

The Scandaroon part 2

***Breed Special on one of the eldest pigeon breeds in the world,
Kept by Kees Verkolf and Marleen Brouwer in Wijster (Drenthe, Holland).***

Text and photos: Aviculture Europe, corrected by Mick Bassett.



Scandaroon (GB)
Neurenberger Bagadet (NL)
Nürnbergger Bagdette (D)
Bagadais de Nuremberg (F)

Left:

Red Scandaroon, drawn by Ludlow in 1893
en published in Fulton's Book of Pigeons,
New Edition 1895.

Origen

In his famous book on Ornithology of 1599, the Italian Professor in Natural Science Ulisse Aldrovandi (11-09-1522 up to 04-05-1605) described the pigeon which we now know in the English speaking part of the world as Scandaroon and in the Netherlands as Neurenberger Bagadet, probably as a Turkish or Persian pigeon: the *Columba turcica* or *Columba persica*.

Almost two centuries later, in his Columbarium (1735) John Moore mentioned the Turkish Harbour town Iskanderun, situated at the Turkish-Syran border as a place of origin of the Scadaroon. The pigeon's name Scandaroon as used by the English-speaking fanciers, originated from the name of this Turkish city. Also John Moore described that this Breed, known by the

Dutch as Bagadat, was called by the Turkish a Bagatin.

In the previous book, a number of major cities in the then World trade routes are described, so it is plausible that the German city of Nuremberg, via its commercial/trade contacts with Persia (the current Iran and Afghanistan) and Turkey, received pigeons that the Turkish named Bagatin. This breed in Nuremberg was developed as a 'Nuremberg Bagadet'. The same Trade Route contacts probably happened in the United Kingdom, where the pigeons were named 'Scandaroons', after the Turkish harbour town Iskanderun. Originally in Germany and the United Kingdom slightly different aspects of this breed were bred for in the development of this breed. The first images of the Bagadet show a pigeon with a slightly Curved light coloured beak, which has much the resemblance of the Head shape of the modern French Bagadet. The German breeders in Nuremberg, aimed especially for the development of the type, whereas the English breeders pursued more the characteristic extreme head shape. Today these differences are indiscernible between the Breed specialists worldwide who dedicate themselves to breeding this particular breed. Only the breed name is different. For the English-speaking breeders it is still the Scandaroon, whereas it is for the rest of the World the Nuremberg Bagadet.

These paintings were made in 1945 by the Belgian artist, René Philippe Henri Delin. They are part of the art collection of Juul Lauwers (B).



Left:
Head study of a Scandaroon.

Right:
Head study from a Bagadais
Français.



The Scandaroon belongs to the group of Bagadets, which are part of the wattle pigeon group.

The group Bagadets exists of the Nuremberg, Franconian-, Steinheimer, French, and Czech Bagadet. All these breeds have somewhere, an affinity to each other, - sometimes very clear, sometimes less marked – with varying degrees of Head shape, Eyes and Eye ceres and Beak and Wattles. In its long History, the Nurnberg Bagdette / Scandaroon, has influenced many other breeds by carefully 'crossing' into them for improvements to size and robust build, such as the Show Homer, the Runt and the Carrier.



Left: Scandaroon, black m/y.
During the International Show
from 2002 in Valls (Spain).
Owner: Ramon Amenos.

H.W. Logman,
Avicultura January 1970

The well-known pigeon-judge and publicist H.W. Logman wrote in Avicultura about the attraction that a breed like the Scanaroon, with its abnormal and extreme form and construction, could have to pigeon fanciers, but that there also are still very few fanciers with this Breed, because of the enormous problems when breeding and raising the youngsters of this breed. In those days one still thought that foster parents were indispensable, because of the extreme head shape. Also this breed has a certain degree of intolerance to other breeds (it can be a Bully!), it also takes quite some time

before the Scandaroon young are totally independent. This applies especially eating: a grain mix was provided in special buckets and it took quite some time before the Scandaroon had eaten its portion. This required much attention and careful observation for the young pigeons in the transitional period. Fortunately this is no longer the case with the Modern Scandaroon.

Right:

A less successful picture, but still showing some remarkable points. Scandaroon, red young female, at the 2002 International Show in Valls (Spain).

Owner: Ramon Amenos.

A famous Dutch Scandaroon breeder in the past was C.A.M. Spruijt - and after his death Frans Timmer from Heerlerheijde (NL) took over the task of breeding Scandaroons. It is unbelievable what these eminent breeders achieved in those years. At that time the Head shape had to be a so-called semicircle, which ran from the beak point to the back neck. One spoke also of 'horse shoe shape' and the wildest rumours went around concerning the manipulation of the beak of young animals, to reach that desired head shape. With inexperienced hands occasionally mistakes occurred, with incorrect shape and malformed beaks, the most common that the beaks (mandibles) no longer closed together without a Gap! The beak colour should be whitish, with a rose coloured flush at the base, only in the 'Self' Blues and Blacks is the beak horn coloured and in Magpie and 'Gedeckt' a dark shaded lower beak is allowed, the upper being flesh coloured (Pale). In those days one tolerated a visible Kink or slight bend in the Neck Vertebrae about the middle of the Neck, known as the 'Bagdette Knot'; This is considered a 'Breed Point' for the French Bagadet, but it is undesirably when present in the Scandaroon.



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Left: A pair of Scandaroons in black, at Kees Verkolf in Wijster. The male in the front has a good type, stance, head shape, colour and marking.

Ben Mulder, Avicultura August 1985

In a very detailed Breed Special Ben Mulder made a valuable contribution to the breed. Attention was given to the 'modern' Scandaroon, where the head shape no longer needed to be in the 'horse shoe shape'. The beak line was allowed to 'run outside the circle', which meant an enormous pulse in its vitality and as a result a new survival was given to the breed. The modern Scandaroon is able to raise its own youngsters, which is also clearly demonstrated by Kees Verkolf, breeding his Scandaroons without problems. During the years around 1976, it was the always dedicated

breeder Mr. H.B. Nab from Blerick (NL), who won the highest awards with his Scandaroons in many shows.



Right: This photo was taken in the loft of Kees Verkolf. A picture, which Kees graciously allowed us to publish, although it is showing birds with obvious faults that can occur in this Breed. For me, this is the proof that Kees keeps a variation in his collection. He knows the pedigree and is always curious for the results. The red and black birds in the front show a type of marking, known in the European continent (Germany) as 'Gedeckt' literally translated as 'Covered' - they have the full wing shield coloured, unlike the classic Magpie Marking.



John Heppner, PIGEON DEBUT April 2002

John Heppner from the USA is not an unknown person in the World of Club Presidents, - but perhaps it is not known by everyone - he is also famous as a breeder of (among others) the Scandaroon. By his own experience, John found out that the Scandaroons are relatively easy to raise and feed their own youngsters better than most feeders. "A foster parent I'm sure must wonder what he is supposed to do with that large rubbery beak that seems to be nearly as big as his own head. The Scandaroon is more suited to feed its own youngster better than most foster parents. If you really preferred to use foster parents, a cross of a Scandaroon and Carrier would make a suitable feeder. I have found my Scandaroons to be much more accepting of other breeds of pigeons in their pen than pigeons of their own kind. Talk about reverse discrimination! A Scandaroon will live very peaceable with an Exhibition Homer or Genuine Homer Cock right near him by the feed pan. But he sure keeps his eyes on any one of the other two cocks in the loft. This I have even noticed in the hens as well. So I have dispersed my Scandaroons through the loft somewhat for a more peaceful life for everyone".

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Left: Is that enjoy? A pigeon with such a broad breast, with such eyes, such a wattle and head length.

Pity of course that the head shows hardly no bending and that - although intensively coloured - this bird has a bad marking.

Standard of the Scandaroon

To compare, the breed directives have been added of late D. Dappert, who in 1927, in Germany formed the current Neurenberger Bagadetten Club.

Breed remarks

Size and Carriage: Powerful, very elevated and proud bearing.

Compact body and in particular the whites are wanted still shorter in wings and tail. The Scandaroon has a length of 42 - 43 cm, measured from the point of the beak to tail end. The weight amounts to 500 - 600 gram, at empty crop weighed. Particularly of white it is expected, that its stance is higher.

Head: Long and narrow, without any angle – or flat, arched, while the back of the head is well rounded and passing into the neck.

Important requirement has been a continuously curved line starting at the back head to the beak point, which is not interrupted even at the passage of the beak to the head, in the smallest degree. Another important requirement, to which each expert breeder gives attention: The head must be long, narrow, not high and without angles. Back head well wound up and in the neck proceeding.

Eye: Large and fiery, dark colour in Whites and Pied, and in all other colours yellow-range.

The eyes of the magpied and white are black-brown, which of other self coloured are orange-red.

Cere: Bright red.

The size of the eye, incl. the eye cere is 15 mm and the colour of the eye cere must be warm red.

Beak: Very powerful, upper and lower mandibles of same thickness, well closed, and stumpy at the point, proceeding in shape to line of head, with forehead, skull and back part of the head, forming more than a pure semi circle. Colour, whitish-rose, except in blue, blue chequered, self-coloured birds, which may have a light horn-coloured beak.

The beak length must amount to, measured from the beak point to the face, 40 - 44 mm and from the beak point to the mouth angle (in a straight line), 33 - 35 mm. The beak must be long, powerful, good closed, nice bent and stout. The upper mandible must not longer or hardly noticeable longer than the lower mandible. The last is the case, when upper- and lower mandible are just as heavy. The beak is light flesh-coloured and can not have colour marks at magpied. To the edges red and the wattles are at young animals rose-coloured, at older animals also, but then they must be blank powdered.

Wattles: Very level, powdered white and heart-shaped, divided in the middle.

The nose wattles have a diameter of 30 - 32 mm. Heart shape and split in the middle. They may not touch the face, or hardly touch it. And by a red wattle-like line linked with the eye edges.

Neck: Long and bent, sharply curved. Thin at shoulders and breast slightly widening out.

Neck, head and beak form a regular roundness without interruption. The neck, long, slim, graceful curved, with good throat cut out.

Breast: Broad and strongly extended.

The breast size, measured over the wings, is 30 - 31 cm. The breast should be broad. The breastbone is somewhat protruding.

Back: Broad and somewhat arched, running powerfully to the tail.

- Wings:** Medium length, wide across and deep, lying very loose on body, sloping pointed to the rear resting on tail. Short primary flights.
The wings must cede of the body, to the front also broad, to the back rapidly decreasing and pointed leading. The wings are short and the back has been curved slightly.
- Tail:** Short and well closed.
Fairly short and approximately 2 cm beyond the ends of the wings, as a result of which the slightly angular form of the pigeon is emphasised.
- Legs:** Strong, featherless, Red in colour.
*The legs are 12 - 12.5 cm long.
 The legs and toes are long and powerful.
 The feet are dark red.*

Colour and Markings

- Self-coloured in White, Black and Yellow.
- Blue, with bars.
- Blue Chequered.
- Pied bear the well known pied designs with the exception of head and front of neck, which are white; while from the base of beak, below the eye, runs a coloured tiny spot, which is called 'whisker', when larger in shape and circumference called 'tiny beards'. These spots should be of equal shape and size on both sides. The neck design is sharp between the white and the colour, the white not proceeding further than middle of breast. Scandaroons exist in all colours, Yellows, Reds, and Blacks being the best.
- Full Coloured.



These are the pied, whereby the wing is entirely coloured with the exception of wing covert and a small narrow white edging along lower side of wing, which extends to the primary flights. All colours must be deep and brilliant, right to the tip of tail. When judging, shape should come first, design second and colour third.

The Scandaroons know marked and unicoloured pigeons (selfs). The magpied comes in nearly all colours. They must have a white neck front, underbody and thigh and moreover the wings must be white, with exception of the shoulder. The colour starts in the neck, just under de head, from there to the front neck to the middle of the breast, where it stops the white. Covers the rest of the neck, the breast, the back and the shoulders and the tail including the keel. Moreover the pigeon under the eye must have a spot called: 'whisker'.

The coloured drawing of the back and the shoulders, forms the heart. The feather colour must be deeply and shining, marking tight, white feathers in the tail are a serious error. The Scandaroon exist not only as magpied but also as 'covered' that is with white wingpits. Furthermore this white drawing runs along the base of the wings until the white primaries. Also the Scandaroon exist as unicoloured (self), who deviates however on some points from the magpied.

Points Scale

-	Head	Narrowness	7
		Roundness in conjunction with beak	8
-	Eye	Size	3
		Colour	3
		Cere	4
-	Beak	Shape and curvature	10
		Colour	3
		Thickness	7
		Wattle	3
-	Neck	Shape	5
		Gullet well curved in	3
-	Body	Size	12
		Roundness of breast from side view	6
		Legs	2
		Thigh	2
	Colour of body		5
	Marking on pied or self		7
	Plumage and Condition		10

		Grand Total	100

For more information's you can always contact:

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Right:
The Yearbook of the Special Club,
80 pages thick!!

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