club in Mass. donated \$5. Our staunch booster Carl Stone of the Coalinga RPC in Calif. sent \$10 for himself and three other members. Gino Balzarini, sent \$10 on behalf of his Cape Ann Pigeon Fliers in Gloucester, Mass. Melvin R. Menard and his Kankakee RPC in Ill. donated \$10. A most welcome check came from Norman Budinger of Woodland Hills, Calif. and Rhode Island Members Raymond Parmentier, Rene Pilon, and Herbert Straight each sent in two bucks, to record two VDS Merit bands. We do appreciate their sincerity and support, as we have recently awarded \$1000 to student nurses at St. Josephs Hospital School of Nursing in Providence, R.I. Their sec. Walt Mynarski has VDS Merit bands, and at last report he sold 20 of them to his members. We know he will do even better, as \$1000 more has been earmarked for very special student nurses at their local hospital diploma school of nursing, who are in dire need of assistance. Richard Young, our VDS Charity auction chairman in Denver, Colo., sent in \$495 from his great sale held in his area, and he will boost the net even higher with a special breeding project he is working on for benefit of VDS Fund. In the dynamic Detroit area, we always can count on

real support, such as the \$125 check received from the O.W.L. Flyers. They sold 50 VDS bands for \$5 each and sent us half of the \$250 realized. We hope they nominate some good Merit Band jackpot winners!

From Allison Park Pa., near Pittsburgh, came a wonderful check for \$510, signed by our kind benefactor John Guardalabene. John is the proud owner of the biggest stud of original Massarella birds in the state, and perhaps in the USA. He always sends in many bids for these great International champion stud birds. And John also has selected Belgian Imports from the top men of Belgium. All accumulated over the past five years at VDS charity auctions in Philadelphia. Our wonderful Detroit VDS Auction Chairman, Ted Shymansky, (a really great guy) sent us a fantastic VDS Merit Band Report for sales to his West Side Members, who invested (and donated) \$2.50 per VDS band, and 40 are signed up already! And again from Detroit, a \$45 gift from H. Olow and his group made back in February, was delivered finally, by our great postal service. We don't know if this was a personal gift from Mr. Olow, or his club, as no note was included along with the American Express money order, but we thank Mr. Olow, and all his Detroit friends. Incidentally, we have many applicants for the Joan O'Connell Memorial Nursing Scholarship, for highly qualified young ladies, who want to enroll at the Medical College of Pa. We will let you know who wins this choice full tuition paid scholarship, worth many thousands of dollars. Without our good boosters in Detroit, this marvelous nursing scholarship could not be offered!

## Join The Band Jackpot Game!

Many fanciers around the nation have complained that their club secretary being indifferent to the good VDS cause, and the \$1000 Merit band jackpot, and that VDS bands sent their club were just thrown away. Since they have fine young birds banded with their own club bands, it has been decided to allow these pigeons to compete for the Merit band jackpot too. All the fancier has to do, is "nominate" as many birds as he wants, from his 1977 young bird team, with a dollar donation! Just send us the band number, with donation, by August 30th, when your band number is recorded by that date, just drop us a line if the nominated pigeon has done well. And if the report is a good one, the nominated band numbers go to the VDS Merit Band Selection Committee. If this plan works out, and it should, who knows, this idea could mushroom to awarding thousands upon thousands of dollars to the fanciers. And of course "Dollars For Nurse Scholars" could benefit too, by setting aside a modest percentage for the charity scholarship fund. Letting fanciers

nominate their best youngsters with their own bands on the pigeons will really open the door on exciting National awards, much like the old, and very popular AU sealed Velocity awards, where many, many thousands of dollars were won by fanciers all over America. In our new idea, fancier will benefit handsomely, and American youth will gain the best nursing education.

## VDS Imports Breed Winners

Over the past six years, Dollars For Nurse Scholars, have received gift pigeons from prominent Racing Pigeon fanciers in Belgium, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Holland, West Germany, Canada, France and South Africa. It is with great pleasure that we receive glowing reports of the success that our VDS auction buyers have had with their young birds bred directly off the imported pigeons. The prices paid for the overwhelming majority of pigeons have been modest, much lower than the prices one would pay for importing birds on an individual basis. VDS benefactors usually bought their birds for much under a \$100 each. Usually from \$50 to \$70 per bird. Of course certain U.S. fanciers went after the Louis Massarella donated birds, such as the dire young birds off of Workman, (\$2800 paid by Richard Farr of Minn.), and another Richard Farr purchase of a direct daughter from Champion Motta for \$3100 at a Philadelphia VDS Louella Loft sale. Blood and breeding will tell, because a Richard Farr youngster was beat fractions of a yard for 1st place in a giant Arizona classic, flying against the best of American bred young birds. And consider the tremendous flying record of Tom Nettis with his repeated wins against the strongest competition in America, the North Jersey clubs and combines. And in the state of Del., Harold and Carol Stanley have won time and again with VDS acquired pigeons from England and Belgium. In the Greater Philadelphia area, Dr. Tomassetti has scored often with his young VDS purchases from English and Belgian birds. Joe Gydos, of the well known Apollo Lofts in Norristown, Pa., just won a whole flock of 500 mile titles in end of May 1977 racing in several large combines and clubs in the Mid-West, we know why VDS birds are quickly bought at our Cleveland and Elgin, Ill., sales. Winners for many lofts, time and again over the past 5 years.

A single VDS auction in Ariz., produced many, many young bird winners in their big Desert Invitational race, plus other local Arizona club races. In N.J., Rube McIntyre leads a large flock of fanciers flying and winning with VDS progeny from Belgian and English imports. This entire edition could be filled with happy stories of VDS winners from Coast to Coast. And in our 51st state of Hawaii, our VDS supporters are winning over the toughest race courses in the world, over the Pacific ocean areas, far from the sight of any land. These particular pigeons are from the late Frans Weynants,

(Continued on page 454)



# Southern Racing Pigeon Association News

By MRS. EDNA SCIFRES, Pub. Dir., Greenville, S.C.

SRPA Hqs., Wilmington, N.C. — The 1977 Convention City waits to welcome you, and an outstanding program has been arranged for the enjoyment of all. President David Temple recently hospitalized for surgery reports speedy recovery and improved health. Our best wishes are extended as we look forward to a great race, show, ladies program and festivities in Wilmington, with the Baldwin super-greats, Will, Peg, Tom, Bud and Jimmy spearheading the program, and the President's lady, Marny adding enthusiasm and efforts.

Convention Ch. Will Baldwin advises the race birds are coming in well, and the support is appreciated. Repeating the address for shipping the race birds. David B. Temple Jr., c/o Piedmont Airlines, Wilmington, N.C. Phone 919-799-1985. Home address: 350 Toulon Drive, Wilmington, N.C., 28401.

The first 210 birds only will be accepted, fee \$25 per bird with all entry fees returned in capital prizes, paying 20 prizes with \$1500 first prize to the winner. Call Will Baldwin at 919-791-2606 for further information. Replacement pigeons, in the event of death or loss may be sent up to August 1st, '77. Enjoyed a call from Fritz Kliphuis of Holland, Mich., hoping to repeat his 1975 first prize Convention race success in 1977, good luck and best wishes.

The Convention show as always ranks among the biggest and best in the USA and as an open show, all top competition is invited. Appreciate inquiries from Joseph Denesi and Robert Wetcher. Please write Will Baldwin, 4617 Long Leaf Hills Dr., Wilmington, N.C., 28401 and request that your name be placed on the mailing list for the Convention literature.

The first in the SHPA OB series was the Joe Engel Handicap (SRPA banded) 300m flown on May 1 under adverse conditions for many cities. Of the 26 cities participating, 50% failed to report and the thunderstorms covering Ga., Carolinas and Tennessee were a big factor. Columbus, Ga. took 1st SRPA diploma for George Dorer with 1266.69 as winning speed. Dr. Kronk of Ft. Lauderdale, Jim Deville of Alexandria, Va. and Chris Jacobi of Indian River took next three places. Sleepy Elam's Putmans came through in Chattanooga for 5th place while Steve Jenkins in Norfolk, Va. and Fred Arant in Barnwell, Ga., Mike Anika in Savannah and Barry Tucker in Charleston stayed in the prizes. The last SRPA diploma and prize went to George Smith, our past PPC member flying with Spartanburg, S.C. and the happiest in the SRPA reporting his 1st club win "with a Scifre's bird beating 12 lofts!" Congratulations to all, we liked that too knowing the competition in Spartanburg is excellent.

Just out of the money was Keith Furtick of Augusta, Ga.; Stacy Carter from

the Swamp Fox club (and thank you for the ride in the brand new Mark V Continental which was Martha Cassidy Carter's gift for helping clock the club winner!) and finally R. George of Valdosta whose birds all did a fantastic job of making through the downpours.

Thanks to SRPA Race Sec. Frank Price for handling the race, and the advance results. The SRPA Open 300m was flown May 15th and results will appear later, the final SRPA 500m Open to be flown May 28.

It appears that many of our clubs are losing members and it is difficult to find a solution to the problem. The Piedmont HPC of Greenville, forced to pass up the OB series invites and welcomes active participants in racing competition. Recently located in Greenville, Dan Kohler formerly of the Raleigh, N.C. area stopped by and plans to have a loft established and birds down the road come YB season which is welcome news. Somehow we must find the cure for tired blood in our sport!

The Ramada Inn on 291 Bypass and Interstate 85 welcomes you to the PPC Summer Show on July 9-10th where the hospitality and competition is unequalled. Entry fee \$1 per bird, trophies on 16 classes for Young Birds, 6 classes for Old Birds and Champion Young and Old Birds. Ribbons to three places, auction birds from top lofts and prizes. Social festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday in the PPC Hospitality room. Show begins at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Please note! New Phone No. for Show Chairman, Edna Scifres, 803-277-5405 or call H. W. Bayne 246-3938 for further information. Call Ramada toll free 800-228-2828 or Direct 277-3734.

A special welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Gallagher of Smithburg, Md., and SRPA member W. C. Cowart of Savannah, Ga. planning to share this fine event for the first time. We appreciate so much those who travel so far to support our activities. A call from Gay Elam to remind all of the need for early reservations at the Quality Inn, toll free 800-323-5151 for the Chattanooga YB show on July 2-3 at the club house. See last issue for details, and happy to hear that good friends Roy and Mary Hatchard plan to attend and enjoy this fine annual event with us all.

A call from D. J. Nabors advises that plans are being made for a fall show in the Cleveland, Tenn. area and should attract some good competition. It is encouraging to note the interest in good Racing Pigeon shows and respect the handful of hard workers who contribute much time and effort toward the success of the shows. To date the fall show calendar lists only the Piedmont HPC Annual Show on Nov 5-6 and the SRPA Convention Show Dec. 3. Advise me in writing of any more scheduled shows in the south-

ern states please, we all enjoy these social events.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to past SRPA Pres. Tom Peacock from all. Tom suffered a mild heart attack with some complications but advised much improvement. Good luck to participants in the 1000m race ACT promoted by Sec. Harold Driver of Durham, N.C., and thanks to Jerry Crawford of Houston, Texas as liberator. Release May 26 and let's hope the weather is favorable for these super-birds.

SRPA Directors: Please list your membership in an Ad for the 1977 Convention Book. To keep in touch we must have your name and address. Support the sport and the SRPA Convention host club, and we'll see you for a happy time in Wilmington, N.C., December 1-4.

## Vincent D. Snyder Scholarship Fund

(Continued from page 453)

and other youngsters from the Denys Bliksem family, plus the great performances of a team of ten West German young birds sold under the supervision of VDS chairman Burt Muira in Honolulu.

The quality of VDS Import birds are so well established that serious buyers send blank checks to the sales, on a "Buy At Any Price" basis, when we get direct original imports for auction from the lofts of the great fanciers of Belgium, such as Andre Van Bruaene, Descamps Van Hasten, Leo Marit with his wonderful Roosen family, Maurits Beuselincx Cattrysse, Maurice Delbar, Robert Venus, De Noore and Son, Leon Lietaer, P. and E. Daenen, Frans Labeu Roger Veerecke, Pol Bostyn, Jules Gallez, Marcel Desmet, and just about each and every living fancier, featured in the history of the Belgian Strains, the best book ever written on contemporary and past masters of the Belgian sport of Racing Pigeons. Occasionally cheap shots are taken at imported Belgian birds. American VDS auction buyers are smart enough to discount those sour grape comments, and take into recognition the exceptional good records of our fine Belgian and other foreign benefactors.

## Contributions For May

David Lara of the Northglenn Pigeon Club in Colo. sent in \$25 for his VDS \$1000 Merit band sales to 9 members. \$40 came from Frank Zedan of the San Francisco Calif. Racing Pigeon Club Merit bands No. 9261 through 9300. The Greater Hammond Ind. RPC settled for their Merit band purchases with a \$30 gift check. The great secretary of the Capitol City RPC in Columbia, S.C. sent \$18 and a nice report on his efforts with Merit bands. John Furio of the Wellwood Homing Pigeon Club contributed \$5 for his small club in Farmington, N.Y. \$5 came from Joseph Medeiros Jr. of Somerset, Mass. for his Merit bands. Merit bands No. 101 and 102 were paid for by Richard Hurteau of the R.I. Club in Woonsocket. Albert Parent of Cumberland, R.I., registered his "luck Merit bands", No. 37, 38.



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**\$1 Nominated Bird Competition**

A large number of Merit bands were sent to U.S. clubs to compete for the \$1000 Jackpot of cash prizes. Few returns have really been made, mostly because of disinterested club secretaries, who are too busy to want to help Dollars For Nurse Scholars. It has been decided to go directly to the fancier and let them nominate their own banded birds, with their own club bands. So, now the individual fancier, can compete with his own banded birds, just by nominating the pigeon. Look your young birds over. Jot down the number of the most promising, and send a \$1 Nomination Fee for each bird to VDS Fund. You instantly qualify your nominated bird for the \$1000 in jackpot prizes, should this bird fly and win in the 1977 YB series. Nominate by Aug. 30th, and notify VDS Fund if the nominated birds does well by Nov. 30th. The VDS "Nominated Bird Jackpot" could lead the way to many thousands of dollars being distributed nationwide. Support this idea to help "Dollars For Nurse Scholars" and the Pigeon Sport of America. My address: 1146 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19123.

**Florida Flashes**

(Continued from page 452)

Many thanks are offered to the constructive activists who made this meeting under a large pavillion a constructive effort to forward the fancy. Included are Emil Donner, Frank Variello, Roy Fain, Chuck Bagby, Roland Racey, Janet Jewer, and Shirley Bagby. Dr. Frank Bagala with his English Trumpeters.

Jerry Neff of the Orlando HPC offered an instructive talk on the Race Homer aspect.

The June Summer Invitational will be held on June 19 at the Orange County Agriculture Center, 235 Michigan Ave., Orlando. Show secretary Leo Ferron anticipates 500 entries of the fancy bird strains and race homers will compete.

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# My Experience With Fantails

By TOM PRITCHETT, Enid, Okla.

Having had Fantails for the major part of my life, I knew that I would probably re-enter the hobby upon returning to civilian life from the U.S. Navy. While in Vietnam I had received the 1968 Fantail Special, and had devoured it from cover to cover turning it into a doggy-looking state. I'm sure I read and re-read it nearly as much as my first Fantail Special way back in 1961.

Upon returning from Vietnam I was stationed in San Diego, the home of the Seventh Fleet and Gerald Champ. I was determined to take this opportunity to view first hand one of, if not the best, stud of whites in the U.S. I called Mr. Champ, and he invited me out the following Saturday. I hitched a ride with the mail truck to Rosecrans Street, and I still remember that long walk up the hills of Garrison Street to the Champ residence. The Champs had a beautiful home overlooking the harbor and nicer people you'll never meet. This was the first of several Saturdays and Sundays spent with Mr. Champ and Earl Clark, listening and enjoying Fans. I'll never forget the pleasant times spent with these fine gentlemen.

Prior to my separation from the Navy, I acquired two pairs from Mr. Champ, and he shipped them to my good friend, Jay Stone, who kept them for me until I could build a suitable loft for them.

The first loft wasn't much, but it worked well until I could finish my present one. It was a 4' x 7' packing crate remodeled with windows and a shed roof, but a coat of paint did wonders for it. I raised several useful birds in that packing crate loft that season. I still recall the anticipation I felt as I placed my birds in the shipping crate for Menominee Falls, Wis. to the Central Fantail Club meet in January 1971. It wasn't exactly a banner year for us, but that 2nd place ribbon meant as much to me as Champion would to some.

The next year I mated my Fans in their new loft, and that's where we've been doing business ever since. My loft is small, 8' x 12', divided in half with one side for breeding pairs and the other for youngsters. I usually breed no more than six pairs; this keeps my birds from becoming overcrowded, and I believe I can breed just as good of Fans with six pairs as I could with twelve. The bigger breeders certainly have the odds more in their favor, but once in a while we'll sneak one by them, so it isn't all one-sided.

I prefer to breed my pairs in individual compartments 36" x 24" x 16" high, because I've found that my birds seem to do better. They don't have to fight off intruders and they can devote their time to caring for their youngsters, who seem to get a better start in life as they learn by watching the parents eat and seem to rapidly pick it up. Also, I know for sure

who the youngsters are out of, and I don't have to wonder why one set looked good and the other set didn't. It's just a matter of preference, however, you can breed Fans about anyway you want; they're not particular. All they require is a nest box and clean feed and water.

When the youngsters are old enough to wean; I transfer them to a weaning pen with others their own age until they learn to eat and drink well by themselves. The next step is the floor of the young bird pen where they can learn to walk and handle themselves until after the moult. After they moult I give them as much time as possible, but the ones that don't make it don't stick around long.

I break up my pairs in July and pull the spikes out of their tails so they can start growing a new set of feathers for the winter shows. I don't give my birds bath water, because it's impractical during the breeding season, and I don't want the floor of the loft wet when I'm trying to condition a bunch of birds. I've found if you keep the birds uncrowded and the floor litter clean that they'll stay clean and condition themselves quite easily.

That's about all the secrets I know about raising and showing Fans, except buy the best stock birds available and attend and show at as many shows as possible. Talk to reliable breeders about the points of good birds and read and study the Standard, then study it some more. Every question you have is answered there; you just have to be intelligent enough to find it. Actually, there aren't any secrets; mostly good common sense and the stick-to-it attitude it takes to stay with it until you can achieve your goals. Don't ever run out of goals; just set higher ones. The Fantail Fancy is worthwhile and rewarding endeavor, and those that stay with it receive many rewarding experiences, lasting endeavors and a feeling of satisfied accomplishment.

The opportunities for new fanciers in the Fantail Fancy are at an all time high; more good quality Fans in every color and marking are being bred than ever before. The opportunity to obtain top quality breeding stock is available to those interested enough to join a specialty club and endeavor to breed the dainty queens of the fancy. Come join us in raising and showing these lovely and petite heart throbs of the Pigeon Fancy.

## Dove Doings

(Continued from page 449)

the height becomes a liability to the safety of the eggs or the young. When this occurs, this writer removes the surplus nesting material and drops it to the floor. The cock bird seems to observe this at once and will fly to the floor, pick up the same straw, fly up to the nest and replace it in almost the same

spot from which it was taken! The process was repeated the same way 3 or 4 times, and each time the cock reacted in the same manner! Often he would give out a short grunt-like coo to express his disapproval, a sort of a "no-no", so as to say, "Don't try to show me how to run my house!" Probably there are many of you readers who have made similar observations of your birds.

This may interest many of the fanciers, both pigeons and doves. An article appeared in one of the news media that an airline is soon (or is now) in operation that will specialize in hauling freight, or rather we should say, flying freight of various kinds. The name of this airline is Emory Air Freight. Nothing more was mentioned except that it will be a rapid service. This should be interesting to all fanciers, and we hope that costs will be in line with our purses. Lack of a suitable handling of shipments of birds has been a terrible handicap to all fanciers. Nothing discourages any hobby more than the lack of communication, and in this, the Fancy is twice as vulnerable.

## The National Saddle Fantail Club

By RON SCHWARTZ, Sec.-Treas.,  
Paramount, Calif.

Why have a specialty club for saddle-marked Fantails? Are not saddles the same as other Fantails? Of course they are; but because there has been a decrease of interest in breeding and showing them, they are gradually disappearing from our showrooms. It became clear that something should be done. Through the efforts of some "die-hard" breeders, such as our president Floyd Dirth and a few others, they organized such a club for the saddle-marked Fantail pigeon.

In the first year the NSFC has gained a membership of some 46 pigeon fanciers throughout the United States and Canada. This is a clear indication that there are breeders interested in the challenge present for developing the saddle strains. And, with a lot of determination, patience and cooperative effort, we can reverse the trend and bring those beautiful saddles back into the showroom.

## Thanks To The National Fantail Club of Canada

By DOMENIC ZARLENGA,  
Willowdale, Ont., Canada

I am writing this to thank some great fanciers in Fantails who have helped me immensely as a junior member of the National Fantail Club of Canada. They are Jan and Fred Koops who have given me a pair of quality blue Fantails, Bill Roberts of Willowdale who has sold me some of his best powdered silver Fantails and Chris Buss who has taught me quite a lot about the finer points of raising the Fantail breed.

I would like to say that the hardest task that I have in front of me is learning the proper technique of lacing the tails. If any members of the National Fantail Club of Canada could teach me how to lace tails, I would really appreciate it very much.



# All The Colors Of The Rainbow

By DON BUHR, Cresco, Iowa

One needs only to visit one of the large annual Fantail Club specialty club shows, or check the recent show reports of these club's shows to see the increase in popularity and improvement of the new colors in Fantails. In the past 10 years we have come from no class at all to 10 and 12 birds in a color class for Andalusian Fantails. Classes a few years ago that had 1 and 2 birds have now increased to 6, 8, and 10 bird classes. This may not seem like very dramatic increase to some, but when the small number of breeders we have working with the new colors are considered, I think you'll agree we have been making good progress toward popularizing the new colors and markings.

Higher feed costs, shipping charges, show entry fees, and the inflation of everything else the fanciers must buy have certainly not helped further the new colors. A number of fanciers have had to cut back the number of pairs they breed from. The first cut many times have been the new colors and experimental matings.

Looking at where we stand with each of the newer colors, should help us see where we are, and what we have to accomplish in the future.

Grizzles are one of the older, newer colors, actually seen in the shows since mid-1960's, when the writer first began showing Grizzles in the AOC classes. Since then they have gathered a small following of loyal breeders. Some really outstanding Blue and Powdered Blue Grizzles have been bred. A number of very attractive Black, Red, Yellow, and Dun Spread Grizzles, and Ash Red Grizzles have also been shown the last few years. A number of breeders have proven they can be bred as good as any Whites, Blacks or Blues, now only time will tell, if they hold their own, or increase, or decline in popularity.

Ash Reds and Yellows made their appearance in the shows about the same time as Grizzles. An old Ash Red Bar Sooty (Mealy) Cock bred in 1963, I believe to be the foundation of all the Ash Red Reds and Yellows in this country. Some very good type birds have been bred by a handful of breeders over the last few years. It's hard to understand why more fanciers have not taken up this truly beautiful color. Type improvement can be rapid if top quality Blues and Silvers are used in the breeding program.

Almonds. — A little over half Fantail-Roller out-cross was the beginning of show type Almond Fantails in this country. This cock bird was used on other color Fantail hens. A small beginning by two or three fanciers showing in the AOC class has grown into an Almond class of up to a dozen very good type Almonds. The large, top quality classes at the recent Ray LaFleur Memorial Classic Show in Madison, Wis., was a real tribute to the Almond color and its breeders.

Powdered Ash Reds. — Or Pinks as I call them, I have shown for several years now, in both bars and checkers. Despite the fact they are a very attractive and unusual color, they have yet to catch the interest of any of the serious breeders. I suspect the reason being the same one as why Ash Reds and Yellows have not caught on, whatever that is? I have some very good type Pink Bars and Checkers, and am working on improving the Cream Bars and Checkers. Next year just might be the year for these colors to catch fire.

Powdered Silvers are presently in a state of limbo. Since I was primarily responsible for getting our specialty clubs to change the color description from Powdered Silver to Powdered Blue, I feel responsible for placing Powdered Silver in the color description section of our Standard along with Powdered Blue. As it stands now, some people are confused as to whether there really is such a thing as Powdered Silver. I can assure you there is. I have them, and so do a few other fanciers. They have been showing up in the AOC classes at the Fantail club shows. With a little luck and a lot of hard work, maybe we can put together a Powdered Silver class and get them up there right along side the Powdered Blues where they belong!

Andalusians have caught on surprisingly fast in the last five years. The dominant Indigo factor combined with Black is responsible for the color. Quality in type is almost unbelievable. This past year I bred a young Andalusian hen I consider the best Fantail I have ever bred. She was raised in the same nest with another Andalusian hen of excellent type. There are some really top Andalusians in several lofts throughout the U.S.A. With quality and interest both running high, I predict even stronger competition and bigger classes in this color in years ahead.

Indigo in the bar and checker patterns have not become popular yet, but are very attractive, and I think have great possibilities of catching on, as soon as a few good type birds can be bred and shown. I am working with some Indigo matings this year, and hope to get a stud of these started. They can be bred in all other colors and color altering factors.

Reduced is a recessive, and sex-linked factor first discovered by Carl Graefe of Ohio in 1941. Leslie Bolling of Kansas laid the ground work of introducing the factor to Fantails. In recent years a number of his birds have been distributed throughout the Fancy, to continue his work. Since the factor is recessive and sex-linked, reproducing and improving the color altering factor becomes more involved. Because of this, I don't think we will be seeing very much of these in the shows right away, even though the factor can produce many beautiful colors.

What about the future of the new colors? I for one am very optimistic about the future of the rare and unusual colors and markings. I've seen the progress we have made the past 10 to 12 years. It's not been rapid progress and it's not been easy. We still have a long way to go.

What's needed to improve the many new colors and markings? We need a better understanding among the new color breeders of what is wanted, and how to breed it. We need to get valuable color breeding information in the hands of breeders, and perspective breeders. A lot of people shy away from colors they don't understand or are not familiar with.

More breeders are needed. More dedicated breeders. Fanciers that are willing to work hard bringing a color up to Standard with very little reward, praise, or recognition. We need judges who don't look down their noses at the newer colors. There has been an improvement in this area, but there are still too many judges that really don't take judging the new colors seriously.

And last, we need to change the attitude of too many beginning Fantail fanciers. This attitude is that the only goal or worth while accomplishment in the Fancy is to win the Grand Champion award. Win it at all cost, beg, borrow, or steal that bird or pair of birds it will take to win it! It is a great honor and accomplishment, and many deserving Fantail fanciers have won the award. But too many fanciers have set out with only this goal in mind. They lose all sight of the hobby as a whole, and its many rewards. Color breeding can be one of those enjoyable parts of the Fancy. If you haven't known the joy and satisfaction of bringing a new and unknown color up to Standard, you've missed a great deal.

## The Passing of J. T. Buchanan

By BOB VINCENT, Grand Prairie, Alta., Canada

It is with deep regret that I inform the Fantail Fancy of the passing of Jack Buchanan of St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

In the 1930's, Jack raised the fashionable silver fox, followed a decade later by Old English Games. Once he laid his eyes on a Fantail, Jack had discovered the bird he would promote for the next three decades.

A long time supporter of the Canadian Fantail Club, he was schooled by its founder, the late Colonel Rose. The Colonel's love of saddles was perpetuated in the Buchanan loft. Jack bred many champions and aided newcomers to produce more.

How I cherish the winter evenings we spent reliving shows, and planning next year's matings. I will always remember my association with Jack Buchanan, my teacher and friend.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, sons, John and Donald and grandchildren. His contribution to the Fantail Fancy in Canada will long be remembered.



# Saddles — High On A New Wave of Popularity

By DON BUHR, Cresco, Iowa

Saddle breeders come and go, and just a few years ago, it seemed that most of them had gone! But now all that has changed. Saddles are making a come back. The push is on to breed that Saddle that will surpass any Fantail ever bred! The day is at hand for someone to breed that "Super Saddle". I can just see it now. Everyone around his coop talking and pointing with a lot of Oh's and Ah's. The "Super Saddle" wins Champion Saddle of course and goes on to the Grand Champion line-up. And would you look at him up there!

All the Saddle breeders are all smiles, talking happily, and cheering the "Super Saddle" on. And can you believe it, the judge is actually looking at the Saddle! Our "Super Saddle" is looking great! Oh no! The judge is looking at the White now. The White's a good one, but not as good as the Saddle. "What's the matter with that idiot?! Can't he see that's the best Saddle ever to set foot in a walking pen?" He's poking the White with his judging stick. What? The White is sulking in the corner. All the other colors and markings are just standing there, looking at the "Super Saddle", admiring his beautiful round body. And would you look at that tail! It's as big, round, and flat as a dinner plate, and a large dinner plate at that! Top tail! Look at that top tail! And look at how he parades around in the walking pen. And to top it all off, perfectly marked, and would you believe it, beautiful, deep, rich color too! What a beautiful Fantail! Just like those models on the trophies, and the pictures of the ideal Fantail. A cheer goes up from the crowd of spectators! The Saddle wins! The Saddle is Grand Champion Fantail!

This little scene may be a bit overdone, but let's face it Saddle breeders, that's the kind of Saddle it's gonna take to win it all. A good one just isn't good enough. We've had quite a few of these. But when they get up there with all the other colors and markings, they get a glance or two from the judge, and that's all she wrote.

How are we going to breed that "Super Saddle"? Not by dreaming about it, that's for sure. First of all, we are going to have to breed a lot more good Saddles. To do this we are going to have to concentrate harder on all the major and minor points in the breeding pen. I think we are spreading our really good Saddles too thin. I'm guilty of this myself. We all would be a lot better off, if we would breed from a few less pairs, and concentrate more on quality rather than quantity.

Here is a list of points we've got to pay more attention to, listed in what I feel is their order of importance:

**Leg Setting:** — This is the first thing I look for when I purchase a Fantail for breeding. It's also the first thing I look

for in a Fantail when I pick up a bird to enter in a show. As a building must have a good foundation, so must a Fantail have good legs to stand on and walk.

Without correct leg setting a Fantail cannot roll up into the desired position and walk in the proper manner. Lacking proper leg setting a Saddle Fantail cannot be given 25 points allowed for carriage and motion, and should also lose points for legs and feet, carrying another 15 points. This foundation area alone carries a maximum of 40 points! How many Fantails can win that are failing in legs? Not many.

As the Standard states: Legs, moderately short, 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 hocks.

**Carriage and Motion:** — The bird should walk in a jaunty manner on its toes with its head thrown back in a graceful manner, and resting with ease, closely in the center at the base of cushion.

One of the most common faults I've found today's Saddles having, is poor leg setting. The legs are most often set too far back on the body, so the bird cannot lock them in position. When in show position the show Fantail should be up on its toes, legs locked in straight position, which conforms roughly to the angle of the body structure from the top of the breast to the feet.

Fantails that bend at the knees or leg joint when attempting to show either have their legs set too far back, or their legs are too long, or both. With these faults it is very difficult, if not sometimes impossible for the bird to get into correct show position and walk. Occasionally you will run into a Fantail that can show, but won't, but these are few and far between. If they're built right, they'll show right.

A Saddle with poor legs should be cut 20-40 points when judged. If docked 20 points, this would be about the same as showing a Fantail with its tail jerked out! Tail counts 20 points. You often see Fantails in shows failing in legs, but I've never seen one shown without a tail!

**Head Position.** — Involves not only the head, but also the cushion where the head must rest, when the bird is in show position and walking. This resting place on the cushion for the head is most often referred to as the pocket. Poor head position usually indicates the bird is not getting its head down into the pocket as it should. This is usually caused by one of three things, either the bird has been bred too short, that is its body is just too short and there is no room for the head to rest on the cushion. The bird appears too short coupled, or pushed together, with not enough body length for a well developed cushion. Poor head set-

ting can also be caused by the bird having a narrow cushion, and hardly any pocket for the head to rest in. Poor head position may also be due to the birds having too long a neck, with the head riding high on the cushion, or off to one side, as is usually the case when the bird is "tight in the pocket" or has a narrow cushion. Bad head setting detracts from the over-all beauty of the bird and often prevents it from rolling up into proper show position and walking. Faulty head position is most often used by judges to get rid of a bunch of birds in a hurry when they are trying to cut down the number in a class.

**Round Body:** — Is easy enough to describe, but not so easy to breed. Here again there are several areas that all help to make up the "round as a ball" body that is described. First of all the body should appear round beginning at the bottom, that is under the belly. I don't care for the little "fluff balls" that have pants of loose feathers down by the legs. I think it detracts from the real roundness a Fantail should have. Loose feathers can cover body structure shortcomings, and may help make the bird appear round, when it really isn't. I like a Fantail that is round, with nice tight feathers, and a body that feels solid in the hands.

As the Standard states: The body should appear round when viewed from all angles. This includes the front, which is most often over looked by both breeders and judges. The late Gerald Champ watched this point very closely. Fantails that did not have a nice, full, front and wings that covered well didn't place well when he judged. Jerry liked to see, as he termed it, the "Knife-Edged" wings.

**Wing butts** that stick out in front of the chest and sunken or pinched chest area certainly detract from the over-all roundness of the body and should be avoided. I think the problem with breeding round bodies on our Saddles is we are working with so many different shapes and sizes. Stay away from the "odd-shaped" Saddles. It's very difficult to breed a nice round body on a Fantail that's not shaped right to begin with.

**Large Tail:** — Is also an important part of our Saddle Fantail. But I feel it is not an area we have neglected. It's true there are quite a few Saddles with small and poorly shaped tails, and there certainly is room for improvement. But we do have the material to work with, and with careful attention in this respect I think we can breed bigger and better tails on our Saddles. The small and poor shaped tailed Saddles should be culled, and try and use Saddles with the best tails whenever possible in your breeding program. This I'm quite sure almost everyone is already doing. And of course we should try to develop good, strong cushions along with large tails, so they have the proper support. A large, full cushion is equally as important as a large full tail.

**Good Color:** — I think color is being



over looked more than markings, that's why I have it listed ahead of proper marking. Producing good color should always be in the back of our minds when we mate up. Type of course is more important, but color should not be forgotten.

With the colors we are presently working with in Saddles we are rather limited as to what colors we can inter-mate successfully without going backwards color-wise. Our Red and Yellow Saddles are Ash Red Spread, and its dilute, Ash Yellow Spread. These two colors can be mated together very well, but when they are mated to other colors, such as Black, Blue and Powdered Blue, the color of the young will suffer. Indiscriminate color and pattern crossing in Saddles can bring serious trouble to sound color. There is nothing more beautiful than perfectly marked Saddle with rich, deep, color.

Proper Marking: — In my opinion is the easiest of all points to produce when breeding Saddles. This is not to say you should not pay attention to the Saddles markings, and mate with careless abandon. Not at all. The Saddle has "Mother

Nature" on its side, and is not difficult to produce or maintain with a little care and common sense when you mate your birds.

Over-Marked Saddles should not be mated together. Under-Marked Saddles should not be mated together. These two marking faults can be mated together to balance out the marking area with good results, or mate them too well marked Saddles. Even with the above procedure, a number of Saddles will be produced that are not well marked. Some can be "plucked" when entered in a show. Others must be used for "breeders only". This is something we Saddle breeders have learned to accept.

Working harder on all these points should bring about much improvement in our Saddles. We have the material, the breeding stock to work with, and we have the fanciers to breed them. Interest has never been higher than it is today. And we have never had a more talented, serious, dedicated group of Saddle breeders. This time lets put them up there where they belong, on top, winning their share of the major awards.

## Fantails and the Science of Genetics

By BOB McKEE, Vanderbilt, Pa.

I believe that by now, fanciers are aware that the science of genetics has become a part of our hobby. I think also, that its association has taken some sort of foothold in the Fantail Fancy as well as many other breeds. The degree to which this science has affected each breed varies, of course. Our Fantail Fancy has seen the introduction of many new colors. i.e. grizzle, indigo, dominant opal, ice, ribbon tail, almonds, etc. Some of these have, in fact, come to a point of perfection; others remain to be a challenge to the breeders within or outside the Fantail Fancy. These new colors producing a situation in which new fanciers, now outside the Fantail Fancy, may be attracted to breed Fantails and specifically undertaking one of the many challenges opened by the new colors. We should say that the science of genetics takes in all that is inherited within the species and that most of our breeders spend much of their time with the color inheritance part only. By no means are we limited to just color genetics; the type we desire is also controlled under the same rules.

I am afraid here, that I just stay with the common sense rules of mating, set forth by our forefathers. That's not so bad when you think of the colors some of these men have produced without any actual scientific help, as well as type. The difference lies in the fact that I want to understand the "whats" and the "whys". The scientifically proven facts go a long way compared to hit and miss tactics. Even with all these things in mind, let me say that I like a combination of the facts and the common sense matings

governed by the experiences learned by ourselves and others. Face it, we haven't even scratched the surface on color breeding; let alone the genome that controls type. So when you hit that unknown, don't punt, just fall back to that point blend mating. And if your still not a believer in the latter, just look around at some of the great colorations in the various breeds as well as the type. What did they know!

Beyond the fancier, there are the genetics people. These would include your scientists and graduate students that just love to play with the changes produced by nature, or the depths of the unknowns—i.e. behavior patterns, web feet, pink eye dilute, pop eye, etc. Such a bore! Alas my friends, herein lies the secrets of life itself; its magnificent mechanisms, the basis of life. We must thank these people for their dedication. But more important, the time they take from their studies to help you and I with our breeding programs. And so to the Doctor, Willard Hollander, to the Joe Quinns and the Dave Rineharts, we are forever in your debt for passing on the knowledge you have so long labored. Thanks from the Fancy.

If, by now, you have not heard of the Pigeon Science and Genetics News edited by our infamous David Rinehart; then let me say this publication is very interesting! No, it does not contain all the answers, to all your questions; but it does give you an insight to other breeders' experiences. Suppose you are just taking up the breeding of the almond Fantail. You want all the known information so as not to start from scratch, it's there,

and as factual as can be, not old wives tales that some people tell you. Careful now, you get the Facts as far as they go, (that ain't too far sometimes) then I have found that the true fancier of any breed can help you even further, if you can understand what he is telling you. You must be able to translate exactly what he is telling you into factual or non-factual information. For instance he tells you he uses a yellow agate with a black kite to get classical almonds. This can be deceiving for the best of us. For instance, if you study the man's breeding habits closely you will find he favors the yellow agate. He makes such a mating and has produced many almonds. If you would ask any of the genetic buffs about this mating, they would say the man is wrong. Or that the results are part of infidelity which occurs in an open breeding pen. This breeder has bred his birds for 40 years with the same fine results.

Herein, my friends, comes the confusion of breeder verses geneticist. This has in the past held people away from the scientist and his knowledge. Things are changing now, not because the science has changed to agree with the breeder or vice versa. The reason things are changing is the understanding instead of misunderstanding between the two groups. This misunderstanding has all happened because of terminology, our beloved American language. It isn't so bad the scientists have theirs, but it seems each breeder has his own. So who's wrong, who is right? Let us return to our example mating. To the genetic buff a kite and agate can never breed an almond. To the breeders who have done it for near two centuries, they can and will continue to breed almonds from such matings. The catch my friends is that the breeders yellow agate is a DeRoy Agate. These are almond factor birds. Both sides will now agree on the results.

The second place a man might get confused is the use of "black" kite. Again kites are not black according to our genetic buffs. But here's this breeder again looking at the thing, and to him, the bird is black. Black is spread factor on blue. Spread on blue bar isn't as good a black as some kites I have seen. So our breeder goes again by what he sees. This kite is black to him. When he tells me that, I think of spread blue. It ain't! Let's put it another way: There are black saddles and black saddles. A breeder of Fantail renown once got rid of all his bronzy black saddles as they indeed were poor colored blacks. They were kites essentially, not spread black. The breeder got rid of the entire stud of saddle Fantails and started over. That wouldn't have been necessary had he realized he had lost the spread factor. When any man says black, when he says yellow agate, when he says anything! You had better know exactly what he is talking about in terms you understand, and preferably in the universal language called nomenclature for a particular science, herein, called genetics.



## Wanted: Women Fantail Fanciers

By JOAN BUHR, Cresco, Iowa

Women in the Fancy? Why not? Women are introduced to the Fancy for many reasons. Usually it is because a father, a husband, a son or even a friend raises Fantails. Whatever the reason, here we are, hoping to contribute and to enjoy the Fancy as much as the men in our lives.

The degree of involvement in the Fancy is entirely up to you. Some women get involved because their husbands raise pigeons. At times, when they are not at home, the wives care for the feeding and watering of their birds and the cleaning of the lofts. There is also other work to do, such as keeping the records and banding new arrivals. These wives are to be commended for a job well done, sometimes with very little credit.

Other women are breeders themselves and understand the many hours their husbands spend in the lofts, as many find themselves doing the same.

Women have also done a job in keeping the records at our pigeon shows. Many times they can be seen getting the coop cards ready and putting them on all the cages before the birds arrive for the show. This is an important job as it takes many hours of this type of work to keep things running smoothly.

Of course, we cannot forget the women who come to the shows with their husbands because they know how much their husbands enjoy their hobby. Men like to get encouragement from the women in their life.

Most men accept the fact that women are a part of the Fancy and are here to stay. In fact, I think they really like the fact that their wives or girl friends can help them in so many ways and that they have someone to talk to about pigeons.

There is a great need for women to become more involved in the Fancy. I have already mentioned the women who help to keep the books and records at the shows. Women can also help to lace up the Fantails so they can be gotten into the judging coops faster. There are many women that are really good at this. More bird carriers are needed, and I am sure we can do a good job in this. Tearing down the shows is a lot of work, and as you know, women help to do this at many of our shows.

I think that women can contribute even more when we get them into the judging spotlight. Women who can handle birds and know their Standard can become as good a judge as any man. There are women, right now, who can pick out the best Fantail in a class. Knowing this is not enough. They have got to be able to handle, lace, and set down Fantails properly. Judging is a wonderful experience that I think all fanciers, man or woman, should get a chance to do. Women are very gentle, so we know the birds will be handled with the best of care.

So gals, let's get in there and have just

as much fun with the Fantails as the men do. The future looks good for women in the Fancy. How would you like to help your husband pick out the bird that be-

comes "Grand Champion" of a big show, or better yet, have the "Grand Champion" yourself?

A few months from now the shows will be in full swing. I hope to see all of you there, showing everyone what we can contribute and how proud we are to be in such a wonderful hobby!

## History of the Northeastern Fantail Club

By JOHN J. DONAHUE, Pub. Dir., Paxton, Mass.

All the Fantails had been judged, the last of the trophies and ribbons were being distributed, half the show coops were empty as owners placed their birds in their carrying cases or were loading their boxes into car trunks and station wagons preparatory to the homeward trip at the conclusion of another successful Fantail show.

It was evening, December 12, 1976, and the finale of the Northeastern Fantail Club's sixteenth winter show, the major event of the club's year. The show, where almost 200 Fantails had been evaluated, represented the focal point of a year's breeding activity and the reason for the club's existence. For comparing one's birds to one's fellow breeder's, evaluating and putting up the best in each class, meeting and exchanging news and views and perhaps a few birds, these activities provide the essence of a breed club's activity. It is fun and recreation, but it is also instructive and educational. The kinds of birds which emerge as winners represent the ideal or goal breeders are presumably striving for. Hence, the importance of a winning bird's representing as closely as possible from among the given entries the reflection of the breed ideal.

For 15 years the Northeastern Fantail Club has been serving the Fantail fanciers in this part of the country and providing a showcase for their breeding efforts in the annual winter show as well as in a fall young bird show.

It all started in the autumn of 1961 when several local fanciers felt that the area needed a new club promoting Fantails, since a former organization had become inactive. (See "New England Fantails and Fanciers" by Edwin Calcutt, APJ March 1961, page 101 and "History of the Northeastern Fantail Club" by Harriman Reardon, APJ January 1970, page 24.) Consequently a temporary slate of officers was agreed upon, a constitution and set of by-laws was undertaken, and plans were instigated to hold a first show in January of 1962.

Frank Cushman of Grafton, Mass., was selected the club's first president, with Dick Greene as principal vice-president, and Edwin Calcutt secretary-treasurer. The by-laws and constitution were largely the work of Harriman Reardon, whose experience and expertise in this field go back many years. The first meet was held in connection with the Worcester County Pigeon Association's annual show,

an arrangement that has continued to the present with the Fantails always supplying a sizeable entry at this show.

All of the known Fantail breeders in the area were contacted at the time of the club's founding and it was decided that all who joined during the club's first year of existence would be considered charter members. About 30 fanciers responded by joining club ranks. It is interesting to note that as one peruses the original list of charter members, about one-third are still active in the club today.

According to the Club's constitution, a president may serve two consecutive one-year terms. Consequently we have had eight presidents. Dick Greene succeeded Frank Cushman, and was in turn succeeded by Van Zandt Knight, who served the club in 1966 and 1967. Harriman Reardon assumed the reins for 1968 and 1969 while the period from 1970 to 1973 saw Daniel Doyle and Guy Spuria in the driver's seat. Ed Calcutt headed the club in 1974 and 1975, while the present chief executive is John Whitesides from North Conway, New Hampshire, now serving his second term.

The club has had only three Sec.-Treas., attesting to the importance to a club of that office. The original sec-treas., Ed Calcutt, served the club from its inception through 1971. A fancier of many year's experience, Ed was succeeded by Doug Gillespie, at that time a high-school student. When Doug went off to college, he had to relinquish his post, which in 1975 went to Frank Tibaldi of Providence, R.I. who is the current sec-treas. Many club members through the years have served terms as area vice-pres. and members of the board of directors.

The first show attracted 146 Fantails while the most recent signed up 196. The entries have held pretty steady over the years, more or less fluctuating within the 130-200 range. In the earlier years of the club the young bird show was in connection with the Joe Curran Lawn Show, generally held in September. Although many members still show Fantails at this fine show, in more recent years the club has been staging its own young bird show, most often held in Concord, Mass., in October. On at least two occasions this locale shifted, the first when the young bird show and combined Fantail clinic was held at the home of Ray Ostrander in Weston in 1968, and in October of



1975 at Ray's residence in Sandwich, Mass. on Cape Cod.

At the club's first show, January 1962, Joe Curran, the judge, selected from the 146 entries a white old hen (3587) owned by Dick Greene as champion. The next seven shows shared something in common: all were won by birds bred and owned by Bob Kinginger. In January 1963 his blue old hen (4959) was selected by judge Ray Ostrander; in November 1963 (a new winter show date) a white young cock was elevated to champion status by judges John Spuria and Harry Sarsfield. In November 1964 Harry Sarsfield put up Bob's old blue hen (7151) and on December 4 and 5, 1965 Joe Curran, again serving as judge, selected a black old cock (6002). A white yearling hen (1110), a white old cock (1039), and a black saddle old hen (871) were selected in the next three years by judges George Cheesman, Chet Bailey, and Guy Lambert respectively.

The cycle was broken, so to speak, in December 1969 when Harold Caldwell chose a white yearling hen (903) of Ray Ostrander for top spot. Ray also took the 1971 show with a white young hen (620). Frank B. Carter Jr. and Harriman Reardon shared judging honors that year. Ray's birds took premier position in 1974 and 1975 as well, with Robert Stephens putting up a white young hen (920) in 1974; and with club members as judges, a white yearling hen (932) in 1975.

John Donahue has captured the championship twice. In 1970 a blue young hen (2056) was chosen by judges George Cheesman and Harry Claus, and in 1972 a silver old hen (2078) received the nod from Ray Ostrander. Mitchell and Reifsnnyder took champion in 1973 with a blue young hen. Our most recent show was won by John Delaney. Al Krueger picked his white young cock from among the 196 at our December 11, 1976 competition.

Through the years the club's sec.-treas. has always sent a show report of the placings to all exhibitors, and of course reports in the APJ have been welcomed by members as an invaluable link in the communication fabric among fanciers. In the early days of the club a superb newsletter was edited by Harriman Reardon. It came out periodically containing news, announcements, tips and pointers and what is most outstanding, excellent pictures of winning birds. It was printed on heavy paper, standard three-ring notebook size so that they could be saved conveniently for future reference. They have indeed become collectors' items. One feature of Harriman's output of this newsletter was a 14-page dateless issue which extolled the joys and benefits of raising Fans, and included terrific photos of birds, lofts, and equipment. In 1968 a revised edition was brought out. These had always been sent free to all new members upon their joining the club and to any other interested breeder for a contribution of one dollar. Raising costs tolled the death knell for this marvelous venture after several productive years.

Arthur Richard authored a newsletter for a brief period and Frank Tibaldi has included news items from time to time in his show reports to members.

Over the years membership has held pretty steady in numbers with all age brackets and varied occupational backgrounds represented. Death has claimed some members. Dick Greene and Van Knight are sorely missed in the Fantail aisles. Advancing age and illness has removed some members from the active ranks, but always there seem to be new

members to fill the gap as enthusiastic young fanciers take up this rewarding hobby. This continuity is gratifying in the face of increasing difficulties in small livestock raising in an increasingly urbanized environment. However, if the kind of Fantail activity that the Northeastern Fantail Club has enjoyed in its 15 years is any indication, there is every reason to hope that there are many rewarding years ahead for the club, its members and Fantail fanciers generally.

## Fantail Fanciers of the Fifth District

By TOM PRITCHETT, Enid, Okla.

Having been asked by Harry Little to submit a deserving and interesting article, needless to say, I could find a subject no more deserving than the fanciers within the Fifth District. In 1973 when Central first began its district program, I was appointed District Director, and being enthusiastic about the new program and desirous of bringing more unity and fellowship to the fanciers of this area I tried very hard to stimulate interest. I wrote articles for the CFC bulletins, the APJ, and tried to interest new fanciers wherever I went, but I just didn't get the interest I was after. Do you know what sparks interest more than anything else? That's right, a Fantail show.

In December 1974 the first annual Central Fantail Club Fifth District Meet was held in Enid, Okla. Dwight Crewdson served as judge and along with Dwight came Chet Bailey with an excellent entry. Gordon Larson of Houston brought a large and impressive entry of quality birds. Mel and Jo Kirk brought their excellent studs of blue and powdered blues and Howard Cook showed a tailmark or two of good quality. All in all we cooped about 75 quality Fans with Champion to Chet Bailey, Reserve to Tom Pritchett and Champion Young to Mel and Jo Kirk. This set the scene for more district meets to come.

The following year in Rogers, Ark., we cooped 103 Fans. Rod Hatcher did us the honor of placing this event, Champion to Mel and Jo Kirk, Reserve and Champion Young to Tom Pritchett, but more important than the winnings was the fact that the district had survived another year and interest and enthusiasm was at an all time high. We enticed more new fanciers and breeders to our show and increased our exhibitor list twofold. Doc Lynch of Richardson, Texas, long time Fantail fancier, joined our ranks, Don Draper of Joplin, showed with us for the first time, the McAtrees, Mike and John attended and were accompanied by their lovely and interested wives. The Fifth District was off and running for another year.

Last year Doc Lynch took the lines as district director after Mel Kirk had to resign due to commitments in England. Doc did a wonderful job coordinating this event with the most beautiful

trophy display we've ever had and the largest entry to date. Doc sent interesting news letters to all district members and really got in there and pushed to make the show the success it was. More than 150 Fans were cooped with the quality higher than ever before. Dick Ury judged this event with champion to Don Draper and Reserve to Doc Lynch. Present at this show were more interested fanciers with Bud Hagan coming all the way from Kentucky. If we can attract notables like this we're really on our way. Come on Fifth District.

This year the show will be held in Norman, Okla., December 8, 9, and 10 in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Pigeon Show. Norman is 20 miles south of Oklahoma City and will offer direct shipment to many fanciers. Come and show with us, we'll be glad to have you. Contact either Doc Lynch or me for more show information or catalogs.

I'd like to mention some of the fanciers by names who I feel deserve some recognition for their efforts in supporting and promoting Fans not just in our area, but all over the U.S. These fellows have spent much of their time and money attending and putting their birds in front of the public; they're my kind of people. Gordon Larson possesses excellent studs in several colors and is always the first to offer help in any way he can; he always shows top birds at as many different shows as possible all over the nation. Mel and Jo Kirk are always ready to help and their birds are always at the major meets. Doc Lynch devotes much of his time to the Fancy and exhibits his birds at major shows on a regular basis. Bud Hagan, while Bud doesn't have the good fortune to live within our district, he does show with us, and for that matter all over the U.S. and Canada. I feel Bud deserves recognition for his intestinal fortitude and his diligent efforts to promote the Fantail Fancy wherever they set a Fantail down. Last but not least, are two dedicated young fanciers who don't believe in keeping good Fans home in the back yard, John and Mike McAtree. We in the Fifth District believe in promoting Fantails and supporting the Central Fantail Club and its activities.



## Color Breeding In The Saddle Fantail

By JOHN McCLANAHAN, East Syracuse, N.Y.

Bob McKee collared me at the show in January and practically demanded that I tell him how I had brought out the color on my red saddles. Bob, being a rabid genetics nut and being about twice my size, I felt I'd have to come up with some kind of an answer.

Now my understanding of genetics rapidly lost out to practical gut-level pigeon breeding after I once opened a book which began with Fr. Gregor Mendel's experiments on cross-pollinating tall peas with short ones. I wasn't concerned about peas except that I knew that they made good pigeon feed, so I skipped genetics altogether.

So, what to tell big Bob? Not knowing any of the technical terms, I told him in my own back country way. Perhaps some of you who feel the same way as I about the subject will also understand. For those of you who are genetic nuts, just bear with me.

I first got my stud of saddles about 10 years ago from various sources. They came in all colors, and most were of the red-yellow family. Frankly, most of them were pretty bad Fans, so I didn't care what color they were, I just mated best to best, regardless.

Fortunately, I did keep fairly accurate records to refresh my memory although I still have little or no understanding of the color factors that made them up.

I do know this: my first reds and yellows were pretty sad in color, about the average. They were kind of plum colored, although none showed a bar, as is often seen even today. I also had a few of those bronzy blacks, a serious color fault, and a few of the "lavenders" that appear from time to time. My reds at that time were nice in tail and type, carriage and motion, but stood about an inch higher on legs than anybody wants. The blacks, on the other hand, had mediocre tails, nicely rounded bodies on short legs, but wouldn't show, etc.

Forget the genetics, full speed ahead, I started crossing red and blacks. Lo and behold, I got primarily strawberry (laced ash-red) or cream, its dilute. Fortunately, enough of these were improved in overall Fantail characteristics that I wasn't too embarrassed to try them back on red.

As it turned out, these were the birds, which when crossed back to red, sharpened up the color to an intense, gleaming mahogany sheen. Occasionally, the red and strawberry would produce another strawberry, and these were also useful for sharpening red (or Yellow) color.

After about the last six years, purely selective breeding has taken care of body, type and tail, but I have found that red x red tends to return to its previous lack-luster color if a shot of the laced strawberry is not injected about every other generation. Why? Don't know!

Meanwhile, after I explained in this manner to Bob, he stood there for a second and then said, "What if you mated the Zygote of the whatchamacallit and

## The Tail Mark Fantail — Beautiful But Difficult

By DON BUHR, Cresco, Iowa

A high state of interest exists today in breeding and showing Tail Mark Fantails. Evidence of this is the recent record breaking entry of Tail Marks at last year's annual Mid-America Fantail Club meet held in LaCrosse, Wis. A total of 38 Tail Marks in 7 different colors were shown at the meet. The majority of the Tail Marks entered were Blue and Blue Grizzle, but Black, Black Grizzle, Powdered Blue, Recessive Red, and Recessive Yellow Tail Marks were also exhibited. Entries have also been increasing at other Fantail shows round the country.

The Tail Mark is not an easy marking to breed. The marking presents all the problems one encounters in breeding a good solid color show type Fantail, plus a few additional problems unique to the Tail Mark. This article will deal with these problems.

Most of the early matings to improve type in Tail Marks were Tail Mark to White. The two major problems that arise from these matings are: Under-marked birds, and Grizzle Tail Marks, caused by the Whites, masking the Grizzle factor. Since the Grizzle factor is dominant both parents need not carry or show the factor to produce it in the young from any given mating.

Once the Grizzle factor shows up in your stud of Tail Marks it has to be dealt with if you hope to maintain the color in the tail. The reason for this is homozygous, or pure Grizzle is Stork Mark, with the color pushed to the feather ends. When Grizzle Tail Marks are mated to Grizzle Tail Marks, pure or homozygous Grizzle Tail Marks or Stork Mark Tail Marks are produced. These will have very little color in the tail shafts. And if these are under-marked, or mis-marked with a few all white tail shafts, you're not going to have much of a Tail Mark. In order to maintain the Blue and Blue Grizzle color in the Tail, two Blue Grizzle Tail Marks should not be mated together. Blue Grizzle should be mated to Blue Tail Mark just the same as in the solid colors, to produce the proper Blue Grizzle marking.

About here I'm sure someone is saying, "I thought he was writing about Tail Marks?" I am, but to better understand the breeding of Tail Marks, we must first understand they are splashed or "pied" marked birds, with the color held to only the tail. The color you have on the bird is affected by all the color altering factors the same as a solid color-

added the modifiers of milky factor."

I cut him off, and said "Don't knock success", and walked on up the aisle. Turning around, I saw him scratching his head, wonderingly. I guess my explanation wasn't technical enough for him to understand. Oh, well, maybe this year he'll take up plain english!

ed bird of the same color.

We have to work on type, marking, and color. This is why the Tail Mark is not easy to breed up to Standard. Whites used to improve Tail Marks also bring about the problem of under-marked birds. When working with White Fantails we must always remember, White spreads. If using Whites in your Tail Mark breeding program causes most of your young to be under-marked, or mostly white, you'll have to bring some color back into your matings. This in turn may bring new problems to your work, young that are over-marked or having too much color on their bodies. So you can see, breeding correctly marked Tail Marks can be very frustrating to say the least!

I have found after working with marked Fantails for a number of years, it is much easier to obtain the desired marking with some families of birds than it is with others. So, if you are having great difficulty with "setting" the desired marking on your Tail Marks, it might be wise to discard the entire family of birds, and start over, or to cull down and introduce a new bloodline that may give you the better marking qualities you need.

For this reason, exact instructions cannot be given on how to breed the perfect marked Tail Mark. Ten Tail Mark breeders may be working with 10 different families of birds. What may work for improving marking for one, may not work for another. This definitely handicaps the breeder, but it also makes the breeding of marked birds a real challenge, and a most interesting and exciting part of our hobby. The same as with efforts to improve type, sometimes one must back up before he can go ahead again. As with most endeavors in life, there is no standing still in breeding Fantails. If you're not going ahead, you're going behind! On the other hand, great strides in improvement can be made some years, but this rapid progress cannot continue every year. Therefore some years of slow progress can be expected, and the serious fancier must take these in stride, and not become discouraged.

If the rules for breeding all the many solid colored Fantails are followed, Tail Marks can be bred in every color we have in the solid colors. It's true, some of the possibilities are not the most attractive, but they are possible with much work.

The colors I believe that hold the most



promise of becoming popular are: Blue, Blue Grizzle, Black, Black Grizzle, Silver, Powdered Blue, Recessive Red, and Recessive Yellow. The two colors that offer the most challenge are the Recessive Red and Yellow Tail Marks. With good type, marking, and color, they are truly beautiful Fantails!

The problems with breeding Recessive Red and Yellow Tail Marks are many, as we are dealing with two unusual color altering factors combined on one bird. First of all the largest color area, or maybe I should say, absence of color, on the Tail Mark is white, which is an epistatic factor. This means the factor that produces white is producing a "masking" effect. Underneath, so to speak can be hidden many color altering factors, and color genes not visible to the eye.

On the Recessive Red and Yellow Tail Mark the Tail color area also involves a color altering factor which is epistatic, covering other colors and patterns. Recessive Red and its dilute Recessive Yellow can be masking any of the basic colors, and patterns. Recessive Red many times will revert to white, which compounds the problems of breeding Recessive Red and Yellow Tail Marks.

Good type Recessive Red and Yellow Tail Marks will come when we have more

people working with them, fanciers who have worked with solid color Recessive Reds and Yellows, and understand the Recessive Red color factor. Anyone who thinks it's as easy as mating a White to a Recessive Red is in for a big surprise and much disappointment!

It's also time breeders and judges realize that we have two distinct tail marks. The solid color, and the Grizzle Tail Mark. These are usually judged together because the classes have been small. This is fine, but at no time should a Grizzle Tail Mark be placed lower to a solid color tail mark because he lacks color in the tail! Birds with solid white feathers in the tail in both Grizzle and solid color tail marks are not desirable, and should be cut for marking. Grizzle Tail Mark tail shafts are edged in color or have a color edging at the top. A correctly marked Grizzle Tail Mark should have the colored Grizzling on each tail shaft.

The next time you see some Tail Marks, have a good look at them. There is a lot to be learned from just looking at the different colors and markings in Fantails. And of course it helps to understand what you are looking at, and what you are looking for. There are a number of other pigeon breeds that feature the tail marking, but none that accentuate and show off the marking like our beautiful Fantail!

Being around Fantails again really made us miss ours and made us very homesick, so we laced a lot of tails and helped carry and get them ready for the show. It was like old times again.

The judges were Ken Dalton, Jack Penley-Martin and Conrad Birch. There were 231 Fans in the show, and after a very hard decision, grand champion was awarded to Noel Wheatley of Glasgow, Scotland, with a very nice checker young hen.

The shows in England are held a little different than in America. The judging area is smaller and the viewing area where the judging is held is not set up for watching the show like it is here. The show cages are much smaller, making it harder to put all the Fans of one breed in at a time, which means carrying the birds to the judging area more often. The birds are not fed and watered until after the show.

The main thing we noticed was that most of the Fan's tails were not as well prepared for showing as in the American shows, so we helped lace as many tails as we could for showtime, because getting a Fantail ready for a show, is like putting icing on the cake.

Carriage and motion was not as essential during judging as it is here, but as usual the judges had a hard decision to make. There was some very good Fantails at the show, but I believe the American Fantails are more advanced in over-all quality, mainly because we have many more breeders here than in England.

In closing I would like to express that no matter where you go, to any part of the world, you will always find one thing in common, the most friendly people you ever want to meet, are the Fantail breeders in "The Queen of the Fancy".

## Our Trip to England's Fantail Breeders

By MEL and JO KIRK, Lufkin, Texas

We arrived in Norwich, England, July 15, 1976. This was a surprising experience for us east Texas country folks. Between double decker buses, 3-wheeled cars and driving on the wrong side of the road, we were very lost. After we got settled, everything started looking up for us.

We took our 1968 Fantail Special with us to look up some of the English breeders listed in it, but to our surprise we could not find anyone. After a lot of phone calls we finally found someone who gave us some telephone numbers of some Fantail breeders. We found out that most of the breeders in the '68 Special were deceased.

Our first visit was to W. F. Cooke's loft. We had a very nice visit. He showed us all of his birds and Mr. Cooke and his wife made us feel very welcome and we really enjoyed their hospitality.

We were invited to all their shows. The first show we attended was the British Timken show held on August 27 and 28 in Northampton. We had a very nice time and met many wonderful people and were made to feel very welcome. Even though it was early in the season, there were quite a few birds. N. M. Brown and W. F. Cooke were the judges. Ken Dalton won champion with an excellent old white hen. When the show was over we were invited to the rest of the shows, but the only other show we were able to attend was the big show, the English Fantail Club Show in Doncaster, held Nov. 13 and 14. We were really glad we could at-

tend this show because we were able to meet many more of the English breeders and also some Scottish breeders. We had the great pleasure of meeting a well known Scottish breeder, David Blackadder. He is a very respected Fantail breeder in Europe.

## My Method of Fantail Breeding

By JEFF BUNYARD, Vandalia, Ill.

Although I am just entering my first breeding season, this is the method I am going to use in mating my Fantails. First, put the Fantails you plan to use for breeding into a show coop or a coop of similar size. Look them over carefully and, one by one, write down the faults you see. Then, leave the loft for an hour or two. When you come back, go through the Fantails again and record the faults that you see. Compare this with your notes of your first appraisal. If you see the same faults both times, you have determined that the faults will remain with the bird. You must keep in mind that pigeons will change in appearance, just like humans. This is the reason that a bird will place in one show and not in another.

You must have a good memory for what the Standard says and compare your birds with the Standard as often as possible. It won't take long before you will notice the changes in your birds

of faults you hadn't noticed before.

You have picked out your favorite Fantail by now, the one you think is the very best one you own. Your best Fantail, be it cock or hen, should be placed in a show pen. Let it settle down. Then place the best Fantail of the opposite sex in the next show coop and compare the two as a possible mating. If you have taken adequate notes, you will have a good idea where they stand.

Always remember to never breed from two birds with the same faults. For example, you can mate a Fantail that doesn't get its head in the pocket with a Fantail that presses its head too far down in the pocket. Or, you can mate a Fantail with a very flat tail to one that has a funnel shaped tail.

I think you should have the idea by now. I hope this is some help to you.

Remember when you sell birds to a beginner always recommend the APJ.



# A Special Challenge — Powdered Blue Fantails

By CARL WATSON, Marion, Ind.

Among the letters that I have received from Fantail fanciers for more than 30 years, some have held particular meaning because they contain the thoughts of fanciers who played a role in the development of the Fantail.

I was acquainted with Fred Robinson of Indianapolis for many years. With his partner, John Roeder, he bred and exhibited many fine Fantails. Among these were the first powdered silver Fantails exhibited in this country. Fred Robinson's last letter to me was written from Florida when he was a spry 86 years of age. When I compare the color quality of the powdered blue of today with what Fred wrote about in his letter back in 1961, I wonder whether we haven't lost something.

An excerpt from his letter is as follows: "I don't know why there should be any confusion in the color of Powdered Silver as they came from England not too long ago and their Standard for a new color prevailed here and it said black bars. And it was not idealistic be-

cause we had many birds with black bars, not dun. It should be remembered in this matter that there are several shades or degrees of black but none of them are dun. Frankly I think the fellows (and they are many) who are satisfied with dun bars are so inclined because they can't produce black bars and fit the Standard to the birds they have. But, my, how they miss the point as it's a pleasure to see a bird with true powdered silver body color and intense black bars. The contrasts are really beautiful and don't exist in a dun barred bird. If I were breeding now I would still strive for black bars even though our Standard lets down the bars, so to speak, for an easier bird to get".

Hopefully, these comments of Fred Robinson will prompt fanciers with Powdered Blues to carefully evaluate the quality of the wing bars on their birds. Also, maybe they will keep their eyes open at shows for birds with dark bars. I think Fred's remark offer a special challenge to recover this splendid color as it was originally.

## The Great Lakes Fantail Club Meet

By CECIL NOEL III, Louisville, Ky.

Before I begin the following article, I want to take the time to thank a very special individual whom I hold in high esteem. This man is none other than Harry Little of St. Louis, Mo., the Coordinator of this very special and sorely needed Fantail Issue of the American Pigeon Journal. I felt extremely flattered and honored when Harry asked me to write an article about the Fantail's relationship with the National Young Bird Show, held annually in Louisville, Ky., and I hope this article meets that need.

Now for a brief history of the Great Lakes Fantail Club and the National Young Bird Show. The Great Lakes Fantail Club has held its young bird meet each year in conjunction with the National Young Bird Show for the past five years. This Fantail show has met the needs of a lot of Fantail breeders from the South, particularly Kentucky and Florida, who, because of weather or distance have not been able to attend the other shows in the North or Mid-West.

The Fantail entries at the last three National Young Bird Shows have grown from 100 birds in 1974 to 270 in 1976. That is an increase of fantastic proportions. Not only has the number of entries grown but the quality of the entries has improved as well.

The Great Lakes Fantail Club is a relatively new Fantail club, being only five or six years old. Already they are sponsoring the largest all-young-bird Fantail show in the country with the best "name" judges, as well as high quality

showroom facilities, cooping and one of the best premium lists that can be found. In the last two years, over \$350 has been awarded in cash to the breeders of the Champions and best of each of the color classes, with \$10 and \$20 awards being given to these birds. This year is going to be the biggest and best yet, with \$50 being awarded to the Champion of the show and \$25 to Reserve Champion and \$10 each going to the winners of the larger color classes. Nothing like a little of the green stuff in the pocket to help along with those high feed bills.

In the last three years, the Great Lakes Fantail Club has had visitors from three foreign countries, including Germany, South Africa and Canada as well as over a dozen of our states. We also have had such names as Eugene Altpeter, Bob and Vi Given, Ray LaFleur, Harry Little and many more. Does it sound like a Central Meet? The quality is just as good and the sportsmanship is equal also. The only difference is the location and the weather.

The month of October is the most beautiful in the "Bluegrass State" with all the trees in their array of reds, oranges and browns. The temperature is between 65 and 70 degrees and that, as we all know, is very rare at a high class pigeon show.

I have traveled from Wisconsin to Alabama to pigeon shows and I can honestly say that the airport, hotel and showroom facilities at the National Young Bird Show are the best that can be found.

The show is held at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center which is now the largest one-floor-plan building in North America. That includes Canada as well as Mexico.

The week-end starts out with the owners arriving with their birds Friday afternoon and evening. There is much discussion and looking over the new crop of possible Champions. Not much sleeping is done due to the excitement and late hours. Saturday morning dawns bright and early with the Secretary of the club making that last change in the books due to that last minute substitution or two. Then the judging begins and continues through the day with a break for lunch. This is where Harry Hawkins and his gracious wife, Frances, serve an old-fashioned lunch with good Kentucky cheddar cheese and other goodies native to the region. A lunch you won't want to miss. Then, on with the judging! A Champion is picked with trophies being presented to the winners. At this time, a meeting of the Great Lakes Fantail Club takes place. After the meeting, everyone prepares for the finest banquet possible at the exclusive Executive Inn. There, the renowned pigeon pros give their ideas and speeches. It's the icing on the cake after a perfect pigeon show. Sunday morning comes all too soon and everyone is saying his goodbyes. New friends have been found and soon become old friends. One of the finest of pigeon shows is over and everyone is planning on attending next year's show.

You, too, plan to attend the next National Young Bird Show on October 14-15, 1977 in Louisville, Ky. For any information please write me, Cecil Noel III, 1326 Phyllis Ave., Louisville, Ky., 40215, and I will be delighted to help you in any way that I can.

Come and enjoy the finest hospitality in the Southland as well as the finest Fantails on display anywhere. I am looking forward to seeing all you Fantail breeders in Louisville come October. Y'all come, ya' heah?

### Fantail Prices

By EARL A. CLARK, Spring Valley, Calif.

Dollar for dollar, good Fantails are the cheapest bird you can buy for your money. Think about it! I've seen fancy birds of other breeds bring hundreds of dollars each, while many a good Fantail changes hands for a 50 dollar bill. I'm not talking about a cull either but birds with show records.

In some breeds, just a youngster out of "Old Blue" brings that much and very often is just junk. It's not hard to get good wins with your birds either as we don't have one or two people winning all the time.

I know I can stir up a hornet's nest in saying this but there is no bird harder to raise than the "Queen of the Fancy". Just proper care of the tail alone is too much for some people!

To get a good start, buy three pair of birds from one person who has a good reputation and you are off and running.



# Why I Chose The Saddle Fantail

By CONRAD M. BIRCH, Kidderminster, England

It was the Second World War which greatly damaged the popularity of many varieties of pigeons in Great Britain. In particular, the more rare of the Fancy breeds suffered near extinction here, and some of the less common colours in certain varieties were gone for the time being. One of the varieties which suffered badly was the Exhibition Fantail and, in particular, the Saddle Fantail. The Yellow and Bar Saddles became almost non-existent; the Black and Red the only prominent Saddle colours to remain. As well as losses of certain colours, there was also detriment to type to some extent. Since then, some keener breeders, of which I am one, have tried to reinstate the losses by cross-breeding and importing, and positive advances have been made.

In the UK there are quite a number of breeders of Self colour Fantails who look upon the Saddle as a waste of time, even a freak. Many consider the breed to be so far behind on type that it is pointless to try and improve it. My answer is that if Columbus had never sailed! These cynics are completely wrong because there are now quite a number of worth while Saddles over here.

After I had kept some Dr. Armstrong Sells, it was in 1966 that I decided to try my hand at improving and popularising the Saddle. I remember well my first pair of Will Taylor Black Saddles, of such good type that I had a good start on the road to success. Some Reds of equal quality followed and, in 1968, I obtained some superior type Saddles from Ted Smith. My goal was the Yellow and the Blue Saddle. With the guidance of Will Taylor and Ted Smith who, at that time, were two of our top breeders, I began my experiment. By crossing some of the bet-



CONRAD M. BURCH OF ENGLAND

Conrad M. Birch of England holding the William Stevenson Memorial trophy which he won in November 1976 for the third consecutive year for Best Adult Saddle Fantail. — Photo from Conrad M. Birch, Kidderminster, England.

ter Saddles I had to a few of my quality Sells I was on my way to improving type if nothing else. I had so many splashes, but these never deterred me. I had always preferred a mismark with type and tail to a clean marked Saddle with no other asset. And I still do!

My biggest break in colour came in 1970, when I bred my first Yellow Saddle. This turned out to be a landmark for me because not only was this pigeon of excellent type, but also unbelievably well marked. This hen turned out to be my favourite Fantail, and has gone on to win a number of prizes. I remember when Will Taylor judged it for the first time in Birmingham, he commented that he had not seen a Yellow Saddle Fantail for many years. Now seven years old, this bird has produced three youngsters this season, one of which is worth keeping.

It was 1972 before I produced another Yellow. From different parents, this also turned out to be a hen. I had the misfortune to lose the mother of the original Yellow the previous year. But these two Yellows became the foundation of my stud of Yellow Saddles, and in 1974 I produced quite a number of this colour, one of which was a cock. From then onwards it was plain sailing and by now there must be quite a number of this colour in various lofts up and down the country as I have parted with many birds with "Yellow" blood. But the quality Yellow Saddle is still very much in demand.

Whilst many fanciers were crying out for the Blue Saddle, I plodded on in virtual silence from 1968 onwards, crossing and more crossing. With the Yellow splashes to contend with at the same time, I had a loft full of mismarks each season, but in 1973 and '74 there were encouraging signs of a Blue on the way. My friend, Jack Penley-Martin, was also experimenting in this field, and it was a couple of his birds which helped me to produce a mismarked Blue Saddle in 1974.

Probably the whole experiment took longer than it might have done because I was concentrating on type as well as colour, and often some of the better marked birds did not excel in type.

In the Spring of 1975 I was given the opportunity to obtain some Saddles in Blue and Yellow from Floyd Dirth in Calif. Discouraged by even my closest friends, some of whom thought I would be spending a lot for so little, and some who thought I would be buying birds of poor quality, I decided to plod on and send for the birds. Really, I was more interested in colour than quality this time as I already had birds of good type, and it was my intention to cross some of my own with the American birds.

The excitement started one April morning of that year with a 2 a.m. phone

call from Lynwood to advise me that the birds were already on their way from Los Angeles. Within a few hours the pigeons were in this country and when I first set eyes on them I was delighted. They were the colour I wanted and were also of good type, and two Yellow hens were really excellent.

Each season the Saddle Fantail offers me something the Self never could, a greater challenge and element of surprise. To try and calculate the type and colour of an unborn Fantail is one thing, but to predict the markings of any young Saddle is something else. And if one is lucky enough to produce a really well marked Saddle of good type, the satisfaction is 10 times greater than that for any Self.

Each year I have kept the best. Often I have kept more than I really wanted to, but I have improved the type along the way. And, before I part with any pigeon I consider to the last detail its worth to my own particular need. Yes, there are some worthwhile Saddles over here, but not enough to part with ad lib.

## The Andalusian Fantail

By LARRY GLAUBITZ, Eagle Lake, Minn.

The andalusian Fantail is one of the most unpopular varieties of Fantails that are being bred today. This variety of Fantail has been in existence for only a short time and it took a lot of work to get it where it is at this time. It still needs a lot of work to improve the andalusian color. The color is a midnight blue on the body and the tail, shading to black on the head and neck. The color of the wings is a lighter blue and each feather is trimmed with midnight blue, making it look much like the chequered varieties. The andalusian can be mated with any of the other colors in Fantails with very few disadvantages. Andalusian should not be mated to andalusian because it produces indigo. By most standards the indigo is the same as the andalusian because the color is quite similar.

Hopefully, in the future more people will take a liking to the andalusian Fantail. As competition becomes greater the quality will improve.

## Important Points of a Fantail

(Continued from page 429)

cow hocked is a fault and breaks the symmetry. The extreme opposite of cow hocks is the buckled leg, where the hock is curved forward. This is an undesirable trait or fault. The feet should be small and when showing the bird is up on its toes.

Perhaps reviewing some of these important points of a Fantail will be of benefit to the newer breeders of Fantails, and it may serve as a reminder to the experienced breeder. We all have a tendency to have points we over stress. We should all re-read the Standard occasionally to make sure we have the picture of the ideal Fantail set in our mind.



# The Lace Fantail In England

By FLT. LT. J. R. PENLEY-MARTIN, RAF, (Ret.), Norfolk, England

Co-ordinator's Note: — First, a letter from Flt. Lt. J. R. Penley-Martin. It concerns a variety of the Fantail seldom seen in the United States but which has gained a substantial following in England and is more commonly known here as the "Silky". The letter serves as an interesting introduction to the article "The Lace Fantail In England" which follows:

Dear Mr. Little: — I was Secretary of the U.K. Fantail Club until a career changed forced me to resign at the end of 1965. My interest in lace started during my period as Secretary, more, I confess, through a sense of duty to protect endangered Fantail varieties than because I really liked them! My main interest lies in genetics and colour breeding and I could never raise much enthusiasm about white lace. However, the gift of some barred birds started something and now I wouldn't be without them. My next aim is to introduce saddle markings. It will give me a fascinating task and if successful, will enable every fancier to keep a pair or two. This, we think, is the best way to ensure the variety's future since it is really not feasible to have a whole loft of laces as with, say, whites or blues.

My own stud is very small by American standards but by selection I can keep a fair range of colours amongst my 12 to 13 breeding pairs. In fact, I have found that colour does not matter, it is the pattern that counts. So, by concentrating on barred Fans I can keep the whole range of colours although my interest is in the dilutes. I am phasing out blues, etc. as the opportunity occurs. I have three or four pairs of creams and silvers which form a "quality nucleus". These are bred primarily to maintain type. From these, stock is crossed out (never the other way around) to my "experimental" families. Each is kept separate and nothing from these is ever paired back to the "nucleus" so that if a persistent fault develops I can vogue out the whole line. I bred some occasional browns and khakis from an original "dun" African Owl cross by this method but as the laces built up, they had to go although I gave a lace cock carrying this factor to a friend and his first brown lace squab has my name on it! Also have three or four pair of silver saddles. These and my normal bars all come from the same stock. In fact, all my birds are descended from two pair with about four outcrosses since 1965 so are fairly closely inbred along family lines. This enables one to "outcross" to another family which rekindles "hybrid" vigour without introducing unknown and unwanted genes. Eventually, when type is uniform (and proved to be so by breeding results) I shall nix all the non-saddle varieties and simply produce the colours I want each year by suitable matings. However, this is a dream for the future and much intriguing work lies ahead.

Finally, may I wish your Special Fantail Issue every success. — Yours sincerely, Jack Penley-Martin.

For years the lace has been the Cinderella of the Fantail world. Following the late Dr. Armstrong's retirement from the Fancy it virtually disappeared: show entries were very low, type poor and, with the passing of the Dairy Show, only Harrogate provided a single class for the variety. I had a couple of white lace and tried to spread the surplus about but in 1972 Hugh Waterston and I surveyed the three specimens entered at the Club Show and the outlook appeared very bleak indeed.

However in that motley collection lay the seeds of revival. Hugh at that time had a large Fantail menagerie, the contents of which, I am convinced, were mixed solely to produce odd coloured birds of incomprehensible 'pedigree' in order to confuse Norman Isle, a neighbouring colour breeder! One result of these machinations was a ticked silver lace cock, very unlucky not to win on the day.

When commiserating with Hugh, I remarked that I should like the bird if it were ever for sale: the following week a box arrived containing not only the silver but also a blue lace hen so I disposed of my whites (thereby gaining another convert) and settled down to breed barred lace. I discovered that Bryn Jones had been endeavouring to increase the colour range and Ti Scott had a few birds but there was little incentive for them to show further afield than Welsh Branch at Burry Port. The 1973 Club show saw only a small increase in entries but an article in the Newsletter and the different colours on display aroused some interest and the few surplus birds were sold.

1974 engendered mixed feelings: previously I had been disappointed in that the silver cock had sired youngsters, but no lace. However that year he produced the only lace he ever bred for me, but he really earned his keep with that one, a ticked silver hen fit to hold her own against normal Fans. In general, despite the number of birds which had changed hands, entries were still low and the Club Show only attracted eight, nonetheless interest was keen and demand far exceeded supply. So to 1975, the birds were there but how could they be attracted from the lofts? More publicity, easily done: better classification, a class each at Scottish and Welsh Branches and, for the first time in my memory, two classes (and a certificate) at the Club Show. Result, no less than fourteen entries and more orders than could be fulfilled! 1976 has seen a consolidation of this progress. There were a few lace holding their own against normals in the AOC class at Timmen and, although we have accidentally lost our second class at Doncaster (it will be back in 1977) every Branch Show has

staged a lace class. I do not have all details but there was a good entry at Central, no less than 19 at Eastern and 15 at Doncaster. Again demands for stock have far exceeded the surplus available. A further reassuring point is that the quality of stock is steadily rising: from time to time the odd lace capable of competing against normal Fans has been seen but this season there are several in that category. True, average type is below that for most other varieties but, with lace more numerous there is greater scope to select breeding stock from the upper end of the spectrum rather than having to use a bird simply because it was a lace and available! Equally the main studs have now been able to establish inbreeding programs and like is beginning to throw like. My own stud for example cannot exceed three breeding pairs due to lack of space for more floor-level pens. For several years I had to manage with one good lace and a couple of 'also-rans' but for 1977 I can line up a good cock and three excellent hens, which means a 'spare' of better quality than I have normally been able to use for breeding, a luxury indeed!

Since we have newcomers in our ranks a few words about the breeding and care of the variety may not come amiss. Firstly, apart from the different feather structure which prevents them from flying, lace are perfectly normal Fantails. Of course they need a nest box at floor level (unless breeding pairs are permanently confined to pens during the season) but in most other respects, mating follows the same rules that apply to an ordinary Fan of similar colour. Two lace should never be mated together since this would result in about 50% of the youngsters being deficient in webbing and, after a few generations, the birds would have nothing but bare quills! Hence the pairing is lace x normal feather, it matters not whether the lace be the cock or the hen, one will on average breed 50% lace, 50% normal squabs of both sexes since the lace factor is not sex-linked.

There is no 'contamination' of normal offspring by lace 'blood' (the factor is a simple dominant): these birds can be paired with ordinary Fans and will breed only normals. Indeed there is an opinion which holds that such offspring are valuable in improving feather quality and correcting softness. However I can find no evidence for this belief and I consider that hardness and softness of feather are found as much in lace as in normal Fans. It is noticeable that some lace are more laced than others, these, I think, are soft feathered and certainly it appears that feather structure is weaker. If so, it is not difficult to see that a normal youngster from hard feathered lace-breeding parents would improve soft feathered normal stock, but then so would a hard feathered bird of non-lace ancestry! So I do not consider that there is any special virtue in using lace bred birds for this purpose: however there appears to be no



reason why all progeny cannot be used apart from the fact that, as lace are, on average, inferior in type to most other Fans, normally only lace youngsters are worth retaining. For this reason the pairing of lace cock x normal hen may be the better arrangement as it is generally held that a hen has a greater influence on type than a cock. However in practice I have found that it does not greatly matter, what is important is that the normal mate, regardless of sex, is as sound in type as possible. Type is not yet as firmly inbred in lace as in normal and an unsound choice can quickly result in a disastrous crop of 'beanpoles'! One further point, a purely personal opinion for which I have no hard evidence, there is apparently no reason why, if sound stock is used, both lace and normals within a loft should not eventually become of equal type. Yet this does not seem to happen and I suspect that the reason may be the difference in feather structure in that the normal feather with its greater 'body' fills out hollows and round-off angles whereas the thinner lace plumage follows every contour of the body. One only has to see a nicely rounded Fan suddenly 'tighten-up' when frightened and become very angular to grasp what I mean.

It is sometimes held that lace are prone to infertility but from my own experience there is no evidence to support this assertion although yearling cocks sometimes do not fill regularly until the second half of the season. My stock has been as fertile as my other Fans and as successful in rearing youngsters: furthermore the offspring are as robust as any other and no more prone to chills despite the 'thinner' plumage, however it is as well to keep an eye on them at the '10 day' stage if the nights are cold. I do find that the feathers are a little more reluctant to break from the sheath during the damper autumn days and some assistance with dehiscing is required; however this small disadvantage is more than offset by the fact that fret-marks are much less obvious and so one rarely has to pull a poor feather.

Novices are sometimes apprehensive of two statements in our Handbook: that lace are prone to insect attack and to splay wing. For my part I have found that feather lice and suchlike are no greater menace to lace than to any other Fan, nor is more frequent spraying required. However it does appear that the lower vanes of shoeing feathers and the tips of primaries tend to rub away, especially if the birds are kept on bare boards, this is more noticeable in soft feathered birds, primarily in the dilute colours. But it would be wrong to suggest that this is a serious problem, it only becomes apparent towards the end of the breeding season when the moult is imminent so is quickly rectified. Splay wing is a major defect and in the old days one saw several lace exhibiting this disfigurement but it appears to be virtually absent from modern stock. Of course most Fans show

some splaying about the ten day stage when quills elongate but it soon disappears when the feathers break. The most that can be said is that it takes a little while longer before a lace's feathers hold in place and it would be prudent to fold the developing wings into position when visiting the loft. I have bred none with a true splay wing but I do recall that in my first year I had a youngster in which the primaries of one wing overlapped in reverse order and stuck out at an angle. The cure was simple, on weaning I rearranged the feathers correctly, folded the wing, taped round the primaries and put another piece of tape about the coverts so that the wing could not be extended. The tapes were removed some ten days later, problem solved. I do sometimes find that the softer feathered lace manage to get the primaries stuck outside the secondaries after flapping their wings but again attention whilst visiting the loft prevents the fault becoming persistent and as they age the youngsters learn to preen the feathers back into position so that there is little recurrence in adult stock.

And now to tails. The Handbook quite properly warns of the young Fan's tendency to push its head through the centre of the tail and to catch its wings in the sides. Young lace are no exception to this habit and, because of their more fragile and less resistant plumage, can work their head right through. I have seen one or two horrible specimens in the show pen. There is only one certain answer to the problem, breed birds without this fault. In my opinion it is caused by the neck being a fraction too long in proportion to the back: hence when the Fan rolls-up, the point of maximum pressure is against the front cushion, I consider that the main pressure should be on the rump with the back of the head merely resting against the cushion. We do breed birds of good type with these desirable properties and, if such from the breeding team, eventually all the inhabitants of the loft ought to be similar. But that is the counsel of perfection and, as we know, life isn't like that: hence the tail must be secured in position. Now I am no showman and I have never tied a tail, but I can stick tape! I prefer masking tape, it does not last as long as sellotape but neither does it leave marks nor pull out feathers on removal. However when dealing with a lace do remember that the webbing is not strong and the bird can easily push its head between taped quills, in fact it can push through far easier than it can draw back, which could prove disastrous, therefore always ensure that one piece of tape is set at the base of the feathers where the head will rest. Show dressing appears to be another problem, one sees the ordinary Fans having tails set just before penning and the novice might be excused for thinking that the lace poses an insuperable task since the feathers cannot be interwoven. Not a bit of it, since laces' tails cannot be 'laced', all that can be expected is that they be



SILVER LACE FANTAIL HEN

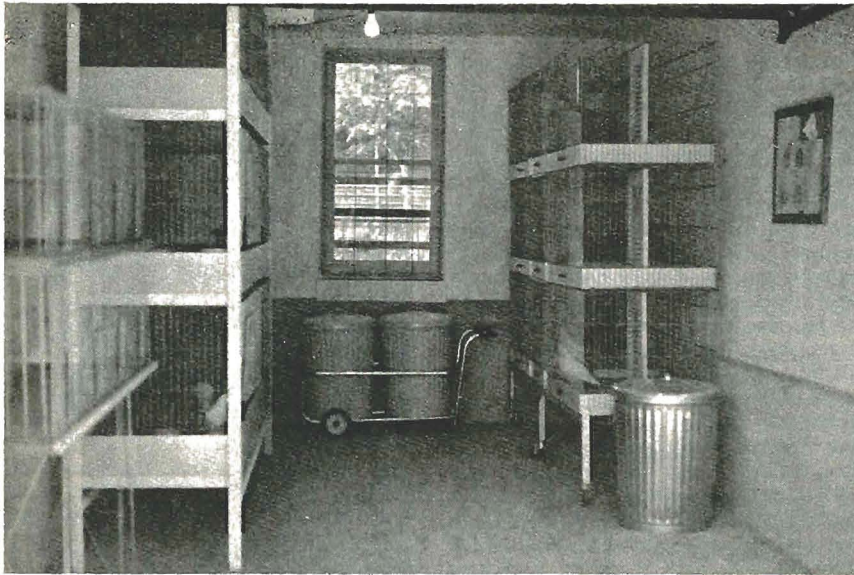
Silver Lace Fantail hen, Band No. NPA 74-B-675. In 1974 won: Eastern Branch, 5th AOC; 20 entries; Alexandra Palace, 2nd AOC; Suffolk, 1st and Best AOC; Club Show, 1st Best Lace. In 1975 won: Scottish Branch, 1st; Club Show, Best Lace, Certificate and Cup. In 1976 won: Club Show, 3rd (only time beaten by a Lace). — Bred and owned by Flt. Lt. J. R. Penley-Martin, Norfolk, England.

as smooth and as flat as possible, so back to the masking tape! About three to four weeks before the show season commences, ensure that all feathers are flat and evenly spaced, then tape into position: check after about a fortnight and re-tape, removing the fastening just prior to the first show. The harder feathered birds will generally last the season but the others may need a few days in 'curlers' before each event. Errant feathers can be twisted flat or bent into position quite easily: simply make a slight indentation in the quill near its base with a fingernail then, holding the base firmly, make the necessary adjustment to the rest of the feather. Always overcorrect the fault slightly since the feather will try to resume its original position but, if taped for approximately ten days, it will usually strengthen and hold the new arrangement. One word of warning, never attempt this treatment until the feather is fully grown and out of its sheath. For a hamfisted tail-setter like myself, the simplicity of these requirements makes the lace a show bird par excellence!

Some colours and strains of Fantails seem prone to nervousness. I have seen frightened lace, not a pretty sight!, but it would appear that this variety contains more than the average number of birds of an equable temperament. Perhaps being unable to fly, lace accept that they cannot escape and so develop a trust of, or indifference to, humans: hence they are more easily managed than ordinary Fans. There is also evidence to suggest that temperament can be inherited, so the odd nervous bird should be rogued out before breeding selection. Finally, newcomers are often worried lest a lace be bullied: have no fear, lace cannot fly out of trouble so they are quite prepared to fight. I do not wish to suggest that the variety is wilfully quarrelsome but it soon earns respect in the loft.

(Continued on page 469)





### Individual Fantail Breeding Cages

Picture shows the individual breeding cages on the right and young bird cages on the left. They are used in breeding Black Fantails. — Photo from Fred and Mary Thoeike, Cavalier, N.D.

## Powdered Blues — A Love Affair at First Sight

By GUS WALDUSKY, West Covina, Calif.

I would suppose that everyone who breeds Fantails or any other type of pigeon has his or her favorite color and like the rest, my choice of the powdered blue happened to fit my taste some 12 years ago.

My wife and I were going over the pigeons at the Los Angeles County Fair and taking a particularly slow walk down Fantail alley. I'd always been interested in Fantails but in this show we came across four birds that were a different color than the usual white, black, blue, etc., that are usually seen at the shows. After examining the coop cards I found them to be listed as powdered silver (now powdered blue) and a great love affair started at first sight.

Cy Harper was the owner and it was only a short time later that I paid a visit to Cy's place in the San Fernando Valley and came home with a pair that was to begin my stud of Fantails.

Living in town made it impossible for me to have a large loft, so to this day I breed from only a small select few. It was probably the best thing that could have happened because in not having the room I was forced to cull deeply and keep only the best. I have room for eight breeding pair so a few have to do the job for me.

My philosophy on breeding is simple and I believe, if followed, you can be successful in any color of Fantail you raise. Never breed two birds together that have the same faults and if a bird does not show, it has to go to the "bone can", so to speak. Of course, you also have to keep the Standard in mind but if they don't have the head room to "dig", for-

get them. I've seen birds with great tails and others with terrific bodies and some with both but unless they show and get up on their toes with the head laying back on the cushion, they are never

## Patience Necessary With Fantails

By ROLAND RACEY, Orlando, Fla.

I have been breeding Fantails for the past three years and if your considering this little beauty as your breed then I must caution you that for beauty you must pay the price of patience.

I started with one pair of breeding stock containing the bloodlines of Gerald Champ and if you know Fantails then you recognize a name of one of our past masters at breeding Fantails. I purchased this pair from Doug Boyce of Sarasota, Fla. Doug is now in his mid 80's and still as energetic with breeding pigeons as he was with his first pair of birds.

I have a small back yard loft and I guess the unusual thing about it is the fact that I will only breed from three pairs of birds. When I say unusual I mean that most breeders operate on a much larger scale. My breeding loft is seven feet long and six feet deep. The floor is split level. Half is plywood and half is sand. The plywood part is 10 inches above the sand part. The loft has an open front facing south and if the rain blows in, then the sand part is best for absorbing what rain that does blow in.

The nests are 30 inches wide 18 inches deep and 18 inches high. So for the sake of argument I would call this an ideal

around when number one is picked.

The color in powdered blue has been a very controversial subject for all the years I've bred them but in talking to the guys who are taking the color seriously, they seem to be going in the same direction. They are all trying to put dark or black bars on the wings and a dark band on the outer part of the tail feathers and also a light blue glaze over silver on the rest of the body. Some call this a flecking (not to be confused with ticking). For myself, I prefer the straight light or glazed light blue over silver. The birds of this color also seem to be harder of feather which used to be a major problem, especially in the tail feather which was soft and hard to manage. I won't breed from a soft tailed bird. They will set your breeding program back years. Keeping proper records and culling will eliminate this problem.

By no means do I know all there is to know about breeding the powdered blue color. I'm only expressing my opinion and am writing of what has been successful, in a small way, for me.

The powdered blue has come a long way in the past few years, thanks to Mr. Heffelfinger, Mr. Bolton and Mr. Harper, to mention only a few. With their birds spread across the country, to many different breeders, powdered blues are now placing well in shows in all parts of the country. Interest in this beautiful color is high and this will make them become even better with even higher placings in the future.

Good luck to all Fantail breeders everywhere!

loft for any breed where only three pairs of birds are given this much breeding area.

Now I must inject a word here that goes hand in hand with the word patience. The word in infertility. To me words are fascinating in that this word when you say it just sounds like a dirty word and believe me to Fantail breeders it is. My first breeding season I had five sets of eggs before I got the first fertile egg. Yes the pair was trimmed, vent, tail and anything else that got in the way. I also had a problem with the cock bird as he fought the hen for control of nesting and I find this can be a common problem with Fantails. When both birds have this desire to sit on the nest then there is a conflict and they are constantly pushing each other off the nest. I have had a case where they would knock a three day old squab out of the nest with their constant fighting for nest control. Of course this is a personality trait but I think it is more of a problem in Fantails than other breeds.

That first year I raised four Fantails, After the breeding season I gave two of the birds away and kept two. The next year I bred from two pairs, which were



father-daughter and son-mother mating. One pair bred two Fantails and the other pair bred three Fantails for that season. It's true that the quantity was poor but I tell you that the quality was outstanding in the second year. This is where the word patience comes into play. I now believe that if you have quality show stock Fantails that the best birds will not breed in large quantities. I know there may be Fantail breeders who may not agree with this line of thought but I have been privileged since the year 1941 to have experience with 16 breeds of pigeons and during this time I have not met a breed that was quite as challenging as the Fantail. My past years were involved with the easy breeds. Hungarians, Carneaux, Swiss Mondaines, Show Kings, Rollers, Homers, Modenas, etc. I say easy in respect to offspring capability. So if you want to be a Fantail breeder than here is my suggestion for success.

1. Be prepared for a \$50 investment for that first pair.
2. Give these birds plenty of loft space.
3. Talk to a well-known Fantail judge. He will open your eyes to the world of success.
4. Brush up on your reading concerning genetics. Breeding Fantails without a genetic roadmap is a dead end road.
5. Establish a bloodline and work with

it. Starting with one pair you can be competitive in five years. If this is too much patience then pick another breed.

6. Quick success can be bought, but the real pleasure just isn't there.

7. Learn to gauge the offspring. Reserve a certain bird for next year if it has one quality that is outstanding.

8. Handle your stock as much as possible. Lacing of the tail and daily preparation of the tail before show time is a must.

9. Clean feed and water twice a day or all of the above is void.

10. Last item. Don't ever second guess a Fantail judge. For the most part the Fantail judge is a man who has devoted a lifetime to his specialty and he doesn't have to be told how to do his job. He is a rare person in this age of fast living and gimmicks. Most of all he is sincere and he can be helpful to a new Fantail breeder more than I can explain in this short article.

Now to bring you up to date on my current third year of breeding. Well it's now May and I have my first two week old squab. For me this is a good year as I don't usually get a squab until June. I still have high hopes but I always must fall back to that stable old word of patience.

## Priorities in Breeding Fantails

By BUD HAGAN, Louisville, Ky.

The fallacy of the human race is to skip the obvious and to take on the colorful or the pie in the sky project. This is where we are today. The high price of feed, shipping, and the Lord only knows what will happen on the gas deal, has set the pace of the quality of our bird and also our shows.

At the present, the big show is in. The demand for more and more classes has grown. For every class, there is a demand for something to show that you have won. The demand for show catalogs and more bulletins has grown. This is good and generally reflects the growth of the Fancy.

Let's go back and take a look at all these goodies. I have helped put on some big shows. I have attended even bigger than what I put on. Nine out of ten fanciers at any given show have no idea what it takes to put on one of these shows. The average cost is from \$300 to \$500. There is no way to measure the cost of the labor of the three to five people that works.

The awards for our shows has grown completely out of reality. The cheapest trophy is between \$8 to \$10. On top of that, it is, and looks like trash. Most of the fanciers are in trouble with their wives over all those trophies setting and collecting dust.

Everybody talks about the high cost of shipping but I haven't seen any mass action on doing anything about it.

There is no way any of these feed companies are going to make me believe that it cost more to produce feed for pigeons than it does for chickens. They will tell you that it is the protein, but go to any feed dealer and check the protein of chicken feed against pigeon feed, (the average amount), and you will find out the average protein in chicken is 17% and pigeon is 15%. We pay because it is a specialty feed. One of the biggest producers of feed today, produces nothing but specialty feed. So figure it out.

The cost of putting out a bulletin has more than tripled in the last very few years. The cost of postage is out of sight and still going. The higher it gets, the longer it takes to get your mail.

Everybody you talk to says he belongs to this or that club, but go look at the paid-up members and you come up short. Five dollars today buys you a hamburger and cock, or very soon, five gallons of gas.

Let's take care of these problems real quick. 1st. Being that we have never been able to change the government from listing the pigeon as a chicken, when it is a bird, jay bird, etc. Let's feed chicken feed. 2nd. Every club member showing at any given show has to work or else. 3rd. Only the paid-up members of the big clubs that sponsor big shows are eligible to win an award. 4th. All of these clubs raise their dues to \$10 a year and \$2 entry to show. This stops all the begging and

relieves the few that puts up all the money. 5th. This award deal needs a lot of thought. Mine is to give a nice award for Champion and Reserve Champion. For all the other classes, best of color, old, young, yearling, or any class, gets an engraved plate. He will have to buy a plaque to mount these plates. This makes it easier to keep track of his wins.

This should be very easy to understand. Just take for example your life. From childhood to manhood you know that living off old dad and mom costs a lot less than being married with your own children. The compensation is the pride of your own family. There is nothing free and I do mean nothing. The cost is measured by your desire to better yourself in any project.

You can look at this any way you want to but no one stops progress. Our system is set up on a dollar system. As we want more and better things, we pay more to get them. The cost of anything sets its own pace. The high cost of feed alone has already changed every pigeon fancier's loft. They are culling heavier today than ever before. As you cull, you better your stud. As your stud develops so does your show entry. There is no way to feed a two-bit bird \$20 feed, so this follows all the way through.

There is only one champion at any show. This means it came from one cock and one hen, percentages on this goes up in accordance with how good a breeder you are. Take it from a dumbhead that knows, wall to wall birds is the wrong way to do it. The free lunch and the buggy whip went out at the same time, a long time back.

### Fantail Reflections Through The Years (Continued from page 427)

have known them I consider myself to be the privileged party. To have never met the others in America I place on the debit side.

In penning these notes, full well I know I contravened the sacred views of our partial modern society who are contemptuous of the past and who unblushingly employ insipid terms such as "sophisticated" and "permissive" to obliterate decadent. When I look at the by-products, with the jaundiced eye of this ultra enlightened age, I pause to wonder if in their alleged greater intellect and higher mentality they will ever afford the luxury that is mine when I say: If I could, I would do it all again.

### The Lace Fantail In England (Continued from page 467)

I hope that the above article has demonstrated that lace are not difficult to keep, breed or show and that the birds will blend into a loft of ordinary Fans. It is our most fascinating and challenging variety and in the U.K. may be obtained in most colours. I gather that in the States it is rarely seen but I understand that you like a challenge, so cast those doubts behind you and keep the real Queen of the Fancy!



# Our Method of Judging the Fantail

By HERB BANKER, Veneta, Ore.

Good Fantail judges are hard to find. A Fantail is not only judged by the printed Standard, but by its performance in the walking pen as well. For an all-breeds judge to judge a Fantail by the Standard he reads is a very difficult task, although I have seen some do a good job. Fantail clubs, and show directors must insist on qualified judges.

Here in the Northwest, the Oregon Fantail Ass'n has set up a system for the training and certification of Fantail judges. A person wishing to be an OFA certified judge must:

1. Know the OFA judging order.
2. Judge over 60 birds, at least two shows. This can be accomplished by judging at table shows, lawn shows, etc.
3. Take a written test and pass by 80%.
4. Take an oral test and pass by 80%.
5. The applicant then judges 10 birds under the watchful eye of at least two OFA certified judges.
6. The testing judges then make their recommendations to the club members, who then take a vote. The applicant can be certified after passing by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority. This sounds difficult, but if you know the breed it will be easy.

All judges should insist on a walking pen and proper walking material at any show. Trying to judge carriage and motion in a 16 by 16 cage is nearly impossible. The OFA has adopted the round

walking pen for a judging coop. The round pen stands on a pedestal by itself at chest level. This allows the judge to move completely around it to give him the best visibility. We have found that the round shape prevents the birds from hiding in a corner, which sometimes happens in a square pen. We also use naugahide for walking material. With the proper equipment, judging Fantails, or any breed, is made easier.

Most exhibitors enjoy hearing a judge comment on the birds as he is judging. This should however be done with restraint. The faults and the good points of a bird should be pointed out. This teaches the novice and may point out something overlooked by the experienced breeder. An overly critical judge may discourage the novice and keep him from showing the next time.

Good judges deserve recognition from the exhibitors and spectators. A round of applause on the completion of judging is sometimes the only payment a judge receives. Speaking for myself, I appreciate this more than anything else.

Note by Editor. — Due to lack of space, we are unable to print the Fantail Standard of the Oregon Fantail Association, and their interpretation of same. Copies of this Standard may be secured from Herb Banker, 25746 Jeans Rd., Veneta, Ore., 97487.

## Black Fantails — How Can We Improve Them?

By MIKE LIEB, Portland, Ore.

At first I was thinking of writing an article on what I consider to be lacking in our black Fantails. As I have been breeding them for only a few years, I believe it best to leave that subject to the experts. Instead, I will give you my thoughts on what we can do to improve the type of the black Fantails such as I have seen in the shows I have attended, those in my loft and those in the lofts of nearby fanciers.

Let me first say that I am 100 percent in favor of mating a black Fantail with a white, blue, pink or a purple, if there was such a color, as long as I can improve the overall quality of the young Fantails, color excepted.

"Well of course!" you say, "Everybody knows that!" Don't kid yourself! There are some fanciers who say that an AOC is no better than a cull. It is kind of discouraging to hear this, that the 10 points for color is more important than the 20 points for body or the 15 points for legs.

This is not intended for our color breeders who are striving for a certain color and who already have good type in their blacks. It is intended for the breeder whose blacks are wasting away because they are lacking good round bodies or their legs are six inches long. In the

next pen they might have a few odd white cocks that are excellent in body and beautiful in legs, birds that might have to be destroyed because there are no hens to go with them. Hey! Did I hear you say you wanted to do something with those blacks? Then why don't you put that beauty of a white cock with the short legs with that leggy black hen over there? You won't know what will happen until you try!

This year I am breeding from a white cock on a black hen because they have qualities that counteract each others faults. And they are proven breeders.

Take a look at a few of the past show reports of the Central or Eastern Fantail Clubs. Sure, a few blacks have won Champion honors over the years. But look who is number one. The whites! Even the blues and silvers are doing pretty well.

There isn't much more to say, I think I've made my point, that one of the keys to the improvement of the black Fantail is to cross it with a bird that is superior in type, no matter what the color might be. Just as long as it is a Fantail.

The leading black Fantail breeders of yesterday, Havemeyer, Altpeter Sr., Argall and Racey, led us in the right direction. The course has been maintained



ROUND JUDGING PEN

This round walking pen is used by the Oregon Fantail Association for judging Fantails. Herb Banker is shown in the picture. — Photo from Herb Banker, Veneta, Ore.

by today's LaFleur, Altpeter Jr., Kinginger, Harper, Hatcher and many others. In turn, they will send the fanciers of tomorrow towards their target.

In closing, I would like to thank Cy Harper who helped me to get a great start. And who knows? Possibly, on my way to breeding the "perfect" black Fantail!

### A Well Built Fantail Loft

By JOHN D. JOHNSON, Park River, N.D.

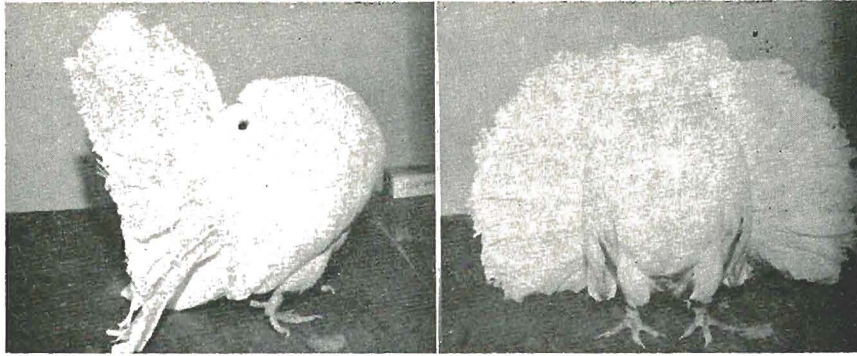
The design and size of my Fantail loft is 11' by 16' with 7' side walls and a 8' peak. The walls are insulated and covered with  $\frac{3}{8}$ " particle board on the inside, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " buffalo board and siding on the outside. There are three windows 2' by 2' in size. One on the North, one on the West, and one on the South side. These can be opened and screens put in. The picture window is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' by 4' for a good supply of light. The loft is facing the South so in the summer the sun is high enough to shine on only about 30% of the window so it does not heat up the loft any extra. In the winter when the sun is at a lower angle, it will shine in the complete window. When the temperature is 50 degrees out, it will be 72 degrees inside; at 30 degrees out, it will be 50 degrees inside, at 15 degrees out, it will be 30 degrees inside, at 0 degrees out, it will be 12 degrees inside and at minus 20 degrees out it will still be minus 20 degrees inside and frost on the feathers too.

I have a vent at each end of the loft at the peak (36" x 20") that I use for cross ventilation. I only open it on hot days. These have a fine screen on to keep out the flies, mosquitoes and other insects.

There are nesting boxes for 10 to 15 pair of birds with the size of each box being (24" x 15" x 12") high. There are also three separate areas (4' x 5') for pairing up birds or keeping young ones or odd ones in. This all works out quite well for my birds.

Subscription \$6 per year; 3 years \$15.





## Prize Winning White Fantails

First bird, Band No. 1508, 1976 Best Meef, Reading, Pa. Second bird, Band No. Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Atlantic City, N.J., 1976 Champion Old White cock at Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Lebanon, Pa. — Both birds bred and owned by Robert De Adder, Shrewsbury, N.J.

Young White hen at Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Reading, Pa. 3, 1975 Champion Young White cock at Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Atlantic City, N.J., 1976 Champion Old White cock at Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Lebanon, Pa. — Both birds bred and owned by Robert De Adder, Shrewsbury, N.J.

## Frank Fischlers' Champion Fantail

By BOB DE ADDER, Shrewsbury, N.J.

The outstanding show record of "The Champ" (7833) powdered blue hen, began at the Eastern Fantail Show held at Baltimore in January 1973 where she was declared Grand Champion of 186 Fantails by judge Al Kreutter. Since that show, "The Champ" has gone on to win as follows:

1974 — Eastern Show at Keansburg, N.J., Grand Champion of 132 Fantails.

1975 — Eastern Fantail Show at Atlantic City, N.J., Reserve Champion of 289 Fantails.

1976 — Eastern Fantail Show at Lebanon, Pa., Reserve Champion of 247 Fantails.

1977 — Eastern Fantail Show at Lebanon, Pa., Best Old Powdered Blue Hen.

1977 — Grand National at Dayton, Ohio, Champion Powdered Blue and Third Best Fantail of 365 Fantails.

In addition to her wonderful show record, "The Champ" has established her own dynasty of powdered blues in the loft of her owner, Frank Fischler of Keyport, N.J. and during the last few years she has generated severe competition in the show pen with her decedents. Frank has been generous with his family of powdered blues and several Eastern Fantail Club members, including your writer, provide stiff competition with related powdered blues.

Perhaps a few words about Frank Fischler would be of interest to Fantail buffs. He started, as most of us do, as a kid of 10 to 12 years of age and had a wide variety of Fancy pigeons. The typical pattern developed and he found girls, sports and automobiles more interesting for a while. Uncle Sam also needed his services for a few years but finally, about 12 or 13 years ago, he came back into the fold and for the last seven or eight years has concentrated on the "Queen of the Fancies".

Frank's loft of white, blue and powdered blue Fantails usually totals about 18 to 20 pair. Most of his early Fantails came from the loft of the late Clint Wilbur of Red Bank, N.J., and some of his whites and blues still carry a trace of the Wilbur background. Recent years have seen the addition of blue and white

from Lou Christener. Some blues and the champion powdered blues go back to Cy Harper birds. This year he acquired some whites from Ron Swartz and one or two from me which go back to Dr. Ostrander's birds.

It has been a pleasure for me to submit these lines about an outstanding Fantail "The Champ". It also gives me an opportunity to express my appreciation to Frank Fischler for the guidance, advice and many outstanding Fantails he has made available, not only to me, but to several members of our Fantail cult.

### Carriage and Motion In Fantails

By A. R. THOMS, Elmira, Ore.

Carriage and motion are the qualities that make the Fantail the "Queen of the Fancies". There are many good Fantails in the world but to excel, the Fantail must have carriage and motion. I won't try to write what the "perfect" Fantail should be but I will write about the main points of carriage and motion.

Birds well balanced in points as per Standard are usually the ones that have

good carriage. Carriage, of course, is very important. Carriage is the way in which the bird carries or holds itself, either while posing in one position or when walking.

A good Fantail always looks graceful even when it is not showing its best. The bird must show poise and confidence. The best Fantails are able to pose well and walk smoothly and gracefully. The walk, or motion, is not complicated; the bird must simply show itself off well when moving around. The bird must keep the same grace and composure while walking that it has when standing still and posing. The Fantail should walk smoothly and calmly, on its tip toes, off the ball of the foot. The head should be thrown back in a graceful manner and should be resting closely at the base of the cushion in the center of the tail. The bird should keep its head positioned, looking straight ahead, up the center of the chest. The bird must always hold its tail well up as stated in the Standard.

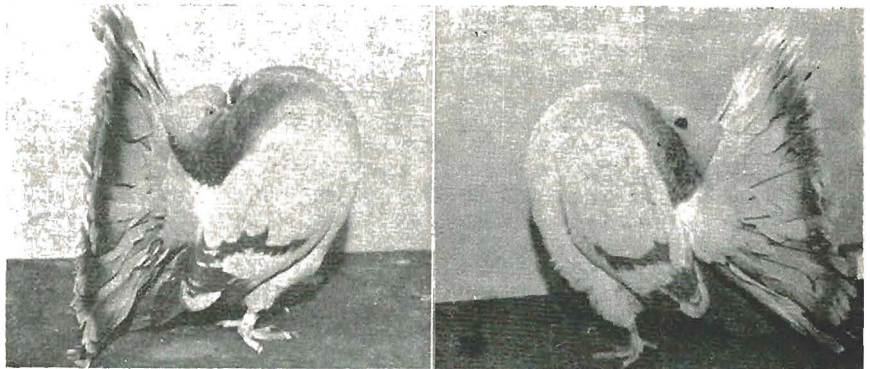
Fantails that do not have proper carriage and motion often look crippled or spastic. The problem is usually that the birds are too short in back or have bad leg setting. These birds should most likely be eliminated. Always breed for proper type and carriage and blend in the graceful motion. Breed for perfection and keep the Fantail the "Queen of the Fancies".

### A Fantail Club For Juniors

By JEFF BUNYARD, Vandalia, Ill.

For the past few months I have been interested in starting a Fantail Club for just juniors. (I am a junior too.) I thought and thought about it, and decided to go ahead. Its success depends solely on the support of fellow Fantail fanciers, especially the juniors. It would be mainly a fun club having bulletins, activities, ads, etc., and dues would most likely be set at \$2. This can be decided later.

One very important thing is should it be for both the standard type and the Indians or for just the standard type? I would like to have any comments or advice you may have. My address: Route 2, Vandalia, Ill., 62471.



## Prize Winning White Fantails

First bird, Band No. 1043, 1977 2nd Young Blue cock at Central Fantail Club Meet, Dayton, Ohio; 1976 3rd Young Blue cock, Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Reading, Pa. Second bird, Band No. 1512, 1977 Best Young Powdered Blue at the Central Fantail Club Meet, Dayton, Ohio; 1976 2nd Young Powdered Blue at Eastern Fantail Club Meet, Reading, Pa. — Both birds bred and owned by Robert De Adder, Shrewsbury, N.J.



# "Tamarac" — The Story of a Champion Black

By **BOB DE ADDER**, Shrewsbury, N.J.

It is surprising how one excellent pigeon, either racing or show, can make a successful season for its owner. This year I was extremely fortunate to get a Fantail of that caliber. Frank Fischler, a nearby fancier, on one of his visits to my loft, saw "Tamarac" as a squeaker on the floor of the loft and commented, "That's a good one, keep an eye on him". The following show record of "Tamarac" seems to confirm Frank's early diagnoses:

Ocaober 1976, Eastern Fantail Show at Reading, Pa., Champion Black of 15 Blacks.

October 1976, Northeastern Fantail Show at Concord, Mass., Champion Black and Reserve Champion Fantail of 75 Fantails.

December 1976, Northeastern Fantail Show at Worcester, Mass., Champion Black and Reserve Champion Fantail of 196 Fantails.

January 1977, Eastern Fantail Show at Lebanon, Pa., Champion Black and Reserve Champion Fantail of 240 Fantails.

February 1977, Eastern Fantail Show at Keansburg, N.J., Champion Black and

Champion of 40 Fantails.

Now that I've sounded off about "Tamarac", you may be interested in his lineage. In June of 1973, I visited Rod Hatcher in Iowa and in our discussion of possible purchases I asked him for his advice as to what color of his he would recommend as his best and he said "My Blacks". The pair of blacks he sent to me in January of 1974 have really been outstanding breeders. Two 1974 hens from this mating have been good show birds and one of them is the mother of "Tamarac". I wish I could be as specific about his sire. He was picked up in a trade with a local pigeon dealer, Ben Oliveri. Of course, the background of his sire must have been excellent even though unknown to me. A quote from Bob McKee comes to mind when he said, "The outcross with the highly inbred Hatcher blood sure clicked for a good one". This is a rather loose description of his quote because it occurred at the time of the judging of the finalists at Lebanon in January.

Now that the new breeding season is starting, I don't believe I have to say that the parents of "Tamarac" will be carefully watched.

## Exotic Fantails My Interest

By **RICHARD WILSON**, Bethlehem, Pa.

I am a member of the Eastern Fantail Club, the Northeastern Fantail Club, the Mid-American Fantail Club, the Central Fantail Club, the Great Lakes Fantail Club, the National Saddle Fantail Club, and the Indian Fantail Club. I raise all colors in Fantails with my basic breeding stock coming from Don Buhr of Cresco, Iowa.

Most people look upon pigeons as somewhat of a nuisance. More than likely their only experience with pigeons was with the barn pigeon, a bird that always seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It may come as a surprise to many of them that there are some people who actually raise and breed pigeons but these are not likely to be seen perching on your favorite statue.

There are pigeons with exotic names such as Fantail, Capuchine, Kormornor Tumbler, Roller, Racing Homer, Shaker Neck, Modena, Nun, Starling, Lark, Frillback, Blondinette, Archangel, Tippler, Moorehead and Ice Pigeon. A local group which is familiar with these names is the Tri-County All-Breeds Pigeon Club embracing the Pennsylvania Counties of Bucks, Lehigh and Montgomery. The Club meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Milford Square Fire Company of Milford Square, Pa. A Club meeting can be quite an experience, with 25 members sometimes bringing a pigeon or two. There is usually a Club competition for show birds, which is judged about

the same as a beauty contest except that the prettiest bird doesn't always win. The bird that wins is the one that has all the desirable characteristics of the breed.

The Club's goals are "To encourage and promote the breeding and improvement of all varieties of pigeons, to form a closer personal contact among all pigeon fanciers, to promote competition by sponsoring shows at monthly meetings and to promote sportsmanship and good will among all pigeon Fanciers".

With these lofty goals it is easy to see that the Club's members are very serious about their hobby. The Tri-County Club is not a racing club. There are a few members who formerly raced pigeons but they now concentrate on breeding and improving the more exotic birds. As for myself, I concentrate on breeding all different colors in Fantails.

Most breeders will specialize in only one variety of pigeons. The average breeder keeps about 50 to 75 birds and strives to get the best bird he can by selective breeding and elimination. I believe that if a breeder gets one outstanding bird from a breeding season, he has had a successful year and has done very well.

The price of a good pair of pigeons, those of show quality, is usually somewhere between \$25 and \$50. However, some pigeons have been sold for hundreds of dollars each.



**CHAMPION FANTAIL**

Champion Fantail, Band No. 7833. — Bred and owned by Robert De Adder, Shrewsbury, N.J.

Another goal of the Tri-County Club is to encourage younger people to get into the hobby. Any junior member can get birds free of charge to get a start. All our members are also available for help and advice whenever it is needed. The Club extends an invitation to all who are interested in the breeding and showing of pigeons, to join the Tri-County Pigeon Club.

## Mealy, Cream and Powdered Silver Fantails

By **EARL L. HERMER**, Randolph, Wis.

I would like to take this time to talk about some of my favorite colors, beginning with mealy and its dilute cream. Mealy is the name we use for barred ash reds and cream being barred ash yellow. Ash red is sex linked and when an ash red hen is mated with a blue cock you will produce red cocks and blue hens. However when an ash red cock is used with a blue hen I have never raised anything but ash reds.

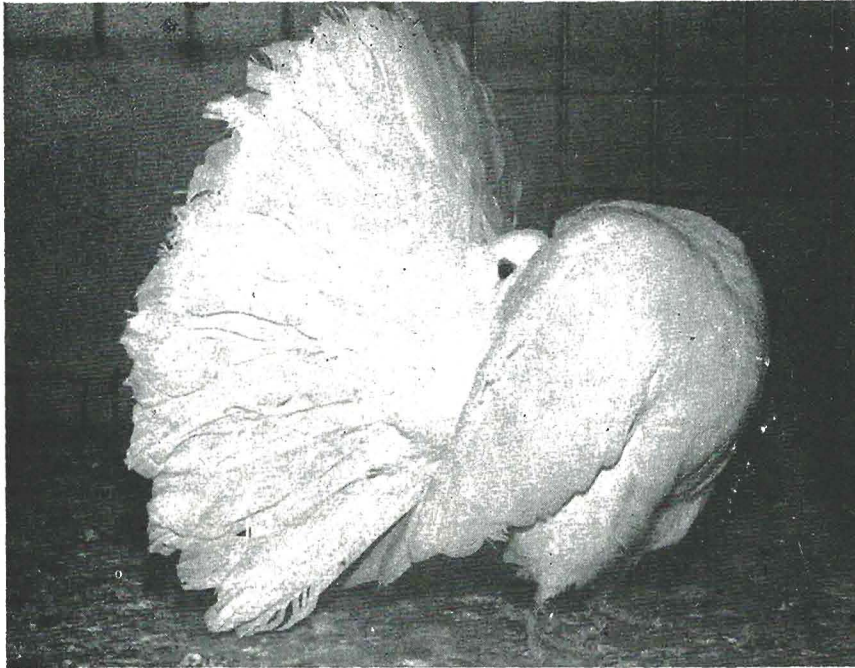
To this date I have never mated my mealies and creams together as type is not to my liking as yet. All mealies are used with blues, while silver is used for the creams. In cream and silver matings youngsters come in both colors and sex, usually in equal numbers. We can also mate cream to blue, but unless the blue cock is carrying dilution you will only raise blue and mealy.

I'd also like to mention one other beautiful color, that being powdered silver. Powdered silver is the dilute of powdered blue. In appearance it has light body coloring with light dun bars. In the years I've shown pigeons I have only seen one other breeder who has shown this color. I forgot the name, but I believe it was an Eastern breeder.

I mate my powdered silver to silver as I don't care for powdered blue and don't keep them anymore. All silvers from these matings are kept for future powdered matings or disposed of. This is where good record keeping comes in handy, but that's another story.

Come on you Fantail people, let's get some more of these beautiful colors in the showroom.





## Champion Fantail From South Africa

Champion White Fantail Cock, Band No. 12151, bred and exhibited by Ben Swart of Potchefstroom, South Africa. This bird was the best Fantail at 5 of 6 shows in which it was exhibited to date and is considered to be one of the best Fantails ever exhibited in South Africa. — Photo from D. J. Malan, Krugersdorp, South Africa.

## Number 12151 — A True Champion

By D. J. MALAN, Krugersdorp, South Africa

In any country where Fantails are bred, a few really outstanding birds are exhibited over the years. These, breeders recall with fondness in later years. At any discussion, at a show after the judging is completed, the names of famous breeders and their Fantails of bygone years usually are recalled, do you remember that black cocks of Malan's, or that white hen of Pienaar's? They were the best Fans I have ever seen, is usually the line of discussion.

Then there were some birds that became a legend before their show careers were over. Such a bird is number 12151, the Champion white cock of Ben Swart of Potchefstroom. This four year old cock has already built up a reputation that is unsurpassed by any other pigeon in South Africa.

Number 12151 was bred in 1973. I can still recall that Ben phoned me after the breeding season and told me he was sure that he had bred a champion. He was still a relative newcomer then, so you could realize the thrill it gave him to breed such a bird.

My first encounter with 12151 was at the Western Transvaal Area show at Klerksdorp the following year. This was his first outing as a young bird. I was the Fan judge at that show and when the young white cocks were brought before me, this bird immediately caught my eye, a small round body, perfect tail with a lot of top-tail and performing all

the time. He won the best Fantail award easily and after the judging I told Ben that I shared his conviction, that this bird would not be beaten in many years to come. Ben didn't show him again this year.

The next year number 12151 was again exhibited at the Klerksdorp show. Peter Vertue was the judge and again 12151 walked away with the Fantail laurels easily. To put the cream on the pudding, he was also judged the Grand Champion, all breeds.

Ben then took him to Bloemfontein for his first try at the South African Championship Show. Just before the show, disaster struck, he damaged his tail on the one side. At this show a South African record of more than 450 Fantails was established and competition was keen. But even with his damaged tail number 12151 still managed to come in second, the first and only time he was beaten.

Last year, Ben entered him again at the Klerksdorp show and he repeated this performance of the previous year, Best Fantail and Champion of the Show. After that, Ben took him to Johannesburg for his second try to keep up his reputation in the best of competition. Michael Hughes-Hall did the judging and this time number 12151 didn't let his owner down. In the judging coop he acted as though his life depended on it and it came as no surprise when he got the nod from Michael for best Fan. With this award

he became a full Champion of the South African Fantail Club.

This year he was again judged best Fan at the Klerksdorp Show for the fourth year in a row! But this was not the end of the story, for the third year he was Grand Champion. I really think this is a record that cannot be surpassed in any other country. Number 12151 will be exhibited in at least two more shows this year and is bound to improve on this already enviable record, five times best Fan in six shows!

I mentioned earlier that he became a full Champion last year and feel that I should explain to overseas breeders just how our birds can become a Champion. Here in South Africa a Fan doesn't become a Champion by merely winning best Fan at one show as is the case in America. About eight years ago, we started a system in the Fantail Club that is very similar to the one being used in the United Kingdom.

At the thirteen area shows and the South African Championship Show, which is held annually, the judges nominate the best bird in every colour class for a championship certificate, providing that he thinks the bird's quality is up to championship standards. If a bird receives three such nominations, under three different judges, over a period of at least two years, it becomes a champion. At least one of these nominations must be awarded at the National Show.

This system has proven to be a very workable one because, up to the present time, only eleven Fans have achieved champion status and all of them are true champions, the cream of South African Fans over the last eight years. Our champions to date are: the white cock from Ben Swart, a black hen from Coen Butler, a blue cock from David Malan, a blue hen from Francois Pienaar, a silver cock from Sam Greenman, a red hen from Francois Pienaar, a yellow hen from the late Faan van der Linde, a splash cock from David Malan, a red saddle hen from the late Faan van der Linde and a white lace cock from Ben Swart.

### Fred Arnold Died April, 13

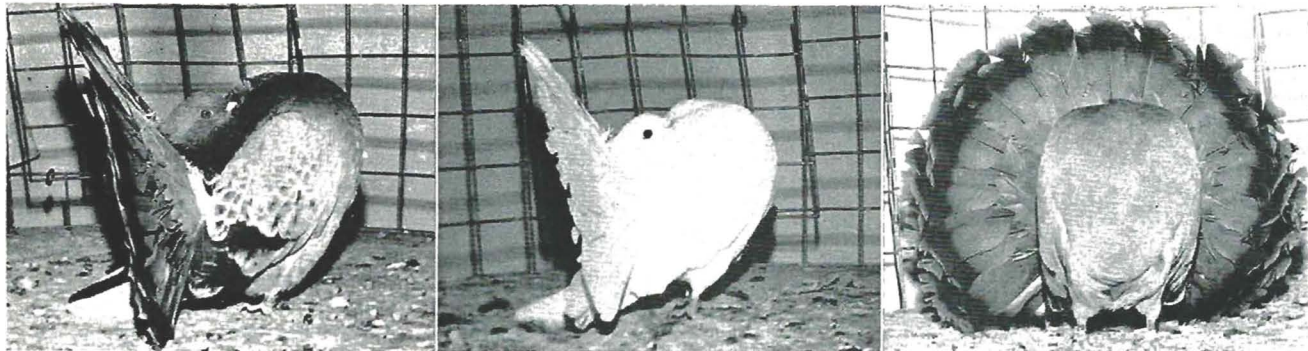
By FRANK H. FRISCH, Pawtucket, R.I.

Fred Arnold, 82, of Cranston, R.I. died April 13 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Cranston on Dec. 29, 1894, and lived all his life there. He served 14 years as a Councilman, and 16 years as a Representative in the State House.

Mayor Taft of Cranston, ordered the flag at City Hall lowered to half-staff the day of Fred's death. He also served as chairman of the Republican City Committee for more than 30 years.

He was a life member of the American Pigeon Club, and a life member of the Little Rhody Pigeon Club Fanciers Ass'n. For many years he exhibited and bred the Muff Tumbler. Fred had a quality that made people respect him. He will be missed by his friends in the Fancy. The members of the Little Rhody would like to express their deepest sympathy to his wife and family.





## Prize Winning Fantails From South Africa

First bird, AOC Old hen, Band No. 9633. Best Fantail at the Transvaal Area Show in 1975. Only beaten to date by a loft mate at three other shows. Note tremendous body. Second bird, White Old hen, Band No. 10707. 1st Young hen at the South African Championship Show in Johannesburg last year. 2nd Old hen at the Rand Show in Johannesburg this year. Third bird, Best Old cock, Band No. 7516. 1st and Best Blue and Best Barred Fantail at the Transvaal Area Show in 1975. 1st Young cock at the Championship Show in Bloemfontein in 1975. 1st Pretoria and 1st at the Championship Show at Johannesburg last year. — All birds bred and owned by D. J. Malan, Krugersdorp, South Africa.

## The Tail of a Fantail — A Breeder's Biggest Headache

By D. J. MALAN, Krugersdorp, South Africa

"A Fantail without a tail is not a Fantail". This remark made by a certain judge at a show was at that time greeted with mixed feelings by me, mainly because he was only looking for tail size in making his awards. The "fad" judge who has eyes for only one specific point overlooks the overall balance which makes a Fantail such a beautiful creature.

But on second thought, I realized that the judge probably had a point but he was not looking at it in the right perspective. The Fantail's tail is the main characteristic which distinguishes it from other breeds, its name is also derived from it.

I have witnessed a lot of would-be champions being pegged down because their tails were not in proper show condition. Because of its shape and size this tail therefore gives the breeder his most sleepless nights, worrying about how to keep it in top shape for the show bench. Not only the beginner, but also the old hand should always keep a watchful eye or he will pay the penalty at the shows.

There are many "tricks of the trade" in grooming the tail and the purpose of this article is to give my own observations on this subject as well as those I have observed in other lofts.

The actual show preparation of the tail begins when the youngsters are still in the nest. As soon as the feathers are sufficiently grown out, I start lacing the tail. There are many ways of doing this but I have found the method which was explained comprehensively by Rod Hatcher, in the previous Fantail Special, to be the easiest and most suitable for me. This is an art that every serious breeder of Fantails must master if he wishes to do well on the show bench.

I have found that one's birds get used to his method of lacing. If it is done differently, the bird usually becomes uncomfortable in the judging coop and will not show to best advantage. This usually puts the exhibitor who cannot lace his

own tails at a disadvantage, especially if his birds are not used to lacing at all.

When I am judging Fans I usually do the unlaced tails of any birds that show promise but I have found, on many occasions, that they refuse to act with their laced tails because they are not used to doing so.

This is one of the reasons why I start as soon as possible to lace my youngsters tails. Not only does the bird then get used to his laced tail but it is also easier to do their tails later because the feathers, somehow get used to it and will stay in position more readily.

Opinions differ as to whether the tail of a youngster should be cut when they leave the nest. Some breeders never cut the tail but fix it with cellotape, masking tape, cotton wool or by other means if the head is pushed through the centre or the shoeing feathers are caught by the flights. Others only cut the tail of the problem young ones, while some cut the tails of all their young birds.

I'm rather a member of the last school, both from personal experience and the coaching of my father, the Rev. Andre Malan, who had 40 years experience in breeding Fans. I have tried out all three methods and have found the cutting of all the tails, without doubt, the best, especially in this modern life of ours where time is a novelty and one is forced to look for the least time consuming methods.

Apart from this, I am of the opinion that this enables the young Fan to handle its tail better when it is fully grown. This I have observed specifically in my larger tailed birds. When they are young it seems as if their tail is too heavy for them and they either drop it or carry it over their heads with the resulting weak centres. I am of the opinion that a heavy tail weakens the rump muscles and will affect the tail carriage later on.

I know there will be a lot of breeders who will disagree with me on this but

since I have started cutting all my young birds tails, I have eliminated the dropping of tails in my stud and my birds are more natural actors!

The pulling of tail feathers during the moult is also a subject of different viewpoints. Here again there are three schools of thought. Some are of the opinion that the tail must be left to moult out naturally, others only pull out the side feathers and leave the centre feathers to aid the growing feathers while the third group pulls out all the feathers at once.

Here again I have tried all three methods and again am of the opinion that the last is in most cases the best. From personal experience, the main problem with the second method is that usually, after the side feathers are fully grown and the centre feathers begin to moult, gaps will form in which the flights get caught and head push through. It is also difficult to remedy this with the aid of cellotape because the feathers are in different stages of growth and blood feathers may get damaged when fastened to fully grown ones.

Another problem that I have encountered by using this method is that tails take a much longer time to moult and the birds are not usually ready for the early shows.

If all the youngsters are in the same stage of growth, one can start at an early stage to prevent shew feathers from forming, especially in the shoeing feathers where a constant problem is experienced. At any show, one can see what a problem this is. A high percentage of the exhibits usually have some skew feathers, usually the third or fourth shoeing feather. Some say that this is an inherited fault but my experience is that this is mainly due to flight-catching while the feather is still in the blood stage.

During the past few years another problem has been experienced by most Fantail breeders in South Africa, namely that the tail feathers fail to break out of their sheaths during the moult. In the really bad cases, the feather is grown out to its full length before it sheds its sheath, resulting in a soft brittle feather, some-

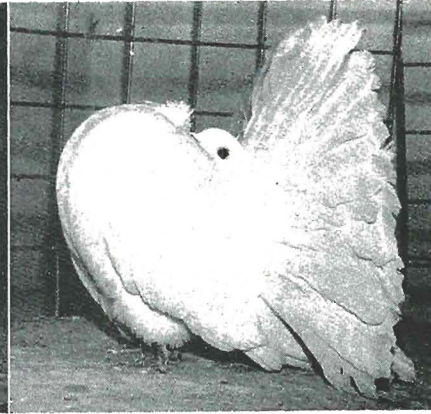
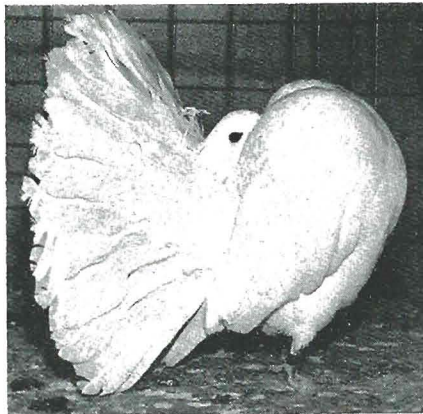


times stained badly.

The older breeders say that they have never observed this problem until about eight or ten years ago. Since then, this has been a much discussed matter and I have done a lot of reading on this subject. This is mentioned by some overseas breeders but apparently it is not such a problem there as it is in South Africa.

In one of the books of the British Fantail Club, the author is of the opinion that this is due to excessively damp weather. According to him, in damp weather the sheaths do not dry out quickly enough. He recommended that it should be aided by breaking it with the thumb nail or a sharp instrument like a needle. Sometimes this helps but in many cases I have found that this is not possible because the sheath is too wet and cannot be broken.

This, to my mind, is perhaps the best explanation to this problem because here, in South Africa, we have experienced some very wet summers, especially during the moulting time. The other day a fancier told me that this problem could be remedied by giving the birds a bath every day during the moult. I usually give my birds a bath once a week so I



## Prize Winning Fantails From South Africa

First bird, White Young Cock. Band No. 10545, Best Fantail and Reserve Champion, all breeds at the Rand Show in Johannesburg this year. Second bird, White Old Cock. Band No. 10761, 4th young cock at the Championship Show in Johannesburg last year when still very young. Has improved a lot since and will do well this year. — Both birds bred and owned by D. J. Malan, Krugersdorp, South Africa.

have not had the opportunity of trying this out.

I would really like to know whether overseas breeders are also experiencing this constant problem and what steps should be taken to overcome it.

## Judging a Pigeon Judge

By **BUD HAGAN**, Louisville, Ky.

Since I have been in the Pigeon Fancy I have tried to study all of our problems. We are growing so fast, sometimes it seems that we have more than our share of trouble. This is a wrong conception, it is just growing pains.

For years, we operated a back yard hobby. There were very few real good birds and less good fanciers. We didn't have to worry too much about who judged or what the Standards really meant. We knew that Old Joe had been in birds for 40 years. He really know what he was doing so naturally he had the best birds in the show.

As with all things, time changes everything. People had more money, time and a quest for knowledge. Soon Old Joe had some competition. At every show, there were more and more good birds. We had gone from the back yard show to an 800 bird show. Still it grew until all of a sudden it is possible to have a 900 Fantail Show. Now at any given show at least half the birds should not be in the show, not even in the sales pen. This is where the troubles began. Now time had given Old Joe a "pigeon judge ear". This is an ear that either doesn't hear all the crying or just doesn't care as he has learned one thing in 40 years, a good bird is hard to beat. He also knows the club's cry babies and has listened to them so long that he just turns that old ear that is going bad right on them.

The things that worries him are tremendous. He knows that the top 10 birds in the cage are from the top 10 breeders in the Fancy. At almost any given bigger show, he could close his eyes and just

pick up one and would be on the money. He has asked for help so many times and been turned down that he just keeps his mouth closed. He has seen the politician try to get a fellow in that will pick his type of birds even though he knows it is not up to the Standard. He knows the younger fancier should be learning to judge but will not get the chance because of the cry babies. He knows there are some that could but won't as they wouldn't take bad mouthing, rear seat judging, open insults, and sometimes an invitation to just step outside.

He knows that it is impossible to pick every bird champion. He knows that it is costing him more and more money to travel to the shows. He knows that a large percentage of the fanciers are using as Standards, a bunch of words drawn from a bunch of opinions, to pick him to death. He knows there is no way to draw a perfect Standard to suit everybody. He knows that if it were possible that anyone that could read could judge. He knows in his 40 years of breeding and judging that he has never seen a perfect Fantail. He knows that if more of the fanciers would judge it would make a better man, a better breeder and maybe he might even end up a fine fellow. He knows that all those spectators chairs should be thrown away and all these good fellows should come around on the right side and carry a few birds, just to know how they feel. Just think how the carrier would feel that had the honor to carry the Champion back to his cage. At least he would know what a champion feels like. He knows that if all these good folks are

busy helping there would be less time for rear seat judging.

He knows that there are a lot of fanciers that could pick the Champion but have a hard time putting them together in the loft. He knows that there are the certain few that can breed a champion in a very short time, yet are not allowed to judge because they haven't been in the Fancy long enough. He knows that if a fellow can raise a champion, he can pick a champion and wonders why they won't let him at least help the 'Old Man'. He knows that time is running out and he hopes the club allows the young lion to walk beside him so that he can pass on his 40 years of experience before it is too late. He is proud of what he has learned in his 40 years and feels it would be a great honor to pass it on. What greater honor than to be setting up in Heaven and hear, "I know it is the Champion because 'Old Joe' taught me what a Champion is."

## Fantails Tops In Beauty and Grace

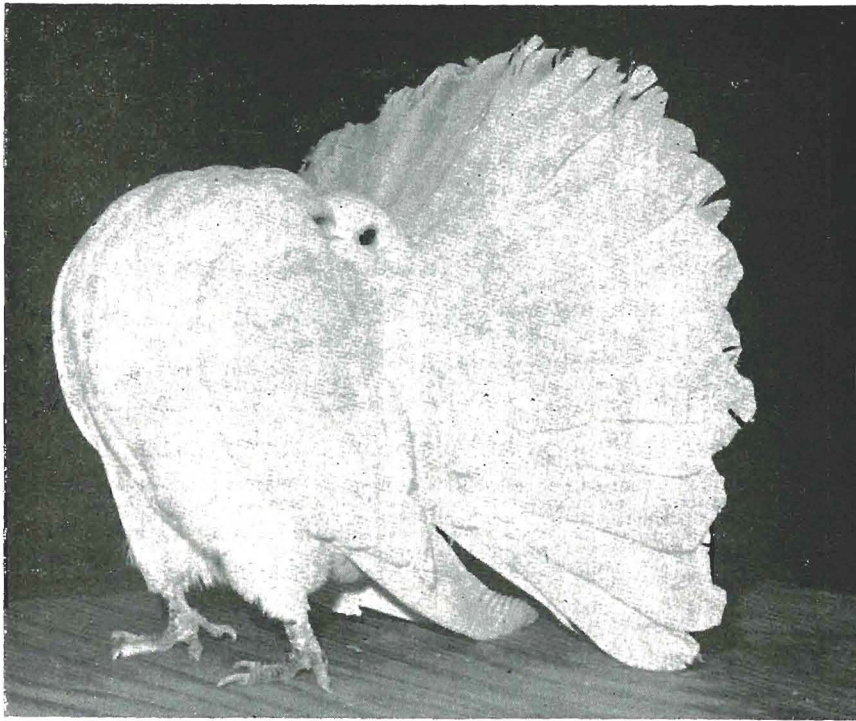
By **AL** and **MARY PETERS**,  
Sheet Harbour, N.S., Canada

We have been breeding Fantails for about three years and think they are tops in beauty and grace. We would like to give a special tribute to Ron Rogerson and Matt Downs for getting us started in Fantails. Between the two, they have passed on a great deal of valued information and have really helped us in this great hobby.

At the present, we are breeding from 13 pairs of Fans. Along with our stock from Ron and Matt, who have obtained stock from top quality breeders in the United States, we have also brought in some lovely reds and yellows from Brian Pogue.

We feel that the quality of birds in this part of the country has improved greatly over the past few years and hope they continue to do so. We would like to see more fanciers, especially from this area, become members of the Canadian Fantail Association, as the Fantail, without a doubt, is an outstanding bird.





### 1975 Grand Champion Fantail

White Fantail Hen, Band No. MN 39-75. "Joy". Grand Champion Fantail at Northeastern Fantail Club Annual Meet. Dec. 1975. — Bred and owned by Raymond H. Ostrander, Sandwich, Mass.

## Establishing A Strain of Fantails

By RAYMOND H. OSTRANDER, Sandwich, Mass.

If a fancier wishes to establish a strain in a specific color of Fantails he must be prepared to accept the probability that he is entering into a long-range, challenging venture. He should start with two or three pairs of high quality birds from a reputable, well established breeder. With such a foundation he possesses the basic ingredients for developing a stud of Fantails with steadily improving quality.

The choice of a strategy for accomplishing his goal is an essential. Over the years the pigeon literature has included many articles by successful fanciers on this subject. The major strategies described are out-breeding, inbreeding and line breeding. By outbreeding we mean the mating together of individuals that are relatively unrelated. Inbreeding is the mating of individuals that are closely related to each other. Line breeding has been variously defined. Some authorities restrict the term to the breeding of an ancestor to a descendant. Other writers consider the mating of brothers and sisters or of cousins for several succeeding generations to be line breeding. Since line breeding, by any of the usual definitions, involves mating together individuals which are closely related we may categorize line breeding as a special case of inbreeding.

In selecting a strategy the fancier should consider the nature of his object-

ives. To develop a strain means, for the purposes of this article, the breeding of a group of Fantails which are all descended from common ancestors and related closely enough to possess similarities in their genetic factors.

It was my personal good fortune to have been brought up in an agricultural environment with a focus on animal husbandry. Early I learned that the farmers of the English Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey brought the cattle of the breeds bearing those names to a high state of perfection by inbreeding. Other breeds of livestock have also been improved by inbreeding. L. M. Winters of the University of Minnesota wrote in the *Shorthorn World* back in 1937 that a study of the history of the breeds revealed that the livestock breeders who left a favorable impression upon their breeds utilized inbreeding.

Now back to the pigeon literature. H. S. C. Dean, then treasurer of the English Fantail Club, wrote in *Pigeons*, the English publication, for August 2, 1935, as quoted in the *Central Fantail Club Bulletin* for September 1935, as follows:

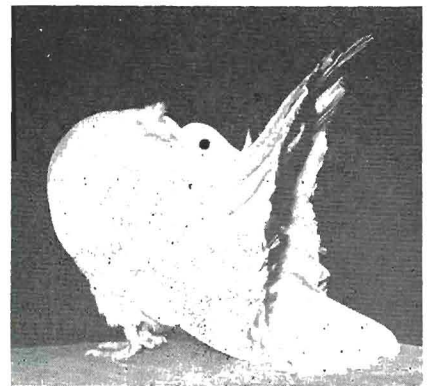
"The only way to find a strain is by inbreeding, and it can be carried out indefinitely, provided no weak or unhealthy specimens are retained for breeding purposes. Inbreeding alone will take one nowhere without careful selection."

Dean's mention of the need for careful

selection brings up a vital point. One of the most important elements in a fancier's quest for establishing a high quality strain is a continually increasing knowledge, on his part, of what constitutes the ideal Fantail. This knowledge is the sine qua non needed for the annual selection of his breeding stock. It should be noted, however, that, while what happens in the showroom is important, one should not be guided solely by what a single judge decided on a given day. Fantails, like jumping horses, must perform when they are in front of a judge. The Fantail Standard allows 25 points for carriage and motion. If a Fantail does not "show" before the judge it will not win. A word of caution, however. If an otherwise superior bird fails to "show" on several different occasions under different judges it may be that it should be eliminated from the breeding program as soon as a more consistent performer is available to take its place.

If a fancier has decided to use inbreeding as his basic strategy and has learned a great deal about what the ideal Fantail will look like, if ever attained, he must decide upon a plan for the implementation of his long-range breeding program. There are various possibilities. Some fanciers follow a carefully executed plan of line breeding involving mating offspring to parents and their offspring to the grandparents. Then a young cock carrying  $\frac{1}{8}$  of the blood of the original hen is mated to a young hen carrying  $\frac{1}{8}$  of the blood of the original cock. Close breeding in various ways may be utilized thereafter. I must confess that my loft space has been too limited for me to keep sufficient numbers of birds to permit my trying this approach.

William Bardell, one of the most successful British Fantail fanciers of all time, reported that in starting a family he selected two good cocks and two good hens. He paired the young from these two pairs together. Then he chose young from these matings to breed to the grandparents. He has stated that he could keep a family of Fantails going like this



### 1971 GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL

White Fantail Hen MN 620-71. "Wee Wendy" photographed at 5½ years of age. Grand Champion Fantail at Northeastern Fantail Club Annual Meet Dec. 1971. First prize Old White Hen Northeastern Fantail Club Annual Meets held Dec. 1974 and Dec. 1975. — Bred and owned by Raymond H. Ostrander, Sandwich, Mass.



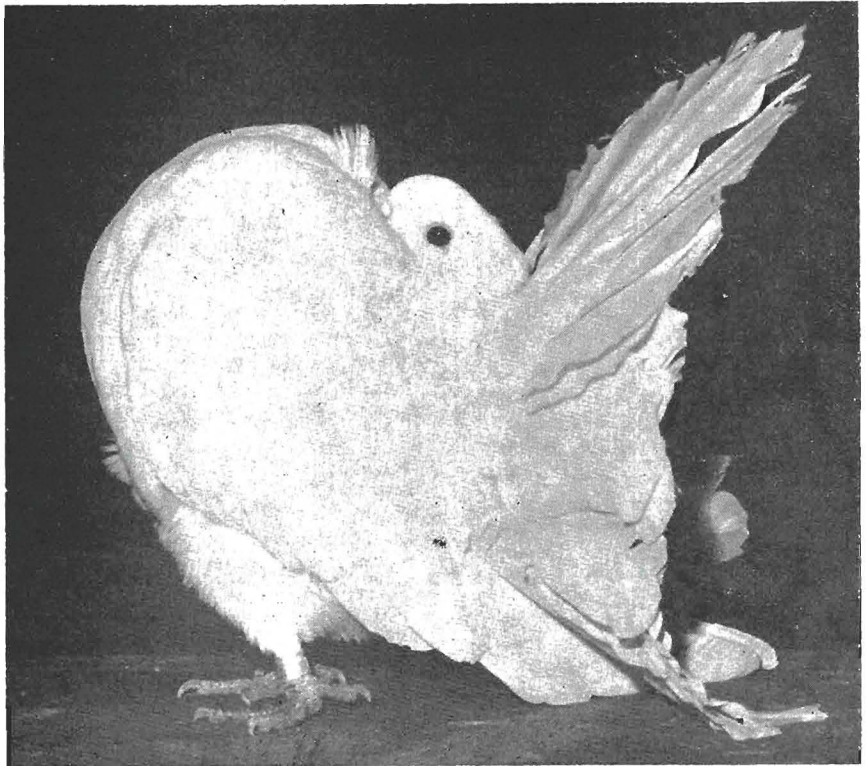
for 15 or 20 years without an outcross.

There are other variations of inbreeding. As several observers have reported, half brothers and sisters mated together have produced some of the best specimens.

Regardless of the plan being followed inbreeding has at least these major possible effects. First, qualities of the ancestors tend to become fixed in the strain. This means both desirable and undesirable qualities. Thus careful selection and culling are essential. Second, stamina and particularly fertility may be adversely affected, requiring the discarding of all birds weak in these respects. Third, size tends to be reduced. Here we have a real plus for Fantail breeding since our Standard calls for small pigeons.

Inbreeding has been the key to my own breeding of white Fantails. In recent years I have bred only from birds which I have raised. In fact I have not had an outcross for 16 years. Several times I have met with reverses because of allowing the wrong birds to leave my loft. I have even been tempted to bring in outside blood but each time I have been happy that I resisted the temptation. My matings for 1977 include the white hen, "Wee Wendy", MN 620-71, the matriarch of my present stud. "Wendy" won the grand championship at the 1971 annual meet of the Northeastern Fantail Club and first prizes in 1974 and 1975 at this club's annual meets. I did not exhibit her in 1972 and 1973. All of the other birds in my loft are descendants of this hen.

I want to emphasize that a fancier pursuing an inbreeding program should be extremely careful in selecting the birds to retain. He must choose for vigor and overall, balanced excellence. But also he should make certain that he keeps at least one bird that is especially good in each of the various desirable Fantail properties. Sometimes this may mean that a prize winner can safely be sold



### 1974 Grand Champion Fantail

White Fantail Hen, Band No. MN 920-74, "Little Susie". Grand Champion Fantail at Northeastern Fantail Club Annual Meet, Dec. 1974. — Bred and owned by Raymond H. Ostrander, Sandwich, Mass.

while a stock bird of lesser quality is retained.

In summary, inbreeding, accompanied by rigid selection of breeding stock to be retained, can be a highly rewarding strategy for establishing a strain of high quality Fantails. Of course, there are risks. There may be disappointments, but on balance the compensation in the form of an improving stud of Fantails can make the required time, patience, tenacity, and endurance well worth while.

slower development is marked with unusually high quality round bodies and strong flat tails if given a little time. After a few seasons of working a tight family of birds the appropriate time for culling will come to the fancier as second nature.

In working with Fantails from year to year, I find that only about 10% will "make the grade" as far as birds usable for my own breeding or stock that I would pass on to another serious fancier. The long term goals for the fancier should be very high as to perceive achievement in a couple of seasons would be almost impossible. I believe I have in blacks a couple of birds that excel in quality or come close to the standard of perfection and to make every bird in the loft that good is my challenge.

Showing Fantails for me has been displaying my efforts in an act of friendship in comparison to others. Rewards in Fantails this way are tremendous because it just doesn't lie in the hardware used for awards. Although there is enough of it to support evidence of achievements.

To the novice or anyone in consideration of Fantails. Buy birds in good faith from a reputable breeder. Learn from these birds, their Standard and veteran fanciers. Apply care, handling and training and you are on your way. Believe me, if you enjoy rewards for efforts, therapy beyond the attainment of wealth, showing Fantails will provide you with Good luck and happy Fantails to you.

## Handling Your Strain of Fantails

By DENNIS SOARES, Chino, Calif.

Breeding Fantails in whites and blacks has been an utterly charming experience. The blacks seem to be a bigger challenge as the apparent strain of whites I have seem to hatch "ready to show" while the blacks seem to take somewhat longer to display their prowess as a sparkling show bird.

In recognizing your lofts best show queens, I believe the Fantail fancier should master the art of judging them. In fact, Fantail people I believe, have to be more learned fanciers in their breed than most other fanciers as the separation of birds in our large show classes is usually a result of preparation and coop training of the precious few show birds available at exhibition time. A champion can look like the run of the mill if not properly handled, prepared and set down to display its most com-

manding attributes to the judge. A better than average bird on the other hand can go all the way if this care in handling is assured. If lacing, training and handling is not discussed in detail in this issue, I recommend Rod Hatchers' Fantail handbook to the beginner of anyone needing an approach in preparation. Good points can also be learned from some of the veteran Fantail fanciers at the showroom or in their lofts.

In the loft I like to handle youngsters and I always like to have walking boards for the Fantails in their developing months to get them adjusted to walking in front of someone and to show me just how round those bodies are. For some Fantails this is a culling stage. However, reiterating to my earlier statements on strains, I have young blacks that if they were white would be culled, but their



# Our Hobby — Breeding Fantails

By JERALD J. KITCHEN, Decatur, Ill.

One can have many different hobbies, guns, coins, stamps, bowling and many other man made hobbies, but we all know who started our hobby and gave it to us for our care.

Genesis 2: 21: "And God created great whales and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind; and God saw that it was good."

I would like everyone to read Genesis 2.26 and find out how we got to come about having our hobby, the fowl Fantail. This tells me that our Fantail hobby is good. I also believe it takes a certain kind of person to raise and care for Fantails. I sure thank God for the pleasure he has given me through his Fantails.

In the 15 years breeding Fantails, I've met very few breeders by numbers but they all have been fine people. In being helpful these are the kind of people that really love to help one and to give one good sound advice.

I had to do without Fantails for the last four years and one does not know just what his Fantails mean to him until he has to leave them and I'm sure glad to be back, I feel as though I can relax now.

We've just finished a new loft 12' x 16'. At one end there is twelve separate breeding compartments 18" high 30" wide and 36" long. We are trying a new nesting set-up. Inside the nest boxes we

have put 4" thick by 12" square foam rubber, that is cupped out to give a natural shaped nest. We hope this will keep the eggs together instead of rolling around and out from under the parents.

We also hope this will keep the youngsters from getting out from under the parents until it is time. This also helps one to start the breeding season a little early by keeping the youngsters warmer due to the foam rubber acting as insulation. It also can be used many times, just wash with a garden hose.

We are breeding with three pair of whites, two pair of tailmarks and a white hen to a blue cock, experimenting here. We are hoping to get a start of blacks from Eugene Altpeter. We have had blacks from Eugene and they were super birds, also they raised birds that I have won with at many shows. I have never met Eugene, but have several letters from him. He has to be a super fine man and I can highly recommend his selection of birds he ships. Thank you Eugene for all the help you have been to me.

I would sure like to have all just stop sometimes when in your loft and give thanks to God for our hobby. If we would do this, it sure wouldn't surprise me if our Fantails wouldn't take on a different light. It sure is helping me.

Like all correspondence and will answer all letters. My address: 862 W. Olive, Decatur, Ill., 62526.

## Judging of Fantails in the Republic of South Africa

By CECILY PRETORIUS, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Fantail has become the leading exhibition pigeon in South Africa, with entries exceeding the Modena, which used to be the leader.

To mention but a few of the many outstanding Fantail breeders in the Republic of South Africa, I would like to mention Francois Pienaar, Coen Butler, David Malan, Sam and Roslyn Greenman, Ben Swardt, J. S. Willies, Dirk Rossouw, A. Badenhorst, Brian Raw, Jaap Smit, Ken Rosevear, (who has improved the quality of our Saddles by concentrating on this variety). There are many more whom I trust will forgive me for not naming them.

I was first nominated by the Fantail Club as major judge of Fantails at our National Championship Show held at Bloemfontein, Orange Free State in 1973.

I arrived at the Show Hall that morning very nervous, as I had to judge birds bred by our leading Fantail breeders who had been in the Fancy for many years and found that I had to judge well over 300 birds in one day. But Fantail breeders being such wonderful friendly people, I was soon put at ease and the dreadful

ringing in my ears, from sheer nerves also stopped.

Let me start right off by saying that the knowledge I obtained of Fantails was from no other a person than David Malan, son of the Maestro of Fantail breeders in South Africa the Rev. Andre Malan, by co-judging with him at our Agricultural and Area Shows. Rev. Malan has for several years now given up breeding Fantails but his son David has continued with the expert guidance of his father. I understand that the Rev. Malan is again thinking of breeding Fantails.

At this 1973 Championship Show I was most impressed with the quality of our Fantails, and here a beautiful white owned by Francois Pienaar, was placed as best Fantail in Show. It had a lovely round body, beautiful tail and was well balanced.

In 1974 we had our National Championship Show at Cape Town with over 400 Fantail entries and here again I had to do the major judging of approximately 350 birds. Distances being what they are in South Africa, four Fantail breeders and I (with my Frillbacks and Fairy and Sile-



CECILY PRETORIUS

Well known Fantail breeder and judge of South Africa. Read the accompanying article. — Photo from Cecily Pretorius, Johannesburg, South Africa.

cian Swallows) decided to rail our birds and go down by train ourselves as the petrol shortage was already being felt here and our speed limit on the open roads had been curtailed to 80 kilometres per hour. What a lovely sociable trip Sam and Roslyn Greenman, Francois Pienaar, Coen Butler and I had, where the main topic of conversation was, of course, Fantails. Mrs. Greenman being so concerned about her Fantails in the baggage carriage that she rushed up and down practically the length of a very long train several times a day for the 2½ days of our journey to make sure that the birds were watered and fed.

At this show the best Fantail that I brought forward was a beautiful jet black yearling with perfect iridescence on feather owned by Coen Butler. This youngster had perfect balance, excellent leg setting and length of leg in balance with a beautiful small, round body, top tail correct, good in feather quality. The final judging was only done on the second day of the show, and even after two days this little hen still held her beautiful stance and action. She went on to be selected as best bird yearling in Show. I just wish to mention that over 3000 birds were benched at this show.

At the 1975 National Championship Show, again held at Bloemfontein, the Rev. Malan judged the White and Silver Fantails and I did the blacks, blues and AOC. Here the black youngster of 1974 was again placed first in her class, but she had developed a very slight weakness in the one leg and as such a yearling black cock, also owned by Coen Butler, was placed first in the blacks, with a beautiful silver owned by Francois Pienaar being placed best Fantail and a yearling AOC shown by David Malan placed best yearling Fantail. At this show there was a good blue, but here a white rump spoiled an otherwise good bird.

I shall again be doing the major judg-



ing of this exquisite "Queen of Fancy" this year at our National Championship Show to be held in July at Bloemfontein, but in 1976 when the Championship Show was held here in Johannesburg, I had a break from judging the Fantails, with Michael Hughes-Hall officiating here, and of all things I judged the Utility Class, in my opinion jumping from judging the daintiest to the biggest of all Fancy pigeons on our South African Show benches, viz. Runts, Gros and Swiss Mondaines.

What am I looking for when judging our Fantails? A small round bodied bird, a perfect ball when viewed from all angles, with shoulders and wing butts set well in and covered wings coming away from the front showing as little wing as possible from the front view, and from the side view such as to show the contour of the body. The head snaky set centrally tight on the tail cushion. A full circular strong feathered tail, well supported by a good spread of cushion feathers. The legs must be wide, short (not too short), and well forward, giving that distinctive style on the forward toes when the bird is in motion. A combination of well balanced points in all respects.

I really do not like a large bird, as they mostly lack in roundness, being inclined to lankiness, that is the width of chest in proportion to length of body does not balance favourably. I realize that the correct width and corresponding length is hard to achieve, but that perfect bird with the full roundness between the top

of the chest and the spring of the legs is a joy to behold and seen here at every show in at least a few good Fantails.

Strong emphasis is placed by me not only on the front view with good top tail, but on that perfect side view, where the true balance shows. Viewed from any angle of course, the body should show no angularity anywhere, but have the appearance of roundness. Feathers should be neat giving the bird a clean moulded contour.

In my opinion some perfect Fantails have already been spoiled by fanciers lacing the tails too tightly. The flat tail with no concavity may look nice to some, but it leaves the bird no room to sink the head down to the cushion, with the result that the head pushes the tail feathers back at this point showing a dent in the tail, which could have been avoided had the lacing been slightly less tight and thus showing that beautiful more or less 80 degree concave tail.

In conclusion it is with deep regret that I wish to pay my respects to Faan van der Linde, who died early last year. He was one of our big breeders, a true fancier and gentleman in every sense of the word. He was always willing to help the beginner by letting them have some of his best stock, and ever helpful with the lacing of the tails and presenting the birds in their best form for these beginners and also the birds of those Fantail fanciers who could not attend the show themselves to present their birds for judging.

## Classical Almonds In Fantails

By TIM KVIDERA, Anoka, Minn.

The almond Fantail is and will remain to be a frustrating challenge to any and all that will attempt to master this color. Tremendous strides have been made recently in improving the quality of Fantail involved, but the color is far from idea. But let's face it, they have been playing with almond short face Tumblers the best part of two centuries or better and a good colored one is a rarity and the ideal "impossible". I say "impossible" since as most of you know the almond pigeon is in a constant change of color. Each moult brings on a new pigeon. Sure it is the same Fantail but its color changes with each moult. It is rare to find more than a few flights and tail feathers ideal let alone all at any given time.

I will not go into detail of the ideal markings but generally you should strive for a yellow pigeon as evenly speckled with black as possible with the flights and tail feathers containing three colors, the yellow ground, black and white. These patches of yellow, black and white should be as distinct as possible, not grizzled amongst each other. For a more indepth treatment of the color description I suggest David Low's article in the August 1973 APJ on page 464.

Genetically speaking the "classical"

almond is a blue-black almond (heterozygous in cocks, hemizygous in hens) homozygous for kite and T pattern checker and heterozygous for recessive red and grizzle. So to get the ideal we just have to manufacture the above genotype and wait for the chance variation of phenotype to come along like we want it.

The vast majority of our almonds are blue-black and unless some one produces an almond cock heterozygous for either ash red or brown which in turn produces some crossover sperm we can assume an almond to be a typical blue-black almond. To this dominant sex-linked almond factor we now have to start adding the necessary modifiers to intensify and bring out the desirable pattern. T-pattern checker or black check is relatively easy to add in and making liberal use of them in the breeding program will enhance the probability of making your birds homozygous for this factor and eliminate the unsightly bars showing through. There is some feeling that the introduction of spread (solid black) is also beneficial.

Next on the recipe is a dash of recessive red and grizzle both in the heterozygous form. The recessive red is thought to help out the ground color whereas the grizzle will give you the nice even break of flecking throughout the bird. As yet

not many have used grizzle in their breeding programs as can be seen by the splotchiness of the black flecking of our almonds in the shows. Many of our almonds are heterozygous for recessive red though. This came about through the slightly erroneous notion that mating an almond to a yellow would produce the desired yellow ground. It did help but not because yellow was used per se but because yellow is the dilute form of recessive red. Using yellow added the problem of dilution which is not terrible as it too is a sex-linked trait. But here again we encounter the cross over problem in heterozygous cocks. Hatcher appears to have a result of this in his nice old hen that probably is a dilute almond. That is the ground color is lightened and flecking is silver-dun rather than black.

Another phenomenon you will encounter while using reds on your almonds is what is called DeRoy. DeRoy is a homozygous recessive red carrying almond. The almond "washes out" the red to a bird similar to a yellow or somewhere inbetween depending on various modifiers. These DeRois can be of great value if correctly used in your breeding program. When mated onto anything other than something with recessive red, half their youngsters will be almonds.

You may have noticed I have not mentioned anything about the very first ingredient in the classical formula, kite. Here we tread on pretty thin ice. No one knows what kite is, if indeed it is anything in and of itself at all. There are some breeders that have gone out to bring kite into the Fantail gene pool believing it necessary and not retained on the initial assimilation of almond. Here the jury is still out and answers may be forthcoming in the next few years. Kite is assumed to be a form of bronze which may or may not be interchangeable with other bronze types. There is some doubt cast on kite's absence and/or necessity by Ray LeFleur's almond cock. The bird although maybe a little too mahogany in ground and not broken by grizzle is better colored than many almond short face Tumblers I have

Some practical knowledge ought to be stated more clearly. The almond factor is located on the sex chromosome and that pigeon cocks have two active chromosomes while hens only have one. Due to this any almond raised from an almond hen paired to a non-almond cock has to be a cock. If you want to raise almonds in both sexes you have to do it from almond cocks.

I am sure that many of you may not have understood all of the above gobble-dygook, but please take the time to slowly read over Levi's The Pigeon section on genetics or better yet Joe Quinn's Pigeon Breeder's Notebook An Introduction to Genetics. An understanding of basic genetics is helpful in all breeding and if you get bitten by the genetics bug a whole new horizon of pigeon breeding awaits you out in the loft.



# What Color Did You Say That Is?

By LEON STEPHENS, El Monte, Calif.

I am asked this question time and time again at Fantail shows and when visitors come to my loft. I know several Fantail fanciers are asked this very same question. This question is not reserved for the novice but the long-time fanciers also.

There is an increasing interest in the color genetics of Fantails and pigeons in general. Many prominent Fantail breeders are working on some of the new color combinations, that is, new to the Fantail Fancy. Some of the newer colors include andalusian, almond, reduced, grizzle, mealy, cream, brown, dominant opal, ice factor, etc.

Many of these new color combinations came from other breeds, however, many interesting and beautiful combinations can be and are being developed from existing colors such as spread milky, milky almond, spread ash red, spread ash-red milky, powder blue and silver checks, powder blue and silver grizzle, mealy and cream grizzle, various bronze colors with their corresponding dilutes, pinks made from recessive red (red Fantails) and pure milky (powder blue Fantail), red, yellow, black and dun mottles. This list is far from complete as it does not include various markings or other factors.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into the genetics involved in the production of these various color combinations but rather to inform the reader that there is still room for more breeders of new colors. If one does not mind using another breed to achieve his goal there

are many factors yet to be introduced. If, on the other hand, the breeder is reluctant to cross breeds then he might well put together and develop a new or seldom seen color from existing colors or patterns. The only limiting factor is your imagination.

Many fanciers like to specialize and breed only long established colors. This is their choice and if they enjoy this, fine. One should not, however, criticize the work done by someone who is willing to spend his time and money on developing something he feels is also beautiful. After all, he is the one who is paying the feed bill.

I have heard many breeders say "why are you wasting your time on these new colors? I'm still trying to raise good ones in the standard colors." Well, I like to. The breeders that I know who are doing color work on Fantails also like to do it. You must remember that in order to raise a really good Fantail in a new color you must have some good foundation stock to use for your crosses. Therefore, you must raise some good standard colors in order to fully develop your new color.

It does not take several pens to raise these new colors. In some cases several pairs are better, however, with most colors one or two birds properly mated will do just fine.

If you feel the urge to try it you may enjoy it. You may fail, you may succeed. You may not like it. But we can still enjoy Fantails and Fantail talk together at the shows.

## Bodymarks — Beautiful and Challenging

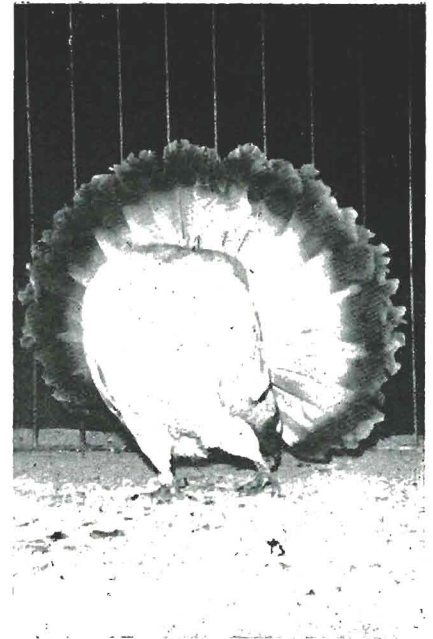
By GARY GREEN, Westminster, Colo.

I first decided to make bodymarks my only color of Fantails some four years ago. The idea came to me late one evening, when I was thinking about how very few bodymarks there are shown each year. To me, it seemed a waste that such a beautiful bird should have such a small following. Of course I could see that it would be a struggle, whenever you are breeding for both color and type, you have double trouble. At that time I had one black bodymark cock, a 1964 in my loft. In the next few weeks I disposed of my blue grizzles, whites, and other colors, and set my sights on a couple of local breeders that had some bodymarks, which had been raised by another breeder perhaps 15 years ago. I was able to buy most of their bodymarks but most were all very old, and being that old, they did not have the type desired in today's birds. Fertile eggs, or I should say, the lack of them might bring my project to a halt quickly.

My first two rounds of eggs were infertile, but finally they clicked and I was able to raise about 4 or 5 young that year, since I began late in the season. The next

year these birds and their young really started the ball rolling. I also used feeders and had more young than I had room for, so I offered a few for sale in the APJ, and the response was tremendous. I received letters from all across the country asking for birds. I was really happy to see that other breeders were taking up bodymarks, and I look forward to some competition in these classes. I would like to hear from anyone raising bodymarks, and I will be glad to share notes on them.

Since I first began with the original black body-white tailed birds, I was fortunate enough to raise blue bodymarks out of these in both check and bar patterns. Last year I also raised a silver check bodymark hen, but lost her due to a broken leg this year. At present, I do have a silver check in the nest, and will use this birds to produce a strain of silver bodymarks. In other colors, I have been working on reduced black bodymarks for three years, and I also have the beautiful lavender colorations caused by introducing dominant opal to black. These birds have a dark lavender body, with white wing bars and white tail feathers in the bar



CHAMPION BLUE FANTAIL

Champion Blue Fantail young hen. Band No. 648 at the Central Fantail Club Meet. Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 1977. — Bred and exhibited by Gordon Larson, El Paso, Texas.

patterns. Others, in the T-pattern are a lighter silvery shade, quite similar to the powder blues. The future color projects will be to produce a good recessive red bodymark, from which I may also produce yellows.

By introducing some good blacks into the bodymark strain, I have been able to up grade the type considerably. This mating gives you some all black young, and some with a few white tail feathers. A black out of one such mating was best Fantail, and Champion Fancy of the show at Hutchinson, Kan. during the Kansas State Pigeon Ass'n winter show.

As far as the markings, the most common problems are: 1. White flecking in the head or neck. 2. Colored tail feathers. 3. White flights, and white wing butts.

These markings, or a combination of them generally show up on about 70% of the squabs each year. The trick is to raise enough of them to put the odds in your favor. This year, I have had poor production, due to moving from Arkansas to Colorado, getting the birds settled, and having to keep them at another breeders house. The birds receive excellent care there, but Fantails really require a constant watch for maximum production. Infertile egg producers must be clipped, squabs sometimes need help from the eggs, eggs must be checked as soon as possible for fertility, all important aspects of having a good season. Soon, my other breeds will have produced enough, and I will begin to foster out the Fantail eggs heavily so that I may produce the 40 young that I set my goal at this year.

If you are interested in bodymarks, and the advancement of them into a popular color class, write me, Gary Green, 8029 King, Westminster, Colo., 80030.



# Genetics and Its Relation to Fantails

By DON BUHR, Cresco, Iowa

Webster defines Genetics as: "The branch of biology that deals with the heredity and variation in similar or related animals and plants." Gene, the unit of heredity upon which the term Genetics is based, is defined as, "any of the elements by which hereditary characteristics are transmitted and determined, in theory each mature reproductive cell carries a gene for every inheritable characteristic, and thus an individual resulting from the union of two such cells received a set of genes from each of its parents". And that's about as far as a lot of people are going to read on genetics!

All too often when we think of genetics in pigeons, we think only in terms of color breeding. The field of genetics covers all inheritable traits in our pigeons. I've heard fanciers say that they were not interested in color breeding. I can understand this, but have been wondering if perhaps these same people may not be interested in some other form of genetics? The field is wide open.

If color breeding is not your bag, and you are more interested in the form of our Fantail, fine! We have a lot here for you to do too. We have enough work in this area to keep hundreds of fanciers busy for many years.

Ever wonder why this or that trait is, or isn't passed down to the young from a mating? Wouldn't it be of great help to the Fantail Fancy if we did know a lot of these why's? I'm sure if we had it all down on paper we could all breed better Fantails.

The way we are going at it now, is mostly by trial and error. It's like building a house from a picture. We have an idea what we want, and what it's supposed to look like when it's done, but we don't really have a set of plans. We don't have any blue prints for breeding the

modern show type Fantail. Surely someone is saying, "We have the Standard to go by." Yes, we do, but it only tells us what the ideal is supposed to look like, not how to get it.

If everyone of us set out to work on just one genetic characteristic in our Fantails this year, what a wealth of information we could gather! Of course it would take time and work. Records would have to be kept and it would involve some extra time and work on your part. Possible areas could be, inheritance of tail size and shape, leg setting, head setting, body shape and size, showing ability, and many more.

So you see, you don't have to be a "color nut" to get into genetics. And you don't have to keep 500 colors and markings either. A few pairs of whites will do



CHAMPION ALMOND FANTAIL

Old Almond Cock, Band No. 4858, First Champion Almond, Central Fantail Club Meet, 1973. — Bred and owned by Don Buhr, Cresco, Iowa.

nicely. How about it, what genetic project are you going to work on?

## What Causes Powdered Blue Fantails?

By TIM KVIDERA, Anoka, Minn.

The color modifying trait that makes a powdered blue bird out of an otherwise normal blue bar is accepted in genetic circles as milky. It is given this name since as Dr. Hollander puts it the resultant effect looks like the bird was dipped into milk. Milky is an autosomal recessive factor. That is the gene causing this modification is located on some chromosome other than the sex chromosomes and this gene must be present on both of that pair of chromosomes to produce its normal effect.

Powdered blue birds are not dilute like the old name powdered silver implied. They are long downed in the nest and the color is not sex linked. Lately the Fantail clubs have taken steps to correct this by changing the terminology for the genetically milky blue from powdered silver to powdered blue as an effort to clarify that the bird is not a type of dilution.

This same milky factor can produce other beautiful effects when combined with colors other than blue bar. One of the ways to produce lavender is use homozygous milky in combination with spread on a blue-black bird. This can be easily done by mating a powdered blue to a black and mating the resulting black young birds together. A little less than one quarter of these second generation youngsters will be lavender.

Various "pinkish" looking effects can be readily produced by combining milky with dominant ash red. These can be had in any pattern, bar, checkers, etc. All of these can be obtained in a manner similar to that described for producing lavender. Milky can be used to produce a bird pinkish evenly throughout when combined with recessive red. This is a little harder to come by as both milky and recessive red are recessive factors. But since both traits are apparently on

separate pairs of chromosomes only a limited amount of patience is all that is required. The way to do it is pair a milky (powdered blue) with a recessive red. Mate their youngsters together and raise as many young birds as you can. Statistically one out of sixteen will be milky recessive reds so the more youngsters you raise the better chance that the odds will be in your favor and you will raise some "pinks". But then you can come up with the mixed blessing I had last year. I raised four "pinks" but all turned out to be cocks. This color will breed true but first you have to get a pair. Failing at this, take your "pink" and mate it to its opposite sex parent and one quarter of the youngsters will be milky recessive reds. From this parental mating any reds, lavenders, milky checkers or powdered blues should be used as when paired with "pinks" one half of the young birds will be milky recessive reds.



CHAMPION SADDLE FANTAIL

Old Yellow Saddle Hen, Band No. 8930, Champion Saddle, Central Fantail Club Meet, 1973. Reserve Champion Saddle, Mid-America Fantail Club Meet, 1973. Champion Young Saddle, Mid America Fantail Club Meet, 1970. — Bred and owned by Don Buhr, Cresco, Iowa.



CHAMPION SADDLE FANTAIL

Old Black Saddle Hen, Band No. 53, Champion Saddle, Badger Fantail Club Meet 1970. Champion Black Saddle, Central Club Meets 1970 and 1971. — Bred and owned by Don Buhr, Cresco, Iowa.





### W. F. Cooke and His Fantail Painting

Picture shows W. F. Cooke of England and his painting of a well known Powder Blue Fantail. — Photo from W. F. Cooke, Colchester, England.

## Thoughts of an English Fantail Fancier

By W. F. ("BILLY") COOKE, Wormingford, Colchester, Essex, England

As the years pass I am sure that my love and fascination of the Fantail pigeon increases. It is now over 50 years ago that I had my first pair of Fans, whites, since then I have kept all the colours, and although some colours please me more than others, it is the unique type and style, found in no other breed, that gives me such pleasure to behold.

Great as this pleasure is, I think an ever greater pleasure and appreciation has been derived from the very many friends, both faithful and true, that the hobby has brought to me over the years. It is not whether you win or lose at any particular show that matters, of course it is nice to win and feel that deep sense of achievement, but most of all when you can attend the shows, you meet old friends and once again become one big Fantail family.

Fantails are one of the most popular breeds throughout the world, so we are a big family, and I have had great pleasure in writing to other fanciers and painting pictures (I am the artist "Inglewood") of fanciers favourites everywhere. Especially do I remember the most interesting letters I used to receive from the late Eugene Altpeter senior, of the U.S.A. He was a good fancier. I was thrilled too when only last year in early summer, Mel Kirk and his charming wife came to visit me and talk of Fantails whilst they were visiting this country. Mel very kindly consented to steward for me at our British Timkin Show that year and I do believe he enjoyed himself with his task. I do know he made my work of judging the Fantails so much more easy for me.

I think that when a Fancy is as great as the Fantail Fancy has always been, and still is, that it gives its devotees a great tradition to live up to. The names of the great British breeders of the past will, I think, never be surpassed and will be very hard to equal in the present. I know that this must apply to the U.S.A. Fancy every much as ours, for your great fanciers like Altpeter, Ostrander, La Fleur, Champ, Hanson, Deitz, Calcutt and many others are only equaled in England and Scotland by Gray, Deekes, Steveson, Bardell, Blackadder, House, Swan, Bruce and others of similar capabilities. Some of these too, have now passed on, but they have left us a legacy that we must all cherish and try to emulate.

I am pleased to see that there is more value placed upon the shape of the body being well rounded and wide, and coming out nice and full from between the legs and continuing round and ball like to give a complete picture of rotundity when seen from all angles, on nicely set legs, then perhaps has been in the past.

Many years ago I wrote that in race horses, chorus girls and Fantails, their legs were their greatest asset. I still say the same today, for no matter how good the rest of the anatomy might be, without good and correct leg placement all the points scored by their other qualities are lost. A Fantails legs must be placed well forward, and show no sickle shape or cow hock, and must be on tip toe to allow the perfect balance of body and be fairly short. The balance all ties in with the head resting comfortably in the centre of the tail cushion.

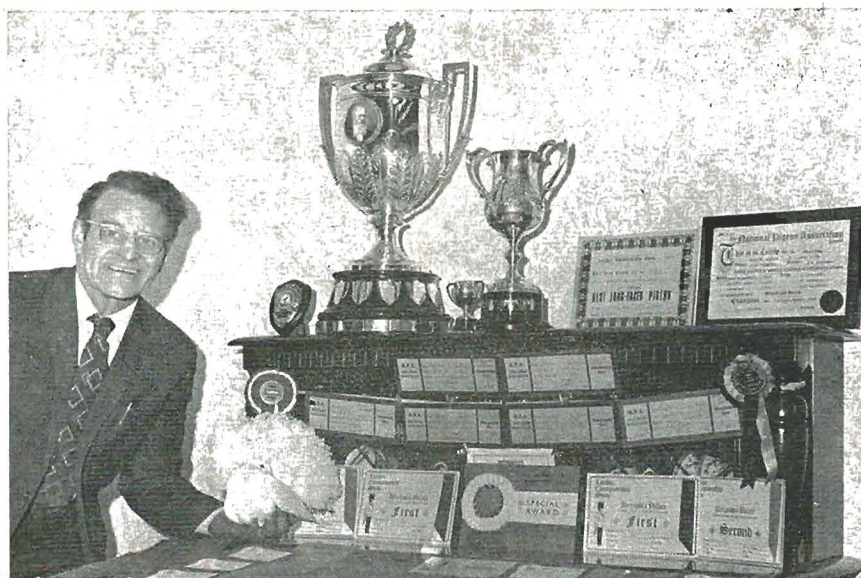
With me the tail comes about third in the order of importance, because the tail can be trained and the feathers put in place, and laced, and generally assisted, whereas those other points I mention cannot. They must be bred into the bird. The size of the tail, to me, is not of great importance but the balance of the tail in relation to the body, is. A small tail on a big body rules out its being of much use either as a show bird or for stock as a small tailed bird mostly breeds small tails. A nice, even, well thatched and shod tail of nice size and height on a small body with the entire bird being in perfect balance, is my idea of a good Fantail. I know in many cases that all round pigeon judges prefer a huge tail, and such birds will often score under them, for they will ignore those other more important points like body and legs, although I did have one of my birds dropped under an all breeds judge two years ago because it had a "too big tail" look. It's not often one gets left out for being too large in tail.

I think that every colour of Fantail has its own unique appeal but to me a good saddle stands high up on the list of achievement. To combine correct body and type, leg setting, tail, markings and colour, is very hard indeed. I am delighted to see that there are one or two blue saddles now getting around our lofts once again, due mainly to our good breeder Conrad Birch who has imported some from the U.S.A. This colour in saddles had practically died out since the death of Scottish fancier Bob Anderson, quite a long time ago, who had a nice little stud of them.

Tail marks are slowly creeping up the popularity chart. I noticed a nice red tail mark at the 1976 shows. Whites, as ever are still the most popular. It's still surprising how many non-fanciers imagine that the only colour in Fantails is white and are amazed at seeing the other colours. Blacks seem to be about second in the charts for numbers at the shows but are closely followed by blues. Silvers seem to have eased off a bit in numbers. Reds and yellows still seem to hold their same steady amount of entries. Somehow, reds always seem to be the hardest colour of all in which to breed a good one. Even if I bred a red and yellow in the same nest, the yellow always turned out to be the best one. Laces are increasing, I am pleased to say. At the Fantail Club Eastern Branch Show last year there was a record entry of this variety. The any other colour and checquer classes still have some lovely type Fantails shown in them. The best Fantail at our Club Show last year came from these classes but it is still a fact that nine times out of ten the award for best Fantail is won either by a black, a white or a blue.

As I said at the beginning of these notes, it is the true shape and all its accompanying attributes that I go for in the Fantail, then I look at its colour and all colours are equal to me, for in picking out the best Fantail I have no colour pre-





## H. W. Rogers and His Winnings

H. W. Rogers of England and his many awards and trophies. Mr. Rogers is holding his prize winning Fantail. — Photo from H. W. Rogers, Stafford, England.

ference, only the true Fantail type. Naturally when judging any colour variety in its own class, I do take every consideration into account. Any bad coloured ones must go down to a better coloured one of equal merit. In blacks, blues and reds you often find indifferent to bad colours of course.

I am sure that the greatest thrill I have ever experienced in the Pigeon Fancy in all my career, (and I may say I've had my share of thrills) was being honoured by the Fantail Club of Great Britain by being elected their president for 1973 and '74, for this society has amongst its list of honoured presidents some of the greatest names in Fantail history, starting with the late J. Collingwood at its formation and culminating

with Ken Dalton, our present president.

I have been the writer of the Fantail notes under the time honoured "Fan-Fare" for several years now and I do humbly ask any of my readers of these few notes to write to me in England and tell me of your Fantail experiences so that I may pass them on to our mutual fanciers over here.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Harry Little for inviting me to pen these few notes and thus bringing a closer tie with fanciers of the lovely Fantail, on both sides of the Atlantic. My most sincere best wishes to you all. My address: "Billy" W. F. Cooke, 1 Robletts Way, Wormingford, Colchester, Essex, England.

## Fantails At Dunston Heath, Stafford, England

By H. W. ROGERS, Stafford, England

I suppose gardening and being a keen gardener was the start of my interest in our Fantail Queens. In 1948 after the war I had just completed a wonderful laid out garden and had Budgerigars and Doves, and my wife and I thought that a few Fantails would be nice on the lawns, and so I wrote to Dr. Armstrong who was then Secretary of the Fantail Club; and I joined the Fantail Club. He sold me my first pair of Fantails a lovely pair of yellows. These started me off and I suppose I am one of the keenest fanciers in the British Isles today although a newcomer to the show world as I only started showing four years ago, before that I kept them for their beauty and I loved to see them in the garden.

The reason I started showing was I wanted to get a pair of black tailmarks and Hanz Fuchs who lives quite near brought some from Germany and I went

to buy a pair from him. This was the start of a friendship with him and he persuaded me to join the North West and North Wales Columbarian Society Club at Chester. I went along with him and two white Fantail nest mates. I won a first and second with them and I suppose that was the start of my interest in showing. From then until now I have gone on winning and gaining more interest and meeting a host of friends on the way. I have learned a lot about showing from one or two Scotch fanciers, especially Eddie Swan, who is a master at preparing a bird for show, and like his father before him a great Fantail fancier, and a great friend too.

I have a very big loft which I keep enlarging all the time. It started with 16 feet by 8 feet and now I have another 45 feet by 20 feet and can house about 250 Fantails. I breed from 16 pairs of

whites and 12 pairs of blacks. I have blues, silvers, poudes, reds, yellows, saddles and a few lace, and tailmarks (black and red tails) and now I have a few body marks. I talk Fantails in my sleep but I think there is nothing more beautiful.

The English Fantail Club is quite a strong club with around 100 to 120 members and we have six classic shows each year, our main show being the Harrogate Show at Doncaster.

I am Editor of the Fantail Club Newsletter and would be pleased to hear from any American fancier who would like to contribute an article for it anytime. My address: Yew Tree Cottage, Dunston Heath, Stafford, England.

### Why Lace The Tails?

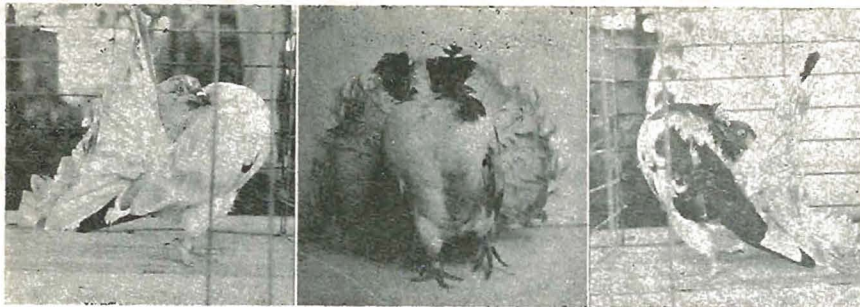
By A. R. THOMS, Elmira, Ore.

The purpose of obtaining the best possible judges at our Fantail shows is to determine which are actually the best birds. Whenever anyone laces the tail of a Fantail, they are masking the true quality of the bird. Some people can lace up birds of fair quality and temporarily, make them look really good. Certain individuals are much better at lacing tails than most others. When these individuals get hold of a bird, they are able to make it appear much better than it normally would be. At the larger and important Fantails shows, lacing of tails should not be permitted any longer.

Birds that are naturally superior don't need any help to make them look better. These birds are truly the real winners! It is a real shame that natural, unlaced birds that don't need a hand lifted to make them any better, do not always win! If a Fantail has to be laced before it can compete, it is not a very good bird. The fact is that some people can actually make good birds look worse by lacing a tail poorly. Then, when a really good handler sets down a swell lace job, the better laced bird usually comes out on top regardless of who is doing the judging. When the birds are being judged, they should be judged fairly and equally by the judge. No outside advantage, or perhaps disadvantage, should ever be allowed. Fantails should be judged according to the Standard, by comparison, and should be judged equally! The Fantails should be judged, we shouldn't judge the ability of the showmen.

Lacing the tail dramatically affects the point outcome of the tail, carriage and motion, and the head and neck position. On many birds that I have judged, when I have unlaced the tails on a class of birds, many of the birds that had appeared well balanced kind of fell apart. Many then showed the flaws that they possessed. The birds were not truly as good as I was supposed to think they were. If the Fantail judges are to compare and ultimately find the best birds so that the true winners place first and compete for the top awards, then why lace the tails? I don't believe that we should. It might be a subject to bring up at your next meeting.





### Three Mosaic Fantails

Three Mosaic Fantails. See accompanying article. — Photo from Denny Stapp, Floyds Knobs, Ind.

## My Experience With A Fantail Mosaic

By DENNY STAPP, Floyds Knobs, Ind.

This is a story of a real mosaic Fantail hen and my experiences in breeding her.

The mosaic hen started her life in the loft of Wayne Pasco of Evansville, Ind., in 1973. She is the daughter of a Powdered Blue cock and a White hen. Wayne told me that he was amazed as her pin feathers revealed her unique coloration. She is basically a Powdered Blue but she is distinctly darker in color on one side of her body. One can easily see the perfectly straight division of the two shades of color. On the darker side, the wing is dark checker and the other wing is Powdered Blue checker. Both wings have some dark color and some white flights.

I was thrilled when Mr. Pasco asked me to trade him a white hen for her even though I had no idea of what color I could use her with.

The first breeding season for the mosaic was the year of 1974 and she was mated to a white. They raised six youngsters, one of which was an all white hen. The other five were splashes of black checker and white with much bronzing in the wing flights. I showed two of the splashes at the Louisville Young Bird Show in 1974 and won first and second places.

The early part of 1975 I had her mated to her son and they raised four youngsters before I broke up the pair. One of these was a Powdered Blue checker with a 60% white tail. This bird I showed at the Central Fantail Club's Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic at Madison, Wis. She was judged the best Splash and won two trophies. I plan to use this little hen to start my own stud of Bodymarks and I now have her mated to her son who has a 25% white tail.

Later in 1975 I tried to produce the Blue Checker color from the mosaic mated to a Blue Bar. I succeeded in raising a real nice hen of the color I wanted and showed her at Louisville where she was judged best check. Later I showed her at Madison, Wis. and she won her class. She has won several other trophies for me at the smaller shows.

To wrap up 1975 I mated the mosaic to a Powdered Blue and raised two youngsters. One of these was a Blue Bar but had a small, soft feathered tail so was of no use to me.

The 1976 breeding season started slowly for the mosaic. She laid six rounds of

## Reflections of Eleven Years With Fantails

By DARREL RUPP, Pres. MAFC, New London, Minn.

I have raised Fantails for only 11 years, not a long period of time by any means. However, I have many exciting memories, both good and bad. I thought that many of you after reading this article, would also be reminded of your own exciting times and memories.

After having raised numerous breeds during my Junior High and Senior High school years, I disposed of them when entering college; and took up raising pigeons again after I started teaching and was married. Fantails became my first choice. Here are a few of those lasting memories:

1. My first issue of the APJ where I searched for Fantail sale ads.

2. My first trip to the New Ulm show to look at Fantails in 1966. I didn't realize there were that many Fantails around. Two names went home with me, Bob Given and Rod Hatcher. Later that spring, I purchased my first pair of whites from Bob. From those my whites were started, and there are still offspring in my loft.

3. The first black Fans I purchased were from a lady in western Minn. She was selling out her Fantails and these were supposed to be Jim Argall Blacks. A few years later, Rod Hatcher and myself found the band numbers in some of his old records he got from Mrs. Argall when Jim passed away. Rod purchased all of Jim's blacks. I was happy to find the numbers.

4. My first trophy on Fantails at the Faribault show in about 1967 was a memorable experience.

5. My first trip to the big time, when

inertile eggs before I finally remated her to her mate of early 1975; her son. They raised three youngsters, one of them being a real nice white hen that I plan to use in my family of whites.

Now that I reflect over the three years that I have owned the mosaic hen, I can see that she has easily proven to be my most valuable bird. This is not only because of her rare coloration but because of the outstanding quality of nearly all of her youngsters. Her offspring are also producing good birds consistently and my only problem is one of fixing this superior quality on recognized colors rather than on splashes. As I mentioned, I do have a few nice checkers and a good start on producing Bodymarks. I have also produced a terrific Blue Bar hen from the mosaic's daughter and should be able to build my own family of Blues that will be very competitive.

For 1977 I have plans of acquiring a Powdered Blue cock that is capable of producing young with large, hard feathered tails. If I can find such a bird I should raise Powdered Blues good enough to compete anywhere. If anyone can help or offer advice, please let me know.

I exhibited my birds at the Lincoln, Neb. Show. (I think it was Mid-America). A 3rd place in Old Black Cocks was my high placing and I was very happy with this.

6. A few years later at Des Moines, I won 4 of 6 classes of blacks and Reserve Black for one of my best accomplishments. It was quite a thrilling day. This was a Central Meet at McNeal Motel.

7. Another memory was driving through a snow storm to attend a meet in Des Moines. I wondered at the time what foolishness propelled me to go to the show.

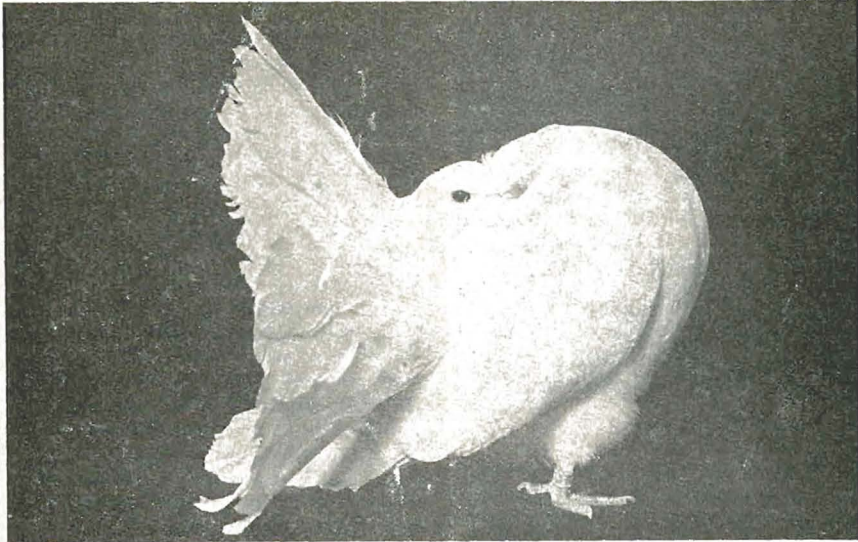
8. A bad memory was going to feed my birds one day and finding many dead birds, the aftermath of a weasel attack. Even though we trapped it the next night, it softened the blow very little. I am still trying to recover in Blacks and Tailmarks from that. He also got an Ash Red Cock with a ribbon marked tail of which I was very proud.

9. Serving as officer for Central. First Director, Vice-President, and finally as President of Mid-America is a cherished memory.

10. I remember my nervousness as being judge for a show at Joe Schabert's and trying to concentrate on what I was doing, when my boy came up to me and said "Are they any good, Dad?"

11. The best experience of all has been in meeting new friends from all over the U.S. and Canada. People from all walks of life, with one common interest; Fantails. I am glad to have had this opportunity.





### Prize Winning White Fantail

White Fantail hen, Band No. 474-76. Best Young White, 5th District CFC Meet, Rogers, Ark. 1976. First Young White Hen, same show. — Bred and owned by Don Draper, Joplin, Mo.

## How I Became A Fantail Fancier

By DON DRAPER, Joplin, Mo.

Almost without exception, most dyed-in-the-wool fanciers can look back in retrospect and pinpoint the exact things that caused them to become interested in pigeons. Most of us enjoy recalling these events and even after a lapse of many years can recollect in startling detail these pleasant memories.

What is the actual motivation that creates in us the yen to keep these little birds? To a young boy I am sure it is the fact that they are small, clean, make ideal pets, can be obtained at minimal cost and housed with but a small outlay of cash. To an adult approaching Social Security, it is something else. Someone has written, "You trust they will restore to you some portion of your Golden Age, enable you to live over again an idyllic phase of your boyhood, to escape for a time each day, a very satisfying time, the wearying monotony of a workaday world."

It has been just about 50 years since I first became interested in pigeons, and again, like most fanciers, once we have learned to love them we never quite get it out of our systems. We may drop our hobby for a while but it takes only a small bit of prompting to have us right back in the business again.

I grew up in an agricultural community in Southeast Kansas. At about the age of 10, after acquisition of a pony for transportation, I became interested in the barn pigeons that thrived on the farms surrounding my home town. Another lad who also had a pony and a similar desire to possess some of those beautiful birds, joined me in a year-long foray about the countryside in search of pigeons. We would ride our mounts out to a farm

home and ask permission to go to the barn and catch the pigeons. Farmers were always glad to "get shet of 'em", because they did not care to have the roosting birds soiling the hay and grain directly beneath.

To make a long story short, after a year's trapping and catching pigeons, coupled with a few years under my sponsorship and their own inherent traits of reproducing themselves like it was going out of style, my father one day announced it was time to take inventory. By now all the outbuildings at my home were covered with the best boxes and roosts I could devise.

The town did not have a public water system in those times and each homeowner depended on the rains that fell on his own roof to be piped to his cistern where it was stored for domestic use. Most of my birds spent a great deal of their time courting and preening on our housetop and the resultant droppings at times grew to great depth, especially in dry seasons when there was not much rain to flush them away. Even so, all the rain that fell on our roof was carried down the drainpipe, through a makeshift filter of sand and charcoal and thenceward to the cistern. The whitish tinge imparted to the water was not removed as it passed through the filter and I do believe it tended to make the water even more palatable and thirst-quenching.

My father felt he had been quite tolerant with my pigeons but with the onset of another dry season, a summer's forecast of "not much rain", a heavy accumulation of droppings and the fact it was costing him a dollar a day for corn to feed my birds, he was prompted finally

to seek conference with me and ordered an inventory. The best tally we could come up with, as I can still plainly remember, was 317 adult pigeons on our housetop and this did not count squabs in the nest. This startling disclosure further moved my father, who up to now had been most patient, to suggest that I get rid of some of my poultry which also included a sizeable flock of bantams, seven large gray geese and about 50 mallard ducks. The latter were actually live decoys which we used to lure wild ducks in range of our scatter guns during the fall hunting season.

It took quite a selling job on his part but in the end his will prevailed and I started tearing down nest boxes and roosts. However I did manage to make a deal with him. In exchange for my vanquished fowl I was allowed to keep 50 of the prettiest pigeons and in addition was promised a pair of white Fantails which he did get me for Christmas from Frank Foy Pigeon Farm for \$5. The latter provided the stimulus to make me a life-long lover of Fans. Along about this time, too, I suddenly became aware of the existence of girls and this pleasant discovery further lured me away from my barn pigeons. In the end all I was interested in keeping were my Fantails and a keen eye for members of the opposite sex.

Fantails still intrigue me and although I have never showed them extensively, still they have provided a hobby that has endured for more than a half century.

### My Start With Fantails

By MICHAEL WARZON, Houston, Texas

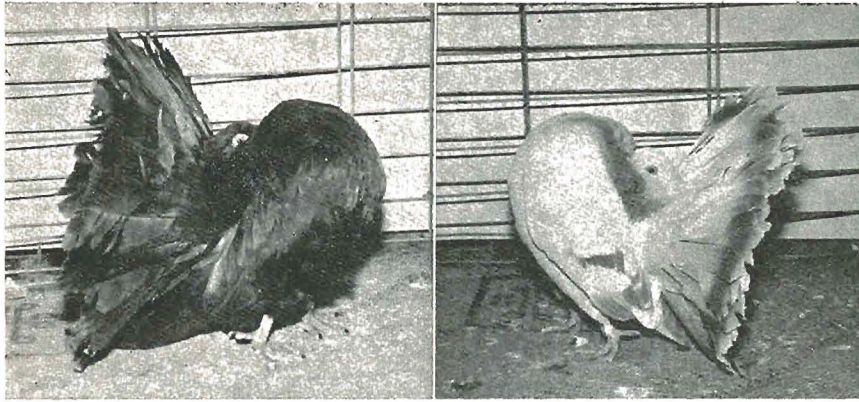
First of all I'd like to congratulate Frank H. Hollmann and Co-ordinator Harry L. Little for their fine efforts on the 1977 Fantail Special. I know it will be well supported as the Fantail Fancy is made up of a strong and dedicated group of people.

I am 16 years of age and have had many different varieties of pigeons for about four years. I have had Fantails for three years. I attended the Houston All-Variety Show three years ago and the Fantails caught my eye. I told myself that I wasn't about to leave this building unless I had a pair of these beautiful birds.

Two of the exhibitors in the Fantail section were Jo Kirk and Gordon Larson who were lacing the tails on their birds. I'd better mention that Mr. Kirk was at work, so the Mrs. was taking over. Gordon said he had a pair of whites and a pair of blacks in the for-sale-section. There, I purchased the whites and feel that this pair has me on the right track to produce quality youngsters.

The following year I visited Mr. Larson's loft and was surprised at the quality and colorful birds he housed. I purchased one more pair of whites and am going to build my stud around them. I think Mr. Larson said they are of Champ's bloodline. Mr. Larson is truly a fine fellow and really knows his birds.





## Prize Winning Fantails from Canada

First bird, Black Fantail cock, Band No. 6733-'75, young cock, Best Black, Champion Fantail, Canadian Fantail Club Annual Young Bird Show, Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 1975. 104 Fantail competing. Second bird, Powdered Silver Fantail, young cock, Band No. 6736-'75. Best Powdered Blue, Canadian Fantail Club Annual Meet, 159 Fantails competing, Woodstock, Ont., Jan. 1976. — Both birds bred and owned by Michael Boyd, Brampton, Ont., Canada.

## When It's Showtime In Canada

By JAMES MARTIN, Pub. Dir. CFC, Goderich, Ont., Canada

A Fantail show is an opportunity for the exhibitor to show and compare his Fantails with the best in the country. Here, we learn how our breeding program stands up and where we need improvement. Although it is the highlight of preparation and planning for perhaps many months, it is indeed only a few precious moments that our Fantails are before the judge.

In the past, some exhibitors have been unkind to the judging and undue remarks are often heard. As the oldtimer would say, "Ain't it funny how ya always seem to win under the smart judges, and get beat out under the dumb ones".

We must bear in mind that the judge's decision is final and that there is always a valid reason for the class placings. Often, Fantails fail to show properly due to their nervous and unsettled condition before being set down in the judging pen. We must remember too that the judge has but a few minutes to view the class and to make his decisions.

A judge is, without a doubt the spotlight of the show as he proceeds with the classes. He must withstand pressure and often criticism, knowing that his decisions may influence the exhibitors' choices in what is held over for breeding stock.

The judge has, fixed in his mind, a picture of what an ideal Fantail should be. The exhibitors must therefore produce Fantails as close as possible to the Standard of Perfection. The judge has the skill in handling the Fantail in the showpen, giving all Fantails the opportunity to pose and then placing them by comparison to their rightful placings.

A great sense of rivalry exists between most pigeon fanciers and Fantail fanciers are no exception. The excitement and intense pleasure is great when the exhibitors Fantail remains in the top half of the class. It is from this point onward,

as each Fantail is removed to be placed, that things really get interesting. Only then does one come out of his hypnotized trance and then we hear, "Just wait till next year!"

Part of the pleasures of a Fantail show, of course, are the friendships made. On this day, whether they be city slicker or country folks, all are equal and have one

## Fantails From One Novice to Another

By MICHAEL N. SODA, Chester, N.J.

I have been asked by Harry Little to do a revised article that I originally wrote for the December 1968 "Special Edition" on Fantails, noting any changes I have made in the last nine years.

For anyone thinking of breeding Fantails I would strongly suggest starting with the best stock obtainable. High quality Fantails usually demand a good price. It is far less expensive, both in terms of time and money, in the long run, to invest in good stock, rather than in inferior birds.

In selecting initial stock, I would place great emphasis on those birds with good round bodies and proper leg length and settings. I consider these characteristics to be the most basic and necessary to the breeding of show quality Fantails.

It is not necessary to begin with a large number of birds. Two or three pair of quality stock is more than enough to start. I would advise that the birds be from one breeder and related so as to ensure some uniformity in the offspring. If a typical line breeding pattern is followed there will develop some consistency in the overall birds produced.

To improve your strain, introduce birds as good in quality as the original stock or better. This new stock should be strong

thing in common, the beautiful Fantail.

What is most noticeable at a Fantail show? The eagerness of the senior and more experienced club members to assist and help prepare or lace the Fantails for the novice or younger fanciers who do not have the experience or confidence to do so on their own. A special thank you goes to these members.

Prepare your Fantails for the show by proper conditioning to bring out good feather sheen. Trim toenails several weeks before the show. Gently handle the Fantails daily and get them accustomed to the show pen, judging stick and the smaller coops. Get Fantails conditioned to posing and walking slowly in the show pen. Several days before the show, bathe the Fantails in a warm water and mild soap solution. Rinse well to remove soap, remove surplus rinse water, dry as much as possible with a clean cloth and place them in a clean container until thoroughly dry before returning them to the loft. Apply a little vaseline to the feet and legs. On show day, any soiled feathers and the feet can be given a final cleaning.

A final word! Be prepared! There is nothing more exciting, depressing, frustrating and by all means, uncertain than showing the Fantail! A word of warning, it is also addictive! Good luck to all Fantail breeders.

We send a special thank you to Harry Little of St. Louis, Mo., and to Frank Hollmann and his staff of the American Pigeon Journal, for their efforts on the Fantail Special Edition.

In those characteristics you wish to improve in your original strain, I strongly recommend to any future Fantail breeder to begin with one genetic colour. The chosen colour should be developed for a few years, to gain experience with the breed as a whole and at the same time to begin developing a good quality strain in that colour, then if he wishes he can expand into other colours. One must work with at least six pair in any one colour to work a typical line breeding pattern.

It has been my experience that quality Fantails when bred in families do pass on those desirable characteristics to their young. Concentration and specialization with one colour, for the novice, is a must if quality birds are to be produced. Too many times the new breeder branches out immediately into several colours before developing one. Select your colour and work at producing good stock before you try another.

The novice may find his first year as a breeder disappointing if he does not properly prepare his breeding pen. Select hens first, pairing them to cock birds that are equal or better to all the hens good qualities, and making sure the cock bird has strength where the hen has weaknesses in show points. For example,



a. hen having a good round body, good head position and good tail but short in the legs, should be mated to a cock bird with the same good qualities plus proper leg length or longer in the leg. Avoid mating birds with the same show weaknesses. This I term as balanced matings.

One of the most common problems in breeding Fantails is infertility. This can be eliminated by properly trimming the tails and vent area of the birds. Because of the tail structure of the Fantail, trimming is necessary to insure copulation which will result in a greater number of fertile eggs. The lowest six to eight feathers on each side of both the male and the female should be trimmed to about one inch in length.

It is important to raise at least 20 youngsters of a single colour. I have found this ensures at least three or four superior birds. Birds should be raised early in the season. I prefer mid-February since the Fantail is a breed that improves its characteristics with maturity. The earlier hatched bird is in better feather condition and has better tail and body development in time for the shows that come in the Fall.

Contrary to my original article I no longer advise the use of individual breeding compartments except for the mating of pairs. I have found that given the freedom of the loft fertility and egg production of the Fantail is greatly increased.

Once the young Fantails are weaned they are placed in a section of their own. In this section the only perches used are running boards placed six inches from the wall to protect the tail and to accustom the young birds to walking and performing. I begin breaking up my matings by the end of June. Some time in July I dispose of birds that are obvious culls such as those birds that show definite genetic defects. Here I would caution the novice not to be overly enthusiastic in the culling since many fine Fantails do not show their true potential until late Fall. Late in August I begin to pen train the young birds. In the environment of the



**CHAMPION FANTAIL FROM BELGIUM**

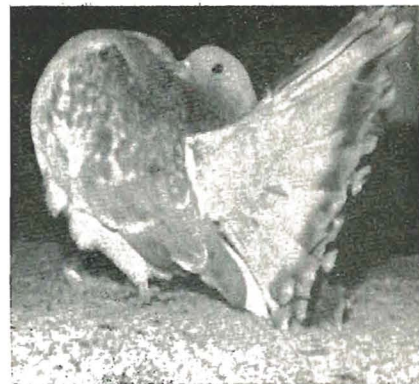
Young Cock, Band No. 7285. Champion Fantail in Brussels, 1974. — Bred and owned by Cesar Moreno, Brussels, Belgium.

For July, 1977

pen the young birds learn to eat and drink in show coops and are placed in the walking pen and trained with a judges stick. In a walking breed such as the Fantail it is extremely important to give them this training. A bird so trained will respond with action rather than flightiness at show time. It is important that the exhibitor does this training well in advance of a show.

An exhibitor can do much to enhance the quality of his birds. Washing the birds three to four days before a show helps to recondition the roughened tail feathers and removes dirt and droppings etc. Doing this early gives the bird time to preen and replace the natural oils before being shown. A mild soap solution is very effective but only if rinsed very thoroughly. Gently pass the tail feathers through the thumb and index finger from the feather base to the tip. This removes excess water and smooths the feather. Trim toenails so they do not interfere with the birds digging action. Prior to judging the tail is laced to achieve fullness. This technique is most accurately described in an article in Rod Hatcher's Fantail Handbook.

There are several active Fantail Clubs offering competition and devotion to the breed. The members who make up these clubs enjoy their breed and enjoy showing them. They are always willing to



**GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL**

Grand Champion Fantail at the Fantail Club of England Show, with 231 Fantails in competition. Checker Young Hen. Bred and owned by Noel Wheatley, Glasgow, Scotland. — Photo from Mel Kirk, Lufkin, Texas.

help new members to break into the Fancy. During show times all birds are given the best attention and preparation.

If one is looking for a breed that offers a real challenge in the breeding of quality birds, a challenge in exhibiting against strong competition coupled with active specialty clubs with enthusiastic members, one need not look further than the Fantail.

## Suggestions In Buying Fantails

By RICHARD N. WILSON, Bethlehem, Pa.

The question of how to go about buying Fantails has been asked of me by many pigeon fanciers. I will try to inform those who are interested in purchasing Fantails the best possible way to go about it.

It is my opinion that the interested fancier should first contact a local Fantail club in his area and also a national club, to seek out information. This is one of their functions and they can possibly recommend several breeders who are close by, ones who will perhaps have the colors or patterns the fancier desires. A phone call will speed up the whole process and will save much time in correspondence.

When writing, you should always include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. You should state in simple language exactly what you want and what you are willing to pay for what you want. When the deal is nearly completed, send only a money order or personal check but specify that the seller must not cash the money order or check until the purchaser has received the birds and has indicated that he is completely satisfied.

Always remember to inform the seller that you have received his birds, the condition in which they arrived and what you think of them. If you are happy with them, tell him to cash the money order or check you had previously sent him.

Be fair. Don't expect to get something for nothing! In selling Fantails,

put yourself in the buyer's place and sell any birds you wouldn't be ashamed to keep yourself. Describe the Fantail's weak points as well as its strong ones. Don Buhr, of Cresco, Iowa did this for me.

Be patient. It pays to purchase birds from a reputable Fantail fancier, one who has consistently shown in competitive shows and has some proof that he is not just a keeper of Fantails but is a true fancier of the breed. It might involve getting on a waiting list but will be well worth it. Buying Fantails from such an individual will result in the establishment of a good stud.

Buying the most expensive Fantails doesn't mean that you will breed all champions. A price of between \$25 and \$50 is a realistic price for a pair of Fantails. Again, if I may repeat, demand a money back guarantee on any Fantails in this price range if you are not satisfied. Don't expect too much from a \$5 to \$10 pair of Fantails except that they should be healthy.

I believe it is important to be honest when buying or selling Fantails and to guarantee what the purchaser buys. It is important to have a good and honest reputation.

Finally, our hobby, that of breeding and exhibiting the pigeon is a wonderful one. Especially that of breeding the "Queen of Fancies" the Fantail. It calls for true fellowship!



# The Tail-Marked Fantail Becoming Popular

By HARRY L. LITTLE, St. Louis, Mo.

The tail-marked Fantail is a beautiful creation, to me, the most beautiful of all the marked Fantails. The best ones to attract my attention were exhibited by Vern Netzow at a Central Fantail Club Meet, many years ago, at old Harmony Hall in Chicago, Ill. Upon expressing an interest in them, one well known breeder said, "Don't get involved with those things. They will never be any good". However, the contrast between the color of the tail and the white of the body was, I believed, quite striking and got me to thinking of adding this marking to my lofts of white and black Fantails.

The tail-marked Fantails I had seen at Chicago were not for sale. I could understand this because there were so few of them around. The only stock birds that were available at this time were very poor specimens, good markings but very bad in almost all the qualities that make up a good Fantail. They had hocked legs, couldn't get their heads anywhere near the pocket and had long thin bodies. Although I did try to breed from a pair of these for one season, there were just too many faults to overcome. The only alternative was to "make" my own! To do this, only the best of my studs of white and black Fantails were used. Progress was slow with many mismarks and many disappointments! Finally, improvement in both type and marking became quite noticeable and it was time to start showing the results. In their first show, one of my tail-marks was Champion Tail-mark but it could plainly be seen, when compared to the whites, that there was a long rough road ahead!

As with most new "creations" most judges wouldn't even look at tail-marks. At one show, when judging the finalists, the judge was overheard to say, "Don't bring up the tail-mark, it can't win anyway!" To me, this was the most discouraging thing in the breeding and showing of the tail-marked Fantail. No matter



CHAMPION SADDLE FANTAIL

"Ruby", Band No. 3254-'76, Red Saddle Hen. Champion Saddle Fantail at Eastern Fantail Club Annual Meet, Jan. 1977. — Bred and owned by John McClanahan, East Syracuse, N.Y.

how good they were, they just didn't seem to have much of a chance.

Then it happened! One of my young tail-marked Fantails was judged Best Young Fantail of the Show in the 1970 Central Fantail Meet which was held with the National in St. Paul, Minn. The judge? None other than Karl Otto, one of the foremost breeders and judges of Fantails in the country! This could only be described as a break-through and was an inspiration, not only to me, but also to the greatly increased number of breeders who had become interested in and who had taken up the breeding and showing of the tail-marked Fantail. The tail-mark was now "on the map" so to speak. It had been recognized and at long last, was being noticed!

The question most asked about tail-marks is, "In what order of importance do you place the different qualities of the tail-mark? In answer to this let me first say that all tail-mark breeders want to produce a tail-marked Fantail that is equal in every way to the best of the whites. We also want to put a tail on it that is perfectly marked and of the color we like best. This would be the ideal. The perfect marking on an inferior Fantail is to be least desired and would set us back 20 years to the time where judges would once again ignore the tail-marked Fantail and it would again become a loser! We must work continually to hold and to improve the type of the tail-mark. There is no doubt in my mind that a consistently perfect marking and good color will come in time. So let's not sacrifice the type of our tail-marks for perfection in marking and color. A regression here would prove all our work to have been in vain!

Now, to answer the question: As I see it, the order of importance would be: 1. Type; 2. Marking; 3. Color. Yes, to me, color takes a back seat to everything else involved. Some say that color should be all-important. It is hard for me to believe that they are serious. Most of us are working on the addition of new colors and the perfection of the colors we already have. This is good and cannot but help to increase interest in the tail-mark. However, I feel that if I can produce tail-marks that are equal to the whites in type and with consistently good marking, it would matter very little to me if the color was an olive drab. The color that I desire could come later.

Just a few words on the grizzle tail-mark. It has been referred to as the "grizzle tailed tail-marked" and the "so called grizzle tailed tail-mark". It should be referred to as the grizzle tail-mark. Not too long ago the grizzle color in the Fantail was recognized by both the Mid-America and the Central Fantail Clubs. In 1975 a grizzle was chosen as Grand Champion Fantail at the Mid-America Winter Show. Most fanciers are of the



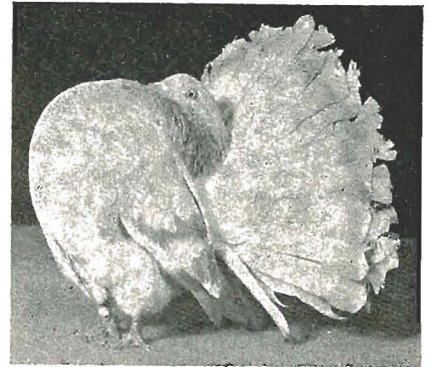
DAVID LITTMAN, AUSTRALIA

David Littman of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, when he visited in St. Louis, Mo. in the fall of 1976. — Photo by Harry L. Little, St. Louis, Mo.

opinion that this color was a great addition to the Fantail Fancy. Then why is it so hard for some to recognize the grizzle tail-mark? How can you, on one hand, accept the grizzle Fantail and then on the other hand, reject the grizzle tail-mark? It is my belief that the grizzle tail-mark is in a class of its own, is in everyway superior to all the others and is just as pleasing to the eye!

The tail-mark entries have grown from four, one in each class, at Harmony Hall, to 62 at the Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic in Madison, Wis. This is just the beginning. It seems that many breeders have been turned on to this beautiful marked Fantail over the past few years. It shouldn't be too long before they become one of the largest classes at the shows.

In conclusion, let me say this: Just think of how proud we will be when we get it all, type, marking and color, yes, all, on one beautiful Fantail. Let's continue to build on the popularity of the tail-mark until it becomes one of the most popular of all Fantails!



GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL

This Powdered Blue cock, Band No. 953 was Grand Champion at the Oregon Fantail Ass'n Show, Snohomish, Wash. Also First Reserve Champion at Mid Valley Show, Salem, Ore. — Exhibited by Dan Simpson, Eugene, Ore.



# John Dietz — Fantail Breeder For Over 50 Years

By STEVE MAY, Lincoln, Neb.

I feel very fortunate to have a good friend like John Dietz. He has helped me so much in the Fantail hobby. When I got my start at the age of 8 or 9, he was the one who helped me out. If I remember right, I bought one pair from John. The first time I showed pigeons was at the State Fair and my Fantail was so pretty that I just knew he would go all the way to the top. What an education I got from that show. My Roller and Racing Homer placed 3rd and 5th, but my beautiful Fantail didn't place at all. Well, I was hurt real bad, but at the show I was told to pull the tail and the Fantail would come out much nicer. Right then and there my Fantail got his tail plucked even though it looked painful. Every since then, which was 20 years ago, John Dietz has been there to help me out.

John got started in Fantails when he was 15 years old. He went to a chicken shop and couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a pair of Fantails. Mixed colored as they were, they still were fascinating. The price of this pair was 20c, and it didn't take long for John to get the money out of his pocket. He saw three more at a man's house a little later and traded some bantams for them. It didn't matter to John that these three birds were half commie because they still looked like Fantails to him. A time went by and he heard about a man way across town that had some Fantails in his barn loft. John took out walking across town to see what this man had. Upon arrival he found that this man had nine pure white Fantails and they were for sale at \$1 each. Boy did he ever want these white Fantails, but he didn't have the money. He set out to earn this money by carrying advertisements and doing odd jobs. One day John bought all nine of these Fantails. As luck would have it, someone stole all of John's Fantails and even his commies. At age 17 or 18 he was out of the pigeon business because of the thieves. Once John got married and had a son about three years old, he thought the boy ought to raise show Fantails. The boy was a little young, but of course John could help out. This was back in 1928 and John built up a great strain from then on out.

When I was talking to John today, he told me of past experiences. Some I can write about and some are between John and me. John was always tough to beat locally and so in the early 40's he decided to take on his first out of town show. He caught a train and headed for Salt Lake City. He was so excited about leaving town that when he got there he found that he had left his best Fantail home. On judging day someone else took Champion, but he got Reserve Champion on a white young hen. John still knows he could have beat that old white cock for Champion Fantail if he hadn't left his best one home by mistake. John said he

had the Champion Fantail at every Mid-West Fantail Club meet except one. One year in the 1950's he went to Des Moines, Iowa for a combined show with the National and he took Reserve Champion Fantail. Jack Grellis was the judge and Jack picked a well deserving old white hen of Don Hutchkins as Champion Fantail.

In 1955 John went to Calif. and showed at the Pacific Fantail Club Show. This was held with the Pageant of Pigeons Show in Los Angeles. John McDavitt had Champion Fantail on a young white cock, but John Dietz took Reserve Champion on his white old hen. He said the Dietz bird was good but that young cock was a little better. He found friendly people there and McDavitt and Quinlan drove several miles out of their way to pick him up at the motel and return the trip at night when the showroom closed up.

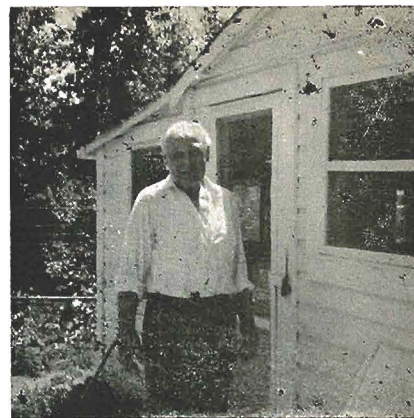
In 1962 John went to the Rocky Mountain Fantail Club meet in Colo. I guess he cleaned house there and took just about everything home with him.

In 1961 who was it that had Champion at the Mid-America Fantail Club meet, John Dietz won with a white band No. 5040.

In 1962 I myself had Reserve Champion at the Mid-America. This bird, a young black cock was out of a Dietz cock I purchased the year before and a hen that John Hergert got for me by trading three of his good Tumblers for her. This hen was outstanding and Hergert gave her to me as a gift.

At the 1966 show held in Lincoln, Neb. which I believe was a combined Central and Mid-America Fantail Club meet John won a big white class. He thinks it might have been the old cock class. I think that was his last show, but he still comes around on show days to keep up with the times. He was watching the judging at the Central this year (1977) most likely remembering the past. He saw a lot of old friends there and I know he could remember a lot of good times.

John was the man who bred my old Dun hen No. 2972 '72. She was Champion Dun at the Mid-America Club meet in 1975 and again in 1976. It was from this hen that I started my strain of yellows with. My young Yellow hen No. 469-'76 was first in her class at the 1976 Mid-America meet and a month later she was Champion Yellow at the Central Fantail meet. The Dun hen is her great grandmother on one side and her grandmother on the other side. He is also the breeder of my Sulphur hen No. 3466-'74 which is the only one known in existence. This hen was Champion Non-Classified color at the 1975 and 1976 Mid-America meets. She was Reserve Champion Any Other Color at the 50th Anniversary Central in 1976. In 1977 at the Central she was only beat by a blue with a couple of white feathers for Best AOC.



JOHN DIETZ

John Dietz well known Fantail breeder of Lincoln, Neb. — Photo from Joe Schabert, Mankato, Minn.

My Blue cock 816-'74 which placed 2nd at the 1975 Mid-America and 3rd at the Central 50th Anniversary is out of two Fantails I bought from Dietz.

He has sold Fantails all over the country and started out so many new fanciers that the Fancy is truly in debt to this man. As a great-grandfather at the young age of 81, he is still breeding round after round of youngsters again this year.

## What I Like To See At A Show

By MARILYN THOMS, Elmira, Ore.

A good Fantail is graceful and confident, therefore, a good Fantail show should also be graceful in respect to organized stewarding of the birds and the Fans should be judged in a qualified and confident manner.

From a Fantail breeder's viewpoint, I find that I enjoy the Fantail section of the show when it is well decorated and informative for the on-looking spectators and Fantail fanciers. Decorations can include a display of the trophies, a diagrammed poster of the points as listed in the Standard, snapshots of prize winning Fantails, a Fantail banner or a fancy Fantail quilt.

I think it is important for a judge to make comments throughout the judging. This is a good way to compare your knowledge of Fantails with that of the judge. It also serves as a learning process for interested spectators or for that prospective Fantail novice. A judge should make constructive comments, either pro or con, in a fair manner. When a judge is commenting on the Fantails there is usually less chatter in the crowd which will help to insure the judge's impartiality. A judge, during a short break, can ask the spectators if they have any questions about the Fantails.

It is the goal of every Fantail breeder to (1) raise a perfect Fantail, according to the Standard and (2) to promote the breed.

If a Fantail section is well decorated and judged with enthusiasm it will definitely promote the breed and if the show is smoothly run it will in the long run help to perfect the breed.



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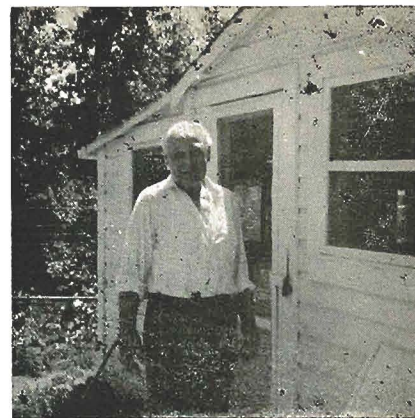
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In 1962 I myself had Reserve Champion at the Mid-America. This bird, a young black cock was out of a Dietz cock I purchased the year before and a hen that John Hergert got for me by trading three of his good Tumblers for her. This hen was outstanding and Hergert gave her to me as a gift.

At the 1966 show held in Lincoln, Neb. which I believe was a combined Central and Mid-America Fantail Club meet John won a big white class. He thinks it might have been the old cock class. I think that was his last show, but he still comes around on show days to keep up with the times. He was watching the judging at the Central this year (1977) most likely remembering the past. He saw a lot of old friends there and I know he could remember a lot of good times.

John was the man who bred my old Dun hen No. 2972 '72. She was Champion Dun at the Mid-America Club meet in 1975 and again in 1976. It was from this hen that I started my strain of yellows with. My young Yellow hen No. 469-'76 was first in her class at the 1976 Mid-America meet and a month later she was Champion Yellow at the Central Fantail meet. The Dun hen is her great grandmother on one side and her grandmother on the other side. He is also the breeder of my Sulphur hen No. 3466-'74 which is the only one known in existence. This hen was Champion Non-Classified color at the 1975 and 1976 Mid-America meets. She was Reserve Champion Any Other Color at the 50th Anniversary Central in 1976. In 1977 at the Central she was only beat by a blue with a couple of white feathers for Best AOC.



JOHN DIETZ

John Dietz well known Fantail breeder of Lincoln, Neb. — Photo from Joe Schabert, Mankato, Minn.

My Blue cock 816-'74 which placed 2nd at the 1975 Mid-America and 3rd at the Central 50th Anniversary is out of two Fantails I bought from Dietz.

He has sold Fantails all over the country and started out so many new fanciers that the Fancy is truly in debt to this man. As a great-grandfather at the young age of 81, he is still breeding round after round of youngsters again this year.

## What I Like To See At A Show

By MARILYN THOMS, Elmira, Ore.

A good Fantail is graceful and confident, therefore, a good Fantail show should also be graceful in respect to organized stewarding of the birds and the Fans should be judged in a qualified and confident manner.

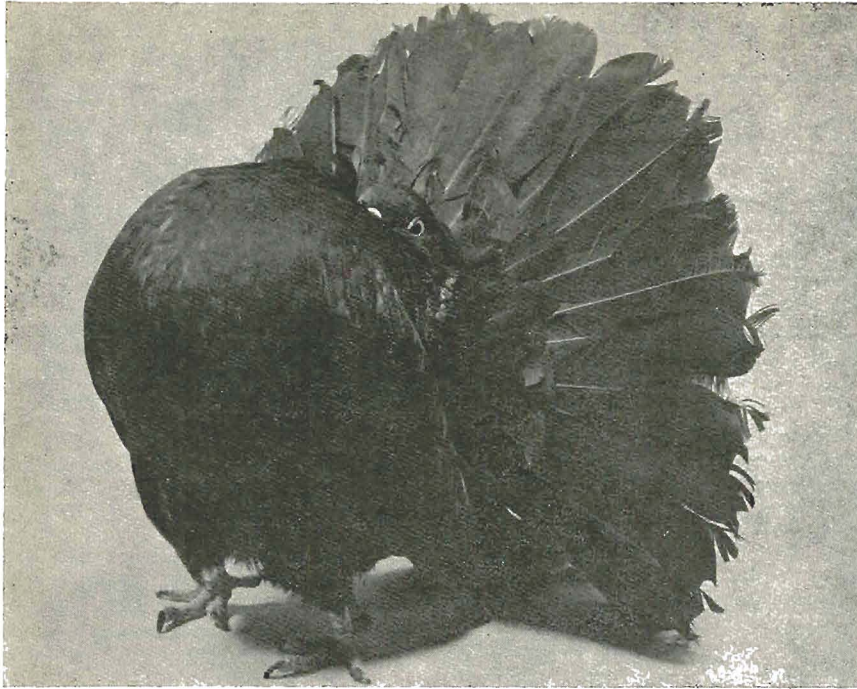
From a Fantail breeder's viewpoint, I find that I enjoy the Fantail section of the show when it is well decorated and informative for the on-looking spectators and Fantail fanciers. Decorations can include a display of the trophies, a diagrammed poster of the points as listed in the Standard, snapshots of prize winning Fantails, a Fantail banner or a fancy Fantail quilt.

I think it is important for a judge to make comments throughout the judging. This is a good way to compare your knowledge of Fantails with that of the judge. It also serves as a learning process for interested spectators or for that prospective Fantail novice. A judge should make constructive comments, either pro or con, in a fair manner. When a judge is commenting on the Fantails there is usually less chatter in the crowd which will help to insure the judge's impartiality. A judge, during a short break, can ask the spectators if they have any questions about the Fantails.

It is the goal of every Fantail breeder to (1) raise a perfect Fantail, according to the Standard and (2) to promote the breed.

If a Fantail section is well decorated and judged with enthusiasm it will definitely promote the breed and if the show is smoothly run it will in the long run help to perfect the breed.





### Prize Winning Black Fantail

Young Black Fantail Hen, Band No. 723. Best Black Fantail at National Young Bird Show at Louisville, Oct. 1976 and Best Young Black Hen at the National Pigeon Show in Dayton, Jan. 1977. — Bred and owned by Dr. Jack E. Gray, Richland, Mich.

## What Makes A Fantail?

By DR. J. E. GRAY, Richland, Mich.

We go ahead each year trying to breed one better than we have and closer to the Standard without giving much thought as to how it is possible to breed such a unique and beautifully contoured pigeon as the modern Fantail. The Fantail in some ways is one of the most unnatural creatures one could imagine. I am always curious to learn how persons who have never seen a Fantail express themselves when they first see one. Most are amazed as they could not have imagined that such a bird existed. They were expecting to see a pigeon like the familiar one in the park or occasionally the "initiated" individual may have a childhood memory of a Pouter-like pigeon. Next they may ask where is the pigeon's head and when they become aware that the bird has been watching them all the time, they want to know whether he can get his head out like other pigeons. We have rather taken for granted that a good Fantail should have his head on center deep in the pocket without taking into account how it is possible for the bird to do it.

By all accounts, the native home of the Fantail was and still is India and the neighboring countries of Burma and Thailand. Perhaps the Indian Fantails we see in shows are quite similar to the ancestor of the modern Fantail, although it is quite obvious that a considerable change has been produced by breeders both in Britain and America during the

past 100 years. Through rigorous selection the positions of the head and tail have been raised and brought together, as it were. There seems to be an innate behavior for the pigeon to pull its head back, as for example when a cock is strutting. Slight retractions of the head can be seen in many breeds of pigeons such as the Hen pigeons, the Mookiee and even to a greater degree in the Holle Cropper. It is interesting that the head position of the Indian Fantail resembles that of the broad-tailed Shaker of a century ago. From these observations one may reasonably conclude that the wild blue rock pigeon, the ancestor of all breeds of pigeons, has a potential in its neck muscles for retraction of the head.

From a functional standpoint we may observe a similar behavior when a Roller somersaults backwards during its performance. In this connection, it is pertinent that recent studies at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine have revealed that the paired neck muscles of the Roller have abnormal electrical properties and are further characterized by an increase in fiber size and responsiveness to drugs. These findings were published in the Nov.-Dec. 1972 issue of the *Journal of Heredity*.

Perhaps the deplorable off-center head position of some good Fantails may be related to greater development of the dorsal neck muscles on one side than

the other. There appears to be a hereditary tendency for this fault to continue in a line of birds and its presence should be followed very closely if, indeed, it is tolerated at all.

The overall appearance of the modern Fantail has been brought about by changes in various parts. Mostly, advances in the development of the parts of the Fantail have been parallel but the improvement of the Fantail, especially in the early days, was not always uniform. The perfection of the tail received particular attention from the early breeders in England. Paintings of the broad-tailed Shaker, the forerunner of the modern Fantail, show that these birds had tails that would compare favorably with those seen today. To carry the three fold increase in tail feathers that has been avidly selected for over the years, a strong broad tail base has developed. Intermediate stages in the development of the tail may be represented in the upward posture of the tail that we see in the Oriental Roller and in cross-breed Fantails. The preen gland has been lost during the time that the tail feathers increased in number and a forward migration of the feather follicles in the tail base has also been encouraged by setting aside birds with scooped tails. Curiously, an increase in the number of flight feathers, which would be highly, undesirable, has not occurred along with the selection for larger tails with more feathers.

It is thus evident that the beautiful symmetrical tail can be perfected without giving full attention to the basic leg and head positions of the Fantail. English Fantails, illustrated in *Fulton's Book of Pigeons*, published over a century ago, were of this type.

The early Scotch breeders, we are told, placed greater emphasis on small stylish birds. Even so, it is quite obvious that the tail is needed for adequate balance and show style and that the development of the deep head position and large spread tail had to be brought about hand in hand. This is revealed to us each year during the annual forced moult in July and August. When the tail is out, show birds often, but not always have a temporary loss of exhibition style.

We have considered the role of the neck muscles and the strong exaggerated tail base of the modern Fantail yet even with these remarkable changes the Fantail would not be an "eyestopper" today. The third part in which great change has been encouraged by breeders is the hock. Most of the style of the Fantail comes from the so-called "forward" hock. With the retraction of the head into the pocket and the balance carried in the broad and high set tail, the center of gravity has shifted somewhat with the forward migration of the legs. This has produced an exaggerated hock joint which is the major focus of stress in the modern Fantail. Much of a bird's showing ability, i.e. the ease and duration a bird will show properly, relates to the strength in its legs. A good Fantail is built from



the ground up so continued attention is needed to select breeders with strong and appropriate leg settings. Strong legs are needed to push up the body and bring about the correct relationship of leg, head and tail positions at the time the bird is showing. Some spreading, or increased width, between the legs has also been selected for and this is desirable to strengthen the show stance and give the bird the good round appearance.

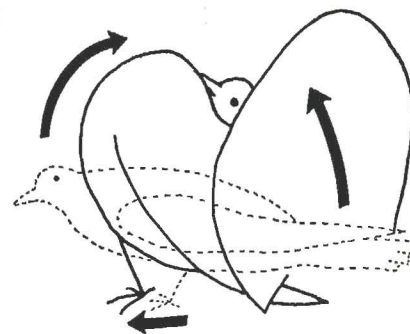
Variations in the quality of the hocks can be followed by watching the development of young birds. Some can show properly from the time they get out of the nest, hang on to these birds. Others get the strength in their legs only months later and may even compromise the forward thrust of their hocks slightly (such birds are not uncommon in shows). A sizeable number of a season's young birds never get their Fantail legs, so to speak, and such birds usually have to be discarded. The pot-lids are included here.

The amazing thing, the real spark of the Fancy, is that through a happy circumstance in the combination of the tail increase, head retraction and forward leg position a beautiful creature has been produced. In a good Fantail, the parts

fit and it doesn't resemble an artificial monstrosity. Could a breeder of a hundred years ago have imagined that the Fantail could be developed into a small round body on tiptoes with a foot-wide tail? We are approaching the Standard even though no single bird fully achieves it. This is not to say there is no room for improvement. There is only a very limited number of really fine Fantails hatched during one breeding season.

We have called attention to the basic importance of the interdependent relationship of the legs, head and tail in the modern Fantail. No mention has been made of thin wings, small size, round bodies without coarseness, and true colors. These qualities are refinements in the quality of a bird or a particular strain of birds. Each of these qualities can be dealt with, more or less, by independent selection for improvement.

Probably other less obvious factors in the make-up of the Fantail will be recognized. Looking back, it seems quite possible that the breed could have ended up quite differently. Perhaps the Indian Fantail which we see in the present day shows constitutes a second grand experiment with this breed.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE FANTAIL

The schematic drawing emphasizes the three major directions of development (arrows) in the modern Fantail. These are the elevation and spread of the tail, the retraction of the head and the "forward" hock position of the legs. — Sketch by Dr. Jack E. Gray, Richland, Mich.

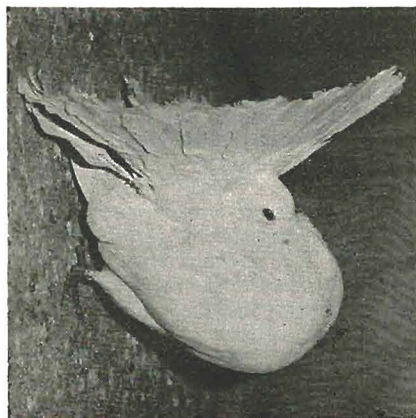
## Showtime — For The Beginner

By JOHN ("KILLER") KILLINGER, Cleona, Pa.

Veterans of the hobby, you need not read this article as you already know what is expected of you at showtime. However, if you have nothing better to do maybe you will enjoy it anyway.

If you are a beginner, novice, rookie or whatever, this should at least shed a little light on "what's expected of you" as well as "what's happening" at a Fantail show.

A few years ago I attended my first show and believe me, it was awful and yet wonderful. I had no idea of what to do, how to do it, or when to do it. From the time I arrived at the show until I crated my birds and went home, it seemed I was completely disoriented! Things



GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL

White cock, Band No. 976, Grand Champion Fantail, Central Fantail Club Annual Show, Jan. 1974 with 404 Fantails competing. — Bred and owned by Rod Hatcher and Son, New Virginia, Iowa.

were happening all around me and yet I wasn't really a part of them. The only thing I did right was fill out my entry blank and mail it to the Show Secretary. The next few paragraphs will be spent in trying to itemize most of the things that are expected of each Fantail fancier.

One of the most important things to remember is the large tail. When crating the birds for the show, make sure the crate, box or carrying case is high enough so the tails are not crushed. Also, be sure the sides are not wire. This could also "wreck" the tail.

My carriers are approximately 15 inches high and the sides are cloth. If you have no carriers, I recommend a cardboard box with high sides and plenty of slots or holes cut in it for ventilation.

Upon entering the showroom with your birds, approach the Show Secretary and tell him your name. The Secretary will then go through the stack of entries and hopefully find yours. If you haven't already paid he will then tell you what you owe. Your next question will be, "Where are the Fans located". If he, per chance, helped set up the cages he can probably tell you. If not, you will just have to seek them on your own.

When the Fantails are located, take the entry which the Show Secretary handed to you, and start to coop your birds. On the entry somewhere there will be a square with a number in it. This is your entry number. On each coop a tag is located. Look for a tag with your entry number on it and correlate the entry number with the leg band number. Do this for each bird entered. If any substitu-

tions are made, please tell the Secretary so the judging sheets can be altered.

The next thing to do is find the "bathroom" if you haven't already done so. After two or three hours of driving I know how you feel. Now that you feel better, look for a Fantail fancier and introduce yourself. Tell him you are new, and I'm sure he will answer most, if not all, of your questions.

If the show is a small one, lunch will probably be served prior to the judging. On the other hand, if you are at a Club Meet, judging will start before lunch as there are so many more birds to be judged. When judging starts, you will have to find out in what order the colors are to be judged; for example, Whites, Blacks, Blues. Next you must know what age and sex; for example, OH, OC, YH, YC. These three things, age, sex and color could vary, in the judging rotation, from show to show. Now we are ready to begin!

I usually wait about 10 minutes before my color class to "lace" my tails and get my birds ready. Since you are a beginner, I can't explain in this article how to "lace" a tail. However, what I do recommend is that you ask any fellow fancier, who is not busy, to help you.

When your color class is called for, it is up to you to "set" the bird down in the judging cage. Nearly all Fantail fanciers prefer to set their own birds in the judging cages. However, here again, since you are a beginner, ask a veteran for assistance and watch how he does it. After a few shows you will get the idea.

When the judge removes your bird from the judging cage, please go and get it and return it to its coop. With any kind of luck you could finish well in the standings.

After a champion of each color class is selected all of these will again be placed in the judging cages so the Champion and Reserve Champion may be selected.

With this completed the show is just about over except to hand out trophies and make excuses why you didn't get one. Before leaving be sure to thank all people

(Continued on page 493)





### Grand Champion Fantail Three Times

Silver Fantail, Old Hen, Band No. 1716. The only Fantail in the USA to place Grand Champion at three separate Annual Shows by three different judges, shown only three times. — Bred and owned by Rod Hatcher and Son, New Virginia, Iowa.

## Exhibiting Your Fantails — Combination That Wins

By DR. ERNEST A. and CHRISTOPHER T. GRAUPNER, Newtown, Conn.

With so many good Fantails in the judging show cage these days, we have observed that the combination of the well bred bird, the well conditioned bird and the carefully groomed bird, is the combination that wins. Just one of these qualities is no longer enough. One without the other is to invite trouble.

The "perfect" Fantail that will not show well because it is frightened, ill, dirty, or has been neglected, will find insurmountably keen competition when the show judge makes his official comparison of the Fantails before him. It has been said that many are penned but too often poorly staged.

The spirit of rivalry in comparing one's best birds with the best from other fanciers' lofts dictates that we start with a foundation of the very best Fantails we can afford. We have found that owners or breeders and exhibitors in this sport and Fancy are most generous and helpful people; a fraternity of friendly, neighborly fanciers, intensely interested in their hobby to produce the ever improved Fantail.

Nowadays the beginner can start right. It has not always been so. He can now progress nicely by acquiring Fantails with years of careful breeding behind them; birds with fixed qualities and nice type. By buying the very best he can af-

ford and staying with the strain it is possible to raise ones own show prospects and take pride in doing so. The old saying "from nothing comes nothing" is most appropriate.

We leave it to the experts to expound on type which surely is paramount. The Fantail Standard quite clearly mirrors the ideal Fantail, described as "round as a ball" with well proportioned bodies on good straight legs, full front, tight wings, good head placement, feathers tight and hard rather than soft and fringed. Essential too is a proportionately large tail, well carried, that has plenty of top feather and overall appears as almost a complete circle. A blend of all these qualities shows us a Fantail in well balanced proportions.

Surely all of this must be combined with the ability of the bird to show. A judge looks for demonstrated energy, calm self assured stage presence and a bird up on its toes. We have always observed that the experienced exhibitors, the real experts, have mastered the art of setting down a Fantail in the judging pen. This is indeed a talent to be acquired. Quality, superb condition and ability to show are the necessary combination.

In preparing your birds for the show pen it is most important that they are in

the best of condition and in excellent health, evidencing good gentle care with proper feeding of grains, grit, clean water and a program of helpful medication. It is essential that they are accustomed to being handled, are not frightened, and have been trained to the show cage and the judging pen. Well housed Fantails should be clean as a whistle. However, if their feathers have become soiled, preparation of birds for the show room may well include bathing in warm water. Some use a teaspoonful of borax and soap. Careful drying is important. Good grooming includes clean feet and clean bands. Some birds require nail clipping. A touch of oil emphasizes the nice red color of the feet and legs. Tails will always look better when carefully laced. Thus, a Fantail that is healthy, is of good type, has been well groomed and is clean will have every opportunity to win in the show pen. Good luck!

Over the years, through trial and error and with help from the experts, we have learned a little about the husbandry of show birds and preparing them for the meets. And indeed we should for our choice rests with Fantails and Nuns, the latter requiring cosmetic pre-show treatment that goes to the extreme. The Nun sometimes requires plucking of foul feathers and trimming with scissors, especially on top skull at the base of the shell. We have learned by culling and selective breeding to raise a maximum of Nuns that are cleanly marked and without foul feathering. So, as with Fantails, we progress. Always, "the best to the best" is a yardstick we like to use.

I have had pigeons ever since a boy in New Jersey. Our current flocks in Newtown, Conn., are home bred over the past 15 years. A nice activity in my retirement and now even more efficiently done by my son Christopher. Our white Fantails trace back to the superb accomplishments of T. A. Havemeyer and his partner Jim Glasgow. Our black Fantails are delicate little round bodied birds so expertly developed by James Argall years ago. Whites and blacks came from Wolf Dettmer when he dispersed his remarkably superior flock prior to returning to Germany. Ours is a program of line breeding with only careful infusions from the outside and starting with a fine white hen from Bob Kingkinger in an effort to reduce size. Our blacks have had help from Rod Hatcher and Harry L. Claus both of whom have Argall blood in their flocks. We have had most generous and expert help from our neighbor, Lawrence Bush, long time Fantail fancier and Homing Pigeon officer in the Army Signal Corps. Bob Kingkinger of Pa., P. J. Curran of Mass., William Roth of Danbury and Frank Tibaldi of R.I. have helped us enormously on their visits to our lofts with their helpful evaluations of our birds.

Our Nuns have been bred forward from seven pairs acquired about ten years ago from Edward Suchy, the Master Breeder, who did so much for the Tumbler type Nun as they are sought after today. We



did have a fine lot of Nuns of good color but could not get away from the pointed, snipe like head. We disposed of them and turned to our friend Ed Suchy who generously helped us to acquire our foundation stock. He was a real friend, over the years, who just passed away last February. To our Suchy Nuns we added a few from John Woodland, the expert in Ind. We wished to see how those birds that win in the mid-west compared to our eastern Nuns. We concluded that good Nuns are good whatever the geography. Woodland's very good birds helped us nicely.

We breed from six pairs each in three different units all with their own wire aviaries to assure as much sunshine as the birds care to have. Thus, with some 30 to 40 young in each unit each season, we can pick out four or five to make up our next generation. The rest we sell and give away. We like to help others get started in the Fancy and for those who pay for their birds, getting the very best young, we always pay their first years dues in the pigeon clubs. This helps educate the buyer and supports the clubs.

One year, through an introduction to the buyer of Paramount Pictures by Dr. Ray Ostrander, we sold some 30 white Fantails to Paramount for their picture "The Great Gatsby". Christopher went to Newport, R.I. during summer vacation from Tufts University to take care of some 50 white Fantails Paramount acquired for the green lawn garden scenes. It was necessary to attach rubber bands to the birds wings to keep them walking on the lawn instead of flying to the roof

tops.

Our shows in the Northeast have turned into winter time affairs as indeed we must await the passing of the moult period in the fall. Thus, unfortunately I have seen Christopher standing in the rain or in snow flurries in front of our open air judging cages, choosing the birds and cage training them for the next show. A pity that the shows take place at such a distance from us and since the failure of the Railway Express Agency, with their door to door service, we must now take the birds to the shows ourselves. The discontinuation of the Danbury, Conn. show and the collapse of the United Nun Club here in the metropolitan area is disappointing. We also miss the former fall young bird shows which were so popular here in New England. On one trip, a year or so ago, to Sandwich, Mass., we drove through a howling, continuous rain storm, the tail end of a hurricane. The drive to the fine Worcester show is often made in a blizzard. We liked winning with a young black Nun hen over the entry of Ed Suchy, the master of the game; we enjoyed winning best black, against formidable competition in the North Eastern Fantail Club shows. A nice reward has always been to hear and read that progeny of our birds can and do win in real competition for others.

We welcomed the invitation to participate in the 1977 Fantail Special of the American Pigeon Journal. May the reading of our recitation bring some pleasure for certainly we enjoy sharing our observations and efforts in breeding the better Fantail, the "Queen of the Fancy".

## Greetings From The Fantail Club of England

By SIDNEY E. CLAYSON, Sec., England

Dear Fellow Fanciers: Perhaps it is a little bewildering to hear from Harry Little of the plans of the American Pigeon Journal to produce another Fantail Special at a time when we, here in England, are suffering from an inflationary spell in our economy which is unfortunately hampering our efforts to maintain and expand our hobby.

Again, it is difficult to focus against the background of the size of your great continent as compared with these small islands which are the home of the English Fantail Club. We had our AGM in November last and at that time we boasted 106 members from England, Scotland and Wales and we have since recruited one new member from Ireland. Of that number, 92 are adult or senior members and 14 are junior members under 16 years of age. It is sad to report that during the last few years, we have lost such respected members as our one time Secretary, the late Dr. Richard Armstrong, William Bardell, E. J. Smith, Will Taylor and Harry Lovell, to mention a few. The healthy list of junior members is a very necessary asset to us if we are to bring along adequate replacements for the long serving members of our fancy who have

been lost to us.

Our club was, of course, founded in 1889 and has fostered the Fantail pigeon ever since. We operate with one club show per year and six branch shows. The former is now held annually at Dorchester and the branch shows take place at intervals during the show season at Glasgow, Wigan in Lancashire, Northampton, Colchester, Burryport (in south Wales) and usually one in Cornwall.

Classification at shows usually consists of four classes of whites, classes for chequers, self blues, blacks, silvers, powder silvers, reds, yellows, tail-marks, saddles, laces and the inevitable "any other colour" which caters for the lesser known colours in U.K. such as creams and, of course, mismarks of various colours and patterns.

At a typical branch show we usually attract about 90 entries and at our Club show at Doncaster we look forward to receiving 250 to 300 entries.

Only club appointed judges are allowed to officiate at branch or the club annual shows and it is interesting to record that at the AGM last November a new Standard was approved. This consisted of a revision in some details of the old Standard



GRAND CHAMPION FANTAIL

Silver Hen. Band No. 419, Grand Champion, Central Fantail Club Annual Show, Jan. 1973 with 406 Fantails competing. — Bred and owned by Rod Hatcher and son, New Virginia, Iowa.

and had been under most careful consideration for two years before it was finally approved in November of 1976. For your information. I am enclosing a copy. (Note by Editor. — Lack of space prevents publishing the English Standard, but copies may be received by writing Mr. Clayson.)

In conclusion, it is my pleasure as secretary of this club, to extend on behalf of all our members, our good wishes to all our American friends in the Fancy and our best wishes for a successful 1977 Fantail Special.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Don Buhr and Mel Kirk and his wife and I would like to send my personal greetings to them. — Yours in the Fancy, Sidney E. Clayson, Honorable Secretary, The Fantail Club of the United Kingdom.

### Showtime — For The Beginner

(Continued from page 491)

who helped you and maybe jot down a few names and addresses. These people could possibly spare a few birds for next season or you might just want to keep in touch with them to exchange ideas.

Something that I almost forgot to mention is that sometime during the show someone will approach you to sell you some raffle tickets. I encourage everyone, new and old, to buy at least a dollar's worth. It sure is a big help to the club sponsoring the show.

To all you veterans that read this article, I hope it recalled your first show with its problems. If you are smiling I know that I didn't waste my time and efforts.

To all you beginners who have read this article, I hope your first show is a success. Who knows, maybe you will bring a winner to your first show!





### Grand Champion Fantail

White Fantail, Band No. 928, Best White and Grand Champion at MAFC 1974 Young Bird Show. At MAFC Annual Show, Reserve Grand Champion to her nest mate 929 who was Grand Champion. At Central Fantail Meet, Jan. 1975, Best Young White, Best White, Grand Champion Fantail of Show. — Bred and owned by Joe and Donna Schaber, Mankato, Minn.

## Saddle Breeding — Building A Good Stud

By JERRY VANDEBERG, Madison, Wis.

One of the most popular markings of Fantails today is the beautiful saddle. Why? It is largely due to the striking appearance of well marked and colored saddles of good Fantail quality plus the "snowball effect" of saddle breeding and improvement over the past decade. The snowball effect has been especially evident in the past few years.

By snowball effect I mean as the overall quality and number of good saddles produced has increased thus attracting more attention, more and more fanciers have begun seriously breeding saddles

for show.

There are more show quality saddles around today than ever before and the show saddles are of overall higher quality. Looking back in time, a fine quality saddle appeared here and there but no where near the number of fine quality saddles today. It used to be that the champion saddle could be expected to come from only a few breeders. Today, however, the champion saddle can come from any of a large number of fanciers.

With more good saddles being bred there have been and are more good saddles for sale enabling more newcomers to obtain good stock. The demand for saddle purchases is still large. With the snowball effect in full force it appears that saddle popularity will continue to increase. With more breeders and greater competition quality should continue to improve in the years ahead.

#### Building A Good Stud

Having been asked to write about "Building a good Stud of Saddles" I must first comment that a person goes about developing a good stud of saddles basically the same way as he would with any Fantail marking or color.

Some of the primary building blocks are (1) enjoyment and desire, (2) time and persistence, (3) knowledge, (4) wise loft management and sanitary conditions, (5) good breeding stock, and (6) luck.

If a person has the first two ingredients in sufficient quantity the latter four are likely to follow.

All of these factors have been discussed throughout Fantail and pigeon literature and whenever breeders gather or attend

shows. It is up to you, the aspiring individual, to seek knowledge through visiting breeders' lofts, talking with fanciers at the shows, and seeking out and studying Fantail and pigeon literature. Seek to find out "What" to do, "How" to do it, "Why" to do it. Then most importantly Do It!

For optimum conditions of developing and maintaining a good stud of saddles, a person in most cases should work with just one color of saddles or the dominant-recessive related pair of colors such as blue-silver, red-yellow, black-dun, which can be mated together with good color results.

There being so many beautiful saddle colors and other Fantail markings however, many of us are unable to limit ourselves! Or at least we choose not to do so!

For purpose of illustration, let's say a person has six pair of saddles of one color. Some youngsters and old birds may be superior in tail while others are better in body. The fancier can mate the strong tailed birds with the good bodied birds which hopefully may produce some youngsters which have both good tails and bodies thus improving the quality.

On the other hand let's say a person has three pair of red saddles and three pair of powder blue saddles. He is unlikely to cross these colors since the matings would likely produce poorly colored youngsters with the poor color being difficult to breed out.

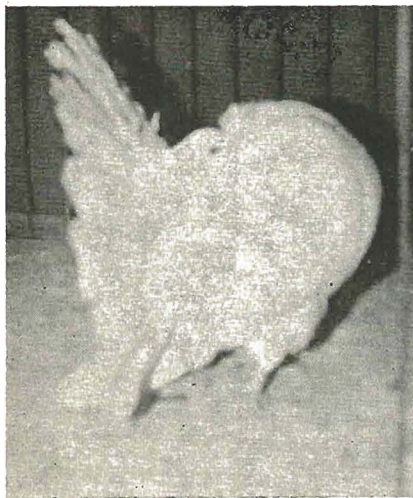
The fancier's powder blue saddles may be strong in tail but weak in body while his red saddles are weak in tail and strong in body. But since it is inconvenient to cross these colors together the owner continues to mate the powder blues together and likely continues to raise powder blues strong in tail and weak in body with little overall improvement and likewise with the reds.

So the fancier's progress in improving his saddle stud is likely to be faster with six pair of one color than with three pair of two unrelated colors, other factors being equal.

Remember, too, that other variables being equal, the more different markings a person has, the less time, space, and number of pairs he has to devote to any specific marking such as saddles and the less progress he is likely to make with saddles.

I believe that most of the top Fantail qualities currently exist in the total pool of saddles. The main problem is that these qualities do not exist on one individual! For example, some saddles have large, hard feathered tails. Others have small bodies and some have fine leg setting and carriage and motion. What we saddle breeders need to accomplish is to mold these characteristics into one saddle.

The next time you go to a show which has some fine quality saddles, compare the best saddles with the best of other markings or colors such as whites. You may find that some of the best saddles



CHAMPION FANTAIL

Band No. 234-'76, Champion Young Cock, Mid America Fantail Club Young Bird Show. — Bred by Bob Given, St. Louis Park, Minn.



cover the wings better in front than the top whites. You may notice that some of the other top saddles have larger tails than the best whites.

But then notice that the very top whites are superior to the best saddles when you consider overall quality of the individual birds.

Overall quality in the individual saddle is something for which the saddle breeder should strive. He should not concentrate on one or two characteristics while ignoring the rest.

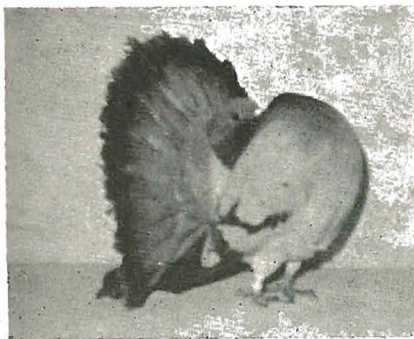
On the other hand, a breeder can generalize overall quality too much thus losing sight of individual characteristics. This can result in merely mediocre saddles which may have no glaring weaknesses but have no strong features either. So it is crucial to keep in mind both overall quality and individual characteristics without overemphasizing one to the detriment of the other.

How does a person go about striving for the many desired characteristics in his own saddle stud from the total saddle pool in the least possible time?

Obviously one should begin with the "best" saddles available for purchase. "Best" means not simply outward appearances but even more importantly the ability to produce good quality youngsters. For this reason I suspect it is better to buy mediocre appearing saddles from a breeder who has a long established stud of fine saddles than it is to buy somewhat better appearing saddles from a breeder who rarely raises high quality saddles and whose stud is considerably poorer overall.

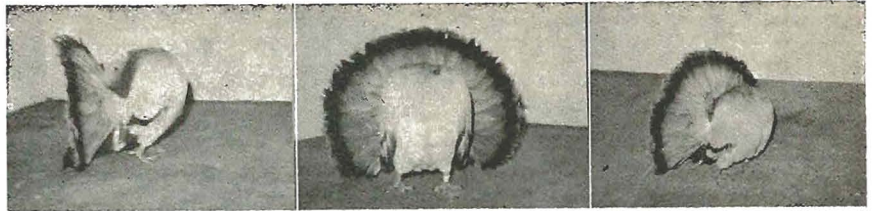
In addition to limiting your number of colors as mentioned earlier (unless you have lots of time and space) it is helpful to have a high quality stud of whites so that you can cross your best whites with your best saddles to improve the saddle quality. This may take several generations of intelligent matings to improve your saddle stud overall, but the improvement will likely be greater than simply mating together mediocre saddles.

Saddles undoubtedly were crossed with whites by some fanciers long ago. But



**CHAMPION BLUE FANTAIL**

Champion Blue Fantail, Band No. 221-74, twice at Great Lakes Fantail Meets in 1974 and 1975. Also Grand Champion of GLFC Meet. First yearling Blue Hen at Central Fantail Club 50th Anniversary Show at Madison, Wis., 1976. — Bred and owned by Wm. A. Warner, Bellevue, Ohio.



### Three Views of Champion Blue Fantail

Three views of the Champion Blue Fantail, Band No. 1745-75 at the Great Lakes Fantail Club Meet held at Dayton Grand National, Jan. 1977. — Bred and exhibited by William A. Warner, Bellevue, Ohio.

it is only in the last half dozen years or so that whites have been bred into saddles by many different breeders at once and this is partly responsible for the improvement of saddles in recent years.

#### This And That About Saddles

People often ask what is the main weakness of saddles. Saddles vary so widely that it is difficult to generalize. If required to pick the greatest weakness, if there is one, I would say it is the lack of roundness of body when viewed from any angle.

There are plenty of small bodied saddles around but saddles with the desired ball shaped body are rare. Being small should not be confused with being round and ball shaped as is too often the case with all colors.

Just how popular are saddles? If you consider the number of Fantail club members who breed saddles they are very popular indeed and their popularity continues to increase.

The ideas which many people have had over the past dozen years and even today that few saddles are raised or shown or that there is little competition are myths which should have been dispelled years ago.

Even some saddle breeders who rarely show think saddles are few in number because they find it hard to find saddles for sale. The reason they are hard to obtain is that the great popular demand for saddles exceeds the supply in spite of the large number of saddles raised each year.

Recent Fantail shows attest to the popularity of the beautiful saddles with the two largest saddle entries in history occurring within the past one and a half years.

At Central Fantail Club's "Ray D. LeFleur Classic" 50th Anniversary Show at Madison, Wis. in January of 1976, a grand total of 102 saddles were exhibited. Only the whites exceeded the saddles in number shown.

A year later 102 saddles were again shown but this time at the Mid-America Fantail Club's December, 1976 meet at LaCrosse, Wis. This was the largest class in the entire show, even larger than the whites!

Yes, saddles are more popular today than ever before. Quality is higher and competition is stiff.

Today's judges must, and usually are, giving full consideration to the champion saddle when choosing the champion

Fantail of the show. The champion saddle is increasingly among the top three to six colors out of the 15 to 20 colors at major Fantail shows and correctly so.

Hopefully, before too many years, there will be some saddles bred of sufficient superior quality to be chosen as champion Fantail, not out of charity, but because they truly deserve it.

#### Bodymarks — A Beautiful Fantail

By EARL L. HELMER, Randolph, Wis.

I am one of the many Fantail breeders in this country who finds pleasure in breeding some of our less popular colors and markings. It seems that many of our top breeders don't want to be troubled by the task of breeding the less common; what a shame when you stop to think of the top quality birds they have available to use in crossing. Take andalusian, for example, all you need is a black or blue and in several generations you could be par with the black or blue classes and how about the bodymarks outside of Wis., I know of only a handful of people who are working on them. Our senior breeder in Wis., Ray LaFleur, is the only one of eight state boys breeding this beautiful pigeon.

The black bodymark seems to be the most popular here with andalusian second. I'm proud to say one of my andalusians lent to Dennis Wilson clicked and the first cross was a perfect marked andalusian bodymark. I wish my crosses would have gone as good as I am in my third cross and have not as yet produced a perfect marking. If memory serves me right, Jim Schneider of Viola has some reds and I am working on yellows this year for the first time.

For anyone trying to breed bodymarks I recommend not crossing saddles as you will end up getting white flights and white on the head and this is very hard to breed out. If you can't find any bodymark breeding stock the next best thing to do is to obtain birds that just have a touch of white in the tail and in successive generations the white will spread throughout the tail.

We have a very difficult task ahead of us but with enough people working at it maybe someday we'll see a bodymark take champion Fantail.

If anyone working on bodymarks would drop me a note I'd be very happy to hear about your breeding program and maybe I could learn a thing or two.



## 17 Years Ago — And Today

By REED W. KINZER, Lancaster, Pa.

I suppose it's a sign of old age when you reminisce but it hardly seems possible that it has been over 17 years since I received a letter from Gerald Champ asking me to assist him in getting ads and articles for the first APJ Fantail Special from members of the Eastern Fantail Club. That was in January, 1960 and the Special was scheduled for March, 1961. It didn't seem to be such a formidable task then, but it proved to be a wise decision on his part to begin more than a year prior to publication date as getting articles from the then famous Fantail breeders was like pulling teeth.

I well remember Elisha Hanson's reply to my request for a history of Fantails in America. It began, "Dear Reed, you must think I am somewhat of a genius. It certainly would take one to sit down and write the history of Fantails of America out of his head". Nevertheless he came through with a marvelous seven page article (APJ March '61, page 96). Others of the Eastern Club who contributed fine articles were: Bob Kingkinger, Forrest Strawbridge, Ray Ostrander, Karl Andrae, Bob Boehland, John Bolton, and several others.

Since then several of these great men have passed on, but they will never be forgotten as they devoted so much time, money, and enthusiasm to the Fantail and guidance and encouragement to the

new members of the Fancy.

It was about that time that Harry Munday, then President of EFC, appointed Clint Wilbur and Ray Ostrander as a committee to draft a revision of the Fantail Standard, and now in 1977, we are ready for another revision.

In comparing the March issues of the APJ for 1961 and 1977, it is interesting to note, that each had the same number of pages even though the '77 issue was not devoted to a Special Breed. But this is about the only similarity. The overall quality has improved tremendously, the printing, quality of paper, format, and the magazine, thanks to Frank Hollmann, has come a long way in 16 years.

By comparing the classified ads in the two issues, it will be seen that some breeds are apparently slipping in popularity while others are gaining. Fantails always seem to be popular but in March '61 Kings had 19 ads, while now only 8; whereas Jacobins had no ads and now 12.

And in looking at my own ad of 16 years ago, my wife no longer raises Kings, nor I Yellow Saddle Fans, but everything else is the same except "Powdered Silvers" are now officially called "Powdered Blues" and that little girl in diapers has just finished her first year of college.

## Rudy Gendrikovs — An American the APJ Way

By DR. J. E. GRAY, Richland, Mich.

My friend Rudy was born in Latvia but I have come to understand him as a first-rate American. It is most appropriate that Rudy's success story be told in the American Pigeon Journal because of the unusual role the Journal played in his becoming an American. When Rudy came to Kalamazoo after World War II, his desire for pigeons returned just as it has for many a fancier who has had pigeons as a boy. His desire to learn about pigeons was so great that he read the APJ articles over and over. At first he could only read a few words and he guessed at some of the meanings. But gradually, perhaps without fully realizing it, he got the necessary practice he needed to learn English. You might say he learned English the painless way by reading the APJ. Pouring over the monthly issues of the Journal paid double dividends for Rudy, he became an American and he developed his hobby of flying Rollers.

The varieties of pigeons Rudy had in Latvia are mostly unknown in America. As a boy, he had enjoyed watching pigeons fly, so it was natural that he settled on the Roller for his hobby. His interest in pigeons has grown steadily so that now each year he raises hundreds of

young Rollers. His great enjoyment is in watching the performance of his kits improve and in selecting youngsters for breeding pairs the following year. He is a firm believer that a Roller should first of all be a roller and that its performance in the air is the proof of its worth.

As so often happens, pigeon fanciers are told where other pigeon fanciers live in their areas. May be their neighbors think of them as a special bred too. So Rudy and I became acquainted through the pigeons. We have attended a number of shows together and Rudy gradually got "eyes" for the Fantail. It was plain to see that he was becoming a convert to the "Queen of the Fancy" and would soon need an addition on his loft. As he tells it, it took a bit of doing by way of discussions in the kitchen to convince his wife that a bigger pigeon operation and more hours in the coop were coming. As it turned out, Rudy's deep urge to raise pigeons must have been the deciding factor because soon a new room was built in front of the Roller loft and Rudy was on his way with Fantails. This past fall he took some of his birds to the National Young Bird Show in Louisville. His young powdered blues also placed well at the National Show in Dayton.



CHAMPION FANTAIL

Red Saddle Young Cock, Band No. 463-76. Champion New York State Fantail Fanciers and 1st Young Cock at Eastern Fantail Club Winter Show. — Photo by John Killinger, Cleona, Pa.

Pigeons are an essential part of Rudy's life. He even works nights so that he will have more daylight hours to fly his Rollers. When you visit him, it is plain to see that pigeons are good for Rudy and Rudy, being a true fancier, is good for pigeons. He is one of those rare individuals who is totally devoted to the keeping of pigeons and, in doing so, has shared his hobby in many ways with other fanciers. Recently he has been host for the Midwest Roller Club in Kalamazoo. Looking back to his coming to America, it was perfectly natural that his desire to learn about pigeons should have enable him to read English. Rudy can give a fine testimonial that the keeping of pigeons is worthwhile and, by the way, he has also shown that the APJ has more uses than meets the eye.

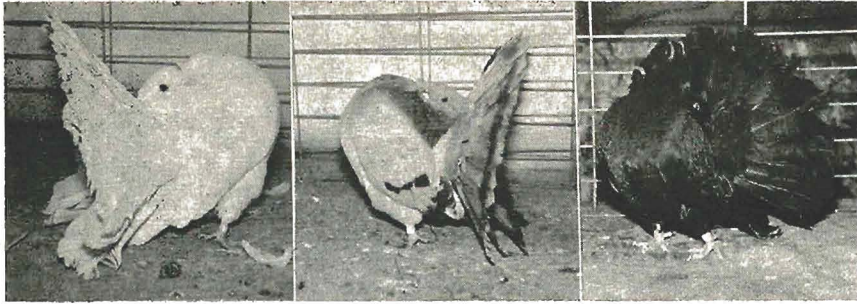
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RUDY GENDRIKOVS

Rudy Gendrikovs of Kalamazoo, Mich., breeder of flying Rollers and Fantails. See accompanying article. — Photo from Dr. Jack E. Gray, Richland, Mich.





## Prize Winning Canadian Fantails

First bird, Champion Fantail, Band No. 970-74, Best White, Canadian Fantail Young Bird Show with 95 Fantails competing. Bred by Egon Thiel, Canada. Owned by Robert Stephens, Canada. Second bird, Reserve Champion Fantail, Young Hen, Band No. 214-74, Best Blue, Canadian Fantail Club Annual Show, Dec. 1974, with 95 Fantails competing. Bred by Paul McNorgan, Canada. Third bird, Best Black, Champion Canadian Fantail Club Annual Show Meet, Jan. 1975 with 150 Fantails competing. Old Hen, Band No. 173-73. Bred by Paul McNorgan, Canada. — Photos by Michael Boyd, Brampton, Ont. Canada.

## Marked Fantails Provide A Challenge

By ERV BEYRAU, O'Fallon, Mo.

I was asked if I would like to write an article about my favorite subject, the Fantail pigeon. I have raised Fantails for many years, and was very fortunate to have pictures of my Fantails and Bodymarks in one of the best books on pigeons that was ever published, "The Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds", written by the late Wendell M. Levi.

The pictures were taken by H. P. Macklin for Mr. Levi at the National Pigeon Show held here in St. Louis in 1963. The president of the St. Louis Metropolitan Pigeon Club at that time was James F. Conway, who has just been elected the new mayor of St. Louis. If he runs the city like he did our club, St. Louis will really be on the map. I have never in my life seen a better organizer or a better liked person than Jim.

But to get on with the subject, I raise the marked Fantail because it is more of a challenge and I have always liked birds with a lot of color. If you could see my loft of birds you will agree.

Breeding for show in a solid color you have only one obstacle in front of you, show type. All the young can be saved

until they are fully matured to see if they might develop in to what we all hope for, a show winner. This is really an advantage as you have more birds to select from at the end of the breeding season.

If you want type and marking your trouble is twofold. You might get the show type but the marking is wrong. Then they can go the other way, the marking is perfect but the bird has no type. This is what makes the breeding of Fantails so interesting. Always looking ahead, the next youngster could be this year's show winner.

I believe the competition in the shows is great but I would like to see the marked Fantail get his full dues. If I raise 50 white or any other solid colored Fantail I can select from them all. If I raise 50 body or tailmark Fantails, I will probably have 20 or less to select from, because of the markings. So you see the fancier that raises a bird with only one color has quite an advantage. Don't you agree?

I believe the Fantail Standard should show more points for markings. What do you think?

## Red, White and Blue and the Fiftieth Too

By BETTY LITTLE, St. Louis, Mo.

There have been many Fantail shows in the past and all of them have been grand but there are none that I will remember quite as vividly as the Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic.

The beginning, a suspense filled trip over 600 miles of ice and snow covered highways, held little promise for the events to follow. After slipping and sliding into Madison, in the bone chilling, sub-zero cold of a Wisconsin winter, Bob Cook, Jim Ellebracht, Harry and I, in a wagon loaded to the limit with luggage and Fantails, finally found our way to the Holiday Inn, Southeast where the

show was to be held.

After getting settled in our room, our first action was to check out the show-room. Nothing had been set up as yet but before long, as the Fantail people began to arrive, the place began to have the familiar look of a stage being set for a big show. We suddenly realized just how tired we were and decided that a good night's sleep would do much to prepare us for the hustle-bustle of activity that would be in full swing the next morning. Did I say sleep? Harry was up most of the night and I knew he was concerned

(Continued on page 498)

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WARRENTON, MO.

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## Program Set For American Pigeon Fancier's Council

By TANNER S. CHRISLER, St. Louis, Mo.



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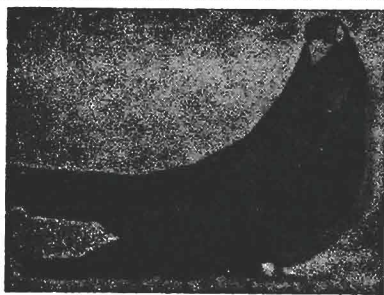
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The 8th Annual Convention of the American Pigeon Fanciers Council will be held July 29, 30 and 31, 1977, at the Ramada Airport Inn in St. Louis.

Whatever your involvement with pigeons is, if you take it seriously, you should seriously consider attending this conference. This is the only meeting of this kind held in our country, that concentrates on all the things all pigeon people have in common, rather than the small things that tend to make them go apart in different directions.

From Friday evening until Sunday noon, the sessions will be packed with talks and demonstrations on topics that concern us all. The subject matter will cover the full spectrum, from nutrition to foreign relations, from genetics to taxonomy, from keeping your birds healthy to the latest in behavioral and navigational studies, from features that tell how a racing pigeon flier gets the most from his sport to features that tell how a show breed exhibitor gets his kicks, from a progress report on the junior fanciers to a progress report on public and government relations. And Saturday, while the pigeon people are in the meetings, there will be a sightseeing and shopping tour for their spouses, conducted by Mrs. Mary Hatchard, to some of the more interesting places around this old city.

The star-studded program includes men from all areas of expertise: Dr. William T. Keeton, Ithaca, N.Y.; Dr. W. F. Hollander, Ames, Ia.; Dr. Wilmer Miller, Ames, Ia.; Dr. John L. Skinner, Madison, Wis.; Dr. Earl Hanebrink, Jonesboro, Ark.; Don Roscoe, Kasota, Minn.; David Rinehart, Tallmadge, Ohio; Johnnie Blaine, Hutchinson, Kans.; Dr. Fred Pfaff, St. Louis, Mo.; William A. Bonwell, Jr., Wichita, Kans.; James A. Ruzek, Berwyn, Ill.; Thomas Rood, Shelbyville, Ill.; Tanner S. Chrisler, St. Louis Mo.; Harry L. Little, St. Louis, Mo.

From time to time, I have heard people ask, aside from hearing speeches and question-and-answer sessions, what else does the American Pigeon Fanciers' Council do? That's a fair question, and I have a feeling that this year the Council

will launch some programs that will have very important, long-range implications for every pigeon fancier in the country.

For several years the APFC has received financial support from virtually every pigeon organization in the country, so now the "kitty" is finally up to a size that amounts to something. Those who have attended in past years have heard a number of discussions as to the best use of these funds, for the benefit of the pigeon sport, hobby, business as a whole. It is fair to predict that at this year's meeting some definite actions will be: establishment of a permanent pigeon Hall of Fame and Museum, pigeon science research and an on-going committee to counsel pigeon people on government activities.

Yet it would be wrong to portray the APFC as pure seriousness. Those who have attended previous meetings will tell you: one of the key features of these meetings is the personal contact one has with new friends from some other phase of the pigeon world and learning, not just how he does things, but the enjoyment he receives from his birds, his way.

So whatever your interest in pigeons, if you take them seriously, you really should make this meeting. No formal sponsorship or dues are required. There's nothing to join. Just come. All you pay is a \$5 registration fee per person.

Ralston Purina Co. will host a smorgasbord dinner for all registrants on Saturday night, followed by musical entertainment. Y'all come!

Note by Editor. — Due to a recent fire having damaged part of the coffee shop and meeting room of the Ramada Inn, arrangements have been made to hold the various sessions at the King Inn, next door east of the Ramada Inn. The dinner to be given by the Ralston Purina Co. on Saturday evening, July 30, will also be held at the Kings Inn. However, special rates for rooms at the Ramada Inn will still prevail. Address of the Kings Inn is 9600 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, Mo., 63134.

**Red, White and Blue and the 50th Too**  
(Continued from page 497)

about the success of this show.

Harry was up early and off to the showroom. I got there sometime later and was greeted by a sight not usually seen at pigeon shows, a beautifully decorated hall, one all done up in the bicentennial theme. As you know, it was not only the 50th anniversary of the Central Fantail Club but also the 200th anniversary of the birth of our nation. The place was ablaze with our countries colors with its red, white and blue bunting and streamers. This was truly a great celebration, one that the many Fantail fanciers, their families and their friends, would never forget! There was one fellow there that seemed to be the center

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of attention. It was none other than Ray LaFleur and he seemed to be having the time of his life. We were very happy for him.

There were happy greetings all around and a spirit of togetherness that I had never seen before but hope to see again and again! I was impressed with the Canadians who had come to help us celebrate and with the spirit that prevails wherever Fantail people get together. When someone says, "Who was that pigeon I saw your husband with last night?" I know it must have been one of those little cuties like 4968 or 505, two of his favorites.

As much as I enjoyed the show and the things that were going on all around me, I couldn't help but see and feel the satisfaction that all the work Harry had done in preparing for this show had not been in vain. This was truly the greatest Fantail show that had ever been held!

My proudest moment was yet to come. At the banquet, which was held on Saturday night, Harry was presented with the "Member of the Year" plaque. It was the second he had gotten as he had also been so honored by the Mid-America Fantail Club only one month earlier. I know he is just as proud of these two awards as he is of any trophy he has ever received. Earlier that same year he had received a beautiful pin and commendation from the Fantail Club of West Germany for being one who had done the most toward the improvement of the West German Fantails.

An added pleasure was the shopping tour that Marlys and Janet Ury and I took the time for. We helped to boost the economy in Madison and I am sure the store people weren't too happy to see us leave. These shopping tours are one of the highlights of the shows for many of the women who attended.

I have come to the conclusion that if we can get all people of all nations into the Fantail hobby, the world will be a much better place in which to live!

All in all, the great Classic was such a delightful affair that I will always remember it as a happy, happy time!

#### **A Great Start In Fantails**

By JEFF CLARK, Age 13, Omaha, Neb.

I purchased my first pair of Fantails about four years ago after a brief talk at the Nebraska State Fair Show with Steve May. It was then I knew that I had to have some.

Steve May has got me into showing quality Fantails, and has helped me in many ways. I am now showing at the major shows and have done pretty well.

He has introduced me to the fine people that are at these shows and has taken the time and consideration to answer my many questions.

I would like to thank you Steve, also Rod Hatcher, Tom Pritchett, Gus Waldusky, my parents, my grandparents, and the rest of you that have helped and advised me.

For July, 1977

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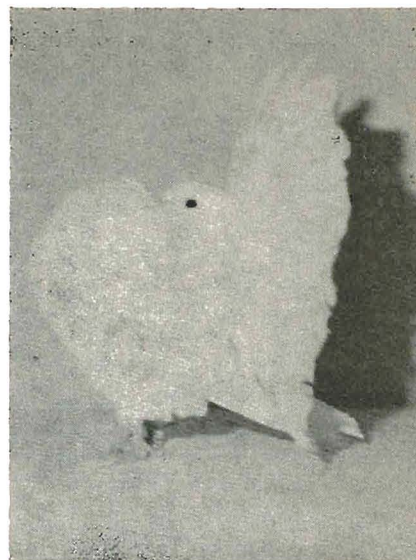
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WHITE FANTAIL

White Young Cock, Band No. 6-76, Best Fantail 1976 Canadian Fantail Club Young Bird Show. Bred by Ken Chambers, Harley, Canada. — Photo from Robert B. Stephens, Toronto, Canada.

## Breeding Silver and Blue Fantails

By BOB EVANS, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

In 1916 the late Elisha Hanson produced the first good silver Fantail ever seen or bred in America. It was a hen bred from a pair of blues and as Mr. Hanson stated later she was far ahead of her time in both type and color. Although she was entered in the top shows, she never won a prize. How to proceed with her in establishing a stud of both blues and silvers built around this hen was the question.

The parents were remated and never produced another silver. The silver hen was mated to a light colored blue cock. This mating produced two light blue cocks. The lightest of the two cocks was mated back to its mother producing two young silver hens.

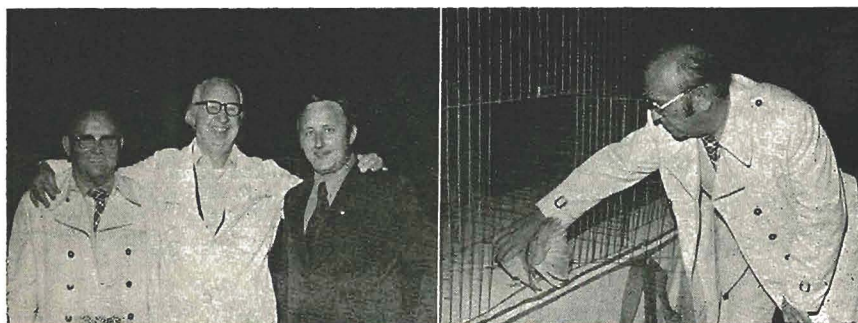
In 1919 the process of inbreeding continued; the old hen back to her son who had produced the two silver hens, the better of the young silver hens to her

blue half brother. These matings produced silver in both cocks and hens. Later Mr. Hanson said his success with the family of blues and silvers was the abandonment of the original parents and his not using the blue father with his silver daughter. He also stated the fine silver cocks he produced when mating to blue hens produced more silvers than blues. I find it true also. Mr. Hanson bred blue to blue, silver to silver, and silver to blue with the same fine results I have had too.

In 1960 I wrote Mr. Hanson who was in ill health at the time to see if I could purchase a few pairs of his birds. It wasn't until 1961 and many letters that Mr. Hanson called me to find out what I wanted. He agreed to send me three pairs of blues and silvers. After spending a large part of the family fortune to obtain them, they arrived. There were a pair of blues, full brother and sister, a pair of silvers and a blue cock and a silver hen. Mr. Hanson sent me a silver cock later along with instructions on how to mate what I had and some real helpful hints on how to proceed. They were the last he was to sell. He died shortly after.

Mr. Hanson's birds were sent to his son's home after his death. Mr. Hanson's son was not as interested in them as his father. The birds were housed in a tool shed and gradually died off, the last being sent to a pet shop. To this day I've never introduced another bird into them. I've sent them to many others and they have done well as they have for me.

I am now in the process of retiring and am not certain if I'll be able to continue with them as I may re-locate and be unable to keep them. If so I hope some one else will carry on with this fine strain of blue and silver Fantails and keep the strain intact as we have before.



## Visitors From Germany With Bud Hagan

First picture, left to right: Gunter Adams, West Germany, Bud Hagan, Louisville, Ky. and Ernst Heuterkes, West Germany. Second picture, Gunter Adams inspecting a Yellow Fantail. — Both pictures taken at the 1975 National Young Bird Show by Bud Hagan, Louisville, Ky.





MR. AND MRS. BEN RICKETTS

Ben and Ann Ricketts of Brackenfel, South Africa enjoying lunch in the Fantail Section of the 1976 National Young Bird Show at Louisville, Ky. — Photo from Bud Hagan, Louisville, Ky.

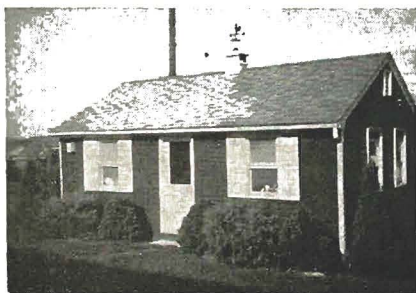
### The Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic

By BOB COOK, Troy, Ill.

How do you go about celebrating the 50th anniversary of what most of us consider the Number One Fantail Club in the world? Certainly you want it to be something special since you have this opportunity only once in a lifetime. First of all you would want the best team of officers and committee chairmen possible. Obviously we had just that. I would like to give recognition to those people but sure as the world I would leave someone out. Actually it took the co-operation of hundreds of fanciers and their families to make it the tremendous success that it was. We wanted every Fantail fancier in the world to have an opportunity to be a part of this great event regardless of club affiliation.

What do you call a show like this? Without even trying I can think of about 50 people deserving of this honor. It was decided that it would be called the "Ray D. LaFleur Fantail Classic". Ray LaFleur is a fine gentleman and truly deserving of the honor. And did he ever show us a thing or two about raising and showing Fantails! He had Reserve Champion Fantail with a Silver Old Hen; Reserve White; Champion and three firsts in Blacks; two firsts in Silvers and many high placings in most colors. It was truly a Ray LaFleur day!

The place for this event was Madison, Wis., at the Holiday Inn. The show was large, well lighted and well managed.



THE KINGKINGER LOFT

Home of the Kingkinger Fantails. — Photo from Robert R. Kingkinger, Sinking Spring, Pa.

For July, 1977

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angels, Baldhead Tumblers, Mookes,  
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backs, English Trumpeters, Damascenes,  
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ths, Suabians, Oriental Rollers, White Fan-  
tails \$8 per pair. Norwich Croppers, Holle  
Croppers, Nuremberg Larks, Quaker Star-  
lings, Priest marked Starlings, Ancient  
Tumblers, Moorhead Tumblers, Dutch Cap-  
uchins, Pheasant Pigeons \$10 per pair. Sax-  
on Shields, Priests, Muffed Ice, Saxon  
Spot, Breast Pigeon, Reversewing Pouter,  
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red cocks 1976 hatch. 2 red cocks 1975  
hatch. 1 strawberry cock 1975 hatch. 1 red  
cock 1974 hatch. 2 hens 1976 hatch. 2 red  
hens 1975 hatch. 2 strawberry hens 1976  
hatch. 2 strawberry hens 1977. 1 medium  
blue-black bar cock 1976 hatch. 1 medium  
blue-black bar hen 1976 hatch. 1 light blue-  
black bar cock 1975 hatch. 1 silver-red bar  
cock 1976 hatch. 1 hen silver-red bar 1976  
hatch. 1 silver-red bar hen 1977 hatch. If  
you like Pouters, you will love the Voor-  
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Pouters for sale \$20 per pair. Extra hens  
both breeds. If you have read this ad, and  
Larry Jolly's column in the May issue 1977,  
you can readily determine who was first to  
import the Voorburg Shield Cropper into  
this country even though he did not men-  
tion my name. I can and will undersell any  
of them. The bird shown on page 273, May  
issue, is not a laced Voorburg Shield Cropper  
but is known as a Strawberry Spangled,  
this bird has no lacing such as is found  
in the laced wing argent Mod'na, so jolly  
folly shouldn't try to fool Mother Nature  
or the rest of us fanciers and incidently  
the Globe on the bird shown is of very  
poor quality. Send check or money order  
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January 1913 issue of Pacific Squab Jour-  
nal, and \$6 each for a copy of the February  
1913, June 1913, July 1913, and October 1913  
issues of Pacific Squab Journal. Need them  
to complete our file. — American Pigeon  
Journal, Box 278, Warrenton, Mo., 63383.  
(tf)

## Pigeon Show Calendar

July 16. — Pioneer Pigeon Club Lawn  
Show, Wright City Park, Wright City, Mo.,  
Kenneth Helvey, Show Sec., Route 2, Box  
91-K, Marthasville, Mo., 63357

July 17. — Florida Gulf Coast Pigeon  
Club 7th Annual All Breed Lawn Show,  
Bradenton, Fla., Steve Olsen, Show Sec.,  
6023 48th Ave. Dr. East, Bradenton, Fla.,  
33508

July 24. — Carolina Pigeon Club Young  
Bird Show, L. B. Graydon, Show Sec., 13  
Low Hill St., Greenville, S.C., 29605

July 24. — Potomac Pigeon Club Summer  
Show, Coca Cola Bottling Co. Community  
Hall, Alexandria, Va., Bill Athey, Show  
Sec., 10545 Bethesda Church Rd., Damas-  
cus, Md., 20750

July 24. — Oregon Fantail Ass'n Young  
and Yearling Show, Elmira, Ore., A. R.  
Thoms, Sec., 88668 Faulhaber Road, Elmira,  
Ore., 97437

July 31. — Puget Sound Pigeon Club  
Annual Lawn Show, Spanaway Park,  
Spanaway, Wash., Sandy Jacobsen, Show  
Sec., 1221 S. Mason, Tacoma, Wash., 98405

July 31. — Pigeon Fancier's Ass'n of  
Rochester, N.Y. Lawn Show at Warren  
Mack's home, 600 East River Rd., Roches-  
ter, N.Y., Phyllis Piper, Sec., 46 Satura  
Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14611

July 31. — Northwest Roller Society  
Young Bird Show, Elmira, Ore., Hugh  
Chapman, 151 Elkay Drive, Eugene, Ore.,  
97404

Aug. 7. — Hammond Pigeon Fanciers  
Ass'n 3rd Annual All Breed Summer Show,  
Crown Point Fairgrounds, Crown Point,  
Ind., Joseph Phillips, Sec., 1105 Garfield  
St., Hobart, Ind., 46342

Aug. 10-13. — SMPA Fair Show, Mower  
County Fairgrounds, Austin, Minn., Ted  
Conrad, Show Sec., Box 171, Rose Creek,  
Minn., 55970

Aug. 13-14. — Mid Valley Pigeon Fanciers  
Summer Show at Benton County Fair, Jim  
Spawn, 31380 Berlin Rd., Lebanon, Ore.,  
97355

Aug. 13-14. — Mountain West Pouter and  
Cropper Yearling and Young Bird Show,  
Murray, Utah, Marvin Bennett, Sec., 6560  
South Jefferson St., Murray, Utah, 84107

Aug. 14. — Wisconsin King Club Young  
Bird Show, Spals Tweet and Feather Farm,  
Jefferson, Wis.

Aug. 20-27. — Lake County Fair Pigeon  
Show, Lake County Fair, Crown Point, Ind.,  
Joseph Phillips, Supt., 1105 Garfield St.,  
Hobart, Ind., 46342

Aug. 21. — White Rose Pigeon Ass'n, Inc.  
Annual Summer Show, York Interstate  
Fairgrounds, Earl Sheaffer, Jr., Show Sec.,  
288 W. Franklin St., Ephrata, Pa., 17522

Aug. 21. — Saginaw Pigeon Ass'n Lawn  
Show, Donald Hozeska, Show Sec., 2127  
Hartsuff, aginaw, Mich., 48601

Aug. 21. — Northwest Roller Club, Star  
Lake, Puyallup, Wash., Lou Longo, Show  
Sec., 18441 102 Ave. SE, Renton, Wash.,  
98055

Aug. 28. — Valley Pigeon Club Lawn

# Books On Pigeons

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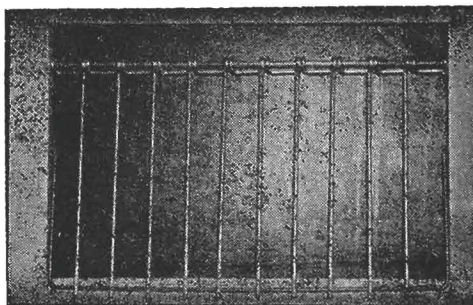
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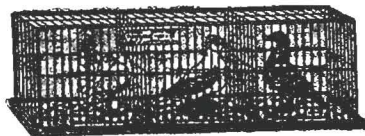
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Aug. 28. — Santa Clara Valley Pigeon Club All-Age All-Breed Lawn Show, 1674 Stierlin Rd., Mountain View, Calif., Terry Carlson, Show Sec., 6565 Jonathan Dr., Newark, Calif., 94560

Aug. 28. — Valley Pigeon Club Lawn Show, South Park, Oshkosh, Wis., Richard Walkush, Route 1, Box 440, Waupaca, Wis., 54981.

Sept. 3. — Central California Pigeon Club 3rd Annual Young Bird Show, Fresno Fairgrounds, Fresno, Calif., John Bisbee, Show Sec., 559 N. 6th St., Fresno Calif., 93702

Sept. 3-4. — Central Washington Pigeon Club 6th Annual All Breed Show, Yakima, Wash., Bruce Perrault, Show Sec., Route 6, Box 200-E, Yakima Wash., 98908

Sept. 4-6. — Greater Sacramento Pigeon Club State Fair Pigeon Show, Cal Expo, Sacramento, Calif., Carl Rodegerdts, Show Sec., 3 Sequoia Pl., Woodland, Calif., 95695.

Sept. 10. — Western Michigan Pigeon Ass'n Young Bird and Yearling Show, Ottowa County Fairgrounds, James Wabehe, Sec., 10656 Adams St., Holland, Mich., 49423.

Sept. 11. — Indiana Pigeon Club Swappers Day, Fairgrounds, Alexandria, Ind., Luther R. Day, Rt. 7, Box 18-14, Anderson, Ind., 46011.

Sept. 11. — Joe Curran Annual Lawn Show, Chester Shliapa, Show Sec., 11 Camp Hill Dr., Oxford, Mass., 01540

Sept. 11. — St. Louis Metropolitan Pigeon Fanciers Ass'n Lawn Show, Memorial Post 37, 4106 S. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo., Mary Parrott, Show Sec., 19 Peppertree Dr., Fenton, Mo., 63026

Sept. 11. — Northern Illinois Pigeon Association All-Breed Young Bird Show, Oregon Coliseum, Oregon, Ill., Jim Young, Show Sec., Route 3, Dixon, Ill., 61021

Sept. 11. — Watertown Pigeon Club Lawn Show, Riverside Park, Watertown, Wis., Eugene Koppen, Show Sec., Route 1, Fort Atkinson, Wis., 53538

Sept. 11. — Northern Illinois Pigeon Association Young Bird Show, C. H. Young, Route 3, Dixon, Ill., 61021

Sept. 18. — Fond du Lac All-Variety Pigeon Club Annual Young Bird Show, Fond du Lac County Recreation Center, Fairgrounds, Gary Struck, Show Sec., Star Route, Weyauwega, Wis., 54983

Sept. 18. — Bay City Pigeon Fanciers Lawn Show, Bay County Fairgrounds, Paul F. Dabrowski, Sec., 2405 Fitzhugh St., Bay City, Mich., 48706

Sept. 18. — Florida Gulf Coast Pigeon Club 7th Annual Young Bird Yearling Show, Bradenton, Fla., Steve Olsen, Show Sec., 6023 48th Ave. Dr. East, Bradenton, Fla., 33508

Sept. 18. — Philadelphia-South Jersey Pigeon Ass'n Young Bird Show, National Guard Armory, Route 38, Mount Holly, N.J., Robert Hartman, Show Sec., 330 Willow Grove St., Hackettstown, N.J., 07840

Sept. 21-25. — Western Washington Fair Annual All Breed Pigeon Show, contact the Western Washington Fair Ass'n, Puyallup Fairgrounds, Puyallup, Wash., 98371

Sept. 25. — Badger State Tumbler Club Young Bird Lawn Show, Ralph Kahl Residence, Route 5, 1826 Outlook Court, Stoughton, Wis., 53589

Sept. 25. — Milwaukee Metro Pigeon Club Lawn Show, Orchard Inn, Highway 45, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sept. 24-Oct. 2. — Tidewater Fancy Pigeon Club Show, Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Va., Ed Brooks, 1609 Adams Drive West Suffolk, Va., 23436

Oct. 1-2. — Snohomish County Pigeon Fanciers Annual Fall Show, Monroe, Wash.

Oct. 1-2. — Mountain West Pouter and Cropper Club Winter Meet Murray, Utah, Marvin Bennett, Sec., 6560 South Jefferson St., Murray, Utah, 84107.

Oct. 2. — District Young Norwich Cropper Show, Austin, Minn., Don Heller, Dist. Director, 804 3rd Ave. So, St. James, Minn., 56081.

Oct. 2. — 1977 SMPA Bill Tryer Memorial Young Bird Show, Mower County Fairgrounds, Austin, Minn., Ted Conradt, Show Sec., Box 171, Rose Creek, Minn., 55970.

Oct. 2. — Lincoln Hills Pigeon Fanciers Club Annual Fall All-Breed Show, Dubois County 4-H Fairground, Huntingburg, Ind., Dovie Maxey, Show Sec., Route 1, Huntingburg, Ind., 47542

Oct. 8-9. — Yavapai Pigeon Club Show, Prescott, Ariz., Russell Albro, Blue Hills Rt., Dewey, Ariz., 86327

Oct. 15. — Eastern South Dakota Pigeon Club 2nd Annual Young Bird Show, Dale Flannery, Show Sec., 4017 E. 21st St., Sioux Falls, S.D., 57103

(More show dates next month.)



# World Pigeon Happenings

## A New All-Breed Bi-Monthly Magazine

Since the release of World Roller Happenings, we have received many requests to publish an all-breed magazine, presented in a modern color format like WRH, from our readers who raise other varieties of Fancy Pigeons. After inquiring about the subject matter, we realized even more the never-ending quest for knowledge by the pigeon fancier.

The American Pigeon Journal has served the pigeon fancy for six decades. The APK and others have disappeared with the passing of time. Yet, the APJ is a tested champion of time. However, Mr. Frank H. Hollmann deserves special recognition for providing us with a place of communication. Without Frank's help and devoted energy, the pigeon hobby would not have been promoted as well.

**World Pigeon Happenings** offers the pigeon fancy our services. Our readers will receive the best photography in town, color artwork by WRH master Tony Machado, the finest in journalism, informative articles, stories from the best writers, presented in the most polished format there is. Since we take six weeks to prepare for publication, we can offer you quality par excellence! Also interviews with leading pigeon fanciers around the world, to give you an insight into the art of breeding pigeons.

In the past decade, we have heard much on the subject of ecology, from many areas including conservationists, government officials and the general public. One may immediately ask, "What has this to do with pigeons?" Yet, for some time, the public and government have been concerning themselves with the negative aspects of pigeons. The Dingell Bill is a good example. Thank the Lord that this bill did not pass in any form, but we must take steps to prevent it from doing so in the future. Unfortunately, too many average citizens look upon pigeons as something that must be eliminated, in the fight for purity in our environment.

The staff of WPH attended a psychology class at the University of California. There was a modified World Association Test given to the class with the insertion of the word "pigeons" for a word-response stimulus. It was amazing, in this day and year of 1977, that so many students replied with the responses of "dirty", "disease", "pests", or other selected negative terms. Is it any wonder that many of our local governments react with legislation of prohibitive nature, and zone pigeon-keeping virtually out of existence in their localities?

Is it not time that we, as pigeon fanciers, devote more in the way of effort, toward developing a better public image?

World Pigeon Happenings would like to contribute our part to the pigeon fancy by promoting the hobby with our new all-breed color magazine format — a publication you can be proud to show all your friends, and not just those familiar with our favorite pastime. With your support, World Pigeon Happenings feels that we can play a vital role in developing a better image with the general public, the news media, and, of course the law-making bodies in government. We feel that we have a good, wholesome hobby, which appeals to people in all walks of life and all age brackets.

WPH is available to serve you. Our first issue will be a limited edition and will not be reprinted don't miss this one subscribe today! Volume One Number One has a tentative distribution date in August 1977, and will certainly become a rare collector's item.

**John C. Philipps, Joseph D. LaFauci**  
Editors, Publishers, World Roller Happenings, World Pigeon Happenings

*It is WPH's esteemed pleasure to have as our first interview, the FRANK HOLLMANN STORY.*

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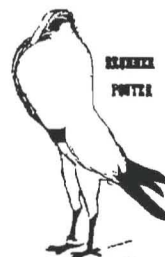
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Blondinetta



Bakers Trumpeter



BARRAGE POUTER



Bunker Pouter



Dragon



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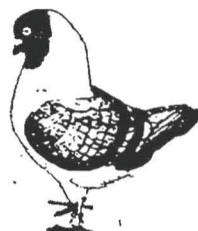
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King



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Norwich



Star



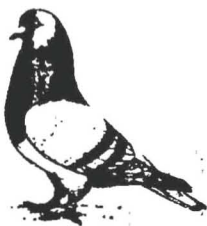
Piggy Pouter



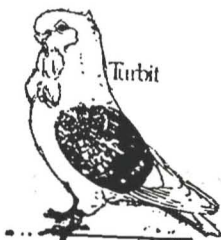
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No C.O.D. Orders

Name .....

Address .....

City, State, Zip Code .....

## NPA Band Distributors

Orders only taken by these distributors from  
January till August 31st of each year

**RUSS SAPP**

122 Spout Spring Avenue, Mt. Holly, N.J., 08060

**JOHN DeCARLO**

10015 Monterey Mwy., Gilroy, Calif., 95020

**FRED WACKER, JR.**

1417 57th Street, Sacramento, Calif., 95819

**FRED LANGRIDGE**

819 Ell Avenue, Dallas, Texas, 75211

**CHAS. SIEGEL and SON**

1011 E. Middle St., South Elgin, Ill., 60177

**FOY'S PIGEON SUPPLIES**

Box 27166, Golden Valley, Minn., 55427

**ALEX'S AGRI. SUPPLY CO.**

1021 Story Ave., Louisville, Ky., 40206

**CLARKS PIGEON AND POULTRY SUPPLY**

624 Kansas Ave., Kansas City, Kansas, 66105

PLEASE NOTE. — We would appreciate it if postage would be sent for all band orders according to the following schedule for First Class Mail.

50 bands — 12c

100 bands — 28c

150 bands — 29c

200 bands — 52c

300 bands — 65c

NOTE: Minimum Order 10 Bands — Plain Aluminum Seamless Bands.



# FOY'S - Clair Hetland Druggist - Supplies and Drugs

## Anti-Infectives

### Nitrofurazone 10 mgm tablets

I had these 5 years ago and have not been able to get them. Now they are available. Good for coccidiosis and Paratyphoid.

100 at \$4.00      200 at \$7.00

### Furazolidone tablets 25 mgm

Formerly available as NF 180 tablets in the 50 mgm. Until now the drug was not available. Good for Paratyphoid and other diseases. Very popular with pigeon fanciers for year.

100 at \$5.00      200 at \$7.90

### Nitrofurazone (double strength)

Effective treatment for paratyphoid and coccidiosis. I have used it myself for two years regularly and found it safe and effective.

1 lb. .... \$4.00

### Aureomycin Tablets 25 mgm

A must for every pigeon fancier in an ideal dosage form. Give twice daily for colds.

100 at ..... \$2.30

200 at ..... \$4.25

300 at ..... \$6.00

### Tylan Soluble (tylosin)

The only truly effective drug for chronic respiratory disease. It has cured "chronic cough" in birds that had been sick for six months. Must be given for five days. Enough for

5 gal. .... \$5.00

10 gal. .... \$8.50

### Tylan Capsules

For the bird you can't afford to lose.

12 caps ..... \$1.25

### Foy's Sulfamethazine

For Cholera, Coccidiosis, Paratyphoid, Sour Crop, and some types of colds.

240 cc ..... \$2.25

480 cc ..... \$4.00

960 cc ..... \$6.50

### Sulfaquinoxaline Concentrate

Enough to treat 50 gallons of drinking water. Effective for coccidiosis and paratyphoid.

1 bottle \$3.50      2 for \$6.75

### Neo-Terramycin Soluble Powder

For treatment of chronic respiratory diseases and also good for bacterial enteritis (green droppings).

25 gallon treatment ..... \$3.50

### Quad-Sulfas

Easier on pigeon than single sulfas.

1 pint ..... \$4.50

### Vetaquameycin-25, or Terramycin, or Aureomycin, 6.4 oz. pkgs.

1 pkg. \$3.00      2-\$5.00      3-\$7.25

All one kind or assorted. Good broad spectrum antibiotics used in drinking water. Good for colds.

### Gallimycin Soluble Powder

Enough to make 50 gallons of treated solution. For respiratory diseases, also is a preventative during times of stress.

1 package ..... \$4.50

### Medic-Aid Powder

Enough for 50 gallons 1 pkg. \$2.75

4 packages ..... \$10.00

Good for colds but a real help for non-specific enteritis (green droppings). Contains Streptomycin and penicillin plus vitamins. Good treatment for respiratory diseases.

Terramycin Egg Formula 1/4 lb. \$5.75

Terramycin Injection 50 cc \$3.50

Tylan 200 Injection 10 cc \$2.00

Combiotic Injection 100 cc \$4.95

10 cc ..... \$1.00

### Foy's Canker Powder (Emtryl)

\$3.00      \$4.00      \$5.00

A five day water treatment for treating canker in a flock of pigeons.

### New Emtryl Tablets

Again we bring back a winner. Emtryl 30 mgm tablets. A one dose treatment for canker. Safe and effective.

50 tablets ..... \$4.95

### Foy's Liquid Wormer

To control round worms. Individual treatment bottle.

2 Ounce dropper ..... \$2.00

8 Ounce for flock treatment \$5.00

(Flock treatment for drinking water.)

### Hairworm Treatment

30 bird treatment ..... \$3.50

### Tramisol (Levamisole)

For hairworms.

500 cc ..... \$12.00

### Tapeworm remedy

12 bird treatment ..... \$2.00

### Methyridine plus Piperazine

30 bird treatment ..... \$3.50

## Louse Preparation

### Vapona Strips

Recommended by many to be kept hanging in loft at all times. Will control lice on pigeons. This is a convenient way to control lice in pigeons.

1 strip ..... \$2.25

2 strips ..... \$4.50

### Feather Rot Cream

Must be used with caution but will control the condition that causes naked necks in pigeons.

\$3.00

### Sodium Floride Powder

An old time product for dipping pigeons for lice with instruction on how to do it.

1 can ..... \$2.50

I use it in the bath water.

### Roost Paint

Sometimes hard to find.

1 pint \$2.50      2 for \$4.50

### Germex Disinfectant

The chemical that used to be in vitapal that kept the skum out of drinking water.

2 quarts ..... \$7.00

### Tamed Iodine Disinfectant

Organic Iodine — Dual purpose of supplying iodine and disinfecting water. Recomes clear when no longer effective.

1 quart ..... \$4.00

### Ren-O-Sal Tablets

250 \$4.50      100 \$2.50

(Coccidiosis preventative)

Amprol Liquid ..... \$2.50

Prevents coccidiosis

## Preparations For The Eye

Triple antibiotic eye ointment or

Terramycin eye ointment ..... \$1.50

Inflamed eye ointment ..... \$3.00

## Vitamins and Tonics

### Hetland Loft Pigeon Builder

Available in one pound plastic canisters for easy loft use. Helpful during moulting season, breeding season, during moult and in bad weather. Contains Antibiotic plus Vitamins (including ADK and B-12 plus others). Superior to old Myzon Pigeon builder formula.

1 can \$5.00      2 \$9.00      5 \$20

### Vitapal (Vitamin and Minerals)

2-1 lb. packages ..... \$ 6.95

5-1 lb. packages ..... \$15.00

Highly concentrated — Contains more vitamin A and D than Cod Liver, plus Calcium Pantothenate, Vitamin K, Nicotin, Riboflavin, Vitamin E, Folic Acid, Choline Bifarbonate plus electrolytes. Goes a long way — 1 teaspoonful to 3 gallons of drinking water so it goes a long way. Stimulates appetite during stress of disease.

### Oyster Shell Tablets

Natural calcium source. A must for your good hens. Keeps eggs smooth. Also a big help for older hens.

100-\$2.25      200-\$4.00      1000-\$15.00

### Cod Liver Oil Capsules

500 1 1/2 minim ..... \$5.00

100 3 minim ..... \$1.75

500 3 minim ..... \$7.50

A source of vitamin A and D. Most pigeon feeds or grains have no vitamin D. Pigeons have so skin exposed to the sun so Vitamin D is essential.

### Wheat Germ Oil Capsules

500 at ..... \$5.00

Great for putting that final bloom on the feathers.

### V/ins More

A product you may have used before. Now available from me.

1 package ..... \$3.50

2 packages ..... \$5.50

A helpful product that helps the birds' performance and gives the glossy sheen in appearance.

### Old Dutch No Light Pills

A mild laxative and conditioner for pigeons going light off food, etc.

\$1.50

### Ideal Pills

500 at \$5.50      1000 at \$8.95

Mild tonic for dumpy birds.

## For Fancier's Health

Wilson Respirator ..... \$5.00

25 Extra Filters ..... \$1.25

This product is the last thing I would be without. I love my pigeons and want to keep them as long as I can. Dust in the pigeon loft will shorten the time I can keep my birds. Never clean the loft without a dust mask. It makes sense. Get a mask before the dust gets you.

Merchandise in this Ad is all quoted Postage Paid and will be shipped UPS unless otherwise directed. For fast service add \$1.00 per pound. For Special Delivery add \$1.50. Give directions for UPS to deliver (phone No.). I am in the pigeon supply business full time now. I am still a Druggist but I am doing what I like with your help. Phone orders accepted, no collect calls, 1-612-537-4242 almost anytime. Best time to call 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Complete Supply Catalog 10c plus stamp.

## Foy's Pigeon Supplies

CLAIR HETLAND, Druggist

Master Breeder — Bokhara Trumpeters. Recognized by NPA and APC

P.O. Box 27166, Golden Valley, Minn., 55427