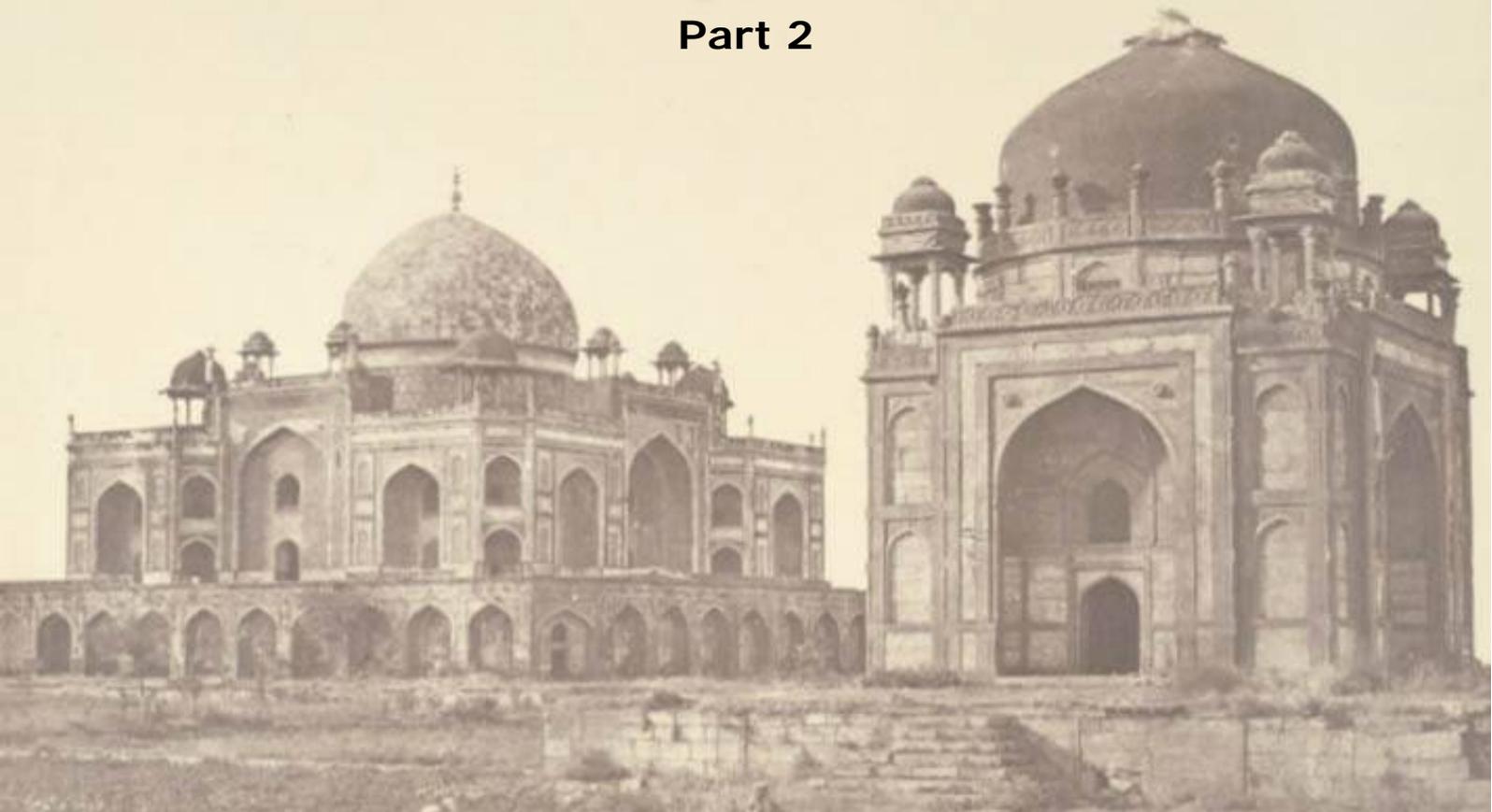


# PIGEONS IN INDIA

## Part 2



**It is well documented that the flying and breeding of pigeons has been a hobby in India since the Mogul Period - and long, long before that as well. Portugal was the first European country to sail the Cape of Good Hope and reach India. They established the colony of Goa there. From the 17th century, England began to influence the situation in India. In 1676 the French established themselves on the east coast of India in Pondicherry, south of Madras. In those years, several known pigeon authors described the Indian pigeon breeds and they were imported into Europe.**

**The following article on Indian pigeon breeds is a follow-up of the article published in our 2011 August issue, and has again been contributed by: Tanveer (India) with our thanks to K.Senthil Arasu.**

*In the former article we especially highlighted the pigeon breeds that are exclusively found in India. The unique feature of the Indian pigeon breeds is that they are extremely beautiful and also fly very well; the majority of the breeds are High Flyer Pigeons. Some breeds however are loved for the special sound that they make. One of those pigeons is the Yahoo – a breed fully unknown in Europe. The Yahoo and the Gul Mehendi have been described in the former article, but we had no photos available at that time. In this article we show you some photos of these breeds, and also several breeds that are more known and have been distributed throughout the world, but originated in India.*

*The pigeons in the photos belong to K.SENTHIL ARASU, unless stated differently. K.Senthil Arasu lives about 40 kms from Coimbatore. (A city in the state of Tamil Nadu, south India). He is a very knowledgeable fancier, who has around 3000 pigeons, in about 100 different breeds, on his farm, which is built in his coconut plantations.*



**Photo on the left: Some of the lofts and aviaries of K. Senthil Arasu.**

## **SHIRAZ**

Some general information: In India, the Shiraz is a common breed found in every loft; it is the second most popular after the Fantail. However, the Shiraz is not originally from India, but from the city of Shiraz in Iran.

Shiraz, Sherajee and Lahore are different names of the same original pigeon breed. Lahore is a city which is now in Pakistan; the Lahore pigeon was taken from the city of Lahore (in Pakistan) by the British, thus the name Lahore, although – according to Mick Bassett - in the early days the English name was Sherajee. But in India and Pakistan it is still called Shiraz. Tanveer said he doesn't know whether they are bred in Iran but it is widely bred in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Gulf (Middle East).

**Right:**  
**Muffed Shiraz in various colours. In India, the head and neck markings are not as much 'perfected' as in Europe.**



Shiraz are mainly used to foster other breeds and are good parents. It is a good flyer

and when left for free flying will fly around the loft. (Not long distance) Here Shiraz comes mostly in black, red, yellow and grey (lavender). Other colours like cream bar, blue bar are present but rare. It is a medium sized bird, heavily built, muffed (normally medium). Perfectly marked birds are hard to find.

The **Clean Legged Shiraz** (Photos in our former article) are smaller than Shiraz with the same marking, but without muffs. This breed may be of different origin, but it is not found outside India.



Left: Drawing by Emil Schachtzabel from his book: *Illustriertes Prachtwerk sämtlicher Tauben-Rassen* from 1910.

Note: The drawing was made in India, 1900. Compare the size of the Shiraz (Lahore) to the right, and the Capuchine to the left.

Right: A couple Shiraz at Senthil Arasu. Note the very special colour, especially the hen on the right with some kind of chequering or lacing in silver, but there is also some bronze in the bars.



Below: Shiraz female, in the same colour as the hen in the photo on the right.



*In his book *The Pigeon*, 1941, Wendell Mitchell Levi refers to a text written by C.A.M. Spruijt in 1927, stating the Sharajee /Lahore came to Vienna in 1875 and went from there to Saxon, Germany in 1900, and not until 1925 they came to England. W.M. Levi states the latter being incorrect, since the Lahore Club had already been founded in 1911 in England and was rather popular in those years.*

**In a report of the World Poultry Congress in Canada 1927 is written that by the famous poet from India, Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore, several Sherazi (Lahore) pigeons had been entered. The specified value of these birds was \$ 100, - per couple.**



**Above left: Shiraz, ash red barred (mealy).**

**Above right: Shiraz, black.**

**Left: Shiraz, black and some mismarked.**

**Below right: Shiraz, brown.**

**Below left: Shiraz in a special colour and marking, bronze barred.**





Above, left: Shiraz, lavender.

Above, right: A pair of Shiraz, indigo.



Above: Breeding compartment for the Shiraz.

Below: Shiraz, ash red barred (mealy).



Above: Shiraz, kaki barred .



Below: Shiraz, ash yellow barred (creamy).



**Right: Many lofts. These are breeding compartments housing the breeding pairs.**



**Left: More lofts and aviaries.**

**Right: A white Yahoo hen.**

## **YAHOO**

A small bird with a different sound, comes in mostly white and the other colour is black.

A muffed Yahoo is also present, and it comes mostly in blue bar only and rarely white. They even make a sound different from the clean legged Yahoo.

Tanveer is happy to present you with several photos of both clean legged as well as muffed Yahoo, and also this link to 6 YouTube videos of the Yahoo, where you can hear their specific sound.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NfXNOdsENo&feature=autoplay&list=ULjCJfV0R-hCg&playnext=3>



*The Yahoo photos are taken at another fancier who prefers to be anonymous, except for the photo of the muffed Yahoo; which is taken at K. Senthil Arasu's.*

**Left:  
A pair of white  
Yahoo.**

**Right: White Yahoo female.**

**Below: Yahoo muffed, blue chequer.**



**Right: Yahoo, lavender coloured.**

**Below:  
Head study of a pair of white Yahoo.**



## GUL MEHENDI

Mostly found in North India, very rare breed. It is the same size as the Shiraz, medium muffs. White is the base colour with 2 or 3 colour spots (= *gul*) all over the body. Looks very attractive, but it takes time to develop fully; with every moult the spots increase. When young, only its shields are mottled. The birds in the photos have colour spots over their shields, and a few on their head, but fully mottled birds look very beautiful. These pigeons belong to an anonymous fancier.

**Right: A Gul Mehendi male, still young and almost white, but it will grow more coloured feathers after each moult.**



**Above left: A Gul Mehendi male, note the coloured feathers on the top of the head and the back of the neck.**

**Right:**  
Two Gul Mehendi pigeons, the bird in the back is a darker colour variety.



**Left: Gul Mehendi male, also with some coloured spots on the head and neck.**



## **GANDA WALA**

We don't know the exact name of the breed, sometimes it is called Ganda Wala (bar pigeon). If you pluck the feathers, after moult the new feathers will be in white colour.

The young birds are in just a single colour.

These pigeons belong to an anonymous fancier.



**Above right:**  
An adult couple Ganda Wala on their nest, the (created) white feathers are clearly visible.



**Left:** Young pigeons in there youth feathers are always selfs.

## **BOORI**

This is a typical colour of a high flyer breed. These pigeons belong to an anonymous fancier. We think, they look like Tippler pigeons, small size, tight feathered and alert.

On the internet we found these pigeons also in the USA, as 'Boori Tumblers'.

**Right:**

A pair of Boori pigeons, blue black barred with speckled head, probably the grizzle factor. The skull is rather flat, outlining the head shape as a trapezium.



## CAPUCHINE

The Capuchine is an Indian breed and was taken by Dutch sailors around 400 years ago. They developed the Jacobin from them and in the Netherlands the original breed is kept and standardized as Old Dutch Capuchine, later greatly promoted by the known breeder and writer H.Th.G. Moezelaar.

In India they come in self white and in monk marked in red, yellow, black and mottled in all the colours.

Now we learn one of 'our old Dutch pigeon breeds' in fact originated in India.



Left and below: Capuchine, silver dark barred.



Below: Head study of the above pigeon.





**Left: A red (monked) Capuchine.**



**Above: Capuchine, blue dark chequer, with some bronze on the wing shield.**

**Below: Capuchine, white.**



## FANTAIL

A medium size bird with peak crest, muffed and neck shaking. Neck shaking is a must. Tail double layered and about 28 to 36 tail feathers is common, 44 is rare. Comes in mostly white colour; other colours are black, brown, blue bar and pied. Blue checker, red checker, dominant red occur but rare.

**Right: (Indian) Fantails, as they still are in India and have always been. Here in the aviary with the breeding compartments on the background.**



**Above: How wonderful it is to be able to experience your hobby in this way! With the coconut trees around it will be very pleasant to stay there. But I guess some help cleaning the many lofts would sure come handy.**



**Above: A young silver Mookie.**

## **MOOKEE**

Comes in mostly black. You know the markings, but here the 2 white flight feathers is considered a fault, so most of the birds will be without white flight feathers. Grey (Lavender) and Blue black barred are other colours. Self white and yellow are very rare. From old papers we know that the Mookie was already in England by 1676.



**Right: Self brown Mookie.  
And indeed no white feathers in the wing.**

**Below: Mookie, black.**

**No white flights, the head marking should be better defined.**



## LAMB DUMA

This breed is called 'lamb duma' (long tail), it comes in all colours. The tail is longer than the body. Compared with European pigeons it looks like a Roller. Tanveer doesn't know whether it flies or not.

**Above: A red Lamb Duma male and black female with pied a tail.**



**Left: The same black Lamb Duma female with pied tail.**



**Below:  
Another one of K. Senthil Arasu's  
aviaries, with Shiraz pigeons.**

