

The NAS de XOT

By: Robert Ripaldi,
Pigeon judge (France)

A number of enthusiastic Catalan breeders maintain a special, original and very charming pigeon breed. Whenever I am in Spain to judge at a Show, I look for those few cages in which these birds are and I am never disappointed and even excited since I finally was able to purchase a couple last year.

It is a bird of the racing pigeon species (in size and colour) and the Catalans keep them mainly for flying and there are only few that enter these pigeons at exhibitions. It is primarily a 'natural' pigeon, not 'created' and yet is unique in terms of its head and beak in particular, which have no relationship to that of a 'homer'.

Right: The name of the NAS XOT means 'the head /nose of a ram' (male sheep) because of the typical curved headline of this pigeon (forehead and beak) resembling a ram's nose.



The name of the NAS XOT means 'the head /nose of a ram' (male sheep) because the smooth, unbroken headline of this pigeon (forehead and beak) shows a particular profile. The beak profile, which is fluently in line with the head, shows a prominent curve.

Left: A young pigeon in the nest bowl, clearly showing the curved beak, as the forehead is not yet filled.

This can very well be seen in the young in the nest, when the nose wattles have not yet developed and the base of the beak is still clearly visible.

Right:
The Nas de Xot, blue
chequer.
A broad, full and
protruding chest, gives
this pigeon an elegant
carriage.



Left:
It is a variety
which is easy to
breed, because it
is a balanced
pigeon with a
behaviour like
that of a racing
pigeon, so with-
out any problems.

I have seen only the Blue (black barred and chequered) and Dominant Ash Red barred, but I know that all colour varieties exist. So why not give such a breed more publicity? I think the pigeon sport in Spain suffers from differences of opinion between Madrid and Catalonia and it is unfortunate that so many passionate people are unable to agree. The Xot the Nas has not yet been submitted for approval to the l'Entente Européenne and is not included in the standard. It is a pity. It would take so little effort to refine the standard of this breed and thus rescue this attractive pigeon breed.



Above: The Nas de Xot is a forbearing pigeon and can be kept together with other pigeon breeds without any problems.

Right:

The Nas de Xot, blue black bar. A broad, full and protruding chest, gives this pigeon an elegant carriage.



**With our thanks for the additional information from Spain, by:
Patronat per la recuperació i defenca de les races autòctones de les Illes Balears.
Capità Vila, 38 – 6è D
E-07007 Palma de Mallorca, tel. : 971274416 – Mòbil 686716902
Associació registrada.
www.racesautoctones.com
info@racesautocotnes.com**

Nas de Xot

In the first book on pigeon breeds of Majorca, the Nas de Xot was not considered a traditional breed. Originally these birds were kept very locally in the region around Manacor en Felanitx.

Origin

The Nas de Xot is an exponent of the early Majorcan group of pigeons living around the Spanish Mediterranean coast. In the late nineteenth century they were gradually displaced by and mixed with another type of pigeon, from countries in Central and Northern Europe, which resulted in the very local breed of pigeons, a breed with a distinct head form, resembling a ram's nose. It has not yet a recognized standard, although a draft of the breed's standard has recently been presented. In Mallorca the breed is also known as Columbus Manacor.

General characteristics

The Nas de Xot is a flying pigeon. They are medium sized, with upright stance and wide chest and give a powerful impression. The head distinguishes from other breeds due to its typical form. The headline is a smooth unbroken curved line starting from the point of the beak over the forehead to the highest point above the eyes, and without the slightest interruption in a beautiful curve to the neck. The forehead is wedge-shaped. The present name is given because of this head shape, which resembles the head/nose of a ram. The beak wattles have a fine structure and are heart-shaped. The eyes are large and have a red iris. The white and pied birds have dark eyes. The eye ceres are thin and a bit rough, the colour is in relation with the feather colour. The wings are strong and carried close to the body, the wing tips resting on the tail but not fully reaching to the tip of the tail. The tail is medium long with twelve tail feathers and carried slightly below horizontal, in line with the sloping back line. The legs are long and set fairly wide apart, bright red. The nail colour is the same as the beak. All colour varieties are accepted by the breeders, but the most popular are blue dark barred and chequered; dominant red and dominant yellow barred and chequered; blue grizzle and storked with black tail. The average weight of the pigeon is between 350 and 400 grams, the wings measuring 23 cm and 66 cm across the wings (wing span).

Copyright ©2013 Aviculture-Europe. All rights reserved by VBC.

Below: Dutch Beauty Homers, for illustration.

