

An Antwerp does not look anything with a head like an Owl. They should have an immense circular skull of good breadth, thickness and depth, with a very thick black beak. The body should be large and broad across the back.

A young Antwerp with a good space between the eye and beak-wattle, with a thick black beak, will usually turn out to be a good large-headed bird when at maturity. It is very interesting to watch these birds as they develop. Get rid of all specimens with long thin beaks and any which have their beaks sticking straight out. An Antwerp's skull should be well filled up behind the beak-wattle.

The Magpie is well worthy of being called a high-class bird. They are bred with long lean heads, free from Tumbler form, and thin necks free from throatiness; color and marking being a secondary consideration. Discard all young stock with black beaks and high foreheads, as these will never do to breed from. Never allow a Magpie with a crest to live; they are practically useless.

Swallows are bred very near perfection. A common fault is found in the head and back markings. When a bird is heavily booted the hocks will in many cases be found to be foul. Kill off all birds with small or twisted crests, clean legs, etc.

Fantails require a constant culling out. It is very easy to breed birds with long, straight backs, scoop tails and pot lids. The former, as a rule, are useless for anything but eating. A scoop tail, if short in the back, with plenty of action, is often used to cross with a pot-lid bird, there is one which carries its tail flat on the back and head

poking through. Don't breed from birds which have their tails split in the centre, if it can be avoided. Eat all birds with wry tails. Never kill a pigeon on account of color alone; many poor-colored ones have other good points which prove very useful in breeding.

Blondinettes and Satinets are most deceiving pigeons to breed. One is never sure which to keep in young birds. We have seen some which we thought to be the worst of culls turn out most beautiful in plumage after moulting, and again we have seen very fine specimens with perfect tail spots moult in a solid bar on one or two centre tail feathers, and after casting the feathers again we have seen these tail feathers come out with the white spot as before. The surest guide we know of is to watch the flight feathers. The elongated white spots in these seldom change after the first moult. When a two-year-old Blondinette is deficient in this quality it always suggests that there is foreign blood in the bird.

A SWALLOW FANCIER.

The prisoner was before the bar of justice for having been before some other bar too long.

"What were you doing drunk on the street?" said the judge.

"Was I drunk, judge?" was the reply in a tone of surprised innocence.

"The arresting officer says you were."

"Perhaps he's right, Judge, but I was just going along with my bird-cage under my arm."

The judge had a large jug set before the prisoner. "Do you call that a bird-cage?" he enquired. "That's what you were carrying along in your hand."

The prisoner picked it up carefully, removed the lid, took a smell and

turned it upside down. It was as dry as he was.

"Well, Judge," he murmured slowly, "it ain't a bird-cage now, since them officers has had a whack at it."

"Probably you are sober now and see things differently."

"That ain't it, Judge. It was a birdcage when I had it last."

"Possibly you can explain what you mean by a birdcage," suggested the puzzled court.

"Easy enough, Judge," smiled the prisoner; "It had ten swallows in it when they got it," and the lucidity of the explanation and the possibilities of what had happened to it affected the Judge so powerfully that he dismissed the case.

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C. F. WAGNER, Editor.

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