

neither too light or pale, nor dark or dull.

**Cock.**—General Colour a rich bright red. Comb, face, gills, and deaf-ears, bright red. Eyes always red, either bright red or dark red. All other colours of eyes, as yellow, bay, or light brown, are inferior. Neck-hackle or mane, rich bright red, lighter towards the shoulders, and striped underneath with dark blue stripes. Back, shoulders and upper part of wings a bright full red, rather deeper in colour than the hackle or mane. The wings with a bright steel blue bar across them. Lower part of wings a rich reddish bay, or rich reddish chestnut colour, darker underneath. Wing-butts very dark brown. Tail dark greenish black, with not too much fluff at the roots, and that scanty and of a whitish or yellowish grey dun colour. Breast and thighs of a dark blueish black. Legs, feet, and claws willow or dark willow colour.

Willow legs are the favourites, but there are good birds with all colours of legs. Good red eyes and a bright red colour are the true requisites for Black-breasted Reds.

**PARTRIDGE RED HEN.**—General Colour a rich reddish Partridge coloured brown, often with yellow shafts to the feathers. Beak as legs in both cock and hen. Comb, face, gills and deaf-ears as the cock, but scarcely so red, though quite red. Neck-hackle a rich reddish golden colour, striped with dark stripes. Breast and thighs a reddish fawn colour, or reddish bay colour, tinged with salmon colour. Tail dark blackish brown. Legs, feet, &c., willow preferred for cup-birds. The nails should be dark with willow-legs.

For courage willow-legged birds are not the best of this colour as a rule; the blackish carp-brown, and the white-legged birds, when red-eyed, being of the highest courage.—*Newmarket, in Journal of Horticulture.*

## THE ENGLISH CARRIER PIGEON.

Whatever doubt there may be as to which variety of fowls should head the prize catalogue (and committees appear to take different views), yet no doubt exists in any Pigeon-Fancier's mind that the kingly Carrier must always be placed first. Apart from the different points there is the Carrier look which

marks the first-class bird. He looks not a creature of feathers, but like a piece of black marble. We will now give the points in their order.

1. **WATTLE.**—Broad across the base of the beak, settling and tapering from the head towards the point of the bill. It should not press on the cere of the eye, as with age it brings coarseness. The wattle and cere should be of distinct formation.

2. **THE EYE.**—Iris bright orange red; cere, or eye wattle, a complete circle round the eye, broad, and equal in width.

3. **HEAD.**—Long, narrow, flat at the top; the narrower the space occupied by feathers along the top of the head between the eyes the better. In a very superior specimen it will be less than half an inch wide.

4. **BEAK.**—Long, straight, thick, fitting closely throughout its length when closed; it is then called "a box-bill." If the upper mandible arches, the failing becomes even more and more developed as age increases; so much so, that not unfrequently the upper bill curves over, and the Pigeon becomes what is generally known as "Parrot-beaked." This defect is by some fanciers thought to be brought on by the birds being fed in troughs, by which no free action of the bill in picking up its food is called forth. Mr. Ord, however, doubts this, and believes it to be hereditary.

5. **FORM.**—Neck long, thin, and very slightly curved; shoulders wide. Wings strong and pinions long. Back rather hollow. Legs large and stout. Attitude, erect and graceful.

6. **COLOUR.**—If black, the feathers should be jet colour, as a slaty tinge is a great fault; and in Duns, a clear colour is most important, as the feathers should not be at all freckled with lighter colours at the edges or chequered in the least. Mr. Ord believes that the freckling in Duns is caused by exposure to the sun and weather. His prize birds are kept constantly in the locker, and have not a pale feather; but others which are allowed to fly about out of doors, are chequered with paler feathers. To this excellent summary of the points, clear and full, yet not tedious, little more needs be added. But as a guide for size, we may observe that good judges consider that a cock bird