



**CHAMPION PIGMY POUTER**

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

## **Pigmy And English Pouters**

by **RAY CRUMBIE,**  
West Jordan, Utah

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

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

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

# **A Bohemian Pouter Update**

by **HERB BERG**

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

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

In 1984, a reintroduction to the breed brought me into contact with two other Minnesota breeders, Bob Kosek and Merle Frank. It had become apparent to each of us that to continue to survive, the Bohemian needed help. Long a mainstay in the lofts of those of German or Czech heritage, it was disappearing as the old timers passed away. New breeders and exhibitors were and are needed. To succeed we had to get the bird out of the backyard lofts and into the showroom. Many of the previously mentioned old breeders never showed. If a new breeder never was exposed to Bohemians how on earth were they to survive? I started to correspond with Frank Barrachina. It was Frank that suggested that the active breeders put their heads together and formulate a standard to address problems we saw with the standards if any being used at the time. It was decided to go with his idea and through the pages of the APJ, a call for support was issued. The silence was deafening. We were able to enlist Howie Kinsley in our project. As he has a record of wins at the NYBS against all comers and regularly cleans up on the East Coast, he provided his expertise. From California

the two Franks, Mosca and Barrachina, lent their help. While neither one raises Bohemians they are well versed in the various and assorted breeds of Pouters and Croppers. Their opinion was highly valuable as it gave us a totally unbiased view of what we were trying to accomplish. It removed any doubt that this was strictly a "Minnesota" project and did reflect ideas other than our own. We would have liked to have had input from more actual Bohemian breeders but for whatever reason they chose to remain outside the circle. A couple make their presence known with snide remarks but were ignored.

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

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

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

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