

THE
Sportsman's Dictionary:

OR, THE
Country Gentleman's Companion,

In all Rural

RECREATIONS:

With full and particular Instructions for

Presented by

Mr. John L. Cadwalader,

to the

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&c.

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Large IMPROVEMENTS, made by several
Gentlemen well experienced in these noble Exercises.

Illustrated with near thirty **COPPER-PLATES**, representing
the different kinds of **NETS**, **ESCOINES**, and **TRAPS**, that are
made use of in taking all sorts of Game.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N:

Printed for C. HITCH, at the *Red Lion*, and C. DAVIS,
both in *Pater-Noster-Row*; and S. AUSTEN, at the
Angel and Bible in St Paul's Church-Yard.

M DCC XXXV.

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FOWLING,
SETTING,



FISHING,
RACING,
RIDING,
COCKING.

With the Method of breeding, curing, dieting,
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Extracted from the most celebrated *English* and
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of their nests, or when bad weather obliges them to keep to the pigeon-house. See PIGEON.

Tame PIGEONS; of these there are several species.

1. *Runts*, the largest kind of pigeons, called by the *Italians*, *tronfo*; but these may again be distinguished into greater or smaller; those which are commonly called the *Spanish runts* are much esteemed, being the largest sort of pigeon, but are sluggish, and more slow of flight than the smaller sorts of *runts*; but the smaller *runts* are better breeders, and quicker of flight, for which they are esteemed. As for the colours of their feathers, they are uncertain, so that a judgment cannot be made of the sort by them.

2. The next which makes the largest figure, but is not in reality the largest bird, is the *cropper*, so called, because they usually do, by attracting the air, blow up their crops to an extraordinary bigness, even so as to be sometimes as large as their bodies. This sort is the more valued according as it can swell up its crop to the larger size.

The bodies of this sort are about the bigness of the smaller *runt*, but are somewhat more slender; this sort also is of various colours in the feathers.

3. The *shakers*; these are of two sorts, *viz.* the broad tailed *shaker*, and the narrow tailed *shaker*: these are so called, because they are almost constantly wagging their heads and necks up and down; the broad are distinguished from the narrow, in that the broad tailed sort abounds with tail-feathers, about twenty-six in number; but the narrow tailed *shakers* have not so many.

These, when they walk, carry their tail-feathers and crest spread abroad like a turkey-cock; they have likewise a diversity of feathers.

4. The *jacobines*, or *cappers*; which are so called on account of certain feathers which turn up about the back part of the head: Some of this sort are rough footed; they are short billed, the iris of their eye of a pearl colour, and the head is commonly white.

5. The *turbit*, which some suppose to be a corruption of the word *cortbeck*, or *curtbeke*, as they are called by the *Dutch*, which seems to be derived of the *French*, *court-bec*; and signifies a short bill, for which this pigeon is remarkable; for the head is flat, and the feathers on the breast spread both ways. These are much of the same size with the *jacobines*.

6. The *carriers*, are pigeons so called from the use which is sometimes made of them in carrying of letters to and fro; certain it is that they are very nimble messengers, for some authors affirm

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affirm that it has been found by experience, that one of these *pigeons* will fly three miles in a minute, or from *St. Albans* to *London* in seven minutes ; this they say has been tried by experiments.

We have an account of them passing and repassing with advices between *Hirtius* and *Brutus*, at the siege of *Modena*, who had, by laying meat for them in some high places, used their *pigeons* to fly from place to place for their meat, they having before kept them hungry, and in a dark place.

These *pigeons* are about the size of common *pigeons*, and of a dark blue, or blackish colour, which is one way of distinguishing them from other sorts : they are also remarkable for having their eyes compassed about with a broad circle of naked spongy skin, and for having the upper chap of their beak covered more than half from the head, with a double crust of the like naked fungous body. The bill or beak is moderately long, and black.

These birds have this quality, that tho' they are carried many miles from the place where they are bred or brought up, or have themselves hatched or bred up any young ones, they will immediately return home as soon as they are let to fly.

When persons would use them for *carriers*, they must order them after the following manner.

Two friends must agree to keep them, the one at *London*, and the other at *Windsor*, or at any other place ; he that lives at *Windsor* must take two or three cocks or hens which were bred at his friend's at *London*, and the other two or three that were bred at *Windsor* : when the person at *London* has occasion to send any advice to his friend at *Windsor*, he must roll up a little piece of paper, and tie it gently with a small string passed through it, about the *pigeon's* neck.

But here you must remember, that the *pigeons* you design to send with a letter, must be kept pretty much in the dark, and without meat for eight or ten hours before they are turned out, and then they will rise and turn round till they have found their way, and continue their flight till they have got home.

With two or three of these *pigeons* on each side, a correspondence might be carried on in a very expeditious manner, especially in matters of curiosity, &c.

7. The *Barbary pigeon*, or *barb*, is another sort, whose bill is like that of the *turbit*, (*i. e.*) short and thick, having a broad and naked circle of a spongy white substance round about the eye, like that of the *carrier pigeon* ; the iris of the eye is white, if the feathers of the pinion are inclinable to a darker

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colour, but is red if the feathers are white, as is observed in other birds.

8. *Smiters*, are *pigeons* supposed to be the same that the *Dutch* call *dragers*; this sort shake their wings as they fly, and rise commonly in a circular manner in their flight, the males, for the most part, rising higher than the females, and frequently falling and flapping them with their wings, which makes a noise that may be heard a great way off, which often is the cause of their breaking or shattering their quill-feathers.

These very much resemble the *tumbler pigeon*, the difference chiefly is, that the *tumbler* is something smaller, and in its flight will tumble itself backward over its head; the diversity of colours in the feathers makes no difference.

9. The *helmet pigeon*, is distinguished from the others, because it has the head, the quill-feathers and the tail-feathers, always of one colour, sometimes black, sometimes white, or red, or blue, or yellow, but the other feathers of the body are of a different colour.

10. The *light horseman*; this is supposed to be a cross strain, between a cock *cropper* and a hen of the *carrier* breed, because they seem to partake of both, as appears from the excrescence of flesh upon their bills, and the swelling of their crops; these are not inclined to leave the place of their birth, or the house that they have been used to.

11. The *bastard-bill pigeon*, is something bigger than the *Barbary pigeon*; they have short bills, and are generally said to have red eyes, tho' probably those coloured eyes belong only to those that have white feathers.

12. There is a *pigeon* called the *turner*, which is said to have a tuft of feathers hanging backwards on the head, which, Mr *Ray* says, parts like a horse's mane.

13. There is also a *pigeon* of a smaller sort, called the *finikin*, but in other respects like the former.

14. There is another *pigeon* called the *spot*, supposed, (and with judgment) to take its name from a spot on the forehead, just above the bill, and the feathers of its tail always of the same colour with the spots, and all the other feathers are white.

15. The *mahomet*, or *maromet pigeon*, supposed to be brought from *Turkey*, which is singular for its large black eyes, but the other parts are like those of the *Barbary pigeon*.

To distinguish which are the males and females among *pigeons*, it is chiefly known by the voice and cooing, the females having a small weak voice, and the male a loud and deep voice.

The food which is generally given to *pigeons* is tares, but if spurry seeds were mixed with them, or buck-wheat, those grains would

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would forward their breeding ; however, with only tares they may be expected to breed eight or nine times a year ; but perhaps they seldom hatch above one at a time, tho' if they be in full vigour they will breed a pair at one sitting.

In the feeding of *pigeons*, it is adviseable not to let them have more meat at one time than they can eat, because they are apt to toss it about and lose a great deal of it ; so that the contrivance of filling a stone bottle with their meat, and placing the mouth downwards, so that it may come within an inch of a plain or table, will give a supply as they feed.

And something of the same method should be used about their water, by the bottle to be reversed with the mouth into a narrow shallow cistern ; but they must by no means be without water, they being of themselves a dry bird, and subject to contract dirt and fleas.

PIKE, a very long lived fish, according to Lord *Bacon* and *Gesner*, who say he out-lives all other fish, which is pity, as being an absolute tyrant of the fresh waters, as the salmon is the proper King thereof ; the largest are the coarser food, and the smallest are always accounted best : this fish never swims in shoals, but rests by himself alone, being naturally very bold and daring, and will seize almost upon any thing, nay, will unnaturally devour his own kind : He breeds but once a-year, and spawns in *February* or *March*. The best sort is found in rivers, the worst in meres and ponds. His common food is either pickerel-weed or frogs, or what fish he can get ; and some say the said weed both feeds and breeds them.

PIKE-FISHING ; there is two ways to take the pike, 1. By the ledger, and 2. By the walking-bait. The ledger-bait is fixed in one certain place, and may continue while the Angler is absent ; this must be a live bait, of fish or frog ; of fish, the best is a dace, roach, or perch ; of frogs, the yellowest are best. In using the ledger-bait, if it be a fish, stick your hook through his upper lip, and then fastening it to a strong line, at least twelve or fourteen yards long, tie the other end of the line, either to some stake in the ground, or to the bough of a tree near the pike's usual haunt ; which done, wind your line on a forked stick, big enough to keep the bait from drawing it under water, all except half a yard, or a little more ; and your stick must have a small cleft at the end, into which fasten your line, but so, that when the pike comes, he may easily draw it forth, and have line enough to go to his hold and pouch the bait.

But if the bait be a frog, put the arming-wire in at his mouth, and out at his gills, then with a fine needle and silk sow the upper part of his leg, with one stitch only, to your