

Modena Tidbits

By Dave Cooke

By now the heat is over for us here in the US and the birds are starting to get through there molt. I have been working my show team getting them ready for the shows this fall. I am sure you will be hearing how the Young and yearling show went in Kansas. Donna and I had the pleasure of having Damon and his dad Brian in our home. They went along with me and Bill Dunn to the show in Kansas. I am sure you will be hearing from both of these fine gentleman on there trip to the states. I am hoping to get a lot of pictures taken at the shows this year and sharing them with all of you through the quarterly and also the IMC website and the IMC discussion group.

One thing I wanted to touch on in this article is the late season breeding pairs. I get questions every year about this. For myself I find it very helpful when I do this type of breeding each year. I call it the jump start breeding program for the next breeding season. I will usually throw two or three pair together in August. These will be pairs that I have never had the chance to get together. Usually it will be birds that are two or three years old. What I am trying to accomplish is to see if this pair will throw something into its young that I would like to see come out. I will then evaluate the young and see if they did in fact throw the feature I was hoping for. This I feel has helped me improve my modenas and keep me on track to banding a modena that will be able to compete on a high level and also have a pleasing look to me in the loft.

I will give them two rounds and then break them up. By doing this yourself you will have a jump start going into the next breeding season. Some may say I am just breeding my birds to death. I call it trying to progress at a faster rate then the typical modena breeder. You have to realize I don't breed from very old birds as I feel if you keep breeding from the old birds you really are stuck in the pigeon doo doo.

In order to progress with your birds you need to keep breeding the next generation coming along. If you don't like what's coming then by all means get a bird or two to help you out and start going in the right direction.

That is all I have for this time so do take a couple pair and get on the jump start breeding program and lets see if it takes you to a level you are happy with.