

causing the outer edges to grow outward from the side of the head, and give a much wider space between the edges of the eye-wattle on the skull. This shape and build of eye-wattle is termed the lace-eyed bird, being indented all round, which causes a greater thickness of the edges, and adds to the massiveness of the whole head, besides being less liable to inflammation or spouts. Its chief defect is in its defective formation of build, particularly at the back part, which is termed pinched-eyed. But the fact of this class of eye-wattle adding so much quality to the whole head causes it to be of so much more value than the fleshy-eyed. Also seldom requiring to be operated upon for spouts or canker in the ear, this is our reason for upholding the lace-eyed Barb in preference to the fleshy-eyed. As a rule I commence to describe pigeons at the beak, but not in this instance. Having mentioned the two classes of eye-wattle, I will now describe the *two types of skull*, the one being wide at the back part and narrow in front, termed Dragon-skulled or V. shaped skulled; this being the appearance of many of our specimens. This has been so for the last forty years; but during the last five years this property has greatly improved. This defective shape of skull leads to the eye-wattle becoming a pinched shape at the back part long before the bird comes to maturity, besides causing the wattle to become wrinkled; and then follows spouts, also discharge at the eyes, which leads to canker in the ear as well; whereas the bird with the form of skull which I show in the illustration, not only shows a much more finished appearance, but also regulates the build of eye-wattles in its infancy, as well as during its maturing. Let those who doubt the correctness of our type being the best one, put two birds together of the opposite type, and look at them from a front view—this being the view which shows off the good and bad points.

By so doing there will be little doubt as to which is the proper shape, and as a proof of what I assert being correct, let it be noted how many of the Dragon-shaped skulled birds are defective in build of eye-wattle in comparison to those having the parallel or near to the parallel-shaped skull. Well knowing the great value of the shape, causes me to dwell so much upon its value, in the hope of the rising generation of fanciers improving upon the defects of our Barb pigeon at the present time by breeding specially for its correct formation, which will be the means of also raising a much more vigorous race of birds, besides the grandeur appearance it gives the bird. We come next to the beak which cannot be too short nor too thick, and, like the Carrier pigeon, the part of most value is the shape and substance of the *lower mandible*, which, when of the proper shape and substance, regulates the upper one. The color of the beak should be the same in all colors—viz., fleshy-coloured. Some of the blacks are black-beaked, which gives a coarse look to the bird; but many of these improve in colour as they mature with age. There used to be cases of giving Barbs the much-desired down face by tampering with their beaks in the nest pan, but the publicity of such trickery has greatly stopped this practice, because a good Barb judge well knows that a hook-shaped beak does not make what it is MEANT to appear! What is desired is not only a downward shape in the beak, but the HEAD should appear, showing the back of the head to be the highest part, thus causing the width of the skull to be easily seen at a front view, showing the beak nearly close to its breast. This is what is termed the true character of the Barb pigeon—no fancier likes a straight-faced bird, which is generally accompanied with a too long neck, too tall on its legs, taking more the appearance of what is wanted in the Carrier; but Barbs, like all other pigeons, should be judged

only by those who have been in the habit of keeping or breeding good specimens. We come next to the neck, which ought to be short, thick, and those with the well-known fulness on the neck rising directly at the back of the head, termed bull-necked. Next are the shoulders, which ought to be broad and flat, also wide between the butts of the wings, with the breast full and broad, which shows vigour and strength. The flights and tail, in early-bred birds, show great length. The legs and feet, which in most specimens are well forward, cause the bird to appear a deal larger than it really is. The size of the Barb is often disputed. We prefer it to be small, but not diminutive, because such a bird could not have the size of head to represent the *massiveness* which the Barb pigeon is wanted to represent. But the bird which possesses the points of *greatest* value ought always to be first in competition. Color of the body will always be a matter of taste, unless in cases where the color is stated to be a specification competition. We come next to the scale of judging points, which we consider gives a fair value to each property, which could, without difficulty, be adopted in judging.

SCALE OF JUDGING POINTS.

	Points.
Shortness of beak, 2; shape and equal substance of both mandibles, 4; color of beak, 1; down head, 2.....	9
Regularity of beak wattle in shape on both sides, 2; fulness in front of wattle, 2..	4
Skull width.....	4
Squareness or parallelism.....	6
Size of eye-wattle, 2; regularity of build; thickness and lacing round the edges, 2,	8
Jew wattle.....	1
Color of the iris of the eyes to be white or pearl-eyed.....	3
Depth of the color of eye-wattle.....	2
Shape and shortness of neck.....	2
Length and shape of flights and tail.....	1
Position and shape of legs.....	1
Color of body.....	2
Plumage.....	2
Total.....	45