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THE FLYING
TIPPLER & TUMBLER
PIGEON
BY
G. SMITH.

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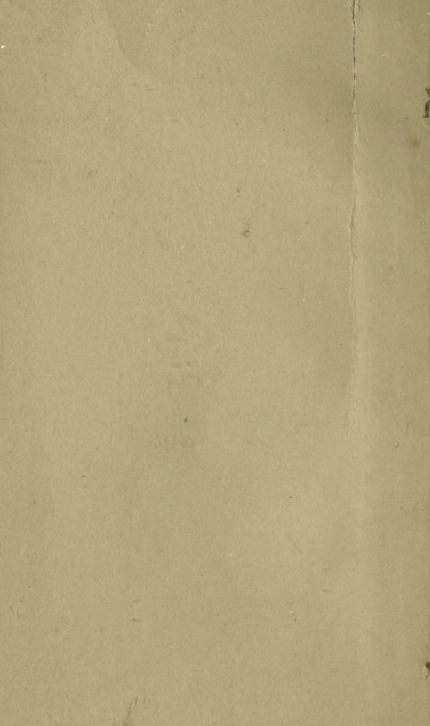
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HOW TO
BREED, REAR, & TRAIN
THE
MACCLESFIELD TIPPLER
AND THE
HIGH-FLYING
TUMBLER PIGEON.

BY G. SMITH.
" "

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P R E F A C E.

A knowledge of Pigeon training is necessary to all who enjoy the sport of long and high-flying.

This book is a thoroughly practical one, it being the direct outcome of my own experience and investigation. You will find it contains all the information that is required for the feeding, breeding, rearing, and training of the high-flying Tumbler, which is so important in this sport and pastime.

All previous works have been void of instructions on the important points. I have here attempted to supply these deficiencies, and trust that I have not failed to do so.

It has been owing to many requests that I have determined to bring all private information to light.

Pigeon-flying chiefly depends on the health, cleanliness, and right kind of food.

THE AUTHOR.

FORNOCAL

THE HIGH-FLYING TUMBLER.

THERE are several different kinds of tumbler pigeons; but the best birds for long and high flying are the long-headed tumblers. The short-faced tumbler is more for show than for flying; but there are many inferior kinds of birds. Some do too much work in the air, and often when flying with the kit will keep constantly tumbling underneath the others. These kind of birds will entice the kit down, and the sooner they are dispensed with the better. I always remove these kind of birds as soon as possible, as they are detrimental to the others.

High-flying tumblers are chiefly flown at Leicester and Nottingham, In these towns as many as 200 birds flock together and fly for hours. The high-flying tumbler has a com-

mon appearance, and a first-class bird can seldom be distinguished from a quantity of inferior ones. The colours of these birds are chiefly black badges, red badges, and blue badges. Old fanciers chiefly go in for breeding self-colours, blues, blacks, and reds; these colours are rather scarce. and it is with difficulty you can buy a first-class bird without paying a large price for it.

Twenty years ago black saddlebacks and belnecks were all the rage; but at the present time dark birds are the favourites. Old fanciers have an idea that the dark ones are the strongest, and of a harder nature. Light birds generally have bull or black eyes, and the dark ones, pearl eyes. I have flown both light and dark birds, and think there is very little difference; it is only a matter of fancy.

Twenty years ago the flying tumbler was rather a different stamp of

bird to that of the present time; they had shorter beaks and broader across the chest, most of them being red badges and red mottles. These kinds have gradually gone out of date, and there is scarcely one to be seen. Black, white wings, and badges are now the chief colours.

THE PIGEON LOFT.

The pigeon loft should not be small; but convenient room is required. About twenty birds is sufficient to receive proper treatment. The loft should be about seven feet square, with convenient light, and very day, or the birds will be subject to roup or the cramp. It is essential to have the room fitted up on one side with shelves, say about one foot square, and perches on the other side. The place must be cleaned regularly once a day, and a fresh supply of clean sand is necessary.

Before commencing to breed, lime-wash the loft to destroy all insects of an injurious nature to the young ones. An attic with a dormer, or skylight on the roof is the most suitable place for these birds. Some fanciers build their pigeon cote on the ground ; but they are always in danger of cats and other nuisances.

HOW TO GET A GOOD KIT OF HIGH-FLYING TUMBLERS.

First of all, four or five pairs of strong early young ones should be purchased from a fancier who flies a good kit of birds. Get, also, two or three pairs of good old ones to train the young ones with. The birds must be flown once a day, and the best time in summer is at sunset, as birds cannot fly so well in the heat of the day. A kit of thirty is a grand sight on a still summer's evening ; but for extra long flying twelve

or fourteen is the proper number. Great care must be taken to pick out any idle, slothful, or mad tumbling birds that fly underneath the others, as they will bring down the kit before they are tired. It is a good plan to get the birds in the loft as soon as they drop, and not let them sit out longer than is necessary. If birds are allowed to sit out after they have done their fly, they will gradually become idle, and fail to do the time expected. Unless they are purchased from a good strain of old birds they cannot be depended on. One or two inferior birds will do an incalculable deal of harm to a good kit, and will often drop out and settle away from home, and sometimes drop the whole of the kit on some high building.

It takes a fancier several years to get a first-class kit together. The first year he may fly very moderate. The second year young birds will

improve themselves; when they have bred they get more firm in their flying qualities, and can be depended on better. A fancier must every year after breeding time, pick out birds which are not up to the mark, and then, in time, he will get a first-class kit of birds that will fly seven or eight hours with ease.

Great care must be taken not to turn them out on bad days in the winter, or they will soon be lost. The mist and snow has lost many a good kit of birds, which could not be replaced. Some fanciers keep their stock in the place all the winter, on account of the bad weather, and a good plan too, for a good kit of high-flying tumblers are never safe in winter.

Many years ago birds did not fly so long as they do now; five hours was considered a very good fly. The reason, I account for it, is because a kit of tumblers in those days

used to tumble more than they do at the present time ; every circle they took they would all tumble together, and some of them would roll five or six yards—in fact, I have seen them roll down to the ground and kill themselves. At the present time a kit of good birds is seldom seen to tumble. Fanciers have crossed the tumbling breed with birds which do not tumble, and by so doing have bred birds which do not tumble. This method has made a wonderful difference to the time of flying. Birds can now fly seven or eight hours without the slightest indication of fatigue.

The spring of the year is the best time for flying. On a spring morning, when the sun is shining and the sky is clear, I have flown a kit of birds nine hours, many a time ; but they were carefully trained from a select lot. I have flown many kits clean away.

Many persons wonder how it is these birds go away in such a mysterious manner. I will explain to you, as plainly as possible, from experience. A good kit, when first let out, if in good condition, will wander about for miles, and they are delighted at the liberty afforded to them, and get out of their boundary before they are conscious of it, and the more they try to find home the farther they get away. Sometimes, on a nice still day, they will get up in the air a tremendous height, and lose sight of their home. Sometimes a dark cloud will sweep underneath, and cause them to lose their latitude. I have seen many kits driven away from home by hail and snow storms. Many kits are lost in the mist. Several years ago, I was flying my kit of birds with an antagonist for a wager, the longest on the wing to win; to my misfortune, on account of my birds being in splen-

did condition, I flew them entirely away; this was awfully unlucky for me, not only losing the birds, but the stakes also. So you see, pigeon-flying takes a large amount of trouble, expense, and anxiety.

It is usual for a professional pigeon-flyer to keep three or four pairs of old birds to breed from; birds that are too old to fly the length of time which young ones will. These are very useful in case of bad weather, when it is important to drop them, or they will be lost. Should a hail or snow storm come on suddenly, you stand a very poor chance of dropping them, unless you have a few of these very useful birds for the occasion.

PAIRING FOR HIGH AND LONG FLYING.

Great care should be taken not to pair birds of a kin together, if you

do they will breed weak young ones. An old fancier, who flies first-class birds, will seldom keep one in his place unless he knows the breed of it. I have travelled many miles to buy a kit of birds to pair with my own breed, because the birds I had would not be paired to my satisfaction. A tumbling bird should be paired to one that cannot tumble, and then the result will be some very steady-flying young ones.

The best plan to pair birds is to put them in a cage apart from other birds. The cage should be about two feet long, with a wire partition across the centre, so that they can see each other, but cannot fight. Feed them twice a day, and, in addition to their regular food, give them a sprinkle of hemp seed once a day to make them merry and lively. The best birds should be paired together.

HIGH - FLYING TUMBLERS, AND HOW TO BREED THEM.

High-flying tumblers are very delicate birds to breed, and many fanciers cannot breed half a dozen strong birds during the season. Overcrowding is generally the cause of it. Before commencing to breed, clean the place by lime washing it; then your place will be sweet, healthy, and clean, and will be a great benefit to the fancier, as it will be entirely free from insects, which are detrimental to the young ones.

It is a good plan to physic the birds before breeding. A dose of Epsom salts is recommended by old fanciers. Rue tea is a very good medicine, and will improve the health, besides giving them an appetite. When the birds are paired to suit the fancier, get some old mortar and break it up small; they will

peck at it voraciously, and it will be a great benefit to them, assisting the hens in producing a very strong shell to their eggs; plenty of sand should be kept in the cote.

All these trifles are very important in the rearing of strong birds. The old birds should be fed three times a day while they are breeding, and the best food is peas and barley, and a small quantity of hemp seed occasionally. The old birds require a nest box to form their nest in, This box should be about eight inches square and two inches deep; this is the proper size. Some fanciers use clay pans, similar to a flower-pot saucer; but, from experience, the pots give the younger ones the cramp—the wood box is far superior. Straw, with a small quantity of deal sawdust, is the best for nests. Pigeons only lay two eggs, and they sit seventeen days; often the hen is very weak when about to lay, and

sometimes she cannot stand on her legs for a few days after she has layed. The want of exercise is the cause of it. Castor oil, before she lays, will give great relief, and cause the bird to lay more freely. A handful of groats morning and night will make a wonderful difference to the young birds. Sometimes a young one in the nest will grow much larger than the others. I should advise my readers to kill the small one.

Should you have several birds in the nest, all about the same age, the best plan is to pair them as near of a size as possible. This must be done before the birds are feathered, otherwise it will be the cause of the old ones forsaking them. Generally, when the young ones are uneven, the largest bird gets most of the food from the parents.

The commencement of April is the time to breed, unless the weather be cold, in which case postpone it

for a week or two later. A sprinkle of hemp seed after each meal will make them merry and lively, and will forward them at the commencement of breeding. A week's confinement in the place will often cause the hen to have eggs sooner. Great harm is often done to the young ones through letting the old birds sit again before the young ones are old enough. It is far the best plan to let the young ones get three weeks old before you put another nest in; if they lay too soon they will often neglect the young ones. Old fanciers generally stop their birds from breeding in August—in fact, they make it a rule to let them have three nests of young ones for each pair of old birds. I consider I have had a very fair season if I breed four young ones from each pair. But there is a deal of difference in the parents—some will breed three or four pairs of strong

young ones, and others you may try your utmost, and not get above one strong young one during the season, and it often happens the best birds are the worst breeders. Early birds, bred in spring, are the best and strongest, and will make a grand improvement to a kit of birds. Young ones are a great amount of trouble to get to fly with the kit, and they often get lost.

FLYING AND TREATMENT.

A good kit of high-flying tumblers are very amusing to a fancier who has a hobby for long and high flying, and on summer nights cause him to pass many agreeable hours. Spring is the best time for long flying—before the birds commence to breed. It is no trouble on a fine day to fly a kit eight or nine hours, if they are first-class birds; but it is dangerous in March or April, as the weather is then generally very changeable

and a large amount of discretion is required in flying them during these months.

Barley and grey peas is the best food to give them regularly. A change of wheat and canary seed half-an-hour before liberating them will improve their flight, and make them fly two hours longer than their regular time of flying. If this re- ceipe fails to make any difference to them, it is because the birds are not in good condition; too much flesh is principally the cause of it; dried bread crusts and barley will reduce the flesh, and a sprinkle of hemp seed after the barley will do them good. A small quantity of rue in the water will improve them, and get them in flying condition, and especially they will require daily exercise. The proper time to feed them in spring is eight in the morn- ing and six o'clock at night. The birds should be watched very

minutely, and should any of them drag behind or drop before the kit, those birds should be kept down. Perhaps illness may be the cause of it, and a bird that is nesting will occasionally do this. Sometimes young cocks, when they have just got paired, will leave the kit and drop, but when they do this I always consider the bird is not so good as it should be. The only remedy I can recommend is not to fly the pair together—keep either the cock or the hen down until the hen has layed, and then it will very likely make an alteration in their flying.

HOW TO TRAIN A KIT OF HIGH - FLYING TUMBLERS FOR A MATCH IN SPRING.

First of all, twelve of the best birds should be chosen out of the stock, and put in a place by themselves. This place must be clean—

limewash will make it sweet and healthy. Carefully examine the chosen birds to see that they are healthy and free from any kind of disease. Examine their wings minutely to see that their feathers are perfect. Give them half an ounce of Epsom salts in a quart of water to drink; let this remain in the fountain two days, and by that time they will have had sufficient medicine. If the birds are fat, feed them on barley and bread crusts dried in the oven. If moderately fat, barley will be sufficient to reduce the flesh. The first week fly them in the morning about eight o'clock, on an empty craw, and feed them when they return. The second week, feed them on dried peas, and give them weak linseed tea to drink; this will strengthen them, and make them full of energy and vigour. Fly them one hour after their breakfast. If their average time of flying is three

hours, put them out every alternate day; if they fly under three hours, fly them daily. The third week feed them on dried peas, Indian corn, wheat and tares, changing their food every day. On rough or windy weather, Indian corn or peas will be most substantial, and wheat or tares will be best on a still calm day. It is usual to give the birds two days' rest before a long fly, or when they are going to fly for a wager. If the birds are in good condition you will see them standing on tip-toes, beating their wings, and constantly flying about the place. The day before the match, feed them on peas, a small quantity of linseed, and a handful of dried tares. Keep the place in darkness, and feed them at night, with a light. Give them nearly half a crawful of peas, and fill up with canary and rape seed half an hour before letting them out. Should there be a strong wind, extra Indian

corn is required, as light food will soon digest and go through them.

Ten o'clock in the morning is a good time to start a kit of birds, as by this time the sun is out nicely. But, if your birds are flying a long time—say eight or nine hours—it is wise to put them out sooner; eight o'clock, if possible, that is, if it is clear enough.

As regards tumbler flying, I consider April if it is fine, calm weather, to be the best month of the year, and they will fly longer just before breeding time. Sometimes, however, the weather in this month is very changeable—such as rain, hail, and snow—and then they are frequently lost. It is the best plan to keep them in the place when the weather is bad. I am sure if there is any metal in the birds, one of these showers will lose them. These kind of birds will fly well in the wind—they will sail about for seven

or eight hours over the chimney-pots, and anyone not understanding their habits would think they were going to drop every minute. A great deal of one's own judgment must be exercised in pigeon-flying. Feeding, keeping the loft clean, and fresh water daily should be strictly and regularly attended to, and it is necessary to have fresh sand daily.

These trifles are half the battle, and is the only way to keep your stock strong and healthy. It is impossible for a kit of birds to fly any length of time unless they are attended to regularly. For myself, I never care so long as they eat their meals hearty, for then I can depend on them flying a long time. Birds, as a rule, are very scanty eaters when in good condition, and they take a good deal of persuading in the morning. In spring they require a bath twice a week—a pancheon is most suitable for washing purposes.

SUMMER PIGEON-FLYING.

Tumbler pigeon-flying in summer is a very difficult task to many fanciers, who do not know how to treat them properly, and not one out of twenty can fly a kit of birds more than one or two hours at the outside. Some say summer is not a proper time for pigeon-flying, remarking that it is owing to their breeding; but this is a ridiculous idea, and a great mistake, for if the tumbler pigeon is kept in good condition, it will not fail to do its duty. You will notice that some kits fly a great deal better than others—going into the clouds, and never coming low until they drop. Others will fly very low, in fact, they will fly very little higher than the tops of the houses. This all depends on the feeding and training. A kit that flies low are generally too fat. Feed them on barley while they are breeding, it is

far the best food for the young. It will not only keep the old birds in moderate condition, but will prevent the young ones in the nest from being purged. In Macclesfield and district they can fly their birds eleven and twelve hours in summer, while these birds are breeding. They are called Macclesfield tipplers, and there is very little difference in the breed between them and the high-flying tumbler; and I cannot see why these birds should not fly as well and as long. It is simply because the fancier is not an experienced hand at pigeon-flying, and does not know properly how to treat them. I, myself, am very fond of pigeon-flying in summer, simply because they fly so much higher generally. They will go into the clouds and fly for seven or eight hours, if attended to in a proper manner. Certainly, when the weather is hot it will make a difference; but gene-

rally in the middle of summer, when the sun is tremendously hot, it is the best plan to fly them when the sun is going down, or early in the morning before it gets so powerful. The old birds will fly better when their young ones are a fortnight or three weeks old than any other time they are breeding. About half a dozen strong early-bred young ones will make a great improvement to a kit of tumblers. It is the best plan to train the young ones with the old birds as soon as they can fly.

These birds will fly for hours when they have thoroughly moulted. August or September is generally the time they begin to show their flying qualities. Hen birds will not fly so well as the cocks while they are breeding, but they fly well for about a fortnight, when the young ones do not require keeping warm. Shortly after that time the hen will lay again, and that prevents her

having so much exercise as the cock. It is foolish to train birds in summer while they are breeding because they are likely to breed weakly young ones. Dry food injures the young ones in the nest. It is not wise to fly hen birds in a match in summer, as there is no dependence on them, and they are liable to come down any minute and lose the match. The best plan is to fly seven or eight cocks, and about the same quantity of strong early-bred young ones.

If the birds are in moderate flying order, it will take three weeks to get them to perfection. The first week they should be fed on barley twice a day, and fly them regularly every day; also, at the commencement give them one pennyworth of saffron in a quart of water to drink, and let this remain in the place two days, if not drank before. After this, take the fountain and scald it inside with water, taking care to get all the

slime off, and then give them fresh water daily. Second week, feed them on white peas and wheat mixed together. Third week, feed them on Indian corn, and white peas and tares mixed together; give them this food dried occasionally. Linseed tea to drink instead of water the last week of training will improve them. Two days' rest is required before a long fly. The night before the appointed time, feed them with one handful of dried peas, two handfuls of dried wheat, and fill up with millet and canary seed. On the following morning feed them on dari, millet, canary seed and rice mixed together, and feed them half-an-hour before putting out. Give them canary seed tea to drink instead of water at the same time as they are fed.

There are many different ways of feeding for long and high-flying.

An old champion pigeon-flyer, who was very popular five-and-twenty years ago, gave me a few lessons on pigeon flying, and I have always found them a very good recipe.

When you commence to train your birds for a match, see that you have them moderately fleshy, as they will stand the training far better, and will have all the more strength for it. The first week feed them on the very best barley that can be procured every night and morning, and after drinking take the water away till the next meal. Second week, give them barley as usual, the forepart of the week, and for the latter part of the time, dried peas and Indian corn, only allowing them the water when they feed. The night before the final fly, feed them on dried wheat and rice and a small quantity of hemp seed. In the morning, feed them with sago and canary seed, with threepennyworth of Scotch whiskey

in a quart of water half an hour before starting them.

In summer time when the sun is hot pigeons should have a bath twice a week at the least, as it will refresh them and free them from filth. Their regular food is peas and barley, but a change of food is required. Give them a feed of wheat once a week, and if they are in good condition they will go in the clouds and fly for hours. Indian corn is a good feed for a change and will put fresh life into them, but this corn is more suitable for winter; it is also most suitable for a windy day. Smaller corn is best for summer flying. Any little change of diet, no matter how common it may be, will revive them and put more vigour into them. Pearl barley with a small quantity of rape seed will improve their flying.

It is a true saying with old Pigeon fanciers that when the smoke from the chimneys rises straight up a kit

of tumblers will go up in the clouds and fly for a long time. When you see the swallows flying high it is another true sign of a grand day for pigeon flying.

AUTUMN PIGEON FLYING.

Autumn is the season when the birds are moulting and my advice to fanciers is to feed them on hemp seed, say small quantity every night after their regular food, this will cause them to moult a deal sooner and get fine in their feathers. Give them hay saffron in the water, this will assist them and make them shoot their feathers freely. At this time of the year early young ones are getting nicely through the moulting and will do good performance if they are good birds and well trained. It makes considerable difference in the quality of young birds if they are properly trained with a kit of good birds that fly four or five hours daily,

it will cause the young ones to fly the same time and as they get older they will of course naturally improve. But if they are trained with a kit that only fly one or two hours the young ones will fly the same time, therefore it is essential to give them first class training as it all depends on the birds they are trained with. A good kit of birds are the fruits of a good kit of young ones.

At this time if the young ones are bred early they will have had sufficient training and the old birds will not fly so long as the young ones simply because they will be bad in the moulting and lose their flight feathers. Sometimes they will drop two or three feathers from their wings at once which will completely stop them from their daily exercise. It is a very good plan to keep the old birds in while they are moulting their flight feathers as they are liable to strain their wings at this time.

Numerous fanciers do not know the right method of training the young birds with the old ones & consequently lose many birds through being in ignorance of it. The best plan is to put the young ones out as soon as they can peck. The first few days put them out in the morning and they will sit about all the day and will learn their home sooner than anything, but when they begin to fly it is advisable to put them out at night or very likely they will get away and not be seen again. When the young ones are strong enough to fly about they will dart off the houses many times and fly two or three minutes each time, this is a proof they are strong enough to be trained with the old birds. The best way to train them is to throw them one at once into the kit when they are quite low, they will follow the old birds round and soon be no more trouble. As the young birds improve their flying they must be

thrown up earlier. At this stage three or four young ones should be thrown up with about the same quantity of old birds and by doing so the old birds will take them up to the kit. About half a dozen times in this manner will be sufficient and by that time they will be old enough to be put out with the kit. Give them a bath twice a week, this will not only refresh them but keep them healthy and free them from feather lice which causes the birds so much uneasiness. A lump of salt in the place is a great benefit, the birds will peck it freely.

To fly a kit of birds to perfection necessitates a large amount of time spending on them, more time in fact than any working man can spare, and if not properly, carefully, and well seen to they will not fly near so long.

I consider Autumn is a nice time for pigeon flying, and if you have had luck in the Spring to breed some good strong young ones they will do some

very good time in this season of the year, that is, if they are pure bred birds off a good strain. I myself can always depend on them flying seven or eight hours, well up in the clouds greater part of the time, if the weather is beautiful and fine. A wheat supper and canary seed and rice about one hour before putting them out is a good feed for a change and will make them fly grand if they are in good condition. But, as the old saying is, condition is half the battle Steep the rice in ale for a few hours, after this sprinkle a handful of corn flour amongst it and put it in the oven to dry, this receipe I can recommend.

Most fanciers feed their birds different to each other; for instance, an old fancier, well known in the Midland Counties, and who is highly recommended for pigeon flying assures me that a feed of rice and canary seed with three pennyworth of gin in a quart of water one hour before putting

them out will send them in the clouds for hours on a clear day. I consider ten o'clock in the morning a nice time to rise them as it gives them plenty of time to do a long fly. But if they do not fly very long I should then advise you to let them out about dinner time. At this time of the year old birds are generally moulting bad, and some have such bad wings that it is impossible for them to fly many minutes. I should advise you to remedy this by keeping them in, or they are liable to drop down the chimneys or strain their wings by the extra pressure required.

PIGEON FLYING IN WINTER.

Tumbler Pigeon Flying in Winter is a very easy task, for the common Tumbler will fly moderate in winter. Most of the amateur fanciers can do good performance this time of the year. About nine o'clock in the morning and six in the evening is the

proper time of feeding. They should not be put out on misty weather or they will soon be lost. The best time for flying is on a sharp frosty day when the air is clear and bright, they will mount up a moderate height and wander about all over the town, that is if they are not too fat. It is a usual thing for a good kit of birds to fly from light till dark in winter. When the wind is in the south-east a long fly may be anticipated. Old fanciers are generally ruled by the wind. If the wind is in the wrong quarter pigeons will not fly so long by hours. A craw full of Indian corn half an hour before rising them is a good feed for a windy day. In windy weather these birds require substantial food in their craws before they go out for their daily exercise, such as peas, beans, or Indian corn, the latter is most suitable and a small quantity of canary seed with it will improve their flying. A warm place makes a deal of difference to

pigeon flying in winter. Grey peas and barley is the best food to feed them on as their regular food. Indian corn, wheat and tares, are a great improvement for a change, this feed should not be given too often, say once a week. A small quantity of hemp seed after their supper will warm them and do them good in cold weather.

FEEDING AND TRAINING FOR A MATCH.

If the birds are fat, feed them a fortnight on barley, afterwards feed them on dried peas. Give them fresh water once a day, clean them out daily and sprinkle a fresh supply of clean sand. The fourth or last week feed them first day as follows :—Morning, feed them on dried Indian corn, at night feed them on dried peas and finish with small quantity of hemp seed. Second day, in the morning feed them on dried wheat with a

sprinkle of canary seed, this should improve their flying, at night feed them on dried peas and hemp seed. Third day, morning, feed them on dried peas and a small quantity of linseed ; at night feed them on dried peas and wheat mixed. Fourth day in the morning feed them on dried tares, at night feed them on dried peas and hemp seed. Fifth day, in the morning feed them on dry peas and linseed, at night feed them on dried peas and fill up with canary seed. Sixth day, in the morning feed them on half a craw of Indian corn, fill up with canary seed, also a little rice and wheat if they will eat it. Give them clean water and see that they all drink before going out, let them eat all they will and then put them out on their final fly. A good kit of birds should fly seven or eight hours without any trouble. The birds should be flown every day the first week and three times a week the

remainder of the time. A good receipt for a windy day is half a crow of dried peas and Indian corn and fill up with one handful of wheat steeped in Scotch whiskey and afterwards dried, give them canary seed also, as much as they can eat. If in good form this receipt will put a great deal of metal in them and they will fly a long time.

ANOTHER RECIPE FOR A LONG FLY.

Treat the birds just the same until the last week's training, then feed them as follows:—First day—feed them on dried peas and fill up with a handful of hemp seed. Second morning: barley, rice, and hemp seed before letting them out to fly, at night feed them on dried peas and barley. Third morning, feed them on dried pearl barley and dried wheat, at night feed them on dried peas and

hemp seed. Fourth morning feed them on dried Indian corn half an hour before putting them out to fly, at night feed them on dried peas and canary seed. Fifth morning feed them on linseed, tares, and barley, at night feed them on dried peas and canary seed. Sixth morning feed them on linseed, pearl barley, and millet, at night feed them on dried peas, a quarter of a crow full, one handful of wheat steeped in whisky, the wheat must be dried in the oven after it has been steeped, also give them as much canary seed as they can eat. On the final morning feed them with one handful of sago, one handful of Indian corn and fill up with canary seed, also put canary seed tea in the fountain for them to drink half an hour before rising them for their final fly. The last week of training give them every night linseed tea to drink, if they fail to fly on this treatment it is a sure sign

the birds are no good and useless for long flying. Two days rest before their final fly is required, and if the birds are kept in darkness it is a great benefit to them.

Another very good recipe for a long fly is as follows:—Night, feed them on wheat, rape seed, and hemp seed. Morning—feed them on Indian corn, rice, and canary seed, about half an hour before they go out. If the morning is clear and the wind still they will mount up in the clouds and fly for hours. It is a very bad plan to train good birds in winter, as the weather is so very changeable, and they are sure to be lost if they are in flying condition. Most fanciers will put their birds out as early as eight o'clock in the morning in winter, but they run a great risk of losing them.

There are many different ways of feeding a kit of Tumblers for flying,

but the most important thing is to keep the place clean, feed them regularly, and give them clean water once a day. A kit of birds if they are well looked after and cleaned out regularly will enjoy good health and with very little trouble will fly well.

Jack Johnson was a great pigeon flyer in bye-gone days, and I assert without fear of contradiction, no one used to keep their place so clean and comfortable as he did, in fact you could venture to eat off the floor, and his birds he used to worship. I have heard him say, when I was a lad, that barley was the best food a kit of tumblers could be fed on. He would warrant them to fly seven hours on barley any time, and give any one the privilege of feeding them.

George Gask was also a well known pigeon flyer, and in his time he was looked upon as the champion of the

Midland Counties, his favourite food was barley and dried peas when he was training for a fly. He always preferred the fountain to be kept out of the place and only put in morning and night when they were fed, this treatment will keep them from getting fat.

Tom Ross was another famous pigeon flyer, and in his time had the best kit of birds that were flown. His favourite breed was the Charley breed, something after the style of the short-faced red-mottled Tumbler, this breed was a grand strain. Five-and-twenty years ago he was the master-piece of all pigeon flyers. Many of the old pigeon flyers are dead or have done keeping them and young fanciers take their places, and if you get in their company they would try to make you believe they know as much about pigeon flying as the old experienced hands.

MACCLESFIELD TIPPLERS.

The Macclesfield Tippler is a short faced bird, generally broad across the shoulders and rather short on the legs, most of them are mottled with dark flights and tail, these kind of birds are favourites in the North of England and in the Potteries. From the appearance of the birds they have been bred from an Almond Tumbler and a Bald Pate, and are well known for their flying qualities, they will soar in the clouds and fly for hours. I have known them to fly twelve or thirteen hours at a time. Most of the Tippler fanciers in Congleton, Macclesfield, and the Potteries, only fly three birds together, and it is their study to fly three cocks that will work together. These birds should be all of one speed in flying, and if they are good they will work one against the other for many hours. When they have

being on the wing seven or eight hours they fly very slow and careless and any one would think they were lost, for they wander about for miles. They fly in better style when they have been on the wing seven or eight hours than they do at the first starting.

These birds are not so large or strong as the long faced Tumbler, but by their steady flying, they will fly quite as long, in fact good birds will fly longer.

These birds are fed on bread, white peas and barley, a change of diet is a great improvement, such as Indian corn, tares, or wheat, the latter will send them in the clouds till they are invisible, that is if it is a still clear day; linseed, canary seed, and dari, will put extra life in them. A feed of bread once a week is very good and will regulate their bowels.

The Macclesfield Tipplers are not like the flying Tumbler, as they fly well in rough weather or smooth. A still sunshiny day is suitable for these birds, in fact it spoils their flight to put them out in windy weather. The best food for a long fly is bread, canary seed, millet, and rice, with canary seed tea to drink half an hour before rising them. These birds do not require any food which makes them fly quick, for the slower they fly the longer they will keep on the wing. Young Tipplers are very stupid till they are three or four months old. I have seen squeakers fly six and seven hours and not take any notice of other birds.

The old Tippler fanciers in Congleton and Macclesfield breed birds in one with another, that is, they breed from birds that are relatives of each other, such as father and

daughter together. But it is my opinion the young ones they breed are anything but strong with being bred in this way.

The Tippler has very broad flight feathers, and this is a great help to their flying qualities. They very seldom tumble, and a good Tippler should not show any signs of tumbling. The best food when training for a match is as follows :—one week feed them on barley, second week feed them on dried wheat, peas, and Indian corn mixed together, linseed tea to drink night and morning. The last week's training, in addition to their ordinary food, you must give them seed cake made in the same way as plum cake, but instead of currants put canary and millet seed in, also a small quantity of rape seed. This will make them strong and robust and make them fly longer.

Feed them on their final fly with canary seed and rice, with a small quantity of Indian corn, give them canary seed tea to drink half an hour before rising them, this will improve their flying wonderfully. The spring of the year is the best time for Tippler flying but they will fly well all summer. These birds should not be flown too often or they will soon fail to fly the time expected. Every alternate day is sufficient, and if they are flying ten hours twice a week will be often enough. A week's rest once in six weeks will give them every opportunity to get strong and healthy and full of spirit.

Most of the best Tippler fanciers keep their birds up through the winter and a very good plan to, for dull misty weather will lose these kind of birds sooner than anything. This system is a very wise one as it does not only save them from being

lost, but birds that are resting during the winter will fly better in spring. Good Macclesfield Tipplers will fly a very long time, that is if the place they drop on is low. High buildings near their settling place is a great disadvantage to Tippler flying as the birds are very likely to drop on it away from home, and if this occurs there will be no very long time done with them. A kit of birds that drop on high buildings will not fly so long by three or four hours as a kit that drop on a low building. A kit that drops on a high building will often sit out all day, and when this takes place they are more trouble than they are worth. It is a great difficulty to breed good Tipplers. It all depends how they are paired together. Birds slightly related will often breed good young ones. The best plan is to try the young ones the old birds breed, if they turn out good flyers let the old

birds remain together, but if the young ones do not fly to satisfaction it is the best plan to separate the parents and pair them differently.

The best time for flying in summer is first thing in the morning; good birds will fly all day, but I can assure my readers these long flyers are very scarce, and it takes a many years to procure them to perfection. The best plan is to get a few good birds and breed your own young ones from them. If you get a good breed of birds and have luck to breed some strong young ones from them you may by chance get a few of these extraordinary long flyers, but I can tell you that money will not buy them unless you are a great friend and the owner is giving up the fancy.



DISEASES IN PIGEONS.

The worst of all diseases is the canker. This complaint is generally caused by birds pecking each other. If the bird's stomach is out of order, it will be the means of it breaking out in disease. Some fanciers attribute it to dirty water in the fountain. But you will generally find that the weakest birds are the most subject to disease. The canker often breaks out in the mouth or on the eye, and sometimes in the ear. Get a small pen knife and scrape the canker completely off. Paint the affected place with oil of vitrol, (sulphuric acid). The best thing to put it on with is a small camel hair brush. If the disease be on the eye great care must be taken, not to let the vitrol get in it. If the bird has it on the eye it is best plan to let it be a few days and then very likely it will pick clean off like a scab, if so

it will nor require dressing with vitrol. Another recipe for canker that I can recommend is to paint with carbolic acid with eight times the quantity of glycerine added to it. Powdered blue stone is also a good thing sprinkled on the place affected.

ROUP.--This complaint is generally caused through draughts or damp places, and causes a running at the nostrils nor eyes. If the birds are treated in time it is easy to cure, but if you neglect the bird it will take a long time to get better, and unless it is removed from the loft the other birds will catch the disease. Put the bird in a warm place by itself and give it a pinch of salt twice a day and boiled milk to drink instead of water, if this will not cure it a pinch of Epsom salts once a day will often cure the roup in the nostrils when other remedies have failed.

Another recipe for roup is as follows:—Bathe the place affected with warm water twice a day, after this give the bird a nip of salt and a dose of castor oil once a day, I have heard old fanciers say that one nip of burnt alum twice a day is a fine thing.

LOSING FLESH.—This disease is a hopeless complaint, give the bird oatmeal and sulphur pills mixed with cod liver oil. Give them boiled milk to drink in the place of water. I attribute this complaint to over stocking the place, and it mostly affects young birds. An old fancier gives a curious remedy for this disease which sometimes will meet with success, that is, catch a large black spider and put it down the pigeon's throat alive. Soap pills with a dose of castor oil once a day is a good remedy.

EGG BOUND. — This complaint generally falls on the weak birds or birds that do not have sufficient exercise. Castor oil is a fine remedy, give it them twice a day, and in addition rub it on the vent. Another remedy is a tea spoonful of warm treacle with a little groundsel mixed with it very fine.

DIARRHŒA. — Sulphate of iron will stop this complaint, also a few drops of chloridyne will have a good effect.

INSECTS.—I believe all birds have insects more or less. The best preventive is a bath twice a week in summer and once a week in winter. The feather lice may generally be found under the wings, they live in the down near the root of the feathers. The best advice that I can give is a packet of Insect powder, and this

will clear them effectively. Anoint them with citron ointment or benzoine, do them under the wings more particularly.

THE TICK.—This insect is a great torment to pigeons, they are generally found in the nests of the young ones, they being generally affected more than the old ones. These pests mostly get in the young ones ears and suck their blood. Deal sawdust will prevent them to a great extent. Painting the nests with paraffin will kill them. Limewash the loft with strong lime. Do the nest boxes also. Sprinkle insect powder in the boxes when breeding. If this will not destroy them anoint the old birds with turpentine.

RULES FOR TUMBLER FLYING CONTESTS.

1. Each competitor to fly from three to twenty birds. Each kit of birds to be started at the same time. The birds longest on the wing to win. Time allowed at the finish. The birds to be marked before starting, settled at home, and shown the same day. The birds to be started at 9 a.m.

2. Any person frightening or causing the birds to be frightened, directly or indirectly, to be disqualified, if proved to the satisfaction of the appointed Judge.

3. Any member being found having more birds out than the number he has started, either by accident or any other cause, will be disqualified.

4. Any member insulting any of the Umpires in the execution of their duties, to be disqualified; and that they shall have access to any place they may be appointed to watch.

5. Should the weather be misty, snow, or heavy rain, another day to be appointed by the Committee.

6. If the Umpires can prove any bird settling at any place, the time to be taken at the time it drops.

7. Should any competitor choose to drop his birds, time will be taken from then; he must inform the Umpire of his intention to do so, and show the birds he turns out.

8. Any bird settling at starting, five minutes allowed the party to get it on the wing again, and if not started in that time, the competitor will be disqualified.

9. Any parties carrying birds from one to another, both parties to be disqualified.

10. Should the Umpire engaged see just cause for disqualification, he must acquaint the owner of the kit before leaving the premises.

11. Each Umpire to see the kit of birds before leaving the place.

12. The Judges decision to be final.

13. The winner to be cropped 30 minutes, second, 15 minutes.

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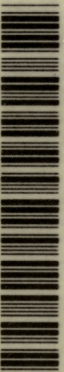
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