
Tumbler Pigeons Are Very Ancient and Most Favourite in Bangladesh

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Abstract: *Many days ago in Bangladesh there were Pakistani tumbler, Turkish tumbler and lotan pigeon. Most of the tumbler pigeons were blue in colour then chequer and pied. For recreational purpose those pigeons used to fly early in the morning and after 4-5 hours left it landed. First flying young pigeons are exhibited mostly lost. In Bangladesh most rearers have sulli, short-faced, tigered, bald-headed, white, melanic, chequer, white-tailed, splashed and mottled tumbler pigeons with other fancy pigeons. These pigeons are very common in most houses, pet shops or with fancy pigeons for fostering. Its previous and present status is remarkable. Due to nice colour combination and fostering parents it's good than others. For using fostering the tumbler pigeons are becoming bulky and can't fly well. Now these are reared in completely intensive as fancy pigeons. Enjoyment by pigeon flying or racing this is very ancient hobby of people and in Bangladesh have some organizations for racing pigeon.*

Keywords: *Lotan pigeon; Tumbler pigeon; Roller pigeon; Highflyer pigeon; Origin of tumbler pigeon; Ancient pigeon breed.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Tumbler pigeons are come by lots of artificial selection. These pigeons were indicated in India before 1600 and their origin probably in the east and later being brought to Europe. Early characteristics of these pigeons were- small in size, various colours and excess flight tendency. In 19th century England makes short faced-tumbler which is ultimately a show breed. In Bangladesh perspectives the tumblers are very ancient. Pigeon flying was a nice hobby for tumbling and great height in the sky. Due to long time flying and for predator birds sometime pigeons are lost and injured. These tumbler pigeons are called highflyer and from the very beginning crosses with blue rock pigeon or other domestic breeds were normal practice of the peoples. Now in Dhaka and Rajshahi, Bangladesh there are found huge tumbler pigeons. Due to non-practice of flying these pigeons are not habituated to fly for a long time. For selling or buying of these pigeons a lot of markets are available in Bangladesh. Most markets in the country huge tumblers are very common which have nice colouration and for low cost cost people could buy any time. Buyers are brought these pigeons depending on some characteristics and sometimes they collect it by observing the flying capability in the sellers' residence. At present due to crossed with other pigeons it has lost its tumbling behavior and always used as foster pigeons for fancy items. There are some tumblers which have exactly as blue rock pigeon which are not easily identified without seeing the tumbling. It's sure that these morbid tumbling characteristics are the result of mutation. After this people just crosses with other excellent breed and formed high flying endurance breed. Depending on tumbling behaviour these are categorized- rollers (huge and rapid tumble), tumblers (few tumble) and highfliers (less tumble and huge flying endurance). From the year 1983 in US is connected to pigeons flying and exhibition and in 1915 was one of the first outstanding breeders of domestic flight (Donady 1944). Amusement in mughal pastime (Blochmann 1873), characteristics of the pigeons (Darwin 1859, 1868; Tegetmeier 1868; Eaton 1858; Lyell 1981; McNeillie 1993), tumbler varieties (Levi 1941), navigation of pigeons (Wallraff 2005), tumbling behavior (Entrikin and Erway 1972; Kabir 2012) are the huge task on tumbler pigeons.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The colour of the ancient tumbler pigeons in Bangladesh were blue, ash-red, blue-bar pied, chequer pied and mealy pied. That time red crested lotan was available with these tumblers. In my childhood I

saw my father's Pakistani and Turkish highflyer and lotan pigeon. Then gradually I have found other pigeons are- Sulli, muffed, Vienna short-faced, short-faced, tigered, flight/tipler, bald-headed, almond, blue, ablaq, white, melanoid, chequer, white-tailed, splashed and mottled. A study was conducted by Kabir (2014a) that in Bangladesh there are tumblers depending on variety (23.81%), colours (61.90%) and on tumbling behaviour (14.29%).

3. RESULTS

Due to import of fancy pigeons in Bangladesh our native (Indian) tumblers are crossed with exotic ones so that huge colour combinations are found and flying practicing is less that's why pigeons are bulky and can't fly well. As Bangladesh is the stock of various tumbler pigeon we could reorganize tumbler pigeons club and through training we can flourish our pigeons. In Bangladesh it's a great problem that non-selective crosses among breeds we are losing such pure or semipure parent day by day. The eye colour of the most tumbler pigeons is pearled; feet are mostly naked; very much resemble with the carrier pigeon. Few tumblers shake its neck when it got excited such as fantail, mookie and zitterhal. Some strains tumble more than others when some may not tumble. Mostly fly in short radius circles and gain altitude quick. When released in large numbers, some pigeons fly solo. The flight duration is different with the strain and it depends on the condition of the birds. At one time perform as a tumbler but through selective breeding this ability was out of them in some birds. Flying pigeons need rest 2-3 three days in a week. Training performing from a young age is beneficial for their landing in lofts. Young roller pigeons should be allowed to fly morning when there is little in Australia are generally held regularly on the last Sunday of each month from May until November (World Cup 20 Bird Rules, adopted fall 1995, revised January 1999). The repetition of flying is good for gaining its more stamina. Flying birds need less food for its light weight which is helpful for long time flying in the sky. It has strong flight muscle and for flying its body fat is less. Its feather condition needs to prove in good because it helps to escape the air during flying. Pakistani highflyer have good flying endurance in the sky than others (Mirseyedi 2006). Duration of flight depends on genetics, training and light feeding. In cloudy or heavy wind season need not to fly pigeons because it's a possibility to lose. In case of lotan (shaking tumbler) now gradually available- white, self red, red-white patches, chequer, blue-black checkered and black-white patches. This lotan is a subbred of tumbler variety. Performing rollers are housed with average dimensions of around 3'x3'x2' for 20 birds.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Great Peoples with Tumbler/Racing Pigeons

Maximilien Robespierre who was a French Revolutionarist and Mike Tyson (heavyweight boxing player) is a pigeon fancier. Soccer player Duncan Ferguson enjoys the sport of pigeon racing. Queen Elizabeth II who enjoyed the sport of pigeon. The first racing pigeons at Sandringham were a gift to the Edward VII in 1886. Paddy Ambrose (Irish footballer) and Gerry Francis (footballer, coach and commentator) prefer racing pigeon. Charles Robert Darwin kept fancy pigeon for observation and anatomical study. Yul Bryner (actor) kept several fancy breeds including oriental rollers at his home in France. 'The California State Racing Pigeon Organization' has a flying award (Disney award) was sponsored by him or started in his honor. Walt Disney was awarded the 'NPA Levi Service Award' for the movie 'Pigeon Fly Home'. George Foreman (boxer) was very interested in racing pigeons. Michael Landon (actor) produced and starred in the movie 'Where Pigeons Go to Die'. Alan Jordaan (manager of South African Cricket Team) had racing homers. Wayne Newton (actor) had homers, rollers, tumblers and highflyers. Clint Eastwood (actor) was a Clint Eastwood that raised rollers. Scott Baio (actor) had flying flights in Brooklyn. Bles Bridges (singer), the most well known Afrikaans singer owned some great racing homers. Jimmy Smits (actor) is appearance at the NPA National with racing homers. Prince Bernhard had pigeons which are raced during the season.

4.2. Observation/Research on Tumbler Pigeon

Tumblers of the worlds are basically in three categories- highflyer, tumbler and roller. Millions of thousands selective breeding showed the tumblers perfection in various angles and came into roller and shaking tumbler (lotan). In Salt Lake City of USA there was a study of tumbler pigeon where mentioned these pigeons are unhappy and shows morbid curiosity. Shaking of lotan pigeon is a stimulus which initiates the tumble that is come from neuronal activities. Pigeon rearing was practiced

by Roman civilization and France has a long history of keeping pigeons. In tumbler pigeon a problem was found in vestibular apparatus of inner ear (Mowrer 1940) and abnormality at the junction of peripheral nerves and skeletal muscle (Entrikin and Bryant 1975) was two good experiments. Various fancy pigeons with tumblers with their scientific management system described by Lyell 1981; Eaton 1858; Levi 1941. Chapman in 1908 described roller parlour tumblers. There was another huge work on tumbler pigeons by Grimshow (1922) and Gilbert (1937). Tumbling behaviour of roller and tumbler pigeons (Entrikin and Erway 1972; Kabir 2012) and available tumblers in pet shop in Bangladesh and grading system of such pigeons were the field work (Kabir 2013; 2014b). Tumbler pigeons tumble five, six, seven, and even eight times following, exactly like a rope-dancer. Sometimes they fall during rolling, and rarely escape death. That time predator hawk bird takes advantage to seize upon them (Dixon, Cottage Gardener, 1852). From the Akbar reign he had huge tumbler pigeons and that time pigeons flying are the great hobby (Blochmann 1873). Due to domestication from the blue rock pigeon the tumbler pigeons have come (Darwin 1868). Through several generations on its squab it is possible to identify the pattern of tumbling characteristics (Entrikin and Erway 1972; Kabir 2012), tumblers pigeons are common with the other fancy pigeons in pet shop of Bangladesh (Kabir 2013). Mr Levi's book 'The Pigeon' which published in 1941 was a great writing on tumblers pigeons as well as other fancy items. Various tumblers on their flying endurance and special colour patterns were remarkable (McNeillie 1993). Scientific name of the tumbler pigeon (*Columba revolvens*) first mentioned by Eaton in 1858. Tegetmeier (1868) described short-faced tumbler and lotan/ground tumbler in India in his book and common tumblers such as exhibition tumbler, tippler, roller and some foreign tumblers noted by Lyell in 1981.

5. CONCLUSION

Tumbler pigeons are available in Bangladesh and its price is low so that everybody could easily get. This pigeon is good for foster parents. Its various colour, gesture, posture, tumbling performance is remarkable. In order to get different variety it is used to cross with others. Tumbler pigeons got tame easily and its navigation power is high because it flies great height. It consumed less feed and sometimes it collects feed from open field. For maximum use of insecticide in those fields sometimes pigeons got die for taking toxic feed. At the time of flying for amusements the predator birds like falcon, accipiter and harriers are responsible to catch the pigeons. All over Bangladesh most of the tumbler pigeons are short-faced variety. Nice colour combination and for excellent breeding performance it has no shortcut. Dhaka, Bangladesh has organized tumbler and homer pigeon flying competition every year and is going smoothly with lot of members. There have a great possibility to research on tumbler pigeons that they are the originator of all fancy pigeons as well as its nice and peculiar tumbling characteristics. Though Bangladesh is a home of tumbler pigeon but lack of proper knowledge it has amalgamated with other breeds. Amusement by pigeon flying is our old tradition. These pigeons are very beautiful in appearance and most pigeon fancier kept these with other fancy pigeons.

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