

one be of a passable color you will generally find a black band at the end of the tail. By pairing black and yellow, or black and red, you will most certainly produce the same results. Red and Yellow is the only cross that any good is likely to arise from. By this cross the red is impoverished, but the yellow is obtained of a sounder colour.

If a breeder would consider for a moment he would know that black has been the only color that has gained by the mixture. By crossing any self-colored bird to a black, the latter is often improved, and the purity of the former destroyed. What is more disagreeable than to see your pet of two shades, whereas the Barb is a self-colored bird? We might as well try to breed mottled Barbs as to have the tail and rump of a different shade to their body. However well bred such may be, they will never be fit to enter successfully into competition with birds of sound color possessing equal merits in general.

Good whites are very scarce, and have a dark eye, that is, the pupil almost indistinct from the iris. Several breeders have tried to introduce the pearl eye into them, but to the present time we have not seen any having so good a quality. In other respects they should be equal to those of other colors.

Barbs are hardy, docile birds, flying but little when at liberty. As a rule they are prolific breeders, but require assistance in bringing their young to maturity, as they generally seek fresh nests when their young are nine or ten days old, up to which time they feed well. We strongly recommend this variety to any who think of increasing their stock, as the Barb is not receiving so much attention as the bird deserves from the fancy at large.—*Birmingham Columbarian Society in Jour. of Hor.*

ON EAGLES.

BONELLI'S EAGLE is occasionally seen on the borders of the lakes in Lower Egypt, in Fajum, and thence along the Nile and into Arabia. A young male has been killed at Senner. It occurs in Algeria, South Africa, Bengal, as far as Nepal. In Europe it is called a bird of passage.

THE OSPREY is met with in winter

along the Nile, southwards, to the Kir and Gazelle rivers, and frequently in the Delta, yet not a resident there. It remains the whole year along the Red Sea and Somali coasts. Each pair of birds keep within their own territory, in which they breed. It builds its nest generally on raised spots or cliffs, either on the ground or on mimosa bushes or quondel and schora trees, and uses them several years in succession; several were found on the tops of old cisterns—one on the ruins of Debir. It is very solidly built of rather strong boughs and twigs, and between these are frequently seaweeds and fish-bones. At the foot of such a nest was found the skin of a large snake. The two eggs are very similar to those of the European bird, but are smaller and more intensely coloured. The male and female remain faithful to each other. The Osprey is generally free from shyness or suspicion. It catches fish which can offer but slight resistance. After its meal the Osprey takes a long siesta. It occurs all over Africa, in Europe, Asia, Japan, Sunda Islands, Australia, North America; not in Madagascar.

Our Letter Box.

WHITE LEGHOENS.—(*E. F. Gorton, Rochester, New York,*) writes: Having bred white Leghorns for some time, I will give, for the benefit of others, what I think to be a proper description of this variety.

COCK.—Comb, single, very erect, and evenly serrated; Face, rich bright red; Earlobes, pure white; Wattles, very long and pendant, well rounded on the lower edge; Beak, bright yellow; Plumage, pure white, the less of the yellow tinge the better; Tail well sickled, and carried well up; Legs, bright yellow, and of medium length, free from feathers.

HEN.—Same as cock, except the comb, which falls over to one side, and, in good specimens, nearly covering one side of the face; Carriage very proud and quick motioned.

DARK BRAHMA EGGS.—(*One Under a Cloud, Toronto,*) says: "About twelve months since my attention was first drawn