

INDIAN FANTAILS IN CANADA

Indian Fantail pigeons are becoming increasingly popular in Canada. Modern Indians were introduced into the USA in the mid 1900s in California. The story goes that they were included in a shipment of snakes bound for a zoo in California as food for the snakes. The birds that survived were the foundation of the breed in North America. Harvey Gatlin and Tony Brancato were the 2 fanciers credited with breeding, improving, standardizing and distributing the original line of birds. Over the years many outcrosses resulted in as many patterns, colours and modifiers being established in the breed as in any other breed found anywhere. Birds were imported into Canada during that time. One of the fanciers to import and breed modern Indians in Canada was Herb Fischer of Toronto, which is where I originally got my start back in the 70s.

In the early 1990s the Canadian Indian Fantail Club was established by a group of fanciers in Southern Ontario. Over the years the club membership has increased and decreased with fanciers from most provinces and many states being counted as members. At the present time the club has emerged from a down cycle and is rapidly increasing membership. The main reason for that is the dedicated group of fanciers that are now part of the club. The CIFIC has long had a very generous and inclusive group of members and right now the club is very lucky to have the same group along with a dedicated executive group to help lead the club forward.

The CIFIC has held its main show at the Woodstock Show in late November each year since the beginning. At this show you will find top quality birds being exhibited and for sale. It is the best opportunity for fanciers to obtain great stock each year. There is an auction held at this show as well. The club recently held its first show in Campbellford, Ontario which looks like it will become the annual show in eastern Ontario in January. The Sarnia Show had entries from club members in February and this looks like it will become the annual show for western Ontario. There are plans to participate in the Montreal show in November next year as there is now a good group of fanciers in eastern Ontario led by club president Joe Bell. Floriano Lindo, the club secretary/treasurer, in western Quebec is doing great work for the club in that area. Angelo Biffi, the band secretary, is a positive influence in southern Ontario. There are many other members that are also providing positive support in their area as well. Once we can get more established in other areas of Canada the club will look to sponsor shows in those areas as well.

The CIFIC Standard is the same standard as the American Clubs standard and was recently revised. The new standard will take the breed into the foreseeable future and is truly a well-balanced standard for Indian Fantails. The breed focus for the last decade had been on breeding larger and larger birds with tight backs. The new standard calls for a more medium sized bird with space between the back of the neck and the tail. Muffs are slightly longer and tails are higher above the head; truly a beautiful bird when all these features are produced in balance.

Indian Fantails are good parents and easily raise young birds. They are a tame bird and not flighty. They have good vigor and can raise young for a number of years if kept in good shape. They come in all 3 colours, every pattern imaginable, every modifier you can think of and many different marks such as tailmark, saddle, bodymark and monkmarked.

If you are looking for a breed of pigeons to truly enjoy why not try Indian Fantails. I know you wont be disappointed!