

# PROFILES OF POUTERS

## *The Bavarian Pouter*

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**T**HE NEWEST ADDITION to the pouter family is the Bavarian Pouter. This "gazzi" marked pouter is a relatively new breed that has been 38 years in the making.

### HISTORY

The Bavarian Pouter is the creation of the late Karl Zausinger of Oberhatzkofen, Germany, which is incidentally located in the heart of Bavaria.

Zausinger started out with a plan for creating a medium sized, upright and slim bodied, medium sized muffed pouter with a unique set of

markings which are the head and bib, wing shields, and tail colored. The rest of the bird including 7 to 10 primary flights and the legs and muffs were to be white.

The breeds used for this Bavarian creation were of numerous color and numbered: 20 Pomeranian Pouters; 10

mentauben and this time only the largest booted cocks were kept; and English and Böhmentauben and again only the finest figured hens were kept.

In the second year, these crosses were blended together with the thought of beginning to consolidate all of the desired features. Numer-



**Karl Zausinger (d), creator of the Bavarian Pouter**

*Photo: Reichenbach*



**Mrs. Zausinger and son Karl Jr. who continue to exhibit and breed Bavarian Pouters, the work of Karl Sr.**

*Photo: Frank Barrachina*

English Pouters; and 24 Böhmentauben (Bohemian Strassers of Czechoslovakia which are slimmer than the very stout German style Strasser). The initial crossings were made as follows: Pomeranian and English and only sleek bodied hens were kept; Pomeranian and Böh-

ous young were produced from these hybrids. At the end of the year Zausinger culled down to 40 or 50 pairs and these became the basis for the breed. Each year since, literally hundreds of young were bred and only the very best were selected from for further breeding.



The German National Pigeon Association accepted the Bavarian Pouter officially as a breed in 1962.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

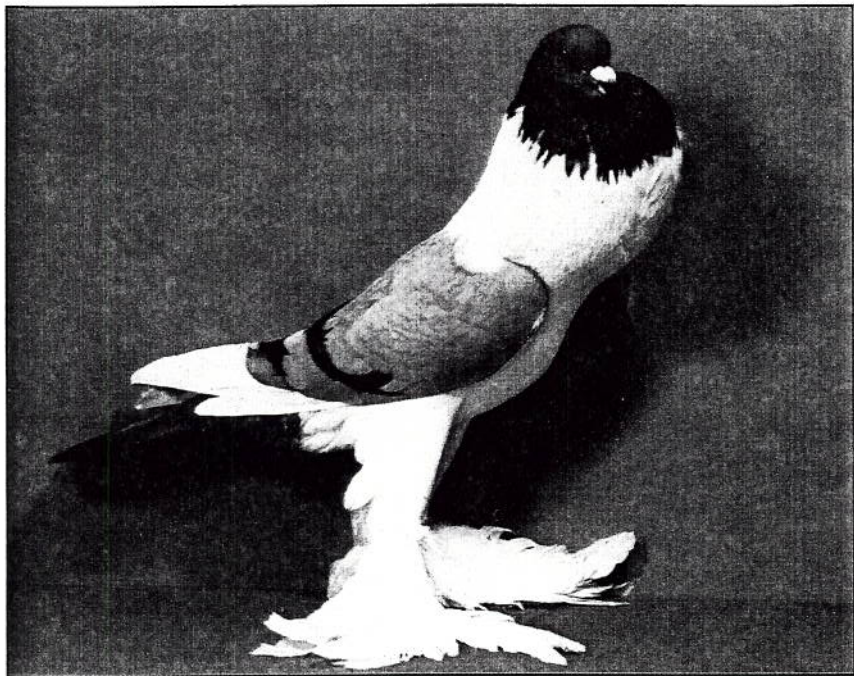
The Bavarian is the smallest of muffed pouters. It is shorter and slimmer than the Reversewing and even straighter backed. It is actu-

ally closer in size to the Saxon pouter though again more upright and slender.

still runs through these birds and without careful scrutiny of the young the natural tendency is to breed a boaty style body.

As for the bird's globe, it appears to resemble an upside down pear and is wider at the top.

The Bavarian should have fairly long legs. They are fairly straight and are proportion-



**Blue Bar OC received a very good rating and the 1980 German NPA show in Stuttgart. Kurt Scheucher, Leoben, Austria**

*Photo: Josef Wolters*

ally set apart. The legs should be well feathered with good hock feather development and the muffs or boots should be medium in size.

As for body, it should appear slim. The wings are narrow when viewed from the side and will reveal waist. The waist should be well formed, but should not be as radically developed as in the English

ally set apart. The legs should be well feathered with good hock feather development and the muffs or boots should be medium in size.

As for body, it should appear slim. The wings are narrow when viewed from the side and will reveal waist. The waist should be well formed, but should not be as radically developed as in the English

Pouter. The tail is reasonably short, and from the legs back should give what the Germans call, the impression of being short in the hind part of the body.

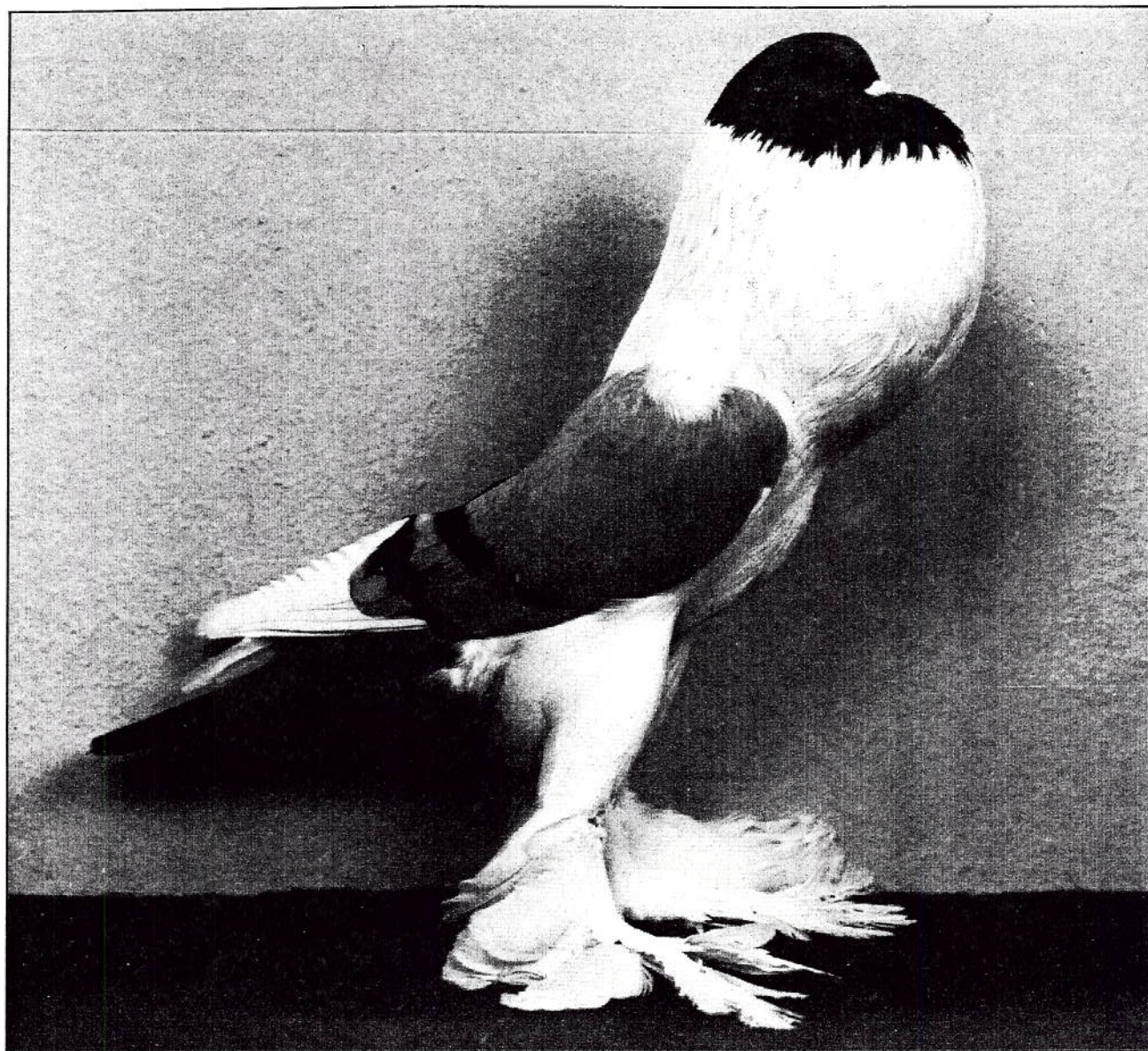
As for markings, the Bavarian has only the head and the bib that cover the top portion of the globe, the wing shield, and tail colored. The rest of the bird must be white and that includes the flights which minimally can be 7 X 7 to the maximum of 10 X 10.

The Bavarian comes in a wide range of colors. They are: black, red, yellow, blue bar, blue barless, blue check, blue white bar in opal and toy stencil, blue spangled, silver, cream, and mealy.

### IN AMERICA

The Bavarian is a relative new comer to America. True Bavarians have only been here since the late 1980's. Prior to that time, Hana Pouter breeders in Pennsylvania and the Midwest were calling their white flighted, white legged and white booted birds Bavarians. They weren't Bavarians though—the type was typical Hana which favors heavy set boaty bodies. I should qualify my statement into reading American Hana - because unlike the Hana bred in Europe many here deviate from the desired upright carriage to more of the horizontal one. Keep in mind, the Hana favored the Pomeranian in





***A superb example of the Bavrian Pouter. This Blue Bar OH received the highest rating at the 1987 Nürnberg Show. Jürgen Barsuhn, Moosburg, Germany***

*Photo: Josef Wolters*

heaviness and largeness of body and this is in total opposition to the Bavarian. But more on Hanas at a later date.

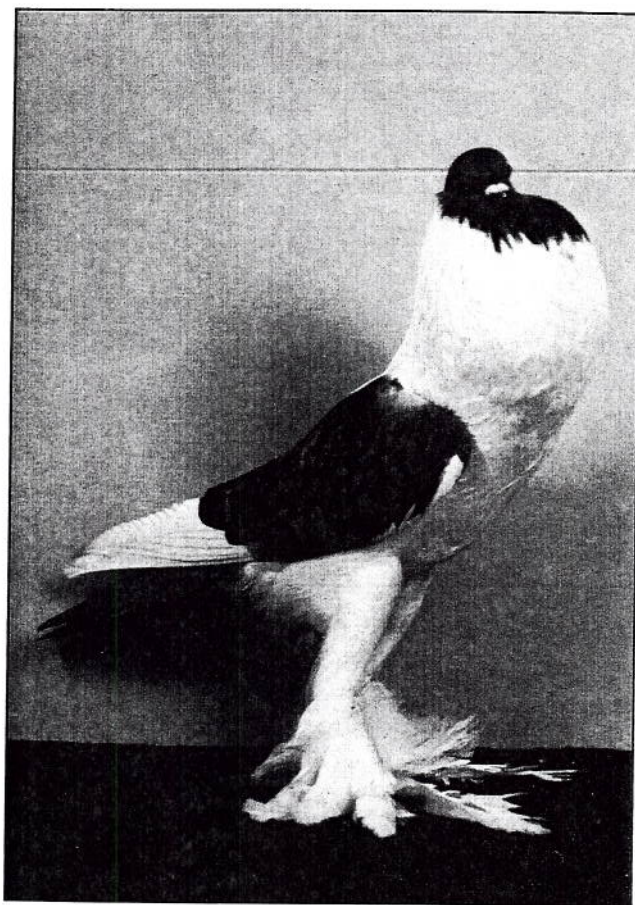
Our first breeder of Bavarians here in America is Adam Kuhn of Illinois. He imported birds from Austria which has a number of dedicated breeders of excellent Bavarians. Kuhn's birds came here in the late 80's.

The second importation and the source of most of the Bavarians in America now were birds that Sieglinde Tate and I personally purchase from Mrs. Zausinger and her son Karl Jr. in 1989. I will never forget the feeling of being awestruck when I looked at the Zausinger's gigantic collection of Bavarians. Such beautiful birds and the result

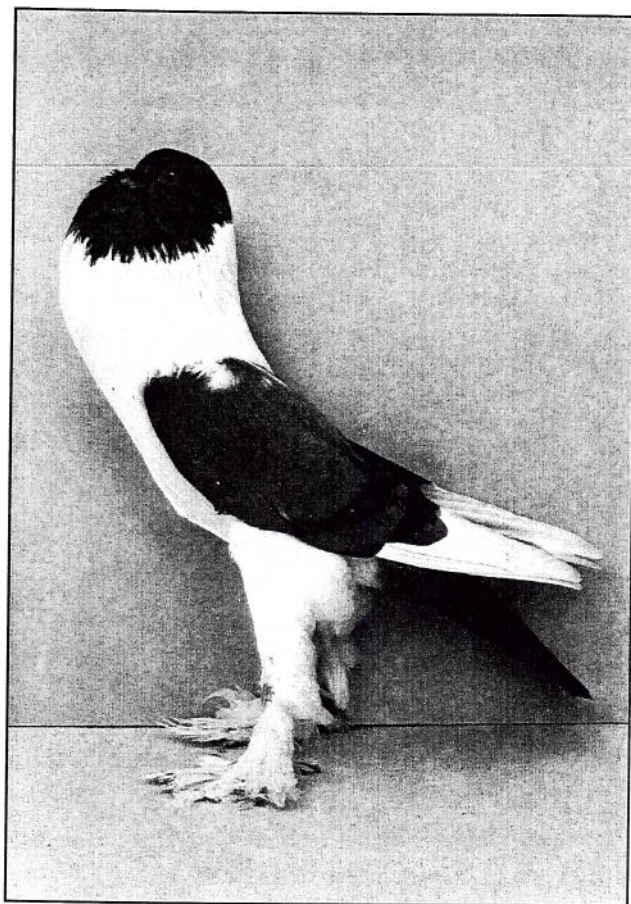
of one man and his wife and son's dedication to turning a dream into reality. It's quite an accomplishment!

Our imports were: blue bar, blue white bar opal, blue barless, blue check, cream, and red. They were and still are unbelievable breeders and both they and their young are not spread across the United States. The Bavarian





**Blue Check YH, rated very good at the 1987 Nürnberg Show. Karl Zausinger, Roffenburg, Germany**  
*Photo: Josef Wolters*



**1993 Blue Bar YH Frank Barrachina, Yucaipa, California**  
*Photo: G. De La Nuez*


has proven itself quite capable of rearing its own young and of being prolific.

Despite the fact that the Bavarian is a good breeder, it does offer a challenge for anyone undertaking the quest of breeding good ones. The biggest challenge is the fact that the factor for perfect markings has not been perfected. So when you breed lots of Bavarian young, you also end up culling lots of young because some are terribly mismarked. The breeders in Germany who

I spoke with said that 8 to 10% of all the young bred annually were worth keeping, the rest end up being culled. This figure holds true.

Blue bars are the closest to the ideal both in Germany and here. Creams, reds, and blue barless again are a reflection of the birds bred in Germany. They tend to be either too big or a little too thick. The blue white bars are captivating, but again there is a big challenge to breed on that not only has the beautiful

eye catching color and markings, but the ideal type as well.

The Bavarian has the wonderful pouter disposition that wins the hearts of many people. It offers the serious breeder who is endowed with patience and a skillful eye a unique challenge. Not everyone will breed them, but already a large number of people are doing so in America. As time progresses, I expect this eye catching breed to become a favorite. 



*Blue Bar OC M. Hauber Photo:  
Josef Wolters, Bottrop, Germany*

