

The Moravian Strasser and Prachen Kanik

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These two varieties are both catered for by one specialty club in Germany. This is practical as the country of origin of these breeds is the former Czechoslovakia and the colour and marking have very much in common, also they are both classified in the form/utility pigeon Group.

Right: A black laced Moravian Strasser,
breeder: P. Falk.



Left: A black Prachen Kanik,
breeder: W. Moser.

Right: Young birds at
G. Kortenhof's, breeder of both
breeds.



Left: Standard drawing by J.L. Frindell.

The instigation for this article is because the specialty club in Germany celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. An extra special show event, with the Goldener Sieger Ring taking place for both breeds at the 96th Nationals Bundessiegerschau in Leipzig (5 to 7 December 2014), so a good reason to pay more attention to these two colourful pigeon breeds. Both breeds are little known in the Netherlands. They are kept by only a few breeders and only exhibited on a small scale in recent years.

To view a large collection of these two breeds, you would have to visit the VDT show and the club specialty show in Germany. In their Homeland the Czech Republic - there is a special club for the Moravian Strasser and another for the Prachen Kanik - the entry numbers of birds in difficult colour varieties has decreased.

The main reason is that it has been easier since the disappearance of the 'Iron Curtain' to buy birds, so there is a shift to other, less difficult breeds. It is mainly the older breeders of fancy varieties, Steller Cropper, Czech Ice Cropper, Brunner Cropper, Moravian Strasser, Prachen Kanik, Prager Tumbler, etc. who remain faithful to their breeds but also the younger generation takes the new opportunities that are there now to obtain birds.



Moravian Strasser

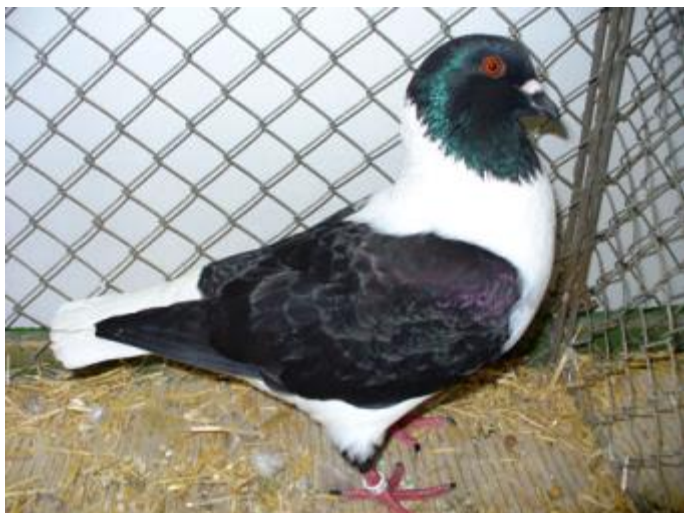
The Moravian Strasser is the big brother of the two and originated around 1840 in the Bohemia region of Mähren by crossing croppers with field pigeons. In the various regions they were bred to the tastes of the breeders in that region. In 1904 the one breed was divided into two separate breeds, the Moravian Strasser and the (German) Strasser.



The Strasser has always been a very popular breed in Germany with many breeders, however, when in 1989 the special club for the Moravian Strasser and Prachen Kanik was founded, the Moravian Strasser has increased steadily in numbers over the years and has gained some ground on the Strasser.

Left:

Aviaries at G. Kortenhof, who is breeding with a total of 70 pairs.



Left: A black white tail Moravian Strasser, breeder: G. Binder.

The Moravian Strasser is a strongly built pigeon (ring size 9mm) with a broad pronounced breast and a near horizontal under-line, medium Stance (not too deep). The breadth to length proportions of the bird to be 2:1.

The head is in proportion to the body, plain-head, well rounded, broad, with a distinct but not too high forehead. The eye colour is

orange-red to red, the eye-cere fine and narrow, red colour with Reds and Yellows, with other colour varieties, dark to black. Beak: Medium length and strong, colour to match the feather colour of the bird. The neck is medium length, strong and with the throat, clear and distinct.

The back is broad and slightly sloping, the wings covering the back, but without crossing. The legs are medium length, unfeathered, nail colour to match the beak colour.



Right: Blue black barred Moravian Strasser, breeder: G. Kortenhof.

Below: Blue white barred Moravian Strasser, breeder: G. Ruf.



Colour and Markings

This is as we say the 'Strasser marking' as follows: The Ground Colour is White, the Head is coloured with a medium size 'Bib', Wings, Back, Tail, Tail coverts and Under tail are also coloured.

A few (small) coloured feathers in the Lower Thigh are tolerated with the darker colour varieties.

Colour varieties:

The Black and the Red with very intense sheen are the most popular varieties, next comes the Yellow. However, also the special colour Steel blue with black bars and bar-less is very popular with the breeders. Other colour varieties are: Blue and Dilute Blue with black bars and bar-less and chequer; and Mealy and Cream barred and chequer.

Right: Red laced Moravian Strasser, breeder: G. Kortenhof.



The Black and the Red with very intense sheen are the most popular varieties, next comes the Yellow which should also have a very good lustre and intensive colour, also the special colour 'Steel blue' with black bars and bar-less is very popular with the breeders. Other colour varieties are: Blue and Dilute Blue

with black bars and bar-less and chequer; and Mealy and Cream barred and chequer.



Left: A blue white chequer Moravian Strasser, breeder: G. Kortenhof.

All the colour varieties are also recognized in White Tail marking; so as you see, a wide range of colour varieties. There are also breeders dealing specifically with the re-establishing and maintenance the extremely rare and difficult colour varieties, knowing that they will never compete for the top prize at the shows but doing this purely to show these colour varieties and hoping another fancier gets enthusiastic and becomes a fellow

breeder. (See photos: Gunter Kortenhof).

Actual breeding is straightforward. Moravian Strasser are known to be good breeders and exemplary parents. When you start breeding early in the season, you can easily rear four rounds of young. They must be provided with a basic but decent loft with reasonably large breeding pens. A standard pigeon mixture is sufficient together with grit and mineral mixture. There are breeders that allow their pigeons to fly free, which is, of course, a beautiful sight with the Strasser marking, but as it quite usual now-a-days, many fanciers also have to keep them in aviaries.

Right: Red Moravian Strasser, head study, breeder: G. Aigner.





Prachen Kanik

The Prachen Kanik is a rather young pigeon breed and was created by crossing various pigeon breeds: the Huhnschecke and Florentiner and the Bohemian Wing Pigeon were crossed with meat pigeons. In 1932 the Prachen Kanik was recognised as a breed in the Czech Republic; The area of their origin is the province in South Bohemia named Prachen (Prácheny) and the name 'Kanik' comes from a local Owl pigeon.

Left: Ash red chequer Prachen Kanik, breeder: C. Teichmann.

The Prachen Kanik is an elegant, strongly built, stocky pigeon (ring size 8mm) that still has the type of the field pigeon. The stance is almost horizontal and medium high. The body not too long, the wings are broad, carried tight against the body, the tips resting on the tail showing the attractive shield marking.

The bird has a plain head, well rounded with a domed forehead. The throat is distinct and well cut-out and smoothly merging into the broad and well rounded breast.

The beak is medium length, strong, pink (rose) flesh colour. For Blacks and Blues a slightly pigmented under beak is allowed.



Above: Blue white barred (opal) Prachen Kanik, breeder: B. Schmeisser.

Left: Red white tail Prachen Kanik, breeder: G. Kortenhof.



The eyes are orange to ruby red and fiery, birds with brown feather colour have paler eyes. The eye-cere is of a fine texture, colour is pink to red, this holds for all colour varieties.

However, with the Dun colour varieties and the White-barred the eye cere's are not so intensively coloured and may pale when the bird is over one year old.

The Back is broad and slightly sloping. The wings covering the Back well.

The Legs/Feet: Medium length, unfeathered, with pale/horn colour nails in all colour varieties.

Right: Blue chequer Prachen Kanik, breeder: J. Blatský.



The basic markings of the Prachen Kanik is the Strasser marking, but with some extras:

the Prachen Kanik has white flights, minimum seven and maximum ten. A difference of no more than 2 white flights between both wings is allowed. 'Slip' flights (alternating colour/white) is a fault, but minimal coloured thumb feathers (on the wing butt) is not a major fault, and even important in the breeding, because the white colour always has a tendency to spread. The back of the Prachen Kanik is white, with a clean separation at the vent. An important breed characteristic is the medium size white spot on the forehead starting at the beak cere. The size of the spot may vary from small pea-size to a slightly elongated marking up to 1.5 cm long, it should not be too large or too broad.



Above: Andalusian Prachen Kanik, breeder: T. Torsten

Right: Blue barless Prachen Kanik, breeder: G. Kortenhof.

The latest colour variety (2012) is the Andalusian. All these varieties are also recognized in White Tail marking, of which the Black and Red are regularly seen on the Shows.





The Prachen Kanik a lively and pleasant pigeon in your loft; very fertile and undemanding.

Left: Brown barred Prachen Kanik, breeder: M. Gebele.

They are excellent parents; that is a plus, as this will allow you to select from a considerable number of youngsters for the correct markings; the number of miss-marked young is somewhat higher than that occurring with the Moravian Strasser. This is also evident in the German shows; with possible entries in both Breeds of 600 entered pigeons, the ratio could probably be

500 Moravian Strasser to 100 Prachen Kanik.

Right: Ash yellow chequer Prachen Kanik, breeder: C. Teichmann.



The ratio of Moravian Strasser : Prachen Kanik breeders is plus + - minus of 4 to 1, however, quite a few breeders have both breeds in the loft. To exhibit both breeds you will have to do some show preparation (trimming). This requires some experience, but you can quickly see the bird improve in your hands. You can learn a lot from experienced breeders which are often real artists in show presentation. Among the breeders are also quite a number of judges, two of which are appointed as 'Zuchtward' (a person nominated by a Breed Club to collect data on the Breed during the course of a show season and relay this Data as a report to the Club, Judges and all concerned with that breed).

Left: Silver barred Prachen Kanik, breeder: G. Kortenhof.



Below: Standard drawing by J.L. Frindell.



**Right: Yellow Prachen Kanik, head study,
breeder: T. Torsten.**



**Left: Blue chequer Prachen Kanik,
breeder: C. Teichmann.**

specialty club in Germany is divided into three divisions namely Central, East and South. The specialty club, with 171 active members, also has its own website which is very up to date. For further information please visit:

www.sv-maehrischer-strasser-und-Prachen-kanik.de

**Right:
Blue chequer Prachen Kanik,
breeder: A. Wierda.**



Aviculture Europe

With our thanks to author and photographers: Antoon Wierda (NL) and Gunter Korten Hof (D).

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***This is a publication by the online magazine www.aviculture-europe.nl
English edition ISSN: 2352-2445
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