

## Management and breeding of lotan pigeon

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Management and breeding of lotan pigeon is abnormal and its maintenance is very important due to its high level of aggressiveness. Pairs fight for incubation and after hatching they can be very dangerous. Lotans have abnormal flight, so it's better to rear in semi-intensive system. Maintain special care in egg laying, incubation and hatching up to 21-30 days of squab. During breeding provide less calorie added feed for avoiding next early heat period. After egg laying parents should be separated because if they see to each other due to males excess cooing the female becomes aggressive and not sit on eggs. This type of behaviour also found in most fancy pigeons due to close rearing. In Bangladesh lotan pigeons are decreasing day by day so we need to preserve this nice and interesting pigeon.

**Key words:** Lotan pigeon; Tumbler pigeon; Ground Tumbler of India; Pigeons in India.

### INTRODUCTION

The word pigeon has been derived from english *pignon* and as well as the Latin word *pipion*. Domestic pigeons are distributed throughout the Asia and Europe. Evidences of its domestication date back to 4500 BC ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)), origin of the word pigeon). Pigeon rearing has a global distribution and accepted in Middle East, North Africa and several parts of North America and Europe. Pigeon raising is a popular hobby in China . Recent survey indicates that there are huge demand of squabs in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangaluru and has tremendous export potential to Dubai, Australia, Thailand and Singapore ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)), importance of pigeons). In China pigeon is a popular restaurant dish and is good demand from Jewish community all over the world. Pigeons are raised every year, large number of it are scattered throughout the sub continent. A single pair may raise 15 young in a year. As the Indian livestock census states that, 2003 total poultry population is 489.012 millions and chicken constitutes the largest proportion (93.49 %) and duck (5.90%). On the other hand species including turkey, quail, guinea fowl and pigeon constitutes less than 1%. There are four groups of tumbler pigeons- highflier, tumbler, roller and lotan. Iran and India is the best collector of those fancy pigeons and UK, US and Germany have performed research on it. England is the research pioneer and invented excellent flying tumblers. Lotans are available in Dhaka, Saidpur, Bogra, Kushtia and Jessore of Bangladesh. Lotan is very ancient breed and its rolling performance is excellent to the people. Though domestic pigeons are the ancestor of wild-rock pigeon and I think all fancy pigeons originated from tumbler pigeons and these various tumbler pigeons are available in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the harbor of nice tumbler pigeons of the world (Kabir 2014). In England lotans are called parlour roller. These pigeons tumble automatically at the eve of flying or throwing on the ground due to genetic causes. It looks very simple as common pigeons with various colours and no head crest. Indian shaking lotan is commonly known as lotan in Indian subcontinent. In India, maximum lotans are found as white coloured with head crest and clean legged. Darwin first mentioned the lotan pigeon in his book 'The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication' then this term was quoted by Tegetmeier in his book that ground tumbler of India. Minister of Emperor Akbar's court Abul Fazl (1590)

mentioned the lotan pigeon in India and Alla-odeen (1888) spell the word lotan in 'the art of training pigeons in the east'. In Mughal pastime there was a record of lotan pigeons with other fancy items. Later on great naturalist, Charles Darwin and Tegetmeier described this pigeon in their books. Lyell describes that lotan is a pure white bird about the size of a common pigeon, with a turned crown, dark hazel eyes, and unfeathered legs. Tumbler pigeons have a lot of peculiar characteristics (various body shapes, huge colour combinations, tumbling behaviour by the presence of roller gene (*ro*), some are shaking tumbler due to excitation of neck muscle and roller gene, high flying in the sky, tremulous neck etc) than the other pigeons (Darwin 1859, 1868; Tegetmeier 1868; Eaton 1858; Lyell 1981; McNeillie 1993). Irritability of the brain and nervous system is might be a reason for rolling. History says the first lotan was white and its tumbles were very fast and huge. Other colours not perform as white one. In two pigeons or in pair most cases one is shown huge tumbles than others. In most cases female show huge tumble than males. Male aggressiveness may fatal for them as well as squabs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Lotan types:** Four pair of pure white *dasti* (means wine) lotan (which performs tumble on ground very fast till tired) was reared for this research (Plate 1 and 2).



**Plate 1.** white *dasti* lotan



**Plate 2.** red-white patches *dasti* lotan

## SUPPLIED FEED

Mixed food of wheat, corn, mung beans, proso millet, chickpea, mustard, oyster shell, black pea were supplied. Fresh water is provided all day long at the corner of the chamber.

## REARING CAGES AND ENVIRONMENT

Rearing cages were measured 2x2 x2.5 feet per pair. Pigeons were usually reared in any water proof house that is easy to clean everyday. Free range or semi intensive system was good for its health for flying. A loft with 7 feet wide and 10-12 feet length were provided for 15 pairs of pigeons. Moreover, a pair is needed 15 sq ft for proper rearing.

## BREEDING BIOLOGY

Pigeon bred at 5-6 months then laid two eggs, both the parents sharing the incubation till hatch 18 days. Good breeding stock usually continued for 3-4 years properly. Pigeons were selected on the basis of good

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laying capacity, which produced good squab weight, livability and market quality. The first and second batch of squabs was considered as very good market value. Breeders need to be replaced older one after 4-5 years.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The commercial value of crossed indigenous pigeon is good than others and alternative use of corn and wheat feed in summer and winter seasons were remarkable (Kabir 2013). Bokhari in 2002 observed the feed consumption in squabbling pigeons and Sturtevant and Hollander in 1978 mentioned that the feed consumption is about one-tenth of the pigeons body weight. In Bangladesh the lotan pigeon is graded A<sup>+</sup> with 84 numbers out of 100 based on 14 characteristics by Kabir 2014. Entrikin and Erway in 1972 experimented on roller and tumbler pigeons with its tumbling performance. Lotan pigeon performs its tumbles by shaking laterally and for the neck muscle excited the pigeon rolls (Kabir, 2012). Due to shaking, its neck muscle is excited and rotatory muscle controls the tumbles. At 30-40 days of squab if shake one showing the tremules of the neck and another not. Crosses with others black-white patches, red-white patches, ash, self red and muffed lotans also found. Wendell Mitchell Levi quoted the lotan pigeon in his book 'The Pigeon' with its variety and characteristics. Tegetmeier in 1868 described the history of lotan pigeon and he mentioned it this is ground tumbler in India. Alla-odeen (1888) described three kinds of lotan in India in his time. *Dasti* (means wine) is shaken by grasping between fingers then tumbles; when touched by a stick or wand is *kalmi* (means apex) (David Self, Empire Building; wikipedia) and thirdly when it fall by shaking then flown away within a short time this is *havai* (Estonian).

### CONCLUSION

In Indian subcontinent a lot of fancy items especially tumblers are available. These are- Kheri, Nisvari, Kabli, Hydrabadi, Patiala, Sahanranpure, Asceel, Lakka, Girbaz, Zeera, Lotan, Maina jog, Chandan Chuha, Kattu pura, Ujale, Kali Soraji, Lal Soraji, Neela, Surakha. Whereas the meat purposes breeds are- King, Carneau, Swiss Mondaine, French Mondaine, Indian Mondaine, Homer, Naqabposh, Gola, Umer, Lahore etc. In Bangladesh, all lotans are mainly white, crested and *dasti* type. Squab needs to practice complete tumbles. This is its trial and error stage of its performing life. Depending on variety the tumblers are sulli, lotan, muffed, Vienna short-face and short-face and on tumbling capability these are three- house/parlour tumbler, flying tumbler and shaking tumbler (lotan) (Kabir 2014). For preserving this nice pigeon we should take special emphasis on its management and breeding.

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