

## Full Length Research Paper

# Available tumbler pigeons in Bangladesh

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**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/tipler, bald-headed, almond, blue tumbler, ablaq, 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 tumblers 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 tumblers were small with different colours and capable of flying at night and ascending to great height. By the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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



**Plate 1.** Amalgamated tumbler pigeons on the roof in Rajshahi Court Area, Bangladesh

obstacle and very rare of havai type which shows very few tumble and sudden fly. Lotans are available in Dhaka, Saidpur, Bogra, Kushtia and Jessore of Bangladesh. The book of Levi in 'The Pigeon' covers all kinds of tumbler pigeons. James C. Lyell's book 'Fancy pigeons' there some ideal characteristics of tumbler pigeons and Mr. Darwin's friend W. Tegetmeier wrote a book on 'Fancy Pigeon' deals some tumbler pigeons management and productivity. Including three book Levi's book was the best for identification of tumbler pigeons which are common in Bangladesh. For understanding its originality squabs shape and body colour with other characteristics were important. During collecting the pigeons from the rearers the historical background of such pigeons were maintained.

## 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 havai. 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 **checkered**. 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

## 84. J. Agric. Econ, Extens. Rural Develop.

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.

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