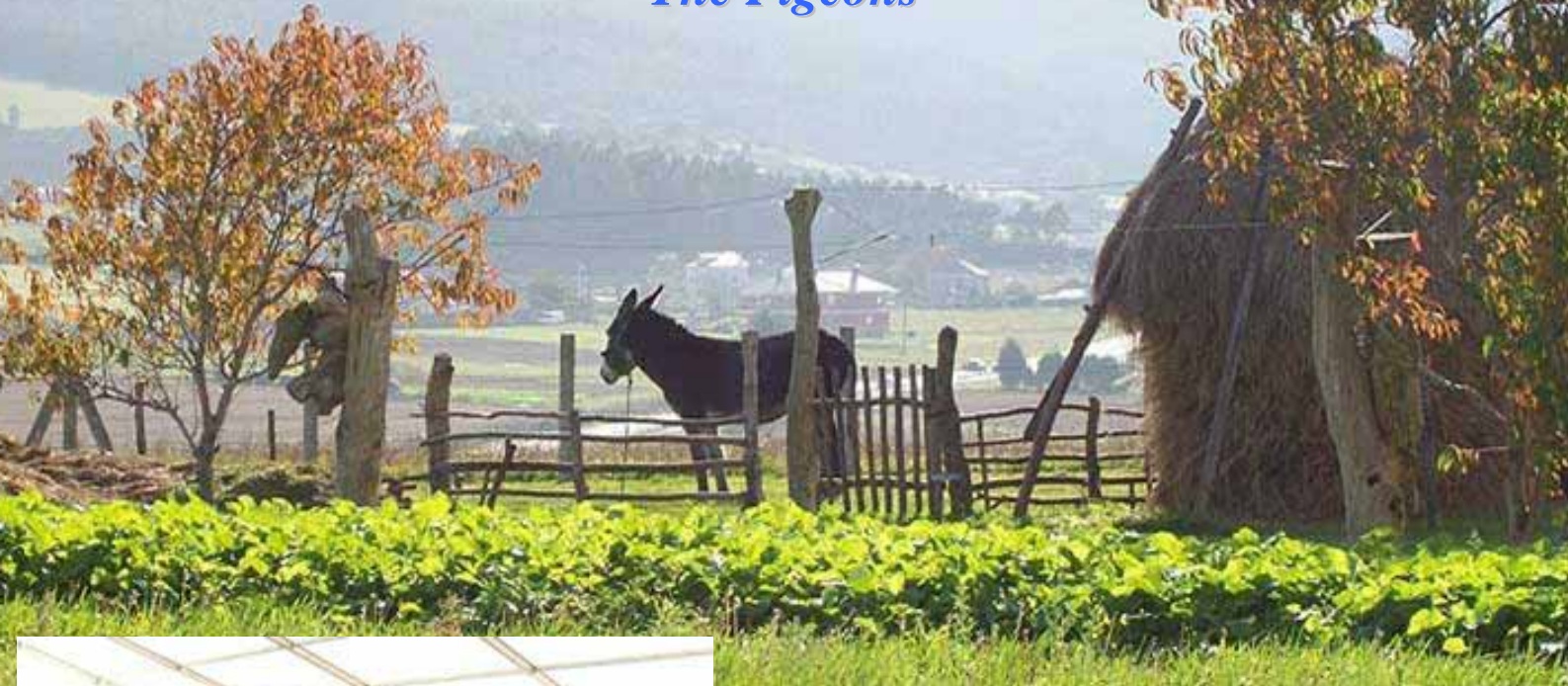




# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SPANISH BREEDS IN CASTROPOL, ASTURIAS, SPAIN 9, 10 and 11 NOVEMBER 2007

## *The Pigeons*



**Text and photos: Aviculture Europe**

**The editors of Aviculture Europe and several Dutch and German judges were invited by the Spanish Fancy Pigeon Union to take part in this Championship. Such a visit is always a true experience, in particular by the overwhelming hospitality of the Spanish hosts.**

The Spanish breeds were housed in a Hall and the pens for the 'foreign' breeds were in a large tent, which was very spacious and light.

The region Asturias is in the North-East part of Spain, and normally wet and windy in this time of the year, but we were lucky. No wind and with a pleasant amount of sunshine it was very comfortable stay. Friday the show was traditionally visited by school children from far and wide in the region. This is very disciplined; the kids walk in rows hand in hand along the pens. They get educated on the animals and are very interested.

**Right: In another large tent the visitors could sit and talk and have something to eat or drink. A super cosy meeting point!**





*The Bird of Prey Show attracted young and old.*



Right: An outstanding Moroncelo with the proper head form, colour and markings. They come in white flight or coloured flight, and both dark or orange eyes are allowed. But not like this: a broken eye, only half orange. Also both eyes have to be of the same colour.



Left: The same pigeon, with a close-up photo of the 'broken' eye.



Right: Head study of a Granadino Cropper. The red eye ceres are fine, but should not be bigger. The nose wattles and under wattle are also fine. Just the head form is a bit too rounded. In this breed a somewhat flattened skull with a straight sloping front head line is wanted. The rather light colour of the beak shows the presence of the smoky factor, although this normally doesn't occur in the Granadino. It does in the Laudino Sevillano Cropper, thus maybe this IS a Laudino Sevillano Cropper, with fault red eye ceres?



Left and right: The same Granadino Cropper, brown. One of the Champions of this Show, and a true beauty in all points.





**Left:**  
Cap de Frare, one of the Catalan Flying Pigeon breeds.  
This bird was one of the Show Winners and its owner/breeder is Ramon Amenos from Vals.

**Below left and right:**  
This is the same Cap de Frare, presented with its wings open. A perfect picture, regarding colour and marking.



**Left: Laudino Sevillano Cropper, Blue chequered. Best of Breed, and a real show bird, as seen in his pose!**



Left: This is a Monji Girat, or the Spanish Nun pigeon. This is another one of the Catalan Flying Pigeon breeds.

Right: Figurita-Valencian Frill, ash red barred, with a very rich feathered frill, excellent type and perfect stance.



Left: These are the both rosewings of a Chorrera pigeon. According to connoisseurs this breed is supposed to be the ancestor of the Chinese Owl, but this must be a far way back, as today these breeds are grown apart.

Right: Laudino Sevillano Cropper.





Left: A white Marchenero Cropper, a rare beauty with perfect back and tail action. Type, stance and crop are ideal. Such quality is seldom seen!



Right: In Spain, the pigeon's back and tail are often judged in this particular way. Indeed as such the bird shows the full width of its somewhat rounded back (carp back). Also when held in this way, the bird will open its full breast feathering and expose the wonderful rich plumage of this breed.



Left: Marchenero Cropper, blue black barred, with sooty factor. In Spain this spotted colour marking at the wing shield is seen as a naturally feature of the breed.

Right: Another Marchenero Cropper, which was not at ease when photographing. Thus it is not posing as it should. We chose to picture it because of the grizzle marking in an indefinable colour, which will hardly ever be seen at our (Dutch) shows.





Left: Geditano Cropper, an excellent bird with a very good head, crop form and performance. This is a very special colour, you can see a glimpse of red in it.

Below, with the wings folded open, it is clearly seen that the feather shafts of all feathers are coloured.



Left: Murciano Cropper. This breed is known for its excellent flying capacities. They have a somewhat flattened skull and oblique forehead, in one line with the beak. They fly with their necks carried almost vertically, this is why the Spaniards also nick-name them 'the broken pigeon'.

Right: Rafeño Cropper, black, belonging to the oldest Pigeon Breeds. It is also called Owl Cropper, due to its short beak, typical under-wattle and the short and somewhat carried backwards neck.

This breed is getting rare in Spain. It is much in demand, but it is a breed for specialists.





Left: The Spanish 'Barb' is named Ojo de Fresa (strawberry eye) and is a lot smaller than the other 'Barbs', such as the German *Indianer*, the French *Polonais*, the Dutch *Valkenet*, the English Barb, etc ...



Right: The Chorrera, a remote kin of the Chinese Owl, although this Spanish Chorrera distinguishes itself from the Chinese Owl by its rosewings and also it is a bit smaller.



Left: This blue black barred Figurita-Valencian Frill, was Best of Breed and Best of all Spanish pigeons. Owner: Ramon Amenos, from Vals (Esp).



Right: The Dutch judge Ad van Benteen was specially invited to judge the Spanish Valencian Frills and he valued this bird with 96 points.



Left: Of course there were also 'foreign' breeds entered at this Show, such as this yellow barred Sotto Banca cock.



Below right: For those who were hungry, a plate of fresh oysters was hearty recommended!



Above: Or would you prefer some Octopus? They were cooked for about 10 minutes and then served in slices, sprinkled with spicy olive oil. Very tasty!



Left: Back to the pigeons. Here you see a Gaditano Cropper, in blue silver chequer.

Right: Gaditano Cropper hen, in blue chequer. And as often seen in the hens, too upright in stance.



Right: Granadino Cropper.

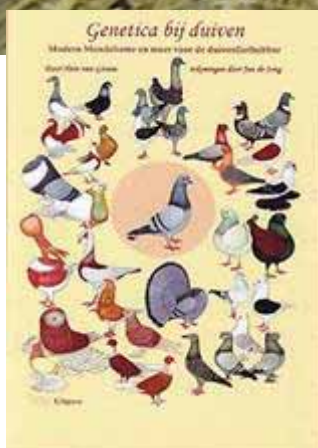


Left: Figurita–Valencian Frill, blue black barred.

Right: Figurita-Valencian Frill, blue black barred.



Left: Figurita - Valencian Frill, white. Not posing very well, with the neck carriage not optimal.



With our thanks for the hospitality to the Organisation of this Spanish Championship Show. We enjoyed every minute with you and hope to meet you again soon.

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*Soon to be published! A very detailed and richly illustrated book on Pigeon Genetics. Read all about it in 'Various'.*