



Brunner Pouter - blue white bar YH Beals & Gardner



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Blue White Bar Brunners

Article and Photos by Layne Gardner,
President American Friends of the Brunner Cropper - Springville, Utah

I love the white barred colors in pigeons. I have them in Brunner Pouters, Saxon Pouters, Old Dutch Capuchines, and until recently German Modenas. I have found the white bars particularly attractive ever since I read a 1970s article on white barred Brunners in Germany by Josef Fischer in the old *American Pigeon Journal*. This piqued my interest in the breed and soon I was able to get my first Brunner, an Isabel cock bird from Dave Kasperick, who lived 7 or 8 miles from me. And so began my love of Brunner Pouters.

The Brunner Pouter has undergone some increasing refinement—particularly in the last 20 years. We would often hear the Brunner referred to as a “ball on a stick” meaning that the globe should be round and the body as fine boned as possible. In recent years the bodies have become considerably more refined and are finer boned and narrower than Brunners of yesteryear. Fortunately, this increase in quality also extends to the less common and more difficult colors like the white bars.

White bars have been associated with Brunners since the beginning of the breed and have traditionally been bred in black, blue, red, yellow and Isabel. At present the blue white bars and Isabels are the most developed colors in Europe and similarly here in the United States. Isabels are the result of dominant opal combined with recessive yellow. The other white bars are the result of the toy stencil gene complex.

Because toy stencil isn't a single gene but rather a group of genes, probably three in number, improving the quality of toy stenciled birds is more time consuming and difficult than when working with a color that is the result of a single gene, i.e. Andalusian. So,

it's not surprising that the white barred colors aren't quite up to the quality of white, black, or yellow selfs. However, by crossing white bars with selfs progress may be achieved.

The blue white bars have existed in reasonable quality in Brunners for many, many years. In the 1990s there were some importations of blue white bars from Germany by myself and also Bob Gabriel. The offspring of these importations are still around and combined with additional German importations form the basis of our American white barred birds.

The blue white bars have a pleasing temperament, good color, good body style and type, and good globing ability. Refinements are needed to make the bird more slender and fine boned, but fortunately the blue white bars do represent a Brunner Pouter and are of far better quality than the dominant opal white bars occasionally shown in the 1960s and 70s.

So, how do we ensure we maintain the steady increase in quality? I suggest adding a pair or two of white bars to your loft. If every serious Brunner breeder added just one pair of good white bars to his/her loft and showed the offspring, we would see a huge surge in both popularity and quality of the white barred colors. I am working with blue white bars and Bob Bollinger is working with black, red, and yellow white bars. I'm trying to follow my own counsel and have added a pair of black white bars to my Brunners in an effort to see more of the striking black white bars at our shows. Thanks to Bob Bollinger for his generosity in helping me with the black white bars. Additionally, I will occasionally cross a blue white bar with a blue bar in an effort to transfer the slenderer body and finer bone of



Brunner Pouter - blue white bar YH Günter Dietze, Germany



Brunner Pouter - blue white YC Beals & Gardner

the blue bars. The problem is that the bird I'm looking for in a cross is also the same bird a breeder of blue bars is seeking to keep in his/her stud of birds. So not many excellent blue bars are available for such a cross. I appreciate the generosity of Jim Clinton and Jeff Young in helping me. I have attempted to import blue bars from

Germany but unfortunately birds died in quarantine. This is not an uncommon problem and although frustrating, just underscores the determination needed to import quality pigeons. I am trying again and hopefully, this time, I will succeed. There are a few blue bars in Germany that are of excellent body type that would definitely help



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in slimming down our blue white bars.

To use blue bars in your white bar program, mate a blue bar to a blue white bar. Then mate the best young from the mating back to a blue white bar, saving the white barred young for further breeding. This process goes on indefinitely or until the white bars are as good as the blue bars.

Keep your eyes open for the white barred Brunners at our shows. They are eye catching and a good specimen is simply gorgeous! So, I repeat my invitation to add a pair or two of white barred Brunners to your loft. Getting a chance to watch those beautiful birds daily will add a skip to your step and smile to your face!•

Horseman Pouter Club of North America

Membership

All bulletins will be sent via E-Mail.

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\$15 Regular Membership

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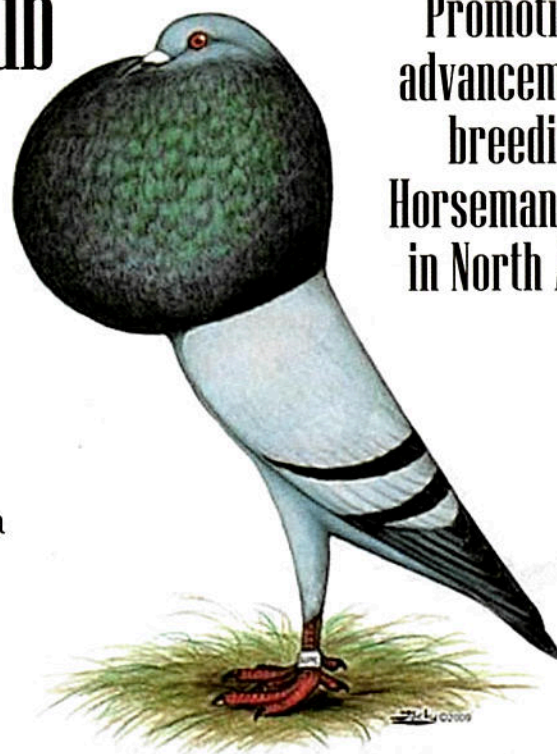
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Promoting the
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Red white Bar Brunner - Bob Bollinger (Gardner Photo)

Passion for White Bars

By Bob Bollinger



Black white Bar Brunner - Bob Bollinger (Gardner photo)

I have always enjoyed the appearance of white barred birds. Their contrasts are striking and historic. I admired them for years before we embarked on our journey with Pouters. When looking at old pictures and publications, the white bars are often prominently displayed. Despite their comparatively small numbers at shows today, white bars continue to show up in drawings and portraits. In fact, the color picture in the new European Brunner standard is a blue white bar.

Shortly after getting into Brunner Pouters with my son, I sought out white bars. Our first birds came from the late Bob Gabriel. We started with reds and blacks and quickly learned that the family had a lot of dilute in the background as we started raising yellows and duns. Over the years, we have been lucky to be able to acquire stock from Layne Gardner, Leon Stephens, and some other imports. These out crosses have really improved our gene pool. Layne's blues are very far ahead of the other white bar colors and they been invaluable in moving ours forward.

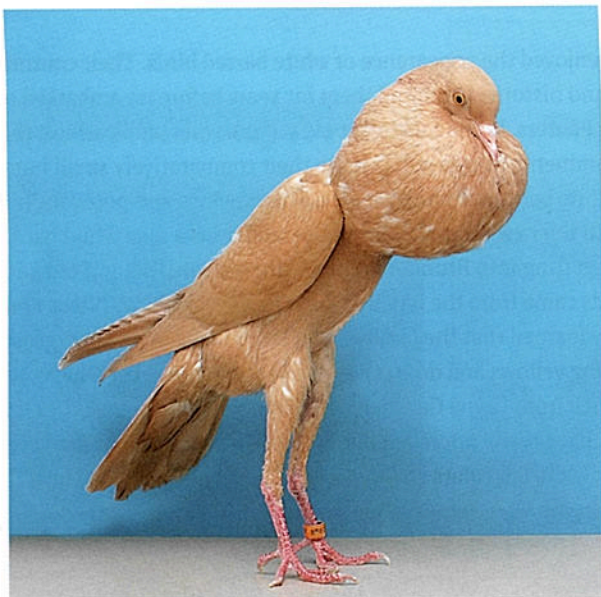


Blue white bar

In general, the structural quality of white bar Brunners lag the more traditional colors. It is simply more difficult to breed high quality birds due to the focus that you need to put on the color and markings. It is also very difficult to cross in other self colors to improve size and type. Getting back to a good clean, well refined, bar takes years after the outcross. On the positive side, blue white bars are now competitive and judges are starting to recognize and take into account the challenge of breeding a fine white bar.

Some may ask, are they worth it? The clear answer is YES! The contrast, the history, and their striking appearance make all the work worthwhile. The good news is that we are starting to see renewed interest in white bar Brunners. Along with Layne and myself, Carlin Wisenhunt has a nice stud in Nebraska, and we continue to see other white bars show up at our major meets. I often donate a special award for best white bar at our major AFBCC (American Friends of the Brunner Cropper Club) events to encourage more people to show their birds. Even in Europe, the judges are adjusting their ratings for the white bars to consider the difficulty of breeding and showing awesome specimens.

While my primary colors in Brunners are red and yellow selves, there will always be white bars in the loft. They are just that special!•



Bob Bollinger's Amarillo National Champion Brunner

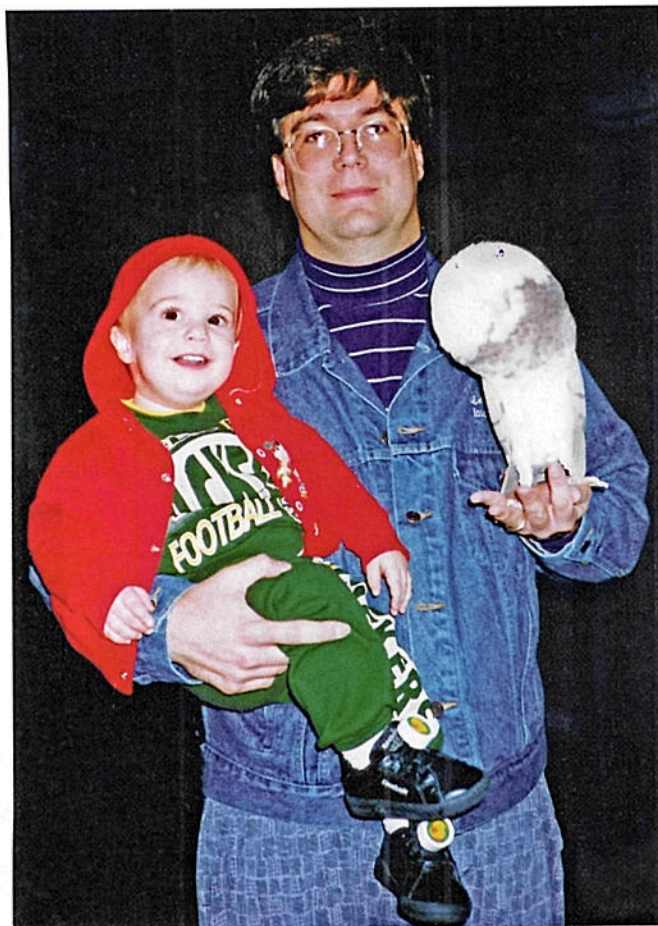
Our Journey with Pouters

By Bob Bollinger

Our journey with Pouters and Croppers started over 25 years ago. My son, Tom, has been joining me at pigeon shows since he was six weeks old. As time went by and he started to walk, he learned that he could go down the Pouter aisles and coo at the birds and they would coo back. This was a huge amusement to a young child, so ultimately, we acquired Puffy the Norwich Cropper to play with at home. She was a charming bird that was really tame and would walk around with us as we cared for the birds.

It didn't take long until we were "hooked" on Pouters. Over the years we have had Voorburgs, Norwich, Laudinos, Horseman, and Brunners. They were all very nice birds, but we finally settled on Brunners and Horsemen as our primary Pouter breeds. We found both breeds to be pleasant in the loft with nice numbers and good competition at the shows.

For the first 15 years of our journey, Tom was the primary Pouter breeder in the family. He enjoyed a lot of success and even won a national with Brunners a decade before I did. As time moved on and Tom left for college, I took over the Pouter stud. At that time, I was focused on other breeds and trimmed our birds down



Bob Bollinger with his son Tom and their Norwich, Puffy



Bob Bollinger's Myrtle Beach National Champoion Brunner

to the colors and types I enjoyed most. Again, as time moved forward, I started enjoying the Pouters even more. What started as a minor amusement for me turned into a passion and I have been focusing more and more energy on our Brunners. I still enjoy breeding rare colored Horseman, too. The indigos and especially homozygous indigo dilutes are simply stunning.

I can heartily recommend both Brunners and Horseman to new fanciers and experienced fanciers alike. Both breeds are tame in the loft, rarely cause problems, and routinely blow. They raise their own babies and rarely experience sour crop. It is

interesting to note that I often use Brunners as foster parents for English Short Face and crested Helmets. They are that good! For the experienced fancier they continue to have nice numbers at the shows and there are a lot of great breeders who provide very fun competition. Even more importantly, the Pouter / Cropper folks are really good people. What more can you ask for?

I continue to be grateful that we found Pouters and chose to embark on our journey. Pouters are one of my favorite passions. •

**Amarillo
National
Champion
Brunner Pouter
Yellow YH**



**Myrtle Beach
National
Champion
Brunner Pouter
Red OC**



Red White Bar

Dynamic Horizons Loft

Bob & Lynn Bollinger
*Breeders & Promoters
of
Brunner Pouters*

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Cream Bar Cock 1164-17 - Carlin Whisenhunt



Mealy bar cock 1445-18 Bred by Jeff Clark

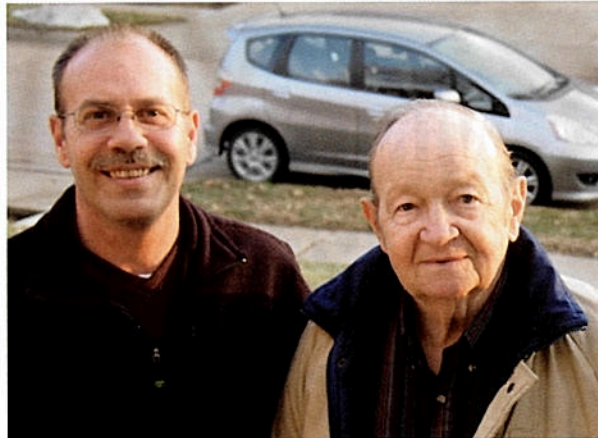
The Bidroski Brunner Legacy

By Carlin Whisenhunt

I had known Bob Bidroski since his son Jeff was a small child following his dad around the pigeon loft. I first met him through Bob's brother Dick, who also was a dedicated pigeon man. Dick was well known in the area for his Moorhead Tumblers, Priests, and especially his Bohemian Pouters, of which the likes I have never seen since. After Dick moved to Arkansas, I saw him for the last time at the first Oklahoma City National. But I digress.

Bob's first love in pigeons was always the Brunner Pouter as long as I knew him. Where ever shown they were always a contender and a force to be delt with. He always supported the area shows, but I believe he looked forward to the Des Moines show the most. Des Moines always has a top notch Pouter/Cropper show, and a win there is a win to be proud of. The Bidroski birds took their fair share of wins I can assure you.

I never knew of Bob to ever let a bad bird leave his loft. It was also not an easy task to get birds from him either. He had to know that you were going to do right by them first. I think that is a good policy for everyone. In 2012, Bob raised a blue bar cock, band number 1868-12. I set my eyes on him for the first time at the Hastings Nebraska show. The bird was an eye popper for sure. I drooled



Jeff and Robert Bidroski

over him the whole show. Of course he won. The next show was Des Moines. He was just as good there.

I was talking to Bob and Jeff in the Pouter section, when Bob pulled a mealy cock out of a box, handed it to me, and said to take it home. I was so honored with the gift that I never even had to put it in a cage to look at it. I knew that it was a good one. That was my start with my Bidroski Brunners, and the last time that I saw Bob Bidroski.

Of course, I still have other colors that Bob didn't have, however all of my bars and checks as well as my whites are predominately Bidroski line. That blue cock that I mentioned - #1868-12? He produced champions in mealy, cream, blue, and white. And is the foundation of all of these colors, plus birds that have been put into my indigo, opals, silvers, checkers, and my almonds.

Anyone that has gotten Brunners in these colors from me, Jeff Clark, Wade Schuett, or Bobby Watson, are carrying on the Bidroski Legacy. Jeff learned well from his father. He continues to be one of the best Pouter judges in the Midwest, and we all look forward to the day that he will be able to breed his father's family of Brunners again and get some more of his beloved Norwich Croppers. •

PERSERVERANCE LOFT



Grandson of Hen below

**Brunners,
Horseman Thief,
Voorburg Shield,
Pigmy,
Marchenero Thief**

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**Champion Brunner Pouter
Cream Bar Y.H.**

AFBCC District Meet - Hastings NE 2014