Available tumbler pigeons in Bangladesh

M. Ashraful Kabir

Lecturer in Zoology, Cantonment Public School and College, Saidpur Cantonment 5311, District-Nilphamari, Bangladesh

Corresponding author: ashraful_wb@yahoo.com

Accepted 30th May, 2014

Rajshahi and Dhaka of Bangladesh is the best place for tumbler varieties. Depending on variety the tumblers are sulli, lotan, muffed, Vienna short-face, short-face (5=23.81%); depending on colour they are tigered, flight/tippler, bald-headed, almond, blue tumbler, albaq, albino, melanoid, chequered, white-tailed, coloured tail, splashed, mottled (13=61.90%) and on tumbling capability the tumblers are only three in number are house/parlour tumbler, flying tumbler and shaking tumbler (lotan) (14.29%). In Rajshahi division the tumblers are very simple in appearance as local or field pigeon whereas in Dhaka they showed different physique and various colours and in Khulna the body shape of tumbler are elongated and some shows huge tumbles within a short height. Highflier tumbler pigeons are not found in Bangladesh; its flying record is highest 19-22 hours in the sky.

Keywords: Pigeons, tumbler, roller, tippler, lotan

INTRODUCTION

When and where the pigeons were tumbled nobody knows. Tumbler pigeons easily caught by predator birds during flying. All about its physique it is more or less similar to other pigeons. This tumbling characteristic has come by natural selection but it preserves by human artificial selection because this is morbid curiosity. Peoples’ care is must for its stability. Evolution, domestication, selective breeding and moreover trial and error is involved to tumbles in pigeons. Tumbler pigeon indicates their existence in India before 1600 with their origin probably in the east and later being brought to Europe. Early descriptions of tumbler were small with different colours and capable of flying at night and ascending to great height. By the 18th century as being short body, full breasted, thin-necked, spindle-beaked and sometimes toed-feathered. 1700’s literature mentions its white head, flight and tail. Aerial ability with more plumages was described in 1765. During 19th century England developed and makes Short-faced Tumbler which is a show breed and its flying has lost. Port city of Smyrna which is oriental and little Asia was the place for oriental rollers origin. Cesaria Roller has many tail feathers and Turkey-Asiatic Roller with a high carried tail remindful of a Fantail. In world there are four groups of tumblers- Highflier, Tumbler, Roller and Lotan. Evolutionary sequences of the tumbler pigeons have mentioned gradually in Iran, India, England, America and Germany. Within this Iran and India was the collector or rearer of tumbler pigeons and England, America and Germany were the researcher on those pigeons. But in England they are the research pioneer of the tumbler pigeons and they invent lot of excellent flying tumblers like tippler which performs in the sky 19-22 hours which is a world record. In case of tumbler they perform fewer tumbles in the sky, roller shows huge somersaults, and lotan performs by shaking and finally highflier show very few tumble because it stays highest time in the sky. Amusements by flying tumbler pigeons in Mughal pastime (Blochmann, 1873), some characteristics of tumbler pigeons (Darwin 1859, 1868; Tegetmeier 1868; Eaton 1858; Lyell 1981; McNeillie 1993), genetic investigation of roller and tumbler pigeon has completed by Entrikin and Erway 1972, a lot of tumbler varieties were found in Levi’s book ‘The Pigeon’ which published in 1941, a phylogenetic tree of Shapiro and Domyan (no date) and navigation of pigeon with its power of landing to its own loft were described by Wallraff in the year 2005 and lastly tumbling behavior of pigeons by Kabir 2012.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In Bangladesh most of the pigeons are tumbler and few are shaking tumbler or Lotan. In Lotan the variety dasti is common which perform tumbles until tired or any
Amalgamated tumbler pigeons on the roof in Rajshahi Court Area, Bangladesh

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Moos-Sulli which is Syrian coop or house tumblers is a common tumbler variety in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is yellow in colour, short beak and compact body. Their tumbling characteristic is less and flying is not available. Abul Fazl (1590) and Alla-oodeen (1886) spell the word Lotan and Charles Darwin and Smooth-bore quoted by Tegetmeier in 1868. Lyell (1981) describes it as a pure white about the size of a common pigeon, with a turned crown, dark hazel eyes, and unfeathered legs. Alla-oodeen (1886) describes three kinds of Lotan existing in India at the time. Give it to shake by grasping its neck between fingers, it will fall over and flutter, this is dasti; secondly it fall and flutter by striking on beak it is kalami; thirdly when it fall over, through fright out the flight, it is called hawaii. Lotan is not a tumbler with its single point of view. Irritability of the brain and nervous system is might be a reason for rolling. Within any tumbler variety either it is tumbler or lotan sometime is shows muffed. Recently in Bangladesh Vienna short-faced tumbler (McNeillie, 1993) is popular for its very short beak and broad eye. Due to short beak it’s not suitable for squab raising. All over the Bangladesh most common tumbler is short-faced. Its body colour is variable and it performs stereo typed tumbles. Some tumblers are striped in colour as tiger; some are showed some white flight feathers which also called tippler. Tippler is a breed of domestic pigeon in endurance competitions. Flying results of up to 22 hours have been recorded. There is no doubt that it is man-made through selective breeding. In 1971 Tippler first fly in UK with 1500 metres and 19-22 hours. Most of the tip of the wing is white. It flies in small group and short flying tumbling. Most of these types have flown over 19 hours many times. In Bangladesh the flight is called tippler and this is not real long flier in the sky. Some white-headed tumbler (Levi, 1941) is found in Dhaka. Almond colour tumbler is available in tumbler group. This colour is dominant so that it’s maximum squabs also almond. Blue tumbler in Bangladesh called green tumbler is dominant to other colours. Black and white patches tumblers are ablaq (Levi, 1941). When the colour is failed to express its originality this is albino and sometimes totally black which is melanic (McNeillie, 1993). Both happen for mutation within the cell. Due to inbreeding in blue tumbler suddenly they are checked. Self body colour with white tail is really looks nice and some are coloured tail, Splashed and mottled tumblers (Levi, 1941) are common in Bangladesh. In tumbler some are occasionally shows tumble in a short height, this is house tumbler (Levi, 1941). Its origin is our common short-faced flying tumblers (Plate 1 above). All tumblers are very nice from the very beginning for human amusements (Blochmann, 1873) and its flying capacity
is high and originated from selective breeding (Darwin, 1859, 1868, Eaton, 1858). Genetic investigation of roller and tumbler pigeons with its squabs performance was completed by Entrikin and Erway in 1972 and Kabir 2012. Wallraff in 2005 mentioned the flying capability and power of navigation of the pigeons in his book 'Avian Navigation'.

CONCLUSION

Who first imported tumbler pigeons in Bangladesh is still unknown. Emperor Akbar reared a lot of pigeons including tumblers. Long time observation suggested that till now three types of tumblers (colour, variety and tumbling capability) around the Bangladesh. This is very ancient breed and its flying performance is excellent to the people. It has a lot of nice colours, excellent breeding capability so that all pigeon rearers have of course tumbler pigeons. Dhaka organizes the flying competition of tumbler pigeons recently. Rearers don’t know what type of tumbler they have. Mentioned three major groups are amalgamated to each other. Tumblers are mainly continental breed. Shortness of beak, eye colour, body shape with nice colours is the points for collecting these pigeons. Due to vertical flying its navigation power is high. We should know that these tumblers are the origin of all fancy pigeons and Bangladesh is a good place for its availability.

REFERENCES

Eaton JM (1858). Tame, domesticated, foreign and fancy pigeons. Islington Green, London.