

5.5.1. Ciung Highflier Pigeons

Usually, Ciung Highfliers have very wide tails of flat or convex surface and middle beaks. The breeders from Ploiesti say that the name of the race comes from the fact that breeders used to cut the remix of the pigeons to prevent them from flying very high, on the other hand, the breeders in Bucharest think that the name refers to a farmer named Ion Ciungu, who created the race, which was known as Ciungu's race at the time. Another theory says that the pigeons of the Red Ciungu of Bucharest race had their primary remixes and rectrices of silver color and at a certain height they could be no longer seen against the background of the azure sky and the pigeons seemed crippled. (Bonațiu, 1985)

They are bred mainly in Bucharest and Ploiești and in the surrounding areas.

Ciung highfliers are excellent flyers as they are highfliers of duration at fading away height. Their flight is done through rapid and continuous wing beats throughout the flight, either solo or in flock.

Their flight is high and of duration and it is rapid resembling with that of the bats'; during the flight they don't sail. The duration of flight is 2-6 hours. A few decades ago some flocks flew even for 12 hours. The first description of the ciung pigeons was made by Ștefan Péterfi in 1949 in the magazine Sierduif.

Bonațiu (1981) in "Columbofilul" magazine says: "the most valuable Romanian race of flying pigeons is the Ciung"

Ciung fliers are classified in three 3 distinct races: *the Bucharest Ciung Highflier*, (Fig. 1), *the Bald Ciung* (Fig. 2, 3) or the *Romanian Naked-Neck Tumbler* and the *Ploiești Ciung Highflier* (Fig. 4-6).

5.5.2. Highfliers that come from the Bucharest Ciung Highflier

From the Bucharest Ciung Highflier were separated and became distinct races: *the Romanian Silver Highflier* (Fig. 7) and the *Romanian Peony Highflier* (Fig. 8).

At first these pigeons were considered only varieties of the *Bucharest Ciung* race.