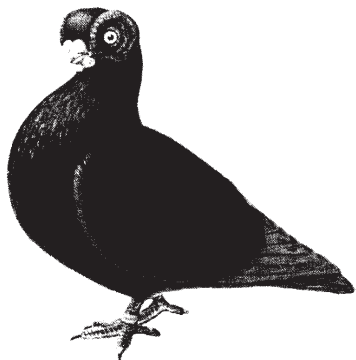


Barb



Origin:

Probably the North African coast from the Persian Wattle pigeon.

Overall Impression

The Barb should be smooth headed and clean legged.

Size:

There is a certain difference of opinion regarding this, some liking a small bird and others a larger one. I think when the head properties in the two birds are equal in proportion to their respective sizes, the larger bird is to be preferred as being bolder in all its points.

Skull:

This should be very broad, and is consequently rather flat, and generally with a fullness at the back. It should be as much as possible of equal breadth, not wedged shaped. The forehead should be very broad, prominent, and well filled out, and form a curve from the crown to the beak wattle, a straight lined forehead in profile being a bad fault. The forehead must be well ribbed up with an indented line on

each side of it as if carved out, which gives the pigeon a very nice modelled appearance in head.

Beak:

Very short, thick, well boxed and wide in the gape, the upper mandible in the same curve as the forehead, and the upper mandible approaching the upper in massiveness as much as possible, which gives the bird a grand appearance. The beak should be flesh coloured, or not more than tipped with colour.

Eyes:

As pure white or pearl coloured as possible, though the nearest approach to this is usually a white iris, rather red at its outer edge. Many good Barbs have yellow irises, which ought not to disqualify, but be duly allowed for in competition. White Barbs have been seen with pearl eyes but they generally have bull or hazel eyes.

Beak-wattle:

At maturity, the beak wattle ought to have filled up all inequality in the curve of the forehead and upper mandible, and it may stand out a little in addition, but it ought to be as free as possible from rough wartiness, and show a clean division in the middle, appearing like a small bean split open and laid across the beak. The jewing wattle on the under mandible should not be excessive, but of course, grows to a certain extent in the Barb. It should appear as three small warts, one in the middle of the lower mandible where the feathers finish off, and the others on each side below the opening of the

mouth. The beak wattle in a healthy bird is nearly white, the jaw wattle and corners of the mouth being of a red-dish flesh colour.

Eye-ceres:

This is one of the chief properties of the Barb. It continues growing until the bird is from three to four years of age, when it ought to be at its best. It should be of equal breadth, all round consistent with roundness, the larger in diameter the better. It should be the thickest at its outer edge and of a concave form, or shaped like the outside of a cartwheel, the eye being represented by the nave which stands out in the center. The more prominent, or less sunken in the head the eye is, the better. The colour of the eye wattle ought to be bright red; with age, it often becomes light, sometimes turning almost white. The hen is generally less developed in head properties than the cock, though hens have been seen good enough to be taken for cocks, when exhibited. Before a hen can reach such qualities, she is generally past breeding. Looked at in front, the Barb's head ought to be very square and blunt, the tops of the eye wattles reaching higher than the skull and standing away from it. When they incline towards each other by rolling over the skull and standing away from it, the head appears contracted, which is opposite of what is wanted.

Neck, Body and Legs:

Short, thick neck tapering gracefully to the shoulders and slightly curved, showing no gullet, but clearly cut under beak. The body should be cobby, the chest full and broad. Flights and tail of medium length. The legs should be fairly wide apart which will assure a full, well-rounded chest. The feet fairly

large, and a few feathers may show sometimes below the hocks.

Colours:

The Barb is a self coloured pigeon, and found in black, red, yellow, dun and white but barred and checkered birds are also found in all colours except white.

Measurements:

Weight: 375gram to 450gram

Length: 313mm to 350mm

Inner edge of eye to tip of beak: 22mm

Width of skull: 25mm to 33mm measured between, not over the eye wattles.

Diameter of eye wattle: 28mm

These dimension apply to cocks, and could be modified for hens, more especially in width of skull.

Division of points:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| General Condition - | 5 |
| Head - | 15 |
| Beak - | 8 |
| Beak wattle - | 11 |
| Eye cere - | 10 |
| Eye - | 8 |
| Neck - | 8 |
| Colour - | 8 |
| Size - | 6 |
| Breast - | 5 |
| Flights & Feathering - | 6 |
| Legs - | 5 |
| Carriage - | 5 |
| Total - | 100 |