

Butler Lofts



I started breeding Chinese Owls in 1986 and had 3-4 pair. I had been breeding baldhead flying rollers for many years before that. I had barn pigeons for many years before the rollers. I honestly don't really remember a time when I didn't have pigeons. Dad had them and raised them for food until I found out where my feathered friends were going.

My wife Crystal is to blame for me getting into the show aspect of the hobby by introducing me to a man who raised pigeons. I did not know that pigeon shows were even held back then. I might add here that Crystal has been a huge part of our hobby. She has been the official co-pilot, assistant loft manager, finance officer, as well as complaint department head all these years. She has at times cleaned the loft and cared for the birds when I was unable to. She is always a big help at the shows.

My first NCOC meet was in Des Moines 1989. I entered 4-5 birds and had best yellow check and received my first Master Breeder point. Chris Stenger was the judge and oddly enough he was judging in 1998 when I earned the 1,000 to become a Master Breeder. My fondest memory is having Champion Chinese Owl at the 1991 NYBS.

I really enjoy a variety of colors (too many) and am currently breeding from 23 pair in Blue, Silver, Qualmond, Brown, Ash Red, White, Recessive Yellow, Milky, and Baldhead. Of course many of these are in bar, check, as well as a few Grizzles.

I have 2 lofts for the birds. The smaller, we call the "overflow loft" is used for quarantining birds, extra space for young birds, and splitting up pairs in the fall. It is a 10' x 14' "brooder house" that was used for chickens before I bought it. It has three individual pens for different uses; two hospital pens; a 10' x 9' open section; and a 10' x 5' storage section. The main loft is a converted garage that is 12' x 26'. It has two open sections that are 6' x 8', one for breeding and one for young birds. Also a 4' x 8' open breeding pen. I also have along the west and south walls fourteen (14) individual pens. I have room for 12 show coops in the fall and that area is used for 2 weaning pens during the breeding season.

Some of our best memories have taken place at pigeon shows with our NCOC family. During our years as members I have been lucky enough to have mentors like Dick Holmberg, Rick Tucker, Jim Van Natta, Melburn Bonnell, Pat Scroggins, the late Howard Hart and Lew Bahn. If I were to have one negative comment it would be that our membership is aging and not too many younger breeders have come along. I can remember when we first started showing at Des Moines we were some of the younger breeders. Now nearly 30 years later we are still some of

the younger ones. I honestly believe this new website will help remedy that. Let's all promote the breed and club we love.



“Overflow Loft”



“Main Loft”



“Six of the individual pens”



“A partial view of a 6 x 8 breeding pen”



“6 x 8 Young bird section”



“Crystal Butler, Assistant Loft Manager”