



The History of the American Crest club

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The History of this club and the breed begins in the 1920-1930's when here in the US the French Mondain was bred primarily as a food source. From the late 1800's we had large squab farms here in the US which served the restaurant trade and food for the average family. The owners of these squab farms began exhibiting their prized breeders, birds which produced the best squabs with the most weight. Today in the US there is only one of these farms which date back to this period in American History. The Palmetto Pigeon Plant exists today in the original family and operated at the highest level for the commercial food trade. The Palmetto Pigeon Farm is owned and operated by the Levi Family, descendants of Wendell Levi, world famous author (*The Pigeon*), Attorney and pigeon authority.

Well, the French Mondain is still popular in the showroom and has evolved into a large, blocky, robust pigeon. Our current French Mondain is very different from those bred in Europe, a testament of the imagination of pigeon fanciers worldwide. It is from this pigeon comes the Giant American Crest; a pigeon very similar in size and ornament to the Sottobanca bred in Europe.

Right: The American Giant Crest

The French Mondain bred in the US in the 1930's and 1940's produced crested birds on a regular basis and from non-crested parents. These birds were shown originally in a Crested class of French Mondains.

Below left: Actual type French Mondain, photo: AE. Right: White Montauban, a breed that was frequently crossed with the Mondain and with the Sottobanca, which explains the Crested Mondains. Photo: Mick Bassett.



Breeders of that era bred to one standard of perfection. Eventually they became so popular with a small group of fanciers, that the American Crest Club was formed in 1940 in New Jersey. The original idea can be traced to Herman Buri of New Jersey. Herman was already an accomplished breeder and judge in many breeds of pigeons and a world class Artist. Herman developed the pictorial Standard for many breeds and drew the Standard and painted in oil many beautiful pigeon paintings. He also developed life-size sculptures of several breeds which are still treasured by many of us who were fortunate to obtain them. I was very fortunate to know him very well and as a child, I was in the only all-pigeon 4H club.



Right: The French Type Sottobanca, that seems to have a lot of conformity with the American Crest. Photo: AE.

Left: A Miniature Crest in the colour dilute blue chequer sulpher.



Right: A yellow Miniature Crest.

**Left and right:
(Probably) the same Miniature Crest Pigeon.
A typical Carneau-like colour pigeon.**





Right above: Even the Giant Crests fly to the highest place in the loft.

Left: This is a photo of a white Schiatti Modena which came crested; we use them in the US for the Miniature Crest and now on

the Giant, because of the large size of the modern Modena.

Then about 1950, Herman Buri and a couple other French Mondain breeders saw a need for a Bantam Size American Crest. This breed is based on the American / English Modena of that time, about half the size of the French Mondain / Giant Crest. These birds were bred in all Modena colours, especially almonds and whites. This bantam sized bird would take up less breeding space, eat less and produce more young. Both these breeds are bred to the same standard, with one exception, the Miniatures are about sixteen ounces and the Giants are to be 27-32 Ounces. The first Miniatures were bred from crested Modenas, crosses with Mookees, Archangels and even a crested common pigeon was tried with some success. In recent years the Andalusian colour was brought in from the Kormoner Tumbler. I find the Miniature Crest to be very docile and easily trained for the showroom. They are prolific breeders and excellent parents. We do breed them in Individual pair pens, but they seem to do much better in a community breeding loft. My breeding lofts are 6'-0" wide, 6'-0" deep and 7'-0" tall at the roof. This loft will house 10-12 breeding pairs very well, although no more than eight pairs would be ideal.

Left below: The andalusian is half Giant/half Miniature

Right below: The sulfur-Tri is a miniature with the proper type and an excellent crest.





Left: A real nice Miniature Crest in recessive Red with the proper type.

Below right: A black with bronze (Kite) Miniature Crest.



In recent years we have experienced a renewed interest in the American Crest and we have a very enthusiastic group of Fanciers breeding both the Miniature and Giant Crests. We have a variety of new colours and the quality of birds is improving. We still use the crested Modenas when we get them. Unfortunately, the size of the Modenas is much too large for a correct Miniature. We can use the Modenas to cross into the Giants, so that is good. The legs on the current Modena is both too thick and too long for the Crests. But still they make a good cross. I have included several photos of the Miniatures. I was not aware of the Sottobanca until just a few years ago, but it seems we have a common interest with the pigeon fanciers of Europe. And I want to introduce the Miniature (Bantam) Crests to the world. They are a wonderful breed and a tribute to Herman Buri and Art Sutton who worked so hard on these breeds. One of my goals is to introduce the European fanciers to these two wonderful breeds and establish correspondence world-wide to promote friendship among fanciers with common interests. As the president of this club, my goal is to promote the breed and this wonderful hobby we share. I look forward to talking with any and all who are interested. I am always available to talk pigeons.



Left: A red splash Miniature Crest.

**For more information,
contact the American Crest Club for Giant and Miniature Pigeons.
Website <http://www.americancrestclub.net/>**

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**Welcome to the
American Crest Pigeon Club**
Est. 1940
Giant and Miniature Crest Pigeons