



PIGEONS AND PETS.

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DO not yet begin to mate your birds. A month's rest should yet be given them. Delicate birds should not be mated until the first of April, African Owls and Short Face Tumblers especially. We have mated our specimens of the above varieties earlier than this but with scant success.

We append an excellent article on the Trumpeter pigeon. This is a fine variety but of late it has been sadly neglected. We hope to see it more generally kept and appreciated in the near future.

At the late Liverpool show, England, there were over 250 entries, put in an appearance in the classes for Oriental Frills, decidedly more than a decent sized show contains here, summing up all varieties.

Trumpeters.

PERHAPS no bird in the whole catalogue of fancy pigeons would strike the beholder on first sight, with more wonder and admiration than the Trumpeter. Crouching upon its low, heavily feathered legs, from which extend on either side the broad wing shaped foot feathering characteristic of the bird, the Trumpeter bows its densely hooded head upon his breast at the approach of danger, because its vision is completely obscured in any other than a downward direction. Covering the entire skull, the rosette of plumage, known as the "rose," expands its perfectly flat and circular formation, until the head, eyes, and nearly the

whole of the beak are hidden from view. Just behind the "rose" rises in handsome prominence the "crest," a crown of plumage half encircling the head of the bird. When the specimen is raven black in plumage, the occasional glance of its round, white eye, as the massive head is turned sideways is very impressive. Such a contrast gives the bird a supernaturally strange expression. Its back and breast are so broad and stalwart in proportion, and its neck and legs so short, that the figure of the Trumpeter is only redeemed from clumsiness by the stateliness of its carriage. It moves slowly, and assumes an apparent dignity of demeanor, which is sometimes quite ludicrous. The peculiar sheen of the pigeon's plumage, is particularly conspicuous in the Trumpeter, and adds greatly to its beauty. Ordinary specimens are deficient in rose or crest and foot feathering, but Fulton says that a fine Trumpeter better deserves the epithet "grand," which is so promiscuously applied by fanciers to their pets, than any other pigeon. It is certainly a majestic looking bird, and one which must attract special attention in any collection, however large.

The best Trumpeters were imported from Russia, and many fanciers have objected to their cultivation because they are very delicate. I have myself, at different times, owned and bred some exceedingly handsome Trumpeters, and while they did, undoubtedly, experience their share of the ordinary pigeon casualties, I did not find them more delicate or difficult to rear than birds of other varieties. They are exceedingly sociable, and fond of being caressed by their owners, although they show great pugnacity toward other pigeons. Perhaps the tamest and most familiar pigeon I ever saw, was "Polly," a Mottled Trumpeter, which was reared in my loft. This bird was the pet and especial attraction of a large collection, including many varieties of pigeons, which occupied the loft at that time. It would fly to meet its attendant, and, after eating out of his hand, would stand upon his head or shoulder, as he walked through the loft, cooing loudly, as if to boast of its importance.

The Mottled Trumpeter is generally held in highest estimation, because of the difficulty in procuring the Standard arrangement of mottling in the plumage. I have always thought that the Raven Black or the Snow White were superior in beauty, because with the solid, unbroken coloring, there was nothing to divert the eye from the marvellous conformation of the bird. It is true I have never seen a White Trumpeter possessing as good points as either a black or mottled bird. They have generally