

As fancy pigeons are generally confined in aviaries of moderate size, and as even when not confined they do not search for their own food, they must during many generations have used their wings incomparably less than the wild rock-pigeon. Hence it seemed to me probable that all the parts of the skeleton subservient to flight would be found to be reduced in size. With respect to the sternum, I have carefully measured its extreme length in twelve birds of different breeds, and in two wild rock-pigeons from the Shetland Islands. For the proportional comparison I have tried three standards of measurement, with all twelve birds namely, the length from the base of the beak to the oil-gland, to the end of the tail, and from the extreme tip to tip of wings. The result has been in each case nearly the same, the sternum being invariably found to be shorter than in the wild rock-pigeon. I will give only a single table, as calculated by the standard from the base of the beak to the oil-gland; for the result in this case is nearly the mean between the results obtained by the two other standards.

*Length of Sternum.*

Name of Breed.	Actual Length. Inches.	Too Short by	Name of Breed.	Actual Length. Inches.	Too Short by
Wild Rock-pigeon	2·55	..	Barb .. .. .	2·35	0·34
Pied Scanderoon ..	2·80	0·60	Nun .. .. .	2·27	0·15
Bagadotten Carrier	2·80	0·17	German Pouter ..	2·36	0·54
Dragon .. .. .	2·45	0·41	Jacobin .. .. .	2·33	0·22
Carrier .. .. .	2·75	0·35	English Frill-back	2·40	0·43
Short faced Tumbler	2·05	0·28	Swallow .. .. .	2·45	0·17

This table shows that in these twelve breeds the sternum is of an average one-third of an inch (exactly  $\cdot332$ ) shorter than in the rock-pigeon, proportionally with the size of their bodies; so that the sternum has been reduced by between one-seventh and one-eighth of its entire length; and this is a considerable reduction.

I have also measured in twenty-one birds, including the above dozen, the prominence of the crest of the sternum relatively to its length, independently of the size of the body. In two of the twenty-one birds the crest was prominent in the same relative degree as in the rock-pigeon; in seven it was more prominent; but in five out of these seven, namely, in a Fantail, two Scanderoons, and two English Carriers, this greater prominence may to a certain extent be explained, as a prominent breast is admired and selected by fanciers; in the remaining twelve birds the prominence was less. Hence it follows that the crest exhibits a slight, though uncertain, tendency to be reduced in prominence in a greater degree than does the length of the sternum relatively to the size of body, in comparison with the rock-pigeon.

I have measured the length of the scapula in nine different large