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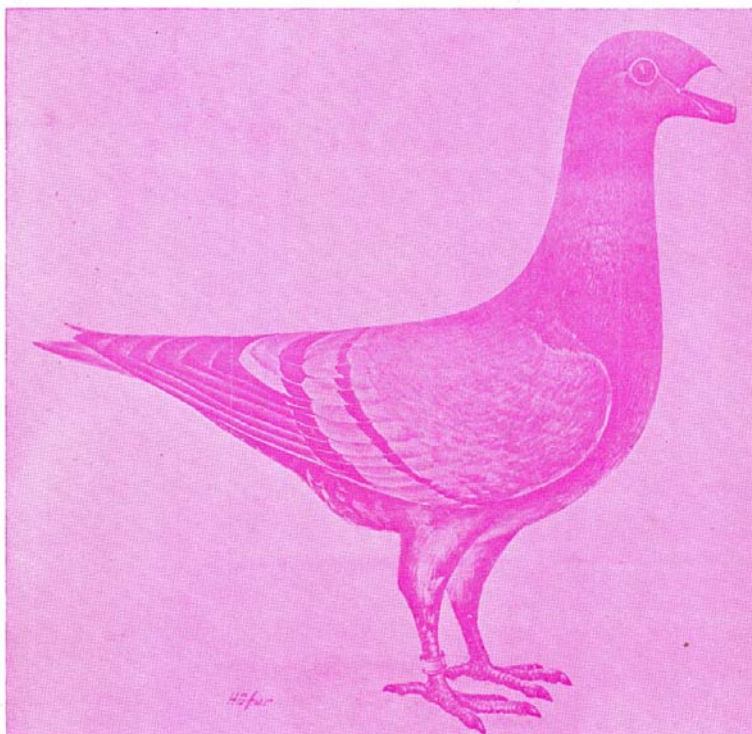
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The Ideal German Beauty Homer

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A specialty club for the breed was organized in Germany in 1908 at which time a Standard was established. There are many breeders in Germany and Switzerland. In the United States the breed is being promoted by the American German Beauty Show Homer Club with K. Robert Durig as Secretary-Treasurer, 151 West 49th St., Indianapolis, Ind. — Photo from Earl L. Hanebrink, Arkansas.



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The rest of the body is unicolored. The Schimmel is spotted on the wings and the back and has a few small marks on the head. (It looks very similar to a young white side roller whose wings are not yet completely white).

According to the standard, spots or marks must be evenly distributed on the tigered and schimmel. It is therefore important to distinguish between the two types of splashes. The schimmel splash must be even; the piebald splash, however, does not have to be evenly distributed. All this must be confusing to American breeders and it will be necessary to decide on the names. Perhaps it would be best to continue to call piebald splashes simply splashes and the schimmel splash either schimmel (sheeml) as the Germans call it or perhaps something

else. Since we have no such birds in the U. S. yet, we do not have to worry too much.

As far as color classifications are concerned, American breeders should feel free to decide on their own classifications and names. Recently, there appeared an article from the German King Club in a German paper in which they discussed the standard of the King. They decided to use the German color classification instead of the American and added that Americans don't give a "hoot" about the German classifications of pigeons of German origin. I do not think that it is a matter of giving a "hoot" or not but a matter of expediency, practicality as well as of tradition. So let the Germans call the silver Kings faded blues and let us call the faded blue German Beauty Homer siver.

The Groninger Slenk — A Rare Dutch Tumbler

By JOHN TUCKER, Cannington, Bridgwater, England

The Groninger Slenk is a very old Dutch breed of Tumbler pigeon.

J. H. Wieking's family have been keeping them for over 100 years in Nordhorn, West Germany. Nordhorn being only 3 miles from the Dutch Border and close to the area of Groninger, Holland it is quite understandable that the breed has been kept on both sides of the Border. It has been kept in the North of Holland and this Border area for many years with the main centre being in the Principality of Bentheim, W. Germany.

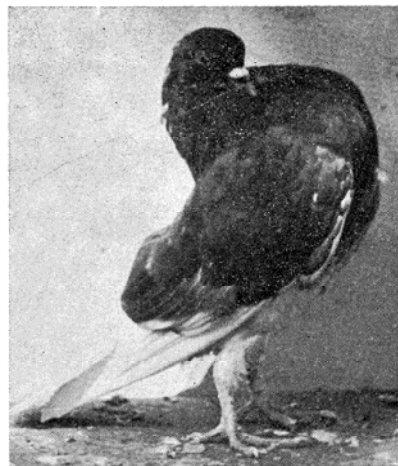
It is a Tumbler, whose main characteristic is its loud wing clapping, resulting in the flight feathers becoming worn out by August each year. In type it is similar to the Holle Cropper, except that the tail slopes to the floor. A good show specimen of this breed should not be able to see over its breast, it must however be emphasised that it is a Tumbler and not a Cropper. The type being bred today is for the show bench, whilst 80 to

100 years ago the flying birds were not so extreme in type.

This breed is so rare that no mention is made in Wendell Levi's wonderful book the "Encyclopedia Of Pigeon Breeds," which is quite understandable when one considers that at the large Dutch Pigeon Show ONETO last year there were only 6 exhibits of the breed. The few breeders of the Groninger Slenk experience great difficulty when showing their birds as they are not always fully understood by the pigeon judges.

It only occurs in the colours Red, Yellow and White, and never in Black or Blue.

For many years they were bred in cages and so the flying qualities were lost to some extent and one can assume that it was this close confinement that is resulting in poor breeding results being experienced today, hence in its country of origin one rarely sees the Groninger Slenk at pigeon shows.



THE GRONINGER SLENK

The Groninger Slenk is quite rare in Holland and Germany, there being only a very few breeders, as the breed is nearly extinct. This photo was contributed by John Tucker of Bridgwater, England.

as they will lose the Double Performance. The only way I know of improving their performance is by inbreeding. Take your best Double Performing cock or hen and mate it to the next best Double Performer, then take one of their young and mate it back to the good performer. Keep mating them this way and in a few years you will have a family of your own which will produce very few poor performers.

Now we will take a look at the Roller Performing Parlor Tumblers. I believe they are the hardest to improve, as far as performance. Some breeders have crossed Parlor Tumblers into flying Rollers and have bred Parlor Rollers. The biggest problem with this method is that so few of the young from this cross are good performers, and the crosses seldom breed young of any quality. The best method to improve their performance is by inbreeding, and like with the single and double performers, once you get a pure family, they will breed few mediocre performers.

What should the Parlor Tumbler look like? Parlor Tumblers are of typical Tumbler conformation, small in size, weighing from seven to ten ounces, plain headed and clean legged. They have pearl eyes and their head should be round with a high frontal. Their body should be short, stout and wedge shaped, being prominent and wide in the chest. Their carriage is vigorously upright, sprightly and bold.

Most Parlor Tumblers are very weak when it comes to body type, as most of them are rather long and weak in the chest. Also you will find that many carry their wings below their tails and do not have the upright and bold carriage which is called for in the standard.

I have been working with my birds on carriage and body type and find that they are coming along very well. Several of the birds are standing upright very well and my goal is to get them so their eyes are over the balls of their feet. Some are getting real

(Continued on page 68.)

My Experience in Developing the Parlor Tumbler

By DAVID HOLDERNESS

It was with great pleasure that I read the article in the November issue by Bob Faulkner, "How To Successfully Breed Parlor Tumblers," as there is so little printed on this wonderful breed, I thought I might give the most important characteristics of the Parlor Tumbler, and share my methods of improving their performance and body type.

First, let's look at the performance, as it is allotted 70 points in the Standard. In performance, Parlor Tumblers are divided into three accepted groups: Single Performing, Double Performing and Roller Performing. We will look at all three and will start with the Single Performing Parlors.

The Single Performing Parlors should do a single backward somersault. The performance should consist of one complete backward somersault, and the bird should end up as

near the starting point as possible. The somersault should be as free from fluttering as possible, and at no time should the bird leave the floor by more than sixteen inches, and the closer to the floor, the better.

To improve the Performance of the singles, mate a Parlor Roller to a Single Performer which is getting too far from the floor when performing. Then take one of the resulting youngsters and mate it back to the Single Performer. The young from this pair should be excellent single performers which are free from fluttering and stay very close to the ground during their performance.

It is much harder to improve the performance of the Double Performing Parlors as they tumble twice every time they leave the ground. They do one tumble on the way up, and tumble the second time on the way down. The Parlor Roller cross will not work