

rather for the aviary and loft than to fly at complete liberty, for few pigeons so easily fall a prey to cats. They breed well when not too highly bred, and in their improved state are a profitable variety for domestic use.—*C*, in *Journal of Horticulture*.

Lyell has written more upon this variety of pigeon than has any other author. He gives the fancy points such close description we will copy in detail.

*Rose* is the first property of the trumpeter, and is formed by the feathers on the crown of the head, growing out from a centre in regular form, like a carnation. In a good bird it will be large enough to form a complete covering to the head, hiding the eyes, reaching nearly to the shell crest, and covering the beak wattle, but not the point of the beak. All the feathers forming the rose should lie well down without any irregularity, and the more circular and even in its extremities it is the better.

*Crest* is an extensive shell hood, reaching round the back of the head almost from eye to eye, and finishing off at its extremities with an ornamental turn of the same formation as the rose; ought to be of cupped form, reaching over the head, but though wanted as firm and compact as possible, is always more or less loose in texture from the nature of the bird's feather. The feathers forming the crest, and those supporting it, can be moved by the bird at will, and the crest is therefore seen more loose at times than at others.

*Leg and foot feather.*—The legs and feet should be heavily hocked and feathered, and in this property the former birds excelled the first importations of the Asian race; but the latter, from the silkiness of their feather, were more liable to have their long toe feathers broken, which partly accounted for the want of them. Their toe feathers want the strength of those of the old tight plumaged birds, and seldom reach their natural length without damage. I have noticed that birds bred from good imported ones, when inclined to closeness of plumage, which is faulty, grow stronger toe feathers. It is almost impossible to preserve these feathers unbroken, for any length of time after the moult. An examination of the feet will always show what strength of feather the bird is naturally furnished with, though the feathers may be broken off short.

*Color and Marking.*—The Bokhara trumpeters are chiefly black, and blacks mottled or splashed in some way with white, though both duns and dun mottles have been imported. The beak is almost always white, and is a pleasing feature in the breed, as it looks well just appearing from under the rose. Many trumpeters are nearly white, but I have not seen any of the highest class entirely so. Some are all black except the head and upper

neck, which sometimes remain nearly white; and if the rose alone could be got white, or even lightly grizzled, the rest of the bird remaining black, it would look very well, and such a marking might in time become fixed if bred for. I understand from a fancier, who was lately travelling on the Continent, that blood red trumpeters of the highest class are in existence. He informed me that he saw a pair of them in Paris, and an idea of their rarity and value may be learned from the fact that the price asked for them was £130. He described them as fine in color and well lusted. I have no doubt that there must be yellows as well. The Germans have long since bred trumpeters to turbit and other markings, though in doing so they have lost quality in the more important points of the breed. Brent and others have written of the difficulty there is in preserving the voice and rose of the trumpeter when it is crossed; but though it doubtless takes a long time to recover either, it can be done, as in the case of the Altenburg trumpeter which is superior in voice to the pure breed itself. Could all the peculiarities of the breed be well retained, in addition to well defined specific markings, such as white with colored shoulders, the trumpeter would rank higher in the fancy than at present, when many care not how badly their birds may be mottled, or even splashed, so long as they are good in rose and other points.

I have never bred the new trumpeters, but my experience with the former kind showed me that they alter very much in feather during their first moult; after which I always found them to moult without further change. A bird which moulted into a fair mottle, always came out of the nest entirely black, or with only a few grizzled feathers on the wing coverts. If there was much white on a nestling, it generally got very gray, and some would become half white when almost black in the nest. I never saw a bird get darker during its first moult.

*Quality of feather.*—The choice trumpeter should be long and loose in feather, the flights should reach beyond the tail, and all the feathers should be soft and silky in texture.

*Size.*—The actual size of the trumpeter should be above the average of fancy pigeons, the larger the better, as if rose, etc., are in proportion, large size adds to their appearance.

*Shape and carriage.*—The appearance of a good bird is that of a very low standing, broad-set, short-necked pigeon, almost close to the ground, unable to see about it, except in a downward direction; it gropes about from place to place and is fond of retiring into corners, where it drums to its mate.

*Voice.*—One of the chief pleasures in keeping trumpeters is to hear their pleasant notes. They are, with their sub-varieties and the laughers; the