

Introducing the National Chinese Owl Club

By Bob Pierson
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I would like to give you an idea of what the modern day National Chinese Owl Club is about. The club was started in 1958. We now have close to 200 members from all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as members from Australia, Germany and France. Our club has eight districts with the possibility of three directors elected from each district. The director that receives the most votes is automatically Head Director of his or her district. We have a President, Eastern Vice President, Western Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer for our National Officers, with the President appointing various other Club positions.

We allow three sanctioned shows per district. Some districts cannot get three shows together, but in larger districts, they have no problem fielding three shows per district. We also have three national shows. Our annual meeting and show is held at the NPA Grand National show, our young bird meet is held with the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky. We also have an Annual Fall Meet held in a different District every year.

We have a Master Breeder points program. When a member earns 1000 points and was a member for five years; they will receive a Master Breeder Award. Our Master Breeder Program is attainable, and usually takes about 10 years to achieve. Some have done it in less time. Anyone wishing to have a copy of our Master Breeder Program may write to our secretary for a copy. In order to qualify for points, the birds must be judged by a certified judge. To become a Certified Judge, one must be approved by the NCOC Judge Coordinator and be successful in passing a test with three NCOC judges acting as a committee. To qualify for Master Breeder Points, a show must have at least 75 birds with at least five NCOC members showing. In our larger districts, we can have 200-450 birds entered in a show.

The unique part of the NCOC is that after you have been a member several years, the show becomes secondary to the friendships and camaraderie that we have when we all get together.

We have several programs that have helped promote the Chinese Owl. One is the opportunity to show in a sanctioned show, in one of our districts. For those striving for points, they will have a show or two comparatively close. They do not have to travel across the country to attend a show.

Another advantage to Chinese Owls is they are not priced as high as some breeds. This scares and discourages many fanciers away from a certain breed that they may have taken a liking to. Our Chinese Owl Breeders sell birds at reasonable prices. Many birds are given away to help a novice or friends to improve the breed.

We have an active junior program with full membership rights for half the price of a senior membership. Juniors have to go to the senior division when they are 18 years old. The NCOC gives junior trophy at all sanctioned NCOC meets.

We publish a bulletin several times a year, where we publish letters from members on the pros and cons of certain ideas. We publish all of our sanctioned show results and where each bird was placed, not just the Champions and Best of Colors.

There are many colors to work with. In the 70's and 80's, blues commanded almost all the show Champion awards. The past few years we have been having color birds in the winner's circle. Yellow checks, red checks, mealies, whites and qualmonds place in the top 5 regularly.

No one completely dominates the winning circle in the top five birds anymore. If you go through the show reports, you will note that there are many different breeders listed. This says a lot for our membership. Everyone is sharing good stock with anyone who wants to buy good birds to improve theirs.

The Chinese Owl is a prolific bird. Although many people wrongly believe that Chinese Owls cannot feed their own young, this is not the case. They do quite well raising their own young.

Anyone interested in joining the club or getting more information on the breed can write to: Richard Holmberg, 10 Bay Blvd. Slayton MN. 56172. Phone 507-763-3854